

FAIR ISLE TIMES

VOLUME 48 ISSUE 27

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

10th OCTOBER 2025

Fair Isle Primary School News – A Week of Data Handling and a Trip to see Da Wadderman!



This week we have been learning about Data handling.

On Wednesday we braved the wind to visit Dave who has LOTS of data for Fair Isle weather! We used data to construct bar and line graphs. We interpreted each other's graphs. Khalicee made 2 fantastic pictograms of everyone's favourite weather and her croft animals.



Did you know?



The snowiest year since Ander was born was 2021 with 10 snow days.

August 2015 and August 2024 had an equal maximum temperature of 15 degrees.

Most people's favourite weather is sun or snow and ice.

We would like to say thank you to Dave for helping us with our maths this week.



On behalf of Fair Isle Primary School, I would like to say a huge thank you to Lucy for coming to do some days of supply teaching to support in the school. We love having her as part of our school community and are grateful for her braving the stormy weather to travel all the way from the Isle of Skye to be with us this week.



It has been a lovely term at Fair Isle and the children are now off for their well-deserved October holidays. Thank you to everyone for their support this term – parents, community members who joined us during our Harvest Fundraising and Grounds Tidy, The Bird Observatory (especially Carla for her wonderful sessions), FIMRO, visiting artists and all who make sure our children thrive here in the isle.

Jonathan, Hollie, Amy, Fiona, Pat and the children themselves. Now, who fancies a School Panto...?



A trip to Dumfries House to meet with HRH King Charles



The visiting season has now come to an end and my autumn started with something really exciting: an incredible two days spent at Dumfries House, invited by The King's Foundation at the beginning of October.

Earlier this year I was honoured to be part of The King's Foundation's '35 Under 35 Network', created this year to celebrate the Foundation's 35th anniversary by connecting 35 makers and change-makers who are advocating for the positive change His Majesty wishes to see in the world.

We were given a full tour of the Dumfries Estate in Ayrshire, the headquarters of the Foundation. The magnificent 18th-century house, the original Chippendale furniture and the stunning gardens were breathtaking... but what impressed me most were the educational facilities.

The Foundation runs an incredible range of programmes from Farming and Health & Wellbeing to STEM, Hospitality, Horticulture, and Textiles all making a real difference in people's lives.



Spending time with the other '35' was inspiring; hearing about their practices, businesses and lives left me full of energy and ideas.

As part of the invitation, we were asked to bring a small item representing our work to include in The King's Foundation's 35th Anniversary Time Capsule.

I chose to donate a Fair Isle Fisherman's Kep, along with a postcard from my knitting studio in Fair Isle.

Here's what I wrote on the back of the postcard:

"This kep is inspired by a pattern written by Anne Sinclair when recreating the bartering tradition during the Tall Ship Race in 2011. These traditional hats have been knitted in Fair Isle for centuries. The motifs and colourwork are inspired by a scarf from the late 1880s. It's knitted on a flatbed machine in 100% Shetland wool from Jamieson's of Shetland, colours Madder, Prussian Blue, Highland Mist, Mooskit, Shetland Black, and Natural White. The crown, seam, and rib are all hand-finished. Honouring the legacy of past generations of knitters while creating contemporary garments for everyday use is at the heart of what I do. My knitwear is crafted to last a lifetime, creating heirlooms that can be passed down through generations."

Meeting His Majesty the King to present the piece was a true honour, an unforgettable moment.

