

FAIR ISLE TIMES

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A Sensational School Trip (featuring Sandwick)

There were so many great moments we couldn't even pick our favourite one. Before the trip, we were very excited. Our bags were packed and ready to go! So, we drove to the airport and flew to Sumburgh. After we had walked out of the plane, with a little delay because there were lots of helicopters on the runway, we came across our "upgraded" car. Originally, we were going to drive a little Fiat. However, we gasped when we saw a massive BMW X5.

We went straight to Sandwick School. We didn't just walk in, we were invited to join in the lessons. The lessons were great and we got to know the school a bit more. Then, we travelled to Lerwick. The best things about the Halls of Residence were comfy beds, yummy food and FREYJA! In the evening, Freyja was really kind and joined us for a happy walk around the Loch and Broch.

On Wednesday we went to the dentist to have a check-up. Next we went to Clickimin for individual swimming lessons. Luca reached 2a and received a certificate after some super swimming. Ander is trying really hard with his swimming too. After munching our massive baguettes, we strolled into town and straight into Harry's Department Store. Once we spent all our money, there was even time to pet a goat on the way to the cinema, where we spent some time relaxing together watching Lilo and Stich.

Later on, we drove to Hamnavoe for a playdate with two of our special friends: Harris and Heidi. Luca really enjoyed playing football on the massive pitch with Harris. Also, there was a chance to play some video games. Ander and Heidi had a great time playing in the multi-court. Thank you for inviting us!

Thursday was Sandwick Sports Day! There were the following seven events: football shoot, standing long jump, a skipping race, a sprint, a welly-throwing competition, a longer distance race and a tattie and spoon/sack race. We loved the day. Luca's favourite event was the long distance race but he came 1st in the sack race. Ander thought he did well competing against other children and especially enjoyed the sack race. Overall, it was lovely to race against other children our own age.



Thank you to Hollie and Jonathan for organising our amazing school trip. We are very grateful!

Didn't the boys do Fair Isle proud? This coming week, we have Foula Primary School visiting us for a two night trip to finish the school year, which should be fun! A big thanks to the Bird Observatory for being flexible in accommodating them.



Thanks to reader and former Isle resident, Ingirid Eunson, for this lovely glimpse into life in the isle 50 years ago

Fair Isle 1975

Gordon and Perry Barnes of Setter left the island to take over a farm in Wales. They had started a museum in one of their sheds which I believe was taken over by someone, and stored at the North Haven.

Andrew and Kathleen Stout got married in the summer of 1975 and were to take over Setter the following year. Andrew is the younger brother of Jimmy at Skerryholm.

Pat and Neil Thomson moved into the newly modernised house at Lower Stoneybrake in August 1975. The house had been renovated for a total of £4,750! The Trust were proud to say that they had now provided 12 houses with basic amenities - hot and cold running water, flush toilet, improved kitchen and bedroom accommodation.

Electricity. Since 1962 there had been electricity supplied by three engines, each serving a different area of the isle. I believe these engines were each the responsibility of a resident in the area. The one serving the south end was under the charge of Sandy of Taft. Sandy was an early nighter and so he would switch the engine off for the night about 9pm much to the chagrin of the younger residents in that part of the isle! In 1975 a new 52Kw engine was installed in the Stackhoull quarry and connected to all the houses.

Bullock Holes and the Mast. The communications mast started in 1974 was built and stands 160 feet high.

All in all 1975 was a memorable year and with the arrival of the Wheelers, the Murrays and the Bests a couple of years previously, a golden age of prosperity and hope began which lasted for the next 35 years.

Ingirid Eunson, Whiteness

Remembering John,

As mentioned in last week's edition, the Isle lost a great man last week. This Monday, John Best was laid to rest the traditional way in Fair Isle – with friends and family gathering the day before to lovingly prepare the grave in the Kirk yard, then a ceremony in his beloved Chapel and folk walking down to Utra, carrying John with loving care from his home of over 50 years to the graveyard to be interred alongside his wife Betty. There aren't many places left where a funeral is so personal and we hope John would have been proud and happy to know so many loved ones were involved. We hope to print a bit more about John's life in next week's edition, but for now we share with you this beautiful piece written by the isle's most poetic writer, Jimmy:

John

Your home stands empty on the hill,
and overlooks the place where you are laid;
beside your loving wife of many years.
Carried you out, Earth's clamour ceasing;
a moment then for thought and for reflection.

Your home stands empty on the hill:
We miss your daily earthly toil,
always about the place, tending the mundane tasks of life;
finding time for thought and talk in your old age,
while leaning on the principals of life.

Your home stands empty on the hill:
Where are you now, you man of such belief?
We buried you with love, with hope perhaps:
But you had faith — your spirit and your soul will surely travel on,
and meet again with those you loved before, and lost awhile.

Jimmy



Photo above of Utra, thanks to FIBO website

We would like to thank everyone for the condolence cards, messages, kind words, and pictures sent of Dad. The family would also like to thank those who helped prepare the Kirk Yard, and to Jeremy Dare for the Chapel service. It was lovely to see everyone at Kenaby afterwards, recounting shared memories and hearing a few that were new to us.

