

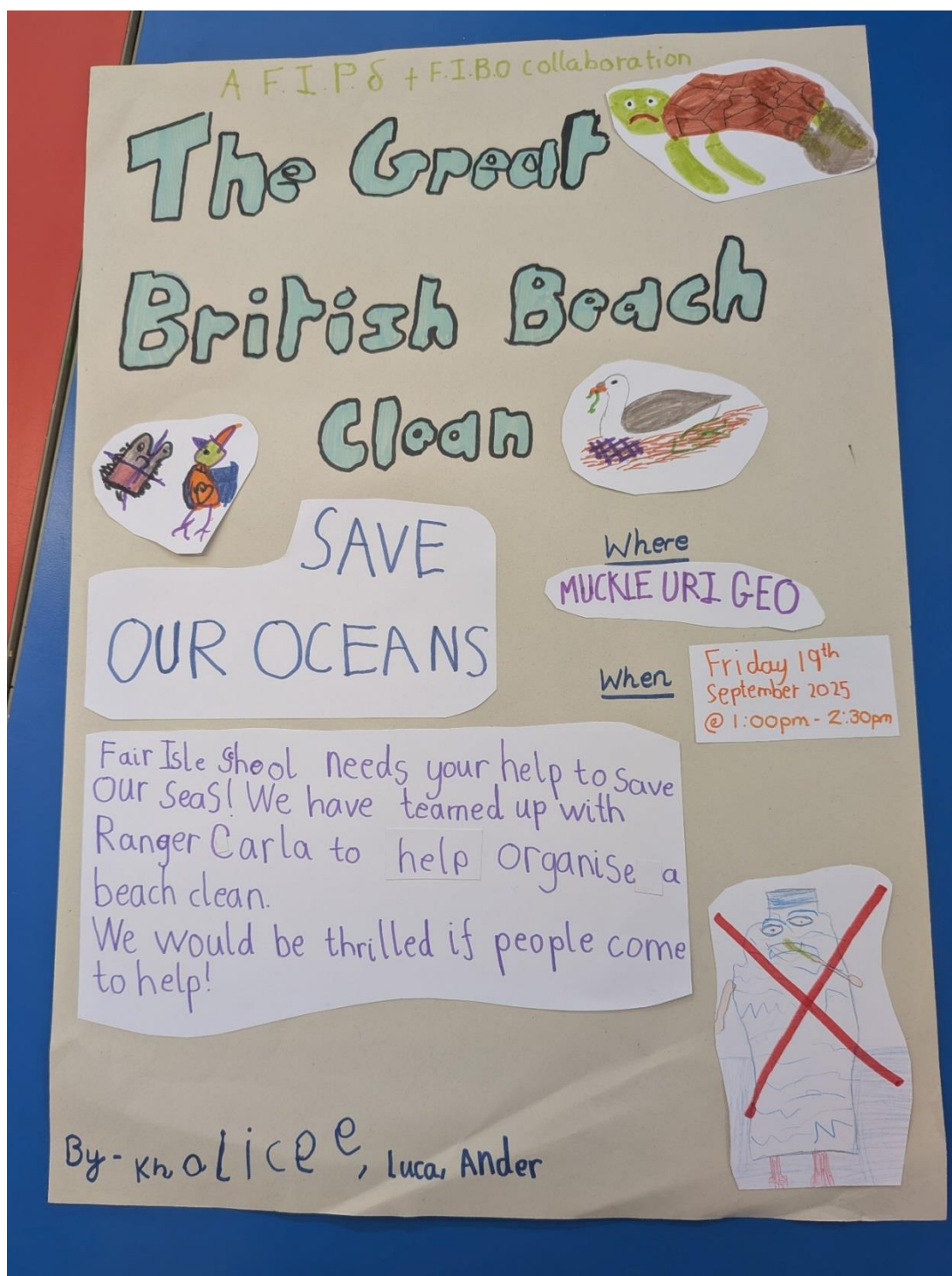
FAIR ISLE TIMES

VOLUME 48 ISSUE 23

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

13th SEPTEMBER 2025

School News: Join us for the Big British Beach Clean.



We have once again been teaming up with Carla from the Bird Obs, who has done some interesting work on microplastics with us. We are going to do our very own Beach Clean this coming Friday and we would once again love the community to come along and join us. Please see our amazing poster below for all the details. We are also really grateful to David Parnaby at FIMRO who has helped register the beach for us and who is going to help us input the data after the clean too.



We love working with Carla!

