

# FAIR ISLE TIMES

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## Ander and Luca Turn Quizmasters - THE ANSWERS!

Thank you to everyone who had a go at our quiz. Here are the answers:

### Fair Isle Round

1. True or False. Fair Isle is getting a new ferry. **TRUE**
2. How many Good Shepherds have there been? **FOUR**
3. How many miles away from mainland Shetland is Fair Isle? **24 MILES**
4. Rounded to the nearest hundred, how high is Ward Hill in metres? **WARD HILL IS 200M TALL TO THE NEAREST 100**
5. What plant with a lovely smelling flower is very common in the north of the Isle? **HEATHER**
6. What do you call a Fulmar in Shetland dialect? **MAALIE**
7. Which famous pair of brothers designed and engineered the lighthouses on Fair Isle? **THE STEVENSON BROTHERS**
8. Unjumble these letters to spell out an important building on Fair Isle: LACKLUSTER SHOOT. **STACKHOULL STORES**



### General Knowledge Round

1. How many countries border Brazil? **9**
2. What landlocked country would you find inside South Africa? **LESOTHO**
3. How many football teams play in the Premier League? **20**
4. Who painted the Mona Lisa? **LEONARDO DA VINCI**
5. Who wrote the children's book George's Marvellous Medicine? **ROALD DAHL**
6. What are the Northern Lights called in Shetland and Orkney? **MIRRIE (MERRY) DANCERS**

## Our Italian Adventure

Italy was the hottest holiday ever. First the pasta was amazing and it was my favourite food. Next it was time to jump in the warm ocean. We were there for a wedding. It was fun because there were two entertainers for us all night. Also, I liked the trains to Florence. It was friendly and it had beautiful buildings. Ander (7)



Italy was an incredible experience. When we arrived at our holiday home we rested until we went to a restaurant to have tea with Uncle Ross, but we couldn't find a place which everyone liked. The restaurant had a gold fish tank (with fish in it) and they were playing terrible music but the food was amazing. I shared a seafood platter with daddy for a starter and for main I had massive king prawns and it was all delicious.

When we arrived at the wedding it was boiling hot and the ceremony was right in the sun. I spent more time exploring than listening to speeches. I found an orange, unripe figs on a fig tree, fennel and a lemon. I did not go on to the dance floor!

Eventually, we arrived in Florence. As soon as we got there we went to an ice cream stall and I had the best ice cream ever. It was passionfruit flavour. Although there were thousands of tourists, it was still really beautiful.

Luca (10)

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**It is with great sadness that we announce the passing away of Fair Isle's most senior resident, John Best of Utra, on Wednesday. John was a stalwart of all things Fair Isle for half a century and needless to say will be greatly missed by his family, friends and everyone who had the pleasure of meeting him. We will have more about John's life and huge input in the isle over the next few weeks, but for now wanted to send all the family: Fiona, Andrew, Ian and all their families, our love at this sad time.**





**Chapel** – there will be no Sunday service this week, but a few of the worship group will be at the Chapel at 11am to say a prayer, as John would have done.

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**Fair Isle Committee Quarterly Meeting - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Committee Room.** If anyone has items for the agenda, please send over to me asap.

Many thanks, Eileen

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**FIBO Reopening** - It was a pleasure, and most appropriate, to have you, the Islanders, up to share in the opening of Obs 5 last weekend.

Your support through all the many trials and tribulations we endured during the rebuild was greatly appreciated and undoubtedly kept us going forward through the darkest moments of which there were far too many. We believe we have delivered a major asset that will serve Fair Isle for many decades and will allow many people of all ages from throughout the world the opportunity to experience the delights of Fair Isle.

I'm sure you'll agree that the atmosphere at the opening was vibrant and extremely positive and it was great to witness FIBOT Directors and staff, islanders, guests, workers and yachties all enjoying an Obs again. I'm sure we'll witness many more such evenings for many years to come.

It's good to be back!

Douglas, Chair of FIBOT

Thanks to Ian Andrews of FIBOT for the photos below



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**Thank you to Edith in Orkanger for this piece in response to John's final addition to the Fair Isle Times recently, regarding the boat running aground dramatically close to a home in Trøndelag**

Our dear granduncle Willie, who lived at Lower Stoneybrake, used to ask in his latter years the question "Ship ashore?", whenever he heard a car tooting at the shop. What would he have thought if a ship had run aground in his front yard? Of course, he would have been too sensible to have his house built so near to the banks.

The ship that ran aground near us in Trøndelag caused worldwide interest and entertainment. Locally, 1000 people arrived to take photographs the same evening, according to the man living in the house. Yesterday she was refloated and towed to Orkanger. Here is a photo I took of her when Jelmer, Malcolm and I went for a walk in the evening light.



She will be here for a while, as apparently, divers found a hole in her. This must be repaired before she can move on.

We had planned to spend some time at home in May and even swim in the Green Lagoon as we usually do. Hopefully we will make it next year.

Wishing you all sunshine and a happy summer.

Edith & Malcolm

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#### **Report of the Archives. Part 4: The state of the buildings in Fair Isle (1803)**

For our final instalment from the 1803 report on Fair Isle we turn to the state of the buildings, some of which it seems were not in the best state of repair. Certainly the church seems to have been in need of some repairs!

