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Fair Isle Primary School News – Autumn Poetry

Autumn is officially upon us in Fair Isle. In school, we have been thinking about how unique Autumn is here and how it can be different to other places. We have written some fabulous and very creative poems, inspired by some pictures taken by recent visiting artist, Dorthie (included with kind permission). Ander and Luca have been working on syllable patterns and structure, which you will definitely spot. We hope you enjoy reading them.

Khalicee: P1

Sat watching the floating darkness
All around you.
The spooky pumpkins gaze at us.
Something banging on the window.
Is it a ghost?



What Autumn is like

Freezers with delicious meat
Fiery sunsets to the west
Snuggling in our cosy beds
Cute mice hiding in your house
Golden suns and yellow grass
Autumn is a lovely time.

By Ander (P3)

What Autumn is in Fair Isle

There are no falling leaves in
Fair Isle...

Neepie lanterns with their scent
Charred from candles flame of heat
Glowing in the dark of night
Grinning on the mantelpiece.

Lambs are safely gathered in
Cutlets made and chops are stored
Waiting for a hungry Feast
Freezers full of lots of mince.

Digging up the waiting crops
Onions peeled and carrots chopped
Tatties boiling on the stove
Don Dog resting near the fire.

Written by Luca (PG)



ISLE NOTICES

Chapel – cancelled due to weather

Harvest – enormous thanks to all who made food, grew produce, donated lovely prizes and came to our harvest celebration at the Hall last Sunday.

We raised an astonishing £1100 to be split between our two charities: Goodwill Children's Village in India and The Red Cross Gaza Appeal.



NTS Property available - The vacant flat at South Light will be available for a new tenant from the beginning of November 2025. Nethertaft will also become available later in the year. Prior interest has been noted by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). We invite interested parties to contact us by email at balnainbuildings@nts.org.uk to request an application form. Completed applications must be submitted by 16 October 2025.

Angela Harding on Radio 4 – friend of the isle, artist Angela Harding, is going to be on BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs this Sunday <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002kfjb>

Job opportunity:

Position: Development Officer for Fair Isle Development Company

Location: Fair Isle, Shetland (home office based). We believe this post is best suited to an on-island candidate. For exceptional candidates, we would consider applications from Shetland mainland or further afield.

Hours: 21 hours per week at a competitive rate, flexible hours. Permanent, subject to funding

Closing date: 17th October 2025

Job Outline: The Development Officer is a vital role responsible for driving forward key development projects outlined in the FIDC Action Plan, whilst ensuring the smooth and efficient administration of the organisation. The post holder will combine strategic project development, fundraising, and stakeholder engagement with essential hands-on administrative duties.

The core of this role is to advance community-led initiatives including community housing initiatives, tourism development and providing support to Fair Isle Electricity Company. The Development Officer will be central to building a resilient and prosperous future for Fair Isle. There is significant scope for this role to expand to include other on-island responsibilities.

Key candidate attributes include:

- An understanding of Fair Isle, its community, and the key issues the island faces.
- Highly organised, self-motivated, and able to manage a varied workload effectively on your own initiative.
- Experience in fundraising, including identifying funding sources and preparing grant applications.
- A positive attitude and a strong desire to actively seek and create opportunities that will benefit the community.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to work well as part of a small team.
- Highly literate in IT.

For more information please contact admin@fairisledevelopment.org

Da week dat's awa'...