After the FIPS children kick-off the Great British Beach Clean, we'll also be litter picking at the Haven and South Harbour the following day. Join us on Saturday 20th at 2pm meeting either at the old fish store in North Haven or by the stile south of Skerryholm, depending on which beach you'd like to clean! Bring gloves if you have them and if you've any other questions, give us a shout. Many thanks, Carla (FIBO Ranger) and David (FIMRO).

This week, the Shetland News reported on a first glance at the new **Good Shepherd V**, which will be constructed in Whitby soon. More info here: <https://www.shetnews.co.uk/2025/09/11/first-look-new-fair-isle/>

ISLE NOTICES

- **Chapel – Dave B leading this Sunday, all very welcome to join at 11am.** Sunday School this week, painting stones in memory of John, all bairns welcome to join.
- **Fair Isle Committee Quarterly Meeting – Monday 15th September 7.30pm.** Any more items for the agenda to Eileen asap please.

The summer sun beats down on the island. Its rays glistening on the crystal sea as the waves lap the pristine white sand beaches. Holiday makers enjoy a swim as another yacht enters the harbour.

Just last night they feasted on locally reared lamb and locally caught lobster. They drank the island dry of prosecco, wine and beer and danced the night away. With sore heads today they may choose a quieter night at the hotel and take in the sweeping views of the island from the bar at sunset.

Is this the Bahamas? No, this is Fair Isle. Scotland's premier destination wedding venue, no all-inclusive wrist band required.

In the week running up to the big day, wedding guests arrived in driblets and drabs via plane, ferry and even luxury cruise ship. They were greeted by their hosts and chauffeured to various accommodations across the isle. Some stayed at the brand new Fair Isle Bird Observatory - the smell of fresh paint still lingering - and some down the isle in the homes of the kind and hospitable islanders. Wherever they stayed they were sure of a warm welcome and for some, maybe even birthday cake.

The combined Stag and Hen do kicked off the celebrations with a boozy beach bonfire. Under the warm glow of the roaring fire and good company the Stag and Hen party, family, friends and islanders alike drank and danced into the early hours. A local artist captured the moment on canvas - though did not capture the groom's father sneaking back to the party after dropping the groom's mother safely at the Obs. Nor did it capture the moment the groom was wrestled into wooden stocks where he would spend the rest of the night, using a particularly long beer bottle to enable him to drown his pretend misery.

Unrelenting hangovers or not, the next day was prep day. A potato peeling party, lamb hot pot hot-shots, gazebo wrangling, festooning the school hall and, of course, the cake. A huge team effort, an island effort, everyone was poised for the big day...

The sun, shining brightly as it had all week, beamed through the stained glass windows of the chapel. It was elbow room only as family, friends, visitors and islanders squabbled for space. The beautiful bride, glowing, was delivered safely down the aisle by her father as the groom himself beamed back. The reverend delivered a joyous service with great care and respect for the man who previously led the worship here not so long ago, and the couple were wed.



And now it was action stations! After a brief photo-op coordinated masterfully by the nominated photographer, it was a dash to the hall through the (brief) rain. What followed was a whirlwind of prosecco, pick 'n' mix, feasts, speeches and ceilidh chaos. An evening that flew by so fast but will live long in the memory.

The day after the wedding, guests were treated to a gripping football match - Fair Isle XI hosting Rest of the World XI in a furious 90 minutes of end-to-end football in the shadow of the South Lighthouse. The resident Argentinians taking it perhaps a little too seriously, but no "hand of god" to save them this time. The less

inclined sat and watched from the hill or took advantage of the ever-pleasant weather with a plunge in Gunglesund. If that wasn't enough exercise, visitors were given their first experience busting a lung up Ward Hill in a traditional Hill Caa. Some then found new skills in sheep shearing while others watched on at the bewildering fury of wool and boiler suits.

Then it was time to say goodbye. The visitors boarded planes and ferries and travelled homebound, each turning to look over their shoulder and bid farewell to the island they had come to love, some already planning their return trip. Their adventure had sadly come to an end, but what a joyous adventure it was.

We want to thank Fair Isle and its amazing community for making our visiting family and friends feel so welcome, for giving them memories they will cherish and for giving us the best week of our lives.

Thank you
Cara and Alex

A message here from artist Gael Hillyard who spent last Christmas and New Year here at Lower Leogh on an artist's residence

Please pass on my thanks to everyone for their kindness and generosity during my two months there, and for including me in so many of your celebrations and events. It was one of the most fabulous experiences I have ever had and such a privilege to be there in winter. New Year's Eve was a particular highlight, thank goodness for that bottle of whisky. Your Nativity was wonderful, so funny, and it took me straight back to my childhood. I have not sung We Three Kings of Orient Are since I was tiny. Christmas Eve was beautiful too, despite a very painful knee and my torch giving up on the way back to Lower Leogh. But perhaps the most memorable moment was the First Sunday of Advent at South Light, sitting next to Neil as he played guitar. That really will stay with me forever.

