



VOLUME 48 ISSUE 21

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

1st SEPTEMBER 2025

Back to School!

Back to School Review - Written by Ander

Coming back has been amazing. And we have Khalicee! She has settled in well and we love having her here. So far, my highlight was Fortress Fair Isle (see picture). It was really fun building it and everyone joined in. It is super colourful and we enjoy going in it. In P3, I am excited to go on more school trips, especially to Sandwick.



We are having a "Community Playground Tidy" on Wednesday 3rd September 2025. Everyone welcome. Please see this fantastic poster (overleaf), produced by Luca, for more information.

COME AND HELP US CLEAN OUR PLAYFUL PLAYGROUND

Hello wonderful People of
Fair Isle We are inviting you to
help us tidy up the playground
before the winter weather arrives.

When: Wednesday 3rd September 1:00pm onwards

We'd love to see you!



Everyone welcome
please bring
gardening tools and
(maybe) cake.
P.S we will also
bring cake.

Welcome to Alice, Khalid and especially Khalicee from the Fair Isle Times Team. Khalicee, we know you will be a brilliant addition to the school writers and we can't wait to see and read your lovely pictures and stories.

Have a lovely first term at Fair Isle Primary ☺

Fair Isle's sweet sunny summer...

As August comes to a close and we look towards September and the welcome calm of autumn, we cannot be alone in being thankful for a fabulous summer of weather. Sunshine was in generous supply for July and many of us look all the better for it (suncream applied of course – safety first!). Though August began poorly with plenty of wind and some rain too – not ideal when there was still grass to cut and turn into bales for the winter feeding. However the sun came back and we got the baling done and all willing sheep sheared. Some unwilling sheep can be found down the banxes – feel free to sort them if you see them!

The big news of the summer was a Fair Isle wedding. Cara – daughter of Robert and Fiona at Stackhoull, followed in her parents' footsteps and wed partner Alex in the Chapel – 40 years after Robert and Fiona tied the knot there! Cara and Alex welcomed many friends and family home for the event and were lucky with weather, I would expect all guests had a brilliant Fair Isle experience, seeing the isle at its verdant best, swimming in the sea, even joining in the rodeo of the first hill caa. The wedding itself was conducted by Jeremy Dare, visiting minister from Shetland who kindly and expertly stepped in with the recent departure of grandad John Best who was going to be conducting the ceremony. John was much missed many times over the summer, especially over the wedding weekend. If you believe in a god, then surely John must have had a word with him/her to make sure that the wedding went so well – it was a fantastic week and I wish Cara and Alex a long and happy marriage and we hope to see many of the guests again, especially if they come and help with the sheep!



We had a successful summer of cruise ships, with the highest number of bookings – many of which made it in, I'll do a full report in a later edition but as ever the isle proved to be the favourite stopping point for many guests, thanks to the many helpers here who pull out the stops for a super experience.

July and August provided the usual influx of returning friends and family – Houll was nice and busy with cousins, meaning Luca and Ander didn't need much entertaining from parents: who needs Mum and Dad when you have lots of big cousins. The fine weather meant Gunglesund and the Haven were busy with swimmers and paddleboarders. We even took to swimming in Gunglesund at night, so warm was the water – that was a first for me. Sister in law Karen has retrained Inness so now he enjoys swimming in the sea and Gunglesund (unlike most Thomson men who usually react with either "*You'll dee!*" or "*You'll droon!*") and we made it to Sandsteen (the rock in the Haven) for the first time.

Sharp rocks mind...



Mum and Dad reached 50 years of marriage on 9th of August and we had a lovely evening up at Kenny's bar in the Obs celebrating that grand achievement. As Ross said in his speech, they are "*a curious old couple*" which may be true, but we love them regardless.