When you're at my age, the weekend can start on a Tuesday and end on a Monday; so with that in mind my week dats awa can start on Saturday, which is a sunny but windy day from the south so all flights cancelled, but the Shetland Times, depleted in size, arrives now on Thursday. There was a while when a picture of the Good Shepherd appeared every week. If they included similar developments at Grutness one would also see little change from week to week. The site is guarded better than any prison but from a distance we can see

new and large machines on the move, but completion is for another day, and almost certainly another year. When I started my 40 years on the ferry the pier at Grutness was a wooden structure with a bogey which in theory, ran on rails. This pier was replaced in the 1970s. In my 40 years, Grutness pier, once replaced, was never at the top of my list of priorities - often feeling seasick I was glad to be stepping ashore on it! As winter sets in and the daylight decreases, so will the joy of sailing to Lerwick decrease. It's great to look forward to a new dawn, but we all live in the present and perhaps a difficult period lies ahead for our ferry crew and for the service they provide. Thankfully, our lambs and ewes are now all sold. Older ewes can travel worse than lambs, but fortunately they got a good day and sold well. Lack of grazing in Scotland due to lack of rain meant that lamb prices were very similar to the year before.

I set about mending my sheep cru by first removing what was likely second hand 30 years ago. Most of it was fit only for the bonfire! Pick some tomatoes for the 'harvest' and delivering them to Eileen at Stonybrek gate-crashing Neil's birthday celebrations, but am welcomed by a nice glass of red! It must be kind of unique that our Isle of less than 50 people is supporting an orphanage in a country of 1.5 billion souls. How can we measure one and a half billion! I shall pass on the football for today except that the beam from the Stadium of Light spread all the way to the forest of Sherwood.

Sunday now and another fine day - even sitting out in the sun for a spell - at the end of September! Enjoyed the get-together in the afternoon. In the raffle I won a F.I. school tea-towel - an end of season prize which has been a serious prize winner for the school, good on them for that. Watched the conclusion of the Ryder Cup in the evening at Setter. Our team spirit enabled us to accumulate enough points to finally win on their side of the pond, even if, individually, the better players fought back on the last day.

Monday - a fine day again and the boat's off to Lerwick as today is predicted to be the day of least wind. 4 trips of the plane getting delayed passengers and those booked for today in and out. Our efforts yesterday yielded £1100, surely a superb effort for such a small place, although supported by visitors and friends on the day, who, traditionally, become part of the community on occasions like this, especially when no rare birds are about.

Granddaughter Diane arrived to knit with Marie. It will be a good time for me and for her as well I hope. Glen thinks her arrival is purely for his benefit.

Tuesday is still very reasonable - a bit fresh but dry. We caa Malcolm's Head to take out the lambs. There's a good crop of lambs and a more successful caa than of late!

I see the 'drone' company, proactive at present in Orkney, have acquired a giant £200,000 to further their development. They could get a few lessons from Putin on how it works, but seriously, it's strange how funding is readily available for certain projects while we are unable to rebuild a house on an island that is so short of people.

We reinstated our sheep cru, my father would have said "it will see me up". We then lifted the last of my garden tatties - one whole box, but that will last a while. Near 50 years ago now, we grew near 1/2 acre of tatties, even shipping for sale in Shetland; changed days.

Not much to say about Wednesday that I shall put on record. It's a wet and windy morning, drying up later, but still fresh enough and with low cloud that planes are cancelled for the day. I cooked kidneys for Glen so Diane is happy that we are at Setter for our dinner!

No planes again on Thursday and now being October the ferry crew will be relieved to be required to provide only one service per week.

It's a grand day for our caa to get the lambs off the hill and dose all the ewes. I would not say the caa was easy but in the end it was very successful, with more sheep in the cru than I have seen for a while.



Percentage return was between 90-95% which is not bad for our hill and would be counted excellent in many places.

The other good news today is a grant of £180,000 to our Fair Isle Electricity Company. I don't think they will see this as a bonus - rather as an essential acquirement to hopefully get mills operational and so our system in better shape!

Friday is an improving morning so we're getting a plane in before the predicted storm arrives tonight and tomorrow.

So keep safe and sound!

