



VOLUME 48 ISSUE 29

PUBLISHED SINCE 1978

14th NOVEMBER 2025

Fair Isle Primary School News

Remembrance Day

We marked Remembrance Day here in school. Brodie and Khalicee produced some beautiful handprint poppy artwork, and we held an assembly along with a two-minute silence. Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Ander read "For the Fallen" at the end of the silence and we were very proud of him for doing so.



Personal Research Writing

Other than that, it has been a fairly quiet week (the last one for a while, we suspect). So, Jonathan allowed us to pick a subject we were interested in and conduct some research before writing some information texts. We certainly did not disappoint and hope you enjoy reading them.

Luca's Information Text – Rocks!

Fair Isle Rocks

I have chosen Fair Isle rocks because I have an interest in them. Red sandstone is most commonly found in cliffs on the north end of the isle. Red sandstone and normal sandstone (the yellowish rock) is really soft (for rock). On pretty much any beach on Fair Isle, quartzite can be found. Quartzite is translucent and can have copper and iron veins running through it. Also, it is worthless so I am not interested in it.

Amazing Agate

These rocks are not found on Fair Isle.

Agate is a gemstone and it originates from volcanic rock. Agates can be dyed and can be found in the following countries: U.S.A, Brazil, India and Shetland. Agates are named after the Greek word Achates, which is a river in Sicily where the first agate was found.

Terribly Good Tiger's Eye

Tiger's eye is a powerful crystal which can be golden red and brown. Tiger's eye can be found in these following countries: South Africa, Australia, U.S.A, Canada, India, Spain, Korea, Brazil, China, Myanmar and Namibia.



Ander's Information Text – Fajitas!

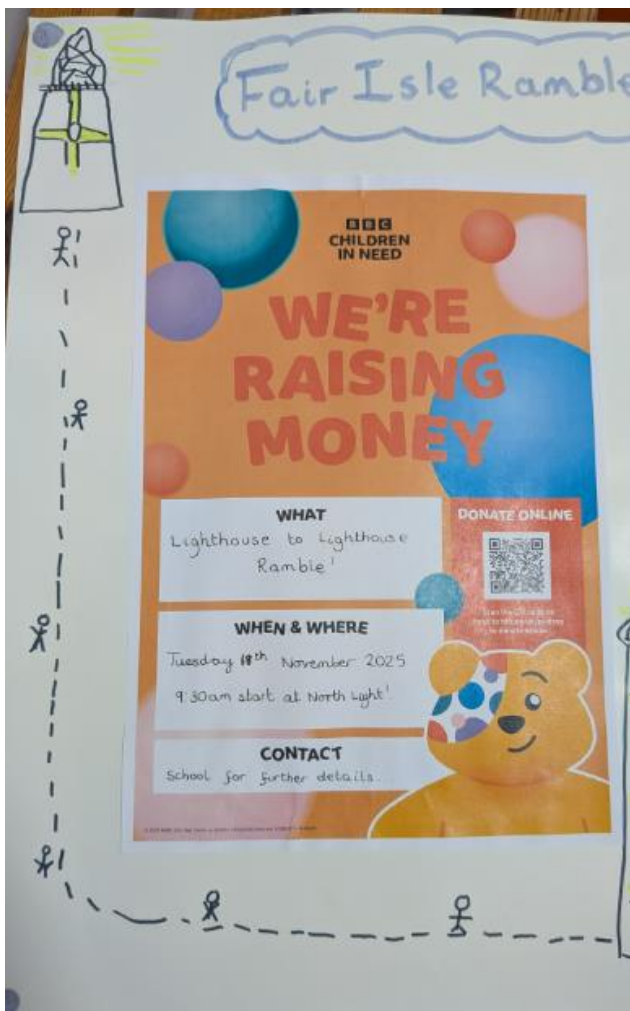
By the end of this writing you will want to chomp fajitas for the rest of your days. I really enjoy this food.

Did you know that fajitas are not from Mexico but originally from Texas? This popular food's name comes from the Spanish word *faja* which means belt or strip. Now for the food part. Marinate your chicken or shrimp then slice it into strips. You might want to try the following ingredients in your marinade: salt, chili powder, cumin, garlic powder, oregano or smoked paprika. Now for the toppings. The yummy toppings are shredded cheese, sour cream or sliced avocado. Don't forget about the tortilla!



