

# FAIR ISLE TIMES

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## Fair Isle Primary School News

### “Fun with Foula”

We know you love reading our children’s writing but we have something a bit different for you this week.

As many will know, we are now a shared headship school with Sandwich Junior High School. However, we still value and maintain those lovely links we have with schools who are similar in context to us, namely Foula! This is all the more important for when our children eventually make their way to Anderson High School and will share the hostel with their friends from Foula.

Every Thursday, our younger learners (including those in the nursery) join together via a video link and have a “Fun with Foula” session. These serve as a lovely opportunity for us to get to know each other but also become exceptionally creative with a range of activities from painting to printing to using natural materials. The nursery teachers organise these sessions together and our learners really love them. It has become one of the highlights of our week.

We also send gifts and letters to each other too. We thought you’d love to see some pictures of our “Fun with Foula” sessions.



Taking part in joint activities.



Hmm! What should I paint next?



Sometimes, we have whole-school sessions.

Lovely Christmas gifts from Foula arrived in the post.

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**Good Shepherd V** – You may have seen on Shetland social media sites the photos below of the new Good Shepherd being made in the Parkol shipyard in Whitby. After many years' hard work it is great to see progress!



From the Shetland Islands Council Facebook page:

The new replacement ferry for Fair Isle 'Good Shepherd V' is taking shape in Whitby, thanks to the work of Parkol Marine Engineering Ltd  The Fair Isle Ferry and Infrastructure Replacement Project is funded by the UK Government, Levelling Up Fund, with a grant of £26.8M and Shetland Islands Council providing £18.6M.

\*\*\* NO Service at the Chapel this week \*\*\*

## A Bit O' A Week or 2 or More...

I'm not sure where the time has gone of late. Are we really more than halfway through January? Folks often ask, "How do you cope with the long dark winters in Fair Isle?". My response is, "I've never found one long enough to do all the things I thought I would get done in the winter".

After Jimmy's thoughtful account of the Fair Isle Festive season, I have a hard act to follow. My own 'Festive' took place elsewhere but did include the antics of two 'Looney Dookers' well associated to the Isle, pictured right. Such madness! Can't think where they get it from? But undeniably HAPPY in a NEW YEAR



Mostly, my own antics have been domestic, accompanied by endless political commentary on the radio. I can't keep up with it, seems like some ever-changing malevolent escalation of power and destructive aims. It's hard to make sense of it!

In between the odd mountain of washing and ironing, walking (in the decent weather) is a great pleasure that I've rediscovered in my 'retirement'. As a WASPI woman I realised I have now worked 10 years longer than my mother's generation, so my New Year resolution is not the usual one of restriction, but to be **positively** indulgent. Not to worry too much about AI, microbiome, tariffs, trade wars, potential pandemics, who wins the world cup or any of the other things I can do little about. Many thanks to Copilot, Microsoft's AI Assistant, for offering to write this for me, but I think I'll manage.

It's not weather for actual gardening yet but planning 'what may go where' is fun. Bringing on seedlings will be a bit of a challenge without a greenhouse, cold frame or wide windowsills. My industrial sized 'lasagne composting' effort seems to be working though. Will see how digging it over goes!

There is a lifetime supply of textile resources at Upper Leogh. Currently weaving some scarves, finishing the (king size) Taatit Rug, and progressing a hand-spun-hand-knit Fair Isle gansey. Now is the time to utilise those resources and share the knowledge that I spent many years studying to acquire. Hosting more workshops for isle visitors seems a good plan, especially if the weather doesn't facilitate other activities. The interest in wool and handcrafts continues to increase generally (maybe it's the antidote to screentime and AI). I haven't watched 'Game of Wool', only aware of some comments made re the Shetland aspect. Maybe I'll watch it today as the wind and wet outside dominates, and ironing can be done on autopilot as Copilot does not offer to help with that..... but does offer advice!

Quote from AI Copilot

### ∅ Avoid distractions

- **Don't multitask** with phones, pets, or kids around.
- **Never leave a hot iron unattended**, even for a moment.