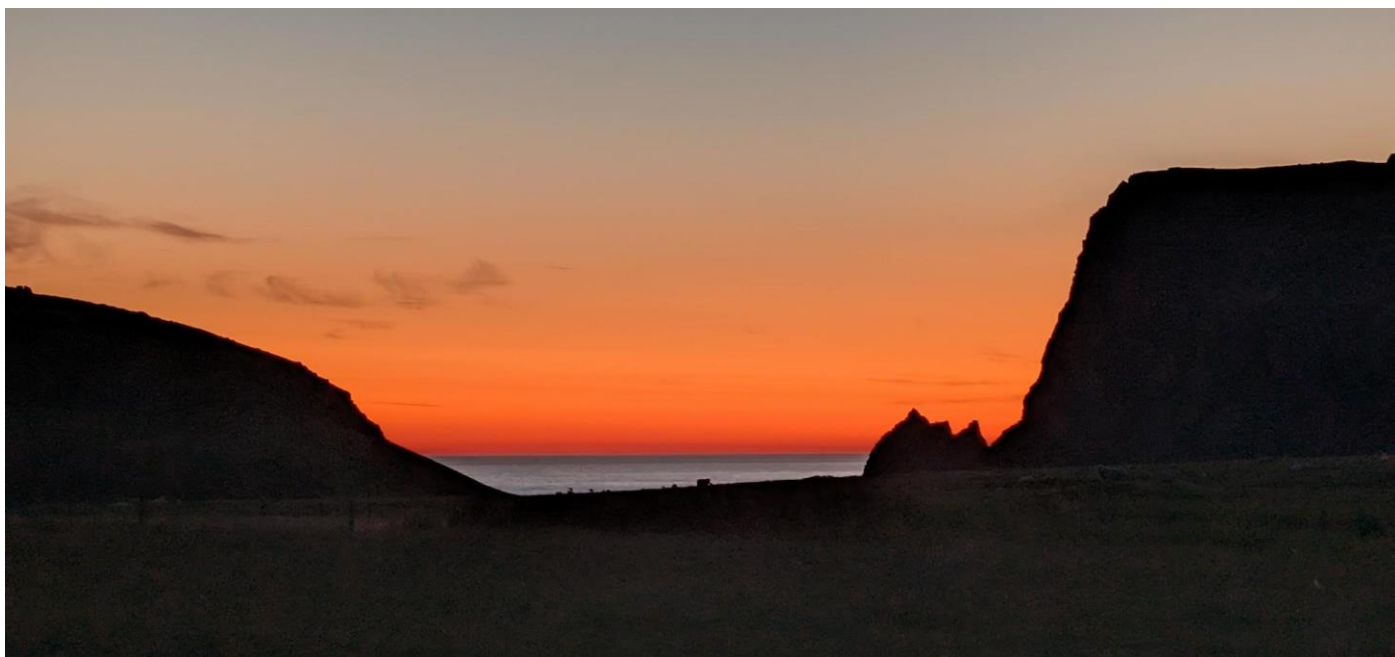


We had a few super evenings up in Kenny's Bar this summer: a music night when Ewen, Martha and Harry Thomson were home, various quiz nights and other impromptu visits. It is lovely having a place to go and the welcome is warm. I'm sure Kenny would approve. Another thing he would approve of is the amount of fish in the sea this summer. Steven at Koolin is fishing supremo here – thanks for taking so many folk out for trips, Steven – you know you are Luca's hero!

There are changes in the isle once more as we said good-bye to Laura and Charlie from North Shirva. Laura took up the post here as nurse 18 months ago and they have both been such brilliant friends and neighbours and we miss them hugely. We hope they are settling in back down south, but not too much as we want you back – just wait till we find a nice peerie house and croft for your cows and pigs!

Good changes also happened as we welcomed Alice and Khalicee to join Khalid at Brecks. It is two full years since Alice got in touch with Ian and me having seen the advert for the position on the Shepherd, and I know I can speak on behalf of Ian in saying just how delighted we are to finally have all 3 of you here. I hope your first few months in the isle have been enjoyable and that we see you settled and happy here for many, many years to come.