Wow. Superb writing boys, and some superb choice of subject material too.

On Tuesday, we will be having our Children in Need fundraiser. Please see Eileen's email for more details, along with this poster. We will be walking ALL the way from North to South Lighthouse to raise money for this worthy cause and there will be cake and refreshments in the hall in the afternoon. Donations gratefully received to help us walk extra speedily.



Let's get rambling...

The Fair Isle Times editors are used to relying on the excellent writing skills of Jimmy at Skerryholm. With Jimmy away enjoying a well-deserved break in the sun, grand-daughter Diane has taken his place at the typewriter...

Da week dat's awa'

I'm afraid my writing will definitely not be as poetic and thoughtful as you're used to from Da Week Dats Away since the only things I've regularly written in the past four years are very factual scientific essays. The last and only time I have written a piece for the Fair Isle times was during the Tall Ships Race in 2011 when I was 8!

I started my Saturday by looking out of the window to see our runaway hill lamb that has decided to make the grass around the graveyard his home, all the way up beside the house, but by the time I was outside, he was already happily trotting away back to his nibble at his nice luscious patch of grass! I then caaed the ewes in so one unlucky limping lady could have a pedicure, something she definitely didn't appreciate.

With grandad (Jimmy) away enjoying the sunshine in Cyprus, Skerryholm is feeling a bit too quiet so I decided to fill the house on Saturday night by having Eileen, Inness, the bairns, Jonnie and Alex over for dinner and some board games. After some fajitas and an amazing carrot cake made by Jonnie, we learnt that Rapidough is a brilliant game to play whilst tipsy, but Cluedo is definitely not!



Sunday was tattie picking day at Setter, with all the family getting involved, including Ethan who kept a watchful eye to make sure we were doing a good enough job. Brodie was much more interested in the many, many worms wriggling around in the dirt and even wanted to keep a few!



It was then off to the pier to see the boat home from its refit and pick up a new car for Grandad... yet another Berlingo for the island! It was then back to Setter for a lovely dinner with the family.

Monday was back to the usual routine of caaing the lambs in to entertain the dog (and myself!), then dropping him off at Field with Dave for the day whilst I go to Pund to spend some time knitting. The bothy is feeling like a homey wee safe haven in this cold weather. After spending a few hours on my current work in progress, a lovely red and purple poncho, I collected Glen from Field. After a walk with the dog I went to Alice's fitness class for circuits where Khalicee joined us and showed off her amazing frog jumps! After an hour of torture I can barely lift my arms up, but feeling great thanks to the endorphins and dopamine and already looking forward to HIIT on Wednesday!



Tuesday morning was an early morning to give Josie a lift to the boat, but 6am wakeups are not my strong suit so it was straight back to bed for me! After a lie in that was probably not deserved I made the most of the sunny (and for once not windy) weather by walking to Pund for a day of knitting. I bumped into Amy and Ethan out for a walk before nursery pick up, with Ethan all cute and cosied up in his little baby suit! I finally arrived at Pund just before midday to start grafting and putting trims on my poncho. I sent a quick message to the swimmers asking if anyone was keen for a swim whilst it was nice weather and got some positive responses, so after only a few hours of knitting I was off home again to pick up a swimsuit and a car to go to the haven. The north haven was beachless and had a massive swell, so after a few minutes of standing in swimsuits and towels contemplating if there was time for the drive and walk to gunglesund before school pick up, we bit the bullet and decided to try the south haven instead. Alice, Eileen, Jonnie and I (and Ricky the dog) all braved the water and loved it! There were some waves but clear blue water and a stunning view of sheep rock and the sun peeking out through the clouds behind. It was then home for a quick shower to warm up and back to Pund for more work, where Jonnie had already put fire on, so we had a nice cosy afternoon in the bothy.

Wednesday morning started with me hearing this very noisy car coming down the hill, only to look out the window and spot my own car driving around, with no idea who was driving! After some confused texting I found out there was a hiccup about car keys last night so a mixup of which car to take. I set off for the walk to the airstrip to pick up another car, and then followed the noisy car around the island to rescue my trainers from the back! With Dave now away for a few days the dog is stuck with me at Pund during the day, probably a lot less interesting for him compared to the endless entertainment of obsessively watching Dave's two cats all day. Despite some more faffing around with runaway cars and missing parcels I did manage to get some knitting done, but definitely a lot less than usual before I had to leave for Alice's HIIT class, which was hard work but brilliant fun!