Jimmy



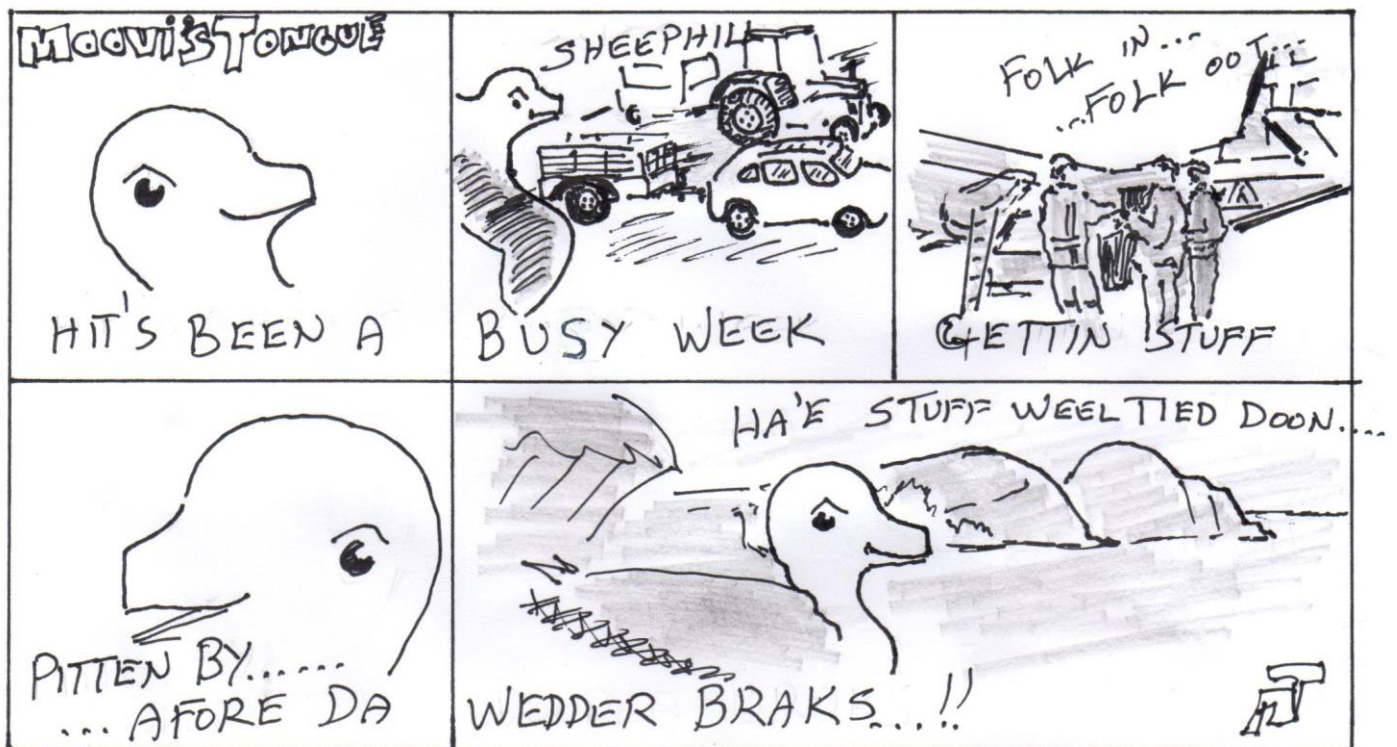
Caption competition from last week:

"A rose between 2 thorns" **Jonnie**

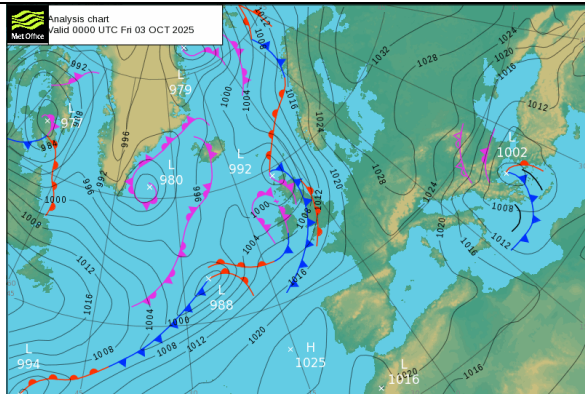
"Remember Eileen, gloves leave no fingerprints" **Jonnie**