Burkle and Upper Stoneybrake received top prices for their first shipment of lambs to the marts, no doubt with other Fair Isle lambs also doing well in the first sale. Well done to Hollie, Deryk, Amy and Andy – it is no mean feat getting good prices when the lambs have had to endure 4 and a half hours on deck of the Shepherd before they get to the sale! A friend of mine who works in farms in the north of England is always impressed by the quality and size of lambs here in the isle – testament to hard work and good girse no doubt.



No doubt plenty of other exciting things happened, but that's enough for now.

Have a lovely week all,

Eileen at Houll

Thanks to everyone who has helped out with the FIMRO events we've held so far this summer. We've had some very productive beach cleans, removing several bin liners full of rubbish from the South Harbour and North Haven, whilst also logging the individual items removed. All the information we collect is entered onto the Marine Conservation Society's website to help them build up a national picture of marine litter, as well as looking at changes in what is occurring over time. We've also been carrying out Shorewatches at Buness and South Light, looking for whales and dolphins, so thank you to everyone who has signed up to help with those, even if sightings have been fairly sparse so far, it's all valuable data to collect.

The Shorewatch Big Watch Weekend and the Great British Beach Clean are both coming up in

the next couple of weeks, and we're aiming to hold further events for those (hopefully this lovely summery weather continues!), so keep an eye in the FIT for further announcements.

David, FIMRO Education Officer



Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA Update.

Last year's Fair Isle DR MPA annual report is now available online at: <https://www.fair-isle-marine.org.uk/download/fair-isle-dr-mpa-annual-report-2024-2025-2/>

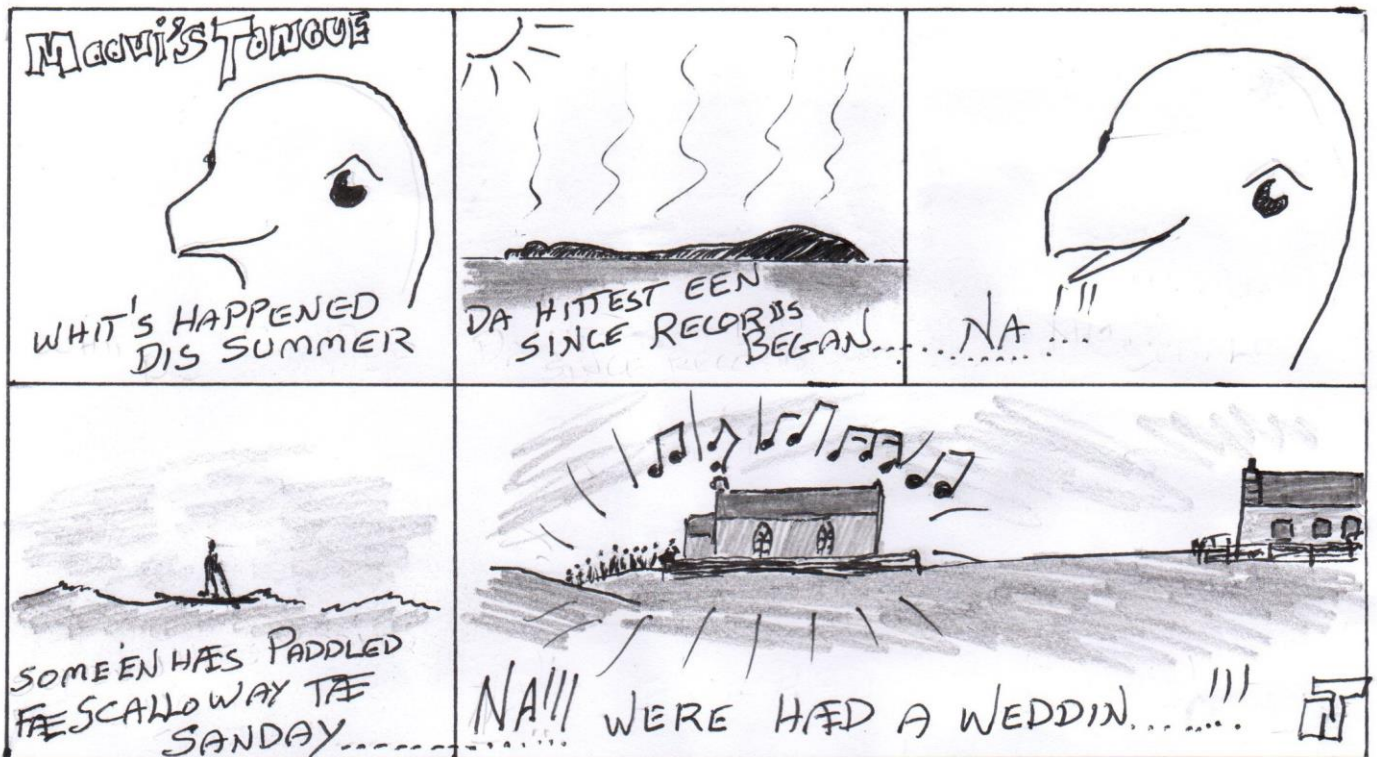
This report provides a summary of research and project progress over the period April 2024-March 2025, as well as a summary of communications, engagement, events, education, and support during this time.