Spending January in Scalloway afterwards brought its own charm and challenges, not least thick ice, snow and freezing weather; The Booth was in a stunning location, and was so beautiful, but I think I had been very, very spoiled in Fair Isle. I used to watch the plane pass overhead on its way to the Isle, wishing I were on it. Saying that, I had been warned the Good Shepherd would be terrible, but I loved it (even though I was seasick for the first time in my life). I was really sad to leave, but delighted it was on the boat, and would definitely go on it again.

I have an exhibition at Wasps in Inverness from 22 August to 10 October, and much of the work came directly from my time on the Isle. I have attached a leaflet in case anyone from the Isle, or their families, happen to be here during that time. I would love to see them if they did (although I am in Hereford for much of September).

I was thinking of visiting the Birds Observatory in the Autumn, but seeing how busy the past few months have been, it is unlikely it will be this year now; I am hoping to do a residency in Norway or Denmark next year, and after that plan to sail around Shetland for a few days, so might visit Fair Isle then which would be really lovely.

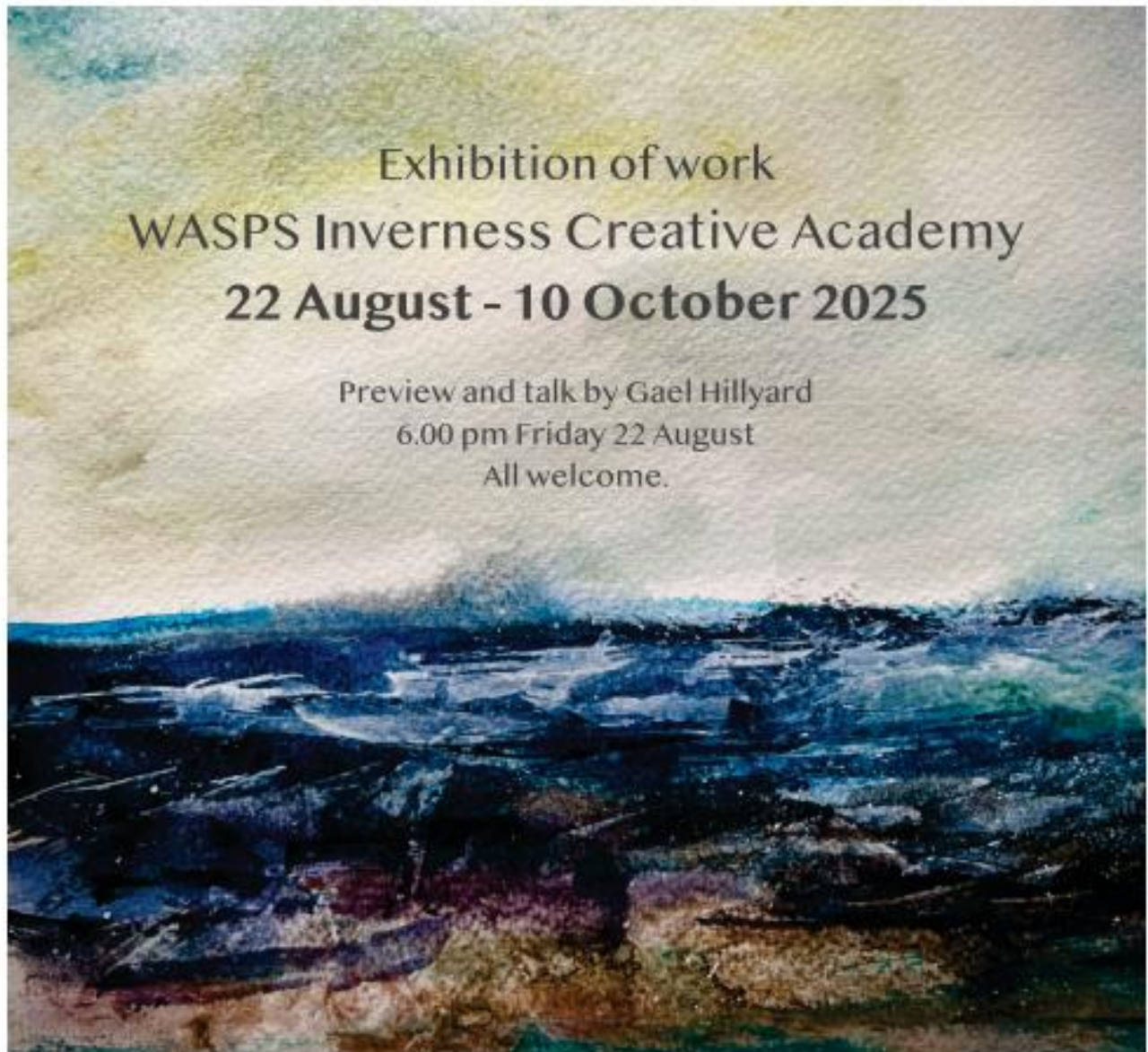
Thank you again for your help, your interest in me and my work, and all the lifts, support, gifts, and shared time given by the wonderful people on Fair Isle. Everyone made my residency more magical than I could ever have wished for, and there has not been a single day since I got home that I have not thought of you.