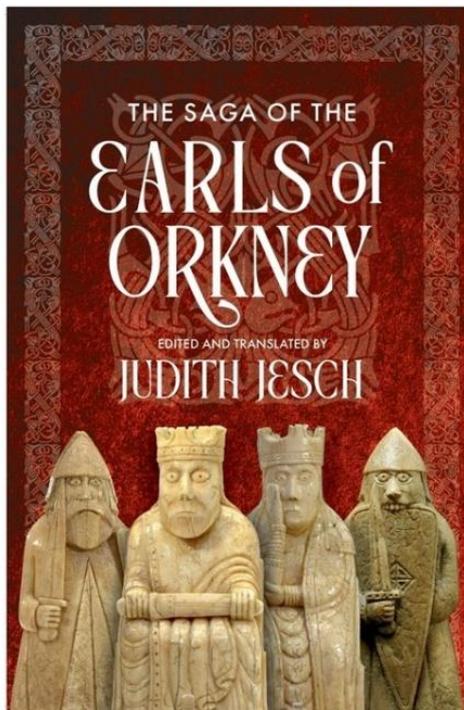
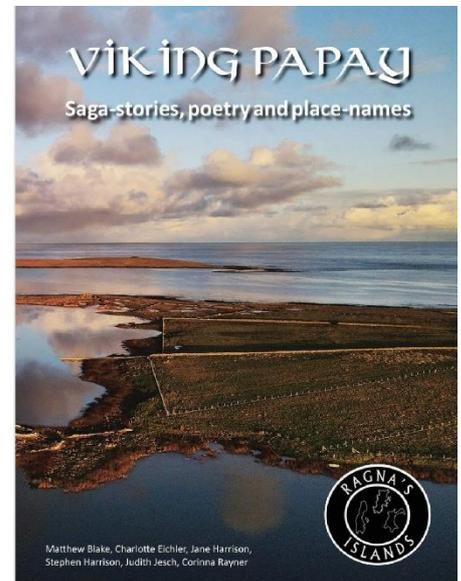
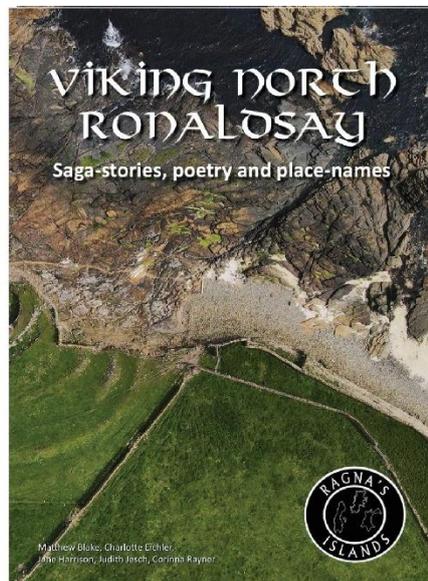
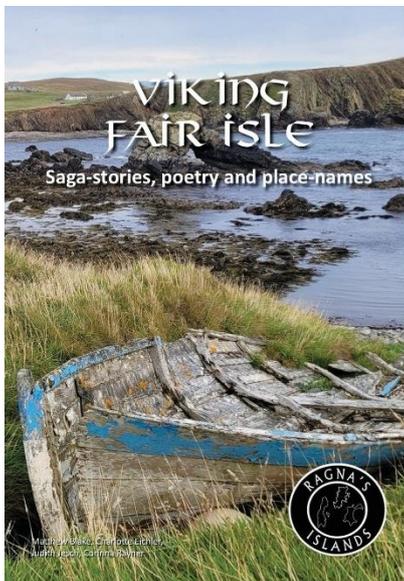
Marie, Taft



The Ragna's Islands project has now come to an end. We have many people to thank for their contributions over the last year and a half. A special thank you must go to all those who have volunteered on the project and to all those people that attended our online and in-person talks!

The project was made possible by funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and administrative support from the School of English, University of Nottingham. Activities carried out during the project including oral history interviews, 'lost places' walks, Saga readings, and community and school activities.

As part of the project we produced a booklet for each island (Fair Isle, Papay and North Ronaldsay). We printed enough for each island household to have their own copy of their island's booklet (we hope you have received yours! **Editor** – *they will be distributed this week!*)