If anyone has any questions they can contact Fair Isle DR MPA Research Officer Katie at: katie.cubbon@nature.scot

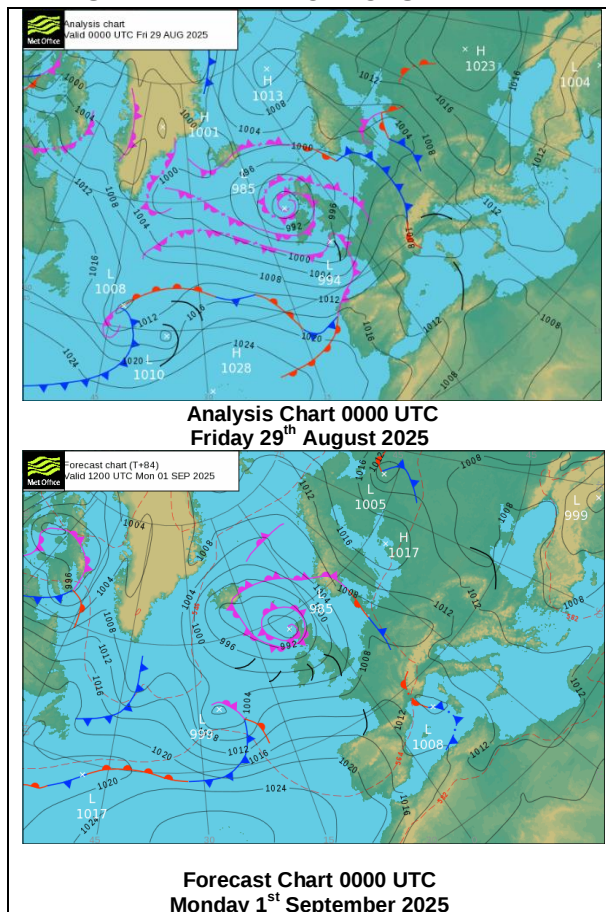
The Fair Isle DR MPA quarterly newsletter, summer 2025 edition is now available on FIMRO's website at: <https://www.fair-isle-marine.org.uk/fair-isle-dr-mpa/dr-mpa-newsletter/> Here you can catch up on what's being going on over the summer months, access previous editions of the newsletter and subscribe to the newsletter mailing list if you haven't already.