"Serves you right for those Dad jokes, Robert!" **Eileen**

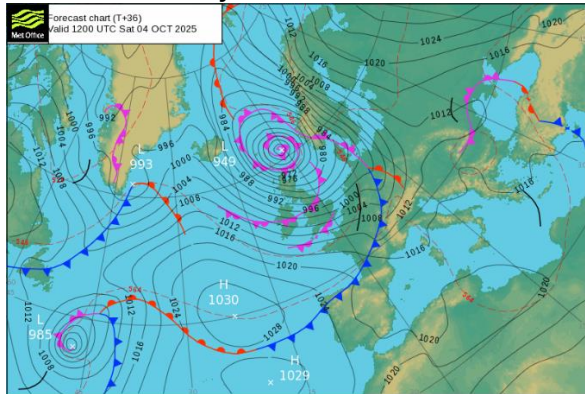
"Killing him softly..." **Fiona**



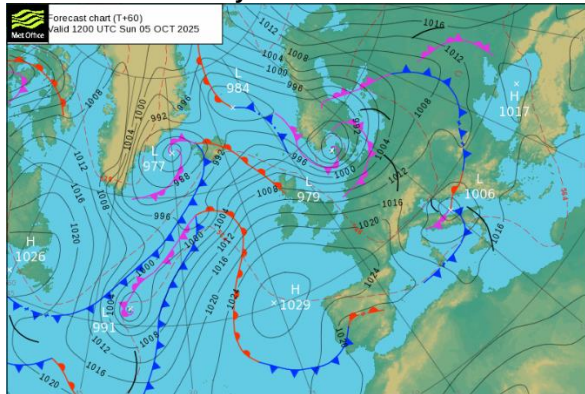
FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 3rd October 2025



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Saturday 4th October 2025



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Sunday 5th October 2025

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 3rd October 2025

The first named storm of the season storm Amy is presently close to the west coast of Ireland and expected to continue northeast past Cape Wrath to just north of Unst by midday Saturday. As it does so severe SE gales develop across the Northern Isles later today veering S overnight. As storm Amy continues east winds on its southwestern flank – across Fair Isle - veer WNW and strengthen storm F10 Saturday evening. NW winds ease gale F8 overnight, continuing to ease and back W through Sunday and perhaps SW overnight. However, as the now distant low continues east across the southern Baltic by Monday winds are back strong WSW.

As pressure builds north across the British Isles next week the fresh, occasionally strong airflow eases moderate SW and perhaps light by the weekend.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND Temperatures 12° or 13° by day, 10° overnight.

SATURDAY 4th: Severe gales moderate SSW F7 to gale F8 by dawn but soon veer W gale F8 gusts to 50-55kn and by evening NW severe gale F9 gusts to 65kn. Severe NW gales continue overnight. Outbreaks of rain or blustery showers.

Sea State: Very rough at W 6 metre.

SUNDAY 5th: Severe F9 NW gales ease gale F8 through the morning, F6-7 through the afternoon and F5-6 by evening. Sunshine and shower.

Sea State: Very rough at NW 6 metre.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperature 13° to 15° by day, 10° overnight.

MONDAY 6th: Cloudy with fresh to strong SW to WSW winds. Scattered showers or patchy drizzle'

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

TUESDAY 7th: Mostly dry though remaining cloudy. Fresh to strong SW to WSW winds.

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

WEDNESDAY 8th – SUNDAY 12th: Dry with some brightness on Wednesday with moderate W winds backing SW and freshening. Some early light rain. Friday and the weekend perhaps dry and bright as fresh winds fall light.

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

Dave Wheeler