From Fiona, Andrew and Ian and all the family.

Skerryholm petrol containers – If anyone has any of my yellow petrol containers, could you please kindly return them to Skerryholm as soon as possible. Thanks, Jimmy.

Chapel – on Sunday at 11am, with Susannah leading. All very welcome to join.

Fair Isle Committee Quarterly Meeting - Wednesday 2nd July at 7.30pm in the Committee Room. If anyone has items for the agenda, please send over to me asap. Many thanks, Eileen

Mystery donor - Pat would like to thank the mystery donor of 2 pretty plant pots and a pair of brand new bairns' trainers to Lower Stoneybrek this week! She'd be keen to find out who the kind person was to say thank you!

Cruise ships – we see four cruise ships visiting the Isle this coming week:

- Tuesday 24th June – afternoon – Island Sky – 111 passengers
- Wednesday 25th June – morning – Ocean Adventurer – c130 passengers
- Friday 27th June – morning – Island Sky – 98 passengers
- Sunday 29th June – afternoon – Seabourne Venture – 176 passengers

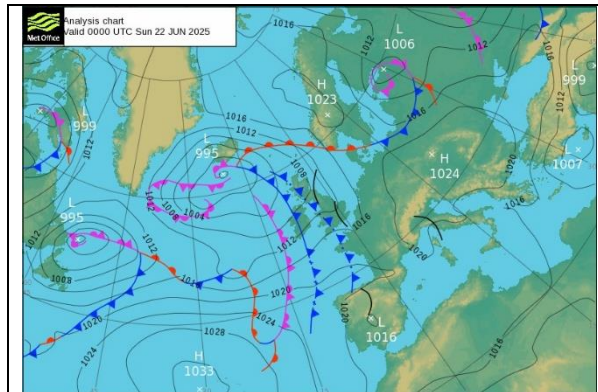
The following ship after these is the return of the Seabourne Venture on the morning of Sunday 6th July with 264 passengers expected.

Thanks,

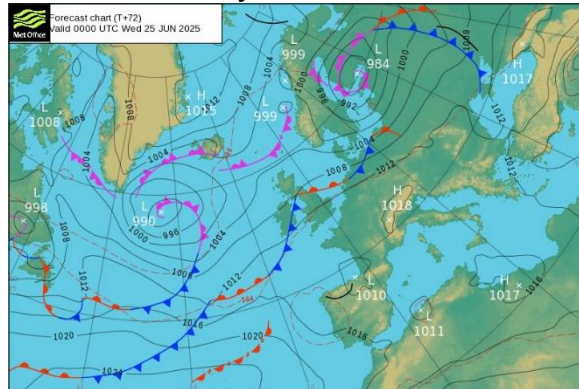
Eileen

Summer break – Next week will see our final edition of the Fair Isle Times before the summer break. We are so grateful to all our talented contributors for making it such a good read each week! If you have anything to go in next week's edition, please send to Eileen before Friday 27th June. Thanks

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Sunday 22nd June 2025



Forecast Chart 0000 UTC
Wednesday 25th June 2025

GENERAL SITUATION

Sunday 22nd June 2025

A thundery trough edged north across the Northern Isles this morning in a moist southeasterly airflow. As low pressure continues northwards a strong westerly follows for Monday before falling light by Tuesday. Midweek sees an Atlantic depression tracking towards Iceland developing a fresh south-west or southerly airflow over the British Isles. This backs southeast to easterly later in the week as a small secondary low swings towards northwest Scotland before tracking across Shetland on Friday. This will probably be followed by a strong showery westerly airflow for the weekend as the low continues northwards.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEK Temperature 13° or 14° today 11° overnight. Next week 13° to 15° by day, 10° or 11° overnight

SUNDAY 22nd: Fog with risk of thunder at first this morning, the afternoon becoming drier and clearer with some sunny spells but still the risk of a few heavy showers. F3 SE winds turning SW F3-4. Showers or longer spells of rain overnight, WSW winds increasing F5-6. **Sea State:** Slight at 1 metre SSE.

MONDAY 23rd: A cloudy day with outbreaks of rain and strong F5-6 WSW winds increasing F6 W occasionally F7. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate or rough at 2 to 3 metre W but slight east of Shetland at 1 metre S.

TUESDAY 24th: Cloudy with showers. F5 WSW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate or rough at 2 to 3 metre W but slight east of Shetland at 1 metre SW.

WEDNESDAY 25th: Cloudy with scattered showers. Possibly some brighter, sunny spells. Moderate or light SW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly slight at 1 metre W. **THURSDAY 26th and Friday 27th:** Rather cloudy days with occasionally heavy rain Thursday clearing to showers by Friday as fresh S winds veer strong WSW. **Sea State:** slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre S. **SATURDAY 28th – SUNDAY 29th:** Cloudy with some rain or showers and lighter S winds. **Sea State Saturday:** Slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre S.

Dave Wheeler