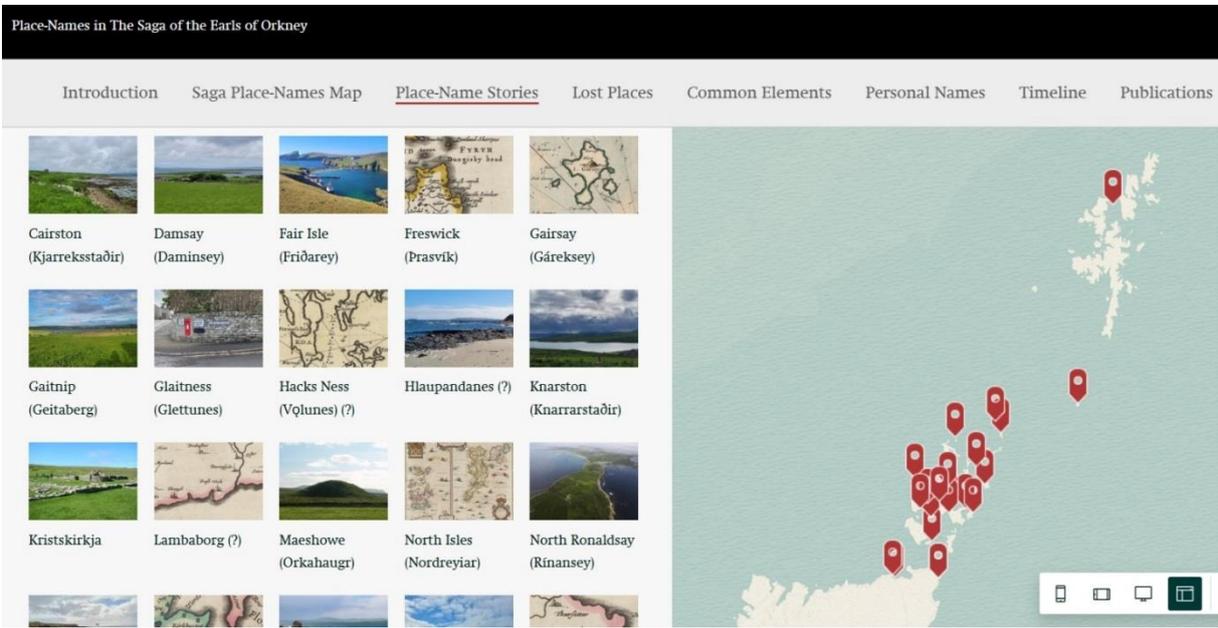


A full set of booklets are available at the George Waterson Museum and at the primary school. In addition, there are two sets of exhibition banners (one for the Bird Observatory, the other for events in the Community Hall) featuring Fair Isle in *The Saga of the Earls of Orkney* and the bird place-names of the island.

And, the new translation of *The Saga of the Earls of Orkney* by Judith Jesch is now available for [pre-order!](#)

Keep an eye on our new [Place-Names of Northern Scotland](#) webpage (under construction) where we will be placing our Ragna's Island Project Papers (RIPP) and links to our forthcoming interactive maps for exploring the place-

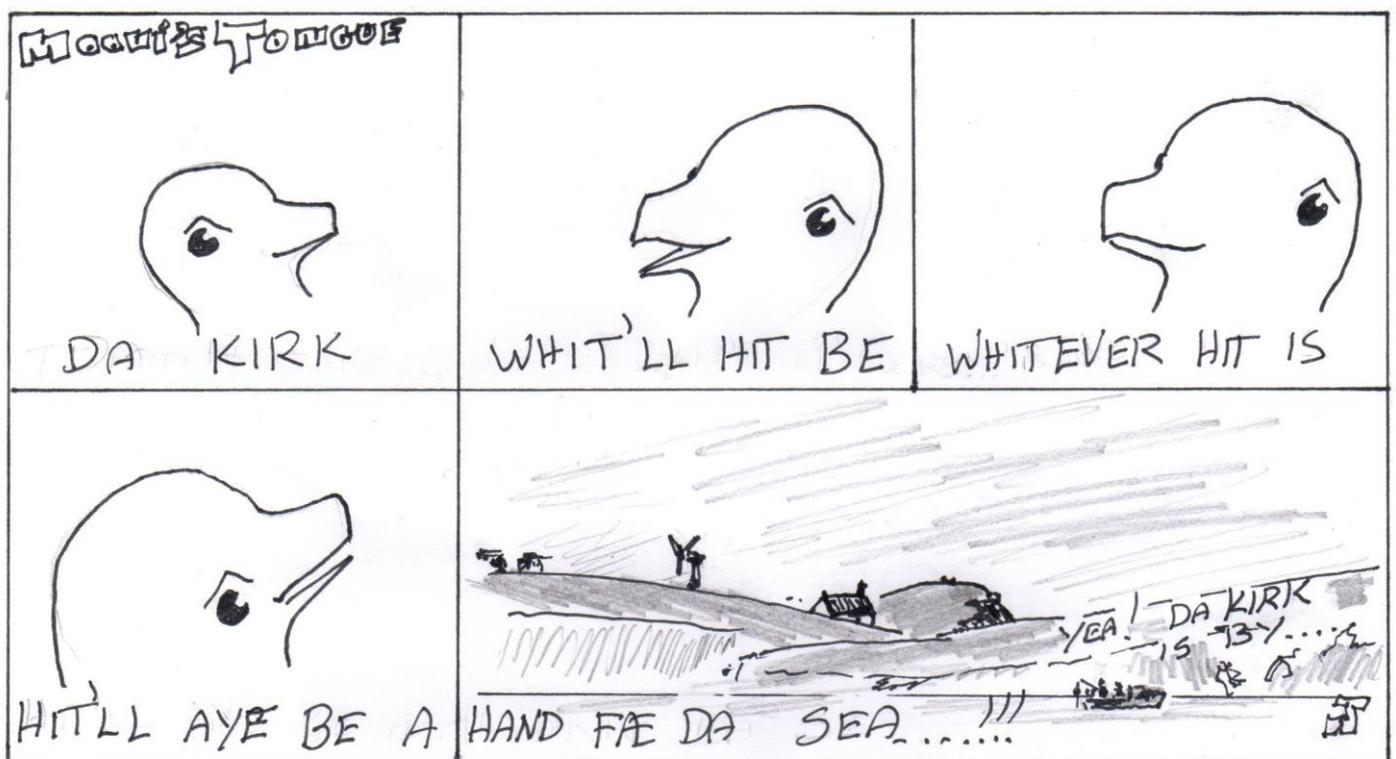
names of the *Saga of the Earls of Orkney* and the three islands of Fair Isle, North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray.