With best wishes
Gael

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FAIR ISLE

an artistic journey to the edge of the world



Exhibition of work
WASPS Inverness Creative Academy
22 August - 10 October 2025

Preview and talk by Gael Hillyard
6.00 pm Friday 22 August
All welcome.

Join Gael Hillyard as she reflects on her journey to Britain's most remote inhabited island, where she spent the Winter alone, capturing its raw beauty.



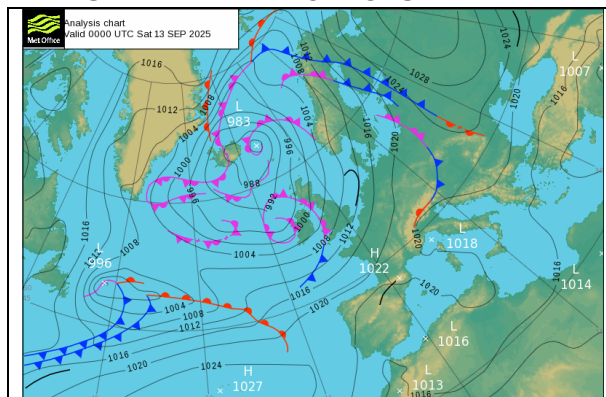
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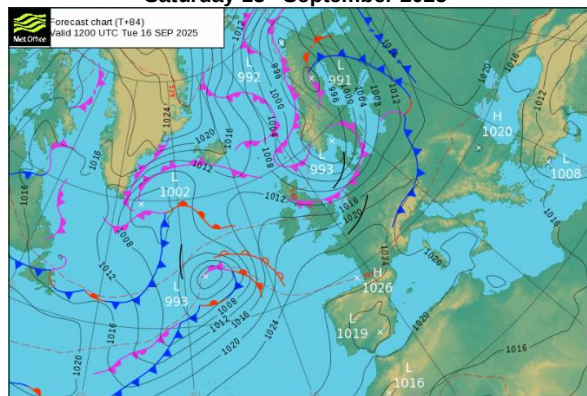


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FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Saturday 13th September 2025



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Tuesday 16th September 2025

GENERAL SITUATION Saturday 13th September 2025

With a filling depression near Iceland and the next Atlantic depression heading for the British Isles the blustery autumnal airflow of the last few days have temporarily eased. However next week is looking very unsettled as the latest incoming depression tracks east or northeast across Scotland quickly followed by the next midweek and yet another = track uncertain - for the following weekend!

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND Temperature 13° to 15° by day, 11° or 12° overnight.

SATURDAY 13th: Dry and bright at first with a F5 SE breeze. Cloudier by afternoon with chance of showery rain. A mainly dry night with clear spells and a light F2 S wind. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough at SW 2 to 3 metre.

SUNDAY 14th: A dry sunny day with a light S wind, this slowly freshening SSE through the afternoon as cloud encroaches from the southwest. Winds strengthen ESE F6 -7 overnight, perhaps gale F8 as rain arrives later in the night. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at S 2, Slight to moderate east of Shetland at S 1 to 2 metre.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperature 13° or 14° by day, 11° overnight.

MONDAY 15th: Heavy rain and strong to gale E winds at first becoming drier and brighter by afternoon as ENE to NE winds ease fresh. **Sea State:** Moderate at SE 2 metre becoming

moderate to rough E to NE at 2 to 3 metre.

TUESDAY 16th: Brighter with a few showers but breezy with a fresh to strong NW wind. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at NW 2 metre.

WEDNESDAY 17th – SUNDAY 21st: Wednesday dry and bright with a fresh NE wind falling light later. Thursday wet with heavy rain and strong ESE winds. Friday drier and brighter with light winds but the weekend unsettled with rain and strong to gale S'y winds Saturday followed by blustery showers and strong W winds Sunday.

Sea State Wednesday: Moderate or rough at N 2 to 3 metre.

Dave Wheeler