*It's also up on the island a small House of stone apartments which was occupied by the proprietor when he occasionally went there. Also, two warehouses for storing the fish oil etc. All these are roofed with turf and are in such bad repair that they will soon become ruinous if not speedily attended to. It is thought that one warehouse is perfectly sufficient for the purposes required, and it would add much to the comfort of a tenant as well as be materially or the interest of the proprietor that this warehouse as well as the dwelling house should be furnished with slate roofs is a great deal of the surface is yearly wasted in covering them and after all the pains that can be taken there neither wind nor watertight.*

*The church in which a Society schoolmaster officiates every Sunday is almost an entire ruin being quite destitute of a roof, and those seats moulded and decayed by the admissions of rain.*

*There is no merchant and but few artifices on the island. The proprietor has always supplied the inhabitants with such articles as they required such as grains, linen, indigo, hemp, lint, wool, spades, fishing hooks, materials for boat building etc which were always settled for at accounting for the rents and however the island may be disposed of in time coming it is thought this practise ought to be continued otherwise the inhabitants will be reduced to great hardships.*

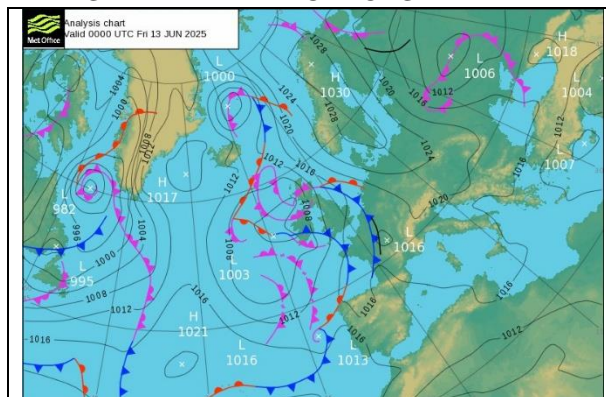
*The inhabitants all reside in the South end of the island their houses are likewise covered with turf from the want of straw for thatch. Formally it would seem they had been prohibited by the proprietor from digging this turf within the hill dyke That is in the south division of the island where the arable land and grass ground are situated and of late the surface of this part of the island has been cut up in the most shameful manner not only for roofing their houses but also for peats. The reporter caused intimate to them that if this practise was persisted in they would be prosecuted and from the character of the people it is hoped this intimation would have the desired effect.*

We hope you have enjoyed the excerpts from over two hundred years ago, how might such a report on the state of the island read now?

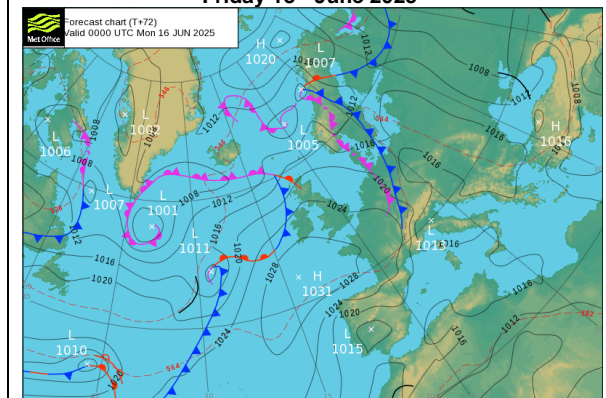
Matthew Blake and Corinna Rayner (Ragna's Islands)



## FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025



Forecast Chart 0000 UTC  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Low pressure to the west of the British Isles will maintain a fresh south-east to south-south-easterly air flow across the Northern Isles today and Saturday. Winds will ease and veer westerly Sunday as slack low pressure drifts in across northern Scotland. As low pressure moves away northwards early next week the airflow will settle fresh south-westerly as high pressure settles over the UK midweek. . Currently it looks like this migrates eastwards with the the next Atlantic depression perhaps bringing freshening southerly winds as frontal systems attempt to push eastwards against high pressure to the east.

### OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperature 12° to 14° by day 10° or 11° overnight.

**FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup>:** A dry sunny though hazy day with sunny spells. F5 SSE winds easing F3-4. Overnight mist, low cloud and fog.

**Sea State:** Moderate or rough at 2 to 3 metre S.

**SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup>:** A misty, foggy day with periods of showery rain, occasionally heavy with risk of thunder. F3-4 SE winds veering SW later. **Sea State:** Mostly slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre SE.

**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup>:** Drier with mist, low cloud and fog clearing as brighter conditions spread northwards. F4-5 WSW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre SE.

**FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK** Temperature 12° or 13° by day

9° overnight.

**MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup>:** Some early patchy drizzle and mist then mostly dry though cloudy with moderate or fresh WSW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly slight at 1 metre W.

**TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup>:** After a rather cloudy start becoming brighter though with chance of showers. Moderate or fresh W winds. **Sea State:** Mostly slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre W.

**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>:** A cloudy start Wednesday then brighter with a few showers possible. Thursday and Friday dry and bright. Fresh W winds. Freshening SSE winds bringing chance of outbreaks rain for the weekend. **Sea State Wednesday:** Mostly moderate or rough at 2 to 3 metre W but slight inshore east of Shetland at 1 metre SW.

**Dave Wheeler**