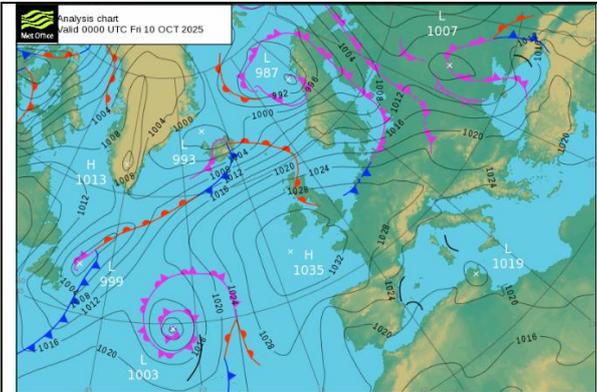
Finally, we are very grateful for the warm welcome extended to us by the people of Fair Isle and for their support and kindness in helping us with the project.

We hope to be back again! Charlotte, Corinna, Judith and Matthew.

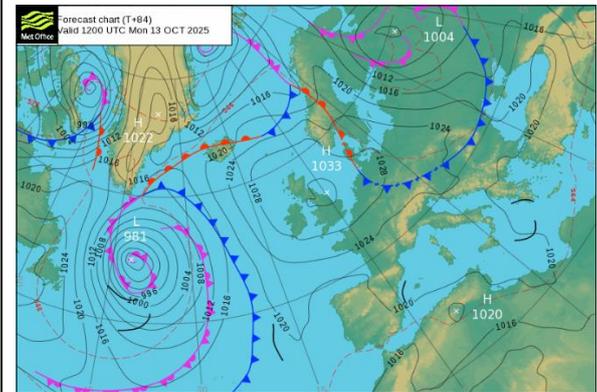
- Chapel this week will be at 11am with Dave B leading – all very welcome to join
- Happy belated birthday to said Dave for reaching his three-quarters of a century! All the best for the next 25 years Dave!
- Time for the tattie holidays... October holidays are upon us and the Fair Isle Times team would like to wish you all a lovely October break, whether you are digging up tatties or heading for the sun! We'll be back in a few weeks.



FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 10th October 2025



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Monday 13th October 2025

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 10th October 2025

The 'squeeze' between high pressure across Biscay and the southwest of the UK and low pressure across Iceland and Norwegian Sea results in a strong cloudy westerly airflow. During the weekend winds fall light as low pressure fills and the southern anticyclone extends across the whole of the UK bringing much calmer conditions to the Northern Isles. The anticyclone is forecast to persist through much of next week bringing settled though – for the north - cloudy weather with mostly light winds. Later, as the high begins to weaken, northeast Scotland may see winds beginning to freshen.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures 12° or 13° by day, 9° or 10° overnight.

FRIDAY 10th: A cloudy day with some light showers dying out though remaining cloudy with F6-7 W winds. Winds ease F5-6 overnight and remaining cloudy though dry. **Sea State:** Mostly very rough at W 5 meter Inshore east of Shetland 2 meter.

SATURDAY 11th: After a dry start becoming misty with patchy drizzle and fog by midday. The fog lifting to low cloud early evening as rain sets in. F5 WSW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at W 3 metre but moderate east of Shetland at 2 metre.

SUNDAY 12th: Mist or fog clearing by afternoon. A cloudy dry day with F4-5 W winds easing F3-4. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at 2 metre W.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Temperature 11° to 13° by day, 7° or 8° overnight.

MONDAY 13th: A cloudy, dry day with light or moderate W winds. **Sea State:** Mostly slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre NW.

TUESDAY 14th: Cloudy and dry with a light W breeze. **Sea State:** Mostly slight at 1 metre W

WEDNESDAY 15th – SUNDAY 19th: Cloudy and dry with light winds at first, possibly moderate NW later.

Sea State Wednesday: Slight or moderate at 1 to 2 metre WNW.

Summer 2025 was the warmest, sunniest and driest on Fair Isle for more than 50 years. Autumn began in similar fashion with September 2025 the warmest and sunniest September since 1974. What rainfall there was, while well below average at just 43.3% (1974-2000), was still enough to relegate last month to the fourth driest behind the Septembers of 1993 (the driest), 1996 and 2002.

Dave Wheeler