Thursday was off to a much better start than Wednesday, with a lift to the plane for the lighthouse boys and then to Busta for a cup of tea and a lovely catch up with Anne. I then headed to Pund where the coffee machine was put to work with Iain, Andy and Konrad all working outside and Sam the archeologist visiting. The dog spent the day outside, mostly playing with Ricky or with his head down rabbit burrows! After a great afternoon of knitting I finished the purple and red poncho and now it's time to start the next colourway.

That brings us to Friday morning, where I spent my time writing this but am looking forward to an afternoon of knitting, followed by a run before yoga, a phone call home for Dad's birthday (happy birthday Dad!!) and then dinner with Jonnie and Alex.

I hope you've somewhat enjoyed this account of my week, I never thought I'd be writing da week dat's awa! I'm already halfway through my 3 month stay here and am not looking forward to leaving, but you can't keep me away from this place for too long!

Diane :)

Fair Isle Primary School is once again raising money for Children in Need.

Children in Need is this coming Friday but, so all our children and staff can take part, we will be doing our fundraising on **Tuesday 18th November 2025**. As well as our lovely home-bakers providing cake and tea/coffee in the hall from **1:00pm** in exchange for donations, the children have decided to do a sponsored ramble walking *all the way* from the North Lighthouse to the South Lighthouse in the morning. We will start at North Light at about **9:30am** and we would be delighted if members of the community would like to join us for some/all of the walk as we progress down the isle. We will collect any donation toward our rambling efforts in the hall in the afternoon

A big thank you from the children at Fair Isle Primary School

Sunday service - No Chapel this Sunday

Good Shepherd V - First steels now laid in Whitby for new Fair Isle ferry



The first steelwork has recently been laid down to form the keel of the new Fair Isle ferry, in a build expected to take around 12 months.

The new 24-metre monohull vessel is being built at the yard of specialist boat builders Parkol Marine Engineering in Whitby, who won the £5.6M contract for this work in June this year. The new vessel will replace the current ferry "Good Shepherd IV" built by J W Miller & Sons, in St Monan's in Fife in 1986 and which has operated on the Fair Isle route since that time.

Visiting the yard earlier today were two Fair Isle residents – skipper of the Good Shepherd IV, Ian Best; and entrepreneur Marie Bruhat, along with Shetland Islands Council's project manager for the new Fair Isle ferry, Lee Coutts. The new vessel, once completed, will be the fifth vessel to serve on the Fair Isle crossing and, following tradition, will be named "Good Shepherd V". The new vessel will provide a lifeline ferry service for passengers and freight for the Fair Isle community.



The vessel's concept design was initially developed by Shetland Islands Council in partnership with MacDuff Ship Design. The detailed design has been refined by Hampshire-based naval architects Chartwell Marine Ltd, who are working closely with Parkol Marine Engineering on the build.

Alongside the vessel build, work is currently underway in Shetland to extend the pier at Grutness, and to create a new slipway, boat noust and boat cradle at North Haven in Fair Isle. Dredging at both harbours has also taken place. The anticipated total cost of the project to replace the vessel and upgrade necessary harbour infrastructure is £45.4M, funded by £18.6M from Shetland Islands Council and a grant of £26.8M from the UK Government's 'Levelling Up Fund'.

Marie said "What was once a dream is now a reality and it's really comforting to see today this progress on the new steelwork for Fair Isle ferry. There has been so much impressive work gone into the design and architecture of the boat, especially for the comfort of passengers, and the project team have really considered all details to make this the best ferry for Fair Isle."

Lee said: "This visit and laying of the first steel marks an important milestone in the construction of the 'Good Shepherd V'. This signals the start of the build process, and I look forward to seeing the vessel take shape over the coming months."

Jim Morrison Managing Director, Parkol:

Laying the keel is a milestone moment, and we're proud to begin building the new Good Shepherd V here in Whitby. This vessel carries huge importance for the Fair Isle community, and our team is committed to delivering a reliable, modern ferry that will serve the route for many years to come.

With our Maavi out of action for a peerie while, we are very lucky to have another talented cartoonist on hand!