### ☒ Protect yourself

**Oh, Copilot! I'm a woman. I multitask and yes, I sometimes get my fingers burnt.**

Perhaps Copilot could add **toothache** as a distraction to avoid ironing. A small lost filling certainly makes its absence felt. No chance of accessing a dentist from this small storm bound island this week. In the league of islands with problems “a place with the name Greenland” and the Chagos Islands take centre stage “with national security, minerals and all the rest” .....deal or no deal?

Anyway, in my tiny domestic realm there are miracles to behold.

1. A carpet stain remover that actually works! (DR Beckmans)
2. Temporary dental repair kit (Dentek, Temparin Max)

Happiness reigns! (As long as the temporary filling holds!)

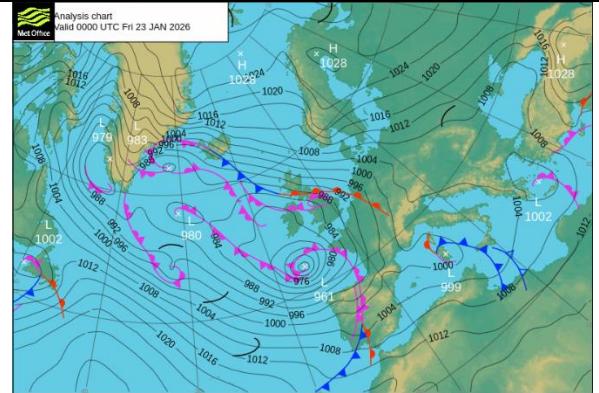
Have a good weekend.

Kathy

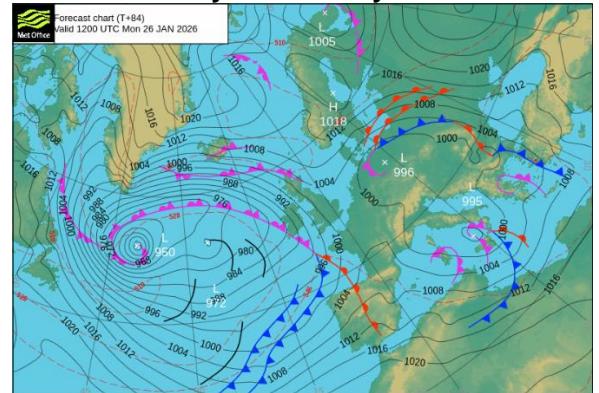


**Caption Competition – Thanks to Jimmy for this brilliant photo of Glen dog and a young selkie at the pier.**  
**Suggestions to Eileen please. Free can of dogfood to the winning entry.**

## FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### GENERAL SITUATION

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

With a deep depression close to the southwest of the UK while pressure remains high to the north a strong to gale east-south-easterly airflow covers north-east Scotland. This eases somewhat over the weekend as the low fills and high pressure builds from the north. Then perhaps south-easterly during the first half of next week but, as high pressure declines northwards and an Atlantic depression moves east, bringing a strengthening south-easterly airflow with rain at times during the second half of the week.

### OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Colder with temperatures around 4° by day, 2° or 3° overnight

**FRIDAY 23rd:** A colder day than of late with strong F7 occasionally gale F8 ESE winds continuing. Remaining cloudy with some showery outbreaks of rain or sleet at times. **Sea State:** Mostly very rough at SE 5 to 6 metre.

**SATURDAY 24th:** Another cloudy day with some showers, wintry at times. Strong F7 SE winds easing F5-6 ESE. **Sea State:** Mostly rough or very rough at SE 4 to 5 metre.

**SUNDAY 25th:** Perhaps mainly dry and, after a cloudy start, becoming brighter as ESE winds ease F4-5 bringing chance of a frost overnight. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at SE 3 metre.

### FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Rather cold at first with temperature 4° by day, around 0° overnight bringing risk of ice. Less cold after midweek.

**MONDAY 26th:** Dry with bright spells and a fresh, occasionally strong SE breeze. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at SE 2 metre.

**TUESDAY 27th:** Cloudy though mainly dry. Strong SE winds. **Sea State:** Rough at SE 3 to 4 metre.

**WEDNESDAY 28th– SUNDAY 1st :** Wednesday and Thursday cloudy and mainly dry with strong ESE winds. Then cloudy with SE winds increasing strong to gale-force and backing E or NE bringing rain by the weekend.

**Sea State Wednesday:** Rough or very rough at SE 4 to 5 metre.

**Dave Wheeler**