ISLE NOTICES

- **Community School Playground Tidy on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.** Everyone welcome.
- **Fair Isle Primary School Parent Council meeting on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at 7pm** in the school for parents and parent council members.
- **Chapel – Susannah leading this Sunday 7th, all very welcome to join at 11am.** There will be Sunday School this week where the kids will be painting stones in memory of John. All bairns welcome to join. Ask Pat for details.
- **Nurse visit** – Nurse Emma Williamson will be in this coming weekend, arriving on Friday at 10.25am and leaving on Monday 11.35am. Emma will be at the clinic on Friday then again on Saturday and Sunday from 10am till 1pm, and will do home visits in the afternoons. Emma plans to do bloods etc on Monday morning before leaving on the plane. Emma will be staying at North Shirva and will be happy to help out of hours and will have the emergency equipment in the car at all times if needed.
- **Fair Isle Committee Quarterly Meeting – Monday 15th September 7.30pm.** Any more items for the agenda to Eileen asap please.



FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



State: Mostly moderate at SSE 2 metre.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Temperature 14° or 15° by day 11° or 12° overnight.

MONDAY 30th: Cloudy with rain, heavy at times, misty with hill fog. Rain clearing later as fresh to strong SE winds tend fresh S. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough at SSE 2 to 3 metre.

TUESDAY 1st: A cloudy start with patchy rain, drier and brighter later rain or showers and and occasionally fresh WSW winds. **Sea State:** Slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre SSW.

WEDNESDAY 2nd – SUNDAY 6th: Probably a reasonable amount of dry weather with sunny spells Wednesday. Then cloudy with chance of rain and mist a freshening SE winds. **Sea State Wednesday:** Slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre WNW.

Fair Isle weather, Summer (JJA) 2025.

A comment on the Seasonal Mean Daily Temperature.

With a few days remaining before the end of Meteorological summer a notable feature is its warmth.

Summer 2025 is the warmest since I started recording the weather in 1974. It appears that this is not a result of outstandingly hot days but rather due to a lack of overnight radiational cooling as nights were often cloudy.

The 24 hour mean daily temperature for the three 2025 summer months is 12.9° - the warmest since 1974 (the 1991-2020 30-year climate mean is 11.5°).

The 30-year Met Office climate periods for Fair Isle, run every ten years, shows a steady upwards trend:
Mean Daily Temp: 1974-1990 10.9°, 1974-2000 11.0, 1981-2010 11.3°, 1991-2020 11.5°, 2001-2025 11.8°.

Mean Sea Temp: 1974-1990 11.4°, 1974-2000 11.3, 1981-2010 11.6°, 1991-2020 11.6°, 2001-2025 11.9°.

A more detailed report next week.

Dave Wheeler

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 29th August 2025

With a filling Atlantic low slow-moving just west of the Hebrides a moist south-easterly airflow persists across northeast Scotland. This eases to a drier south then south-westerly during the weekend and westerly by Monday as the low drifts north past Shetland. A weak ridge of high pressure then moves east Tuesday into Wednesday. By this time the next Atlantic depression is forecast to be approaching western Britain bringing a freshening south-easterly airflow to the Northern Isles ahead of associated fronts driven north. This low is currently predicted to track north bringing a south-easterly then westerly airflow to Shetland.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperature 14° or 15° by day, 11° or 12° overnight.

FRIDAY 29th: Cloudy start with some misty low cloud and the odd sharp shower, then mainly dry with some afternoon brightness. Warm in any sunshine. F4-5 ESE wind. Cloudy though mainly dry overnight. **Sea State:** Slight or moderate at SSW 1 to 2 metre.

SATURDAY 30th: Chance of some rain in the morning, otherwise mostly dry and bright with variable amounts of cloud allowing some sunshine. F4-5 ESE breeze. Chance of rain overnight. **Sea State:** Slight or moderate at S 1 to 2 metre.

SUNDAY 31st: Some early rain then mostly dry with bright or sunny spells and a F5 SSE breeze occasionally F5-6. **Sea**