

FAIR ISLE TIMES

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Fair Isle Primary School News

A Trip to The Good Shepherd IV

On Wednesday of this week, we all ventured down to North Haven to learn more about The Good Shepherd IV. Ian and Khalid were incredibly kind and gave us a guided tour around both the inside and the outside of the boat – including the wheelhouse and galley. We tried on lifejackets and learned lots of fascinating and interesting information. A massive thank you to them from everyone at Fair Isle Primary School. We will miss The Good Shepherd IV but it is exciting that a new ferry awaits, later this year. We have been looking at the genre of explanation texts in school so we wrote some texts based on what we had discovered.



Written
and
Drawn by
Skipper
Khalicee
(Age 5)

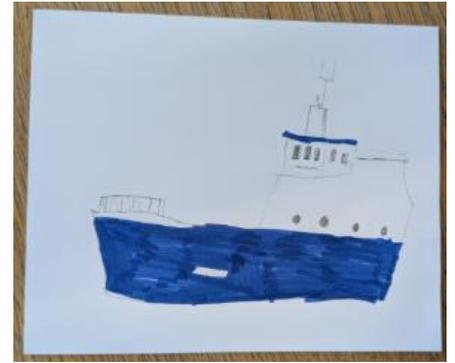
The Lifeline Ferry (Written by Skipper Luca - Aged 10)



The Good Shepherd is a lifeline for the tiny island of Fair Isle. It floats back towards the North Haven bringing supplies that are needed.

The Boat in Numbers

The Good Shepherd has been working since 1986 and she has crossed over to Shetland over 2000 times. Sailing at a speed of between 9 and 12 knots, she can carry up to 12 passengers. She can carry two cars on deck and can carry shop supplies in the hold underneath the deck.



A Loyal Servant to Fair Isle

Although The Good Shepherd has been a great ship, it rolls too much and we need a bigger boat which doesn't break down on a refit! The boat has been helping the crofting islanders by taking lambs to the marts.

Your Destination

The Good Shepherd goes to not one but two different destinations: Grutness and Lerwick. Grutness is the shorter crossing and the more used route. The Lerwick crossing has been used more in 2025 because Grutness is being rebuilt.



Farewell to The Good Shepherd (Written by Skipper Ander – Aged 8)

The Good Shepherd is one of my favourite boats! It is sad The Good Shepherd is leaving Fair Isle. She is skippered by the best of the best.

What is on the bottom of The Good Shepherd?

On the bottom of The Good Shepherd is the bilge, propeller and a rudder. I am focussing on the propeller first. The propeller has three blades and it spins really fast. Next to the propeller is the rudder. The rudder turns the boat and is steered by the experienced skipper (Ian Best). The bilge is the big, round bottom of the boat and it has a bilge keel which stops it from rolling (a bit).

The Good Shepherd in Numbers

- It can carry up to 12 passengers.
- She is a grand total of 18m long.
- Her speed is 9 knots.

**Signed and approved by
Skipper Brodie – Aged 4.**

Exciting Fair Isle News – After all the poor weather, Thursday was a real given day with the Good Shepherd, BK Marjorie and the plane all arriving with goods, folk and even a very important delivery of the furniture and belongings of our new nurse Tammy, who will be arriving in the isle next week. Tammy has been enjoying her induction week in the Shetland mainland and we are all very much looking forward to welcoming Tammy to her new home when she arrives.



Sunday service this week - In view of numbers and weather we will be meeting at the South Light on Sunday morning. As an experiment we will be joining the streamed service from Lerwick Methodist Church starting at 11am this week, so could folk wishing to come along please arrive a few minutes beforehand. All are welcome. Dave

Fair Isle Committee AGM, quarterly meeting and Fair Isle Development Company AGM. We plan to hold the Isle committee quarterly meeting plus AGM on either Monday 9th or Tuesday 10th March. Date to be confirmed soon. Any items for the agenda to Jonathan please.

Long weekend – it is our half term long weekend here in Fair Isle, with school going back on Wednesday next week, with that in mind, there won't be a Fair Isle Times next week, but we will be back in a fortnight

Life in Fair Isle – 'Promote Shetland' visited the isle last August to do a promotional film and articles on life in the isle, with the view to encouraging folk to make their isle their home. You can see what they made [here](#)



The journey back to the Isle...

After a busy Christmas with my family, two winter breaks in Northumberland and Wales, making three wedding veils for one niece and moving house, I was looking forward to returning to Fair Isle for another year of adventures. My journey was planned to perfection; a morning flight from Manchester, an afternoon flight from Tingwall, in my Obs room by 4pm, doddle! Fast forward 10 days and I'm finally here. My unintended Shetland holiday turned out just fine. I discovered the fantastic Clickimin Leisure Centre with its health spa, pool and so many fitness classes to choose from. The spa and cafe took up most of my day though. I also enjoyed whizzing round the pool rapids in a giant floating tyre, I think it was for the kids, but no-one stopped me.

Every day I met someone who knew someone from Fair Isle. Wendy the yoga nurse, Donald the diver and cousin Janice to name but a few. I stayed at the Herrislea House Hotel, now owned by LEF. Our friendly Obs plumbers put me up for the duration, but they did ask on my departure, if our super chef Nair could stay instead of me next time. No offence taken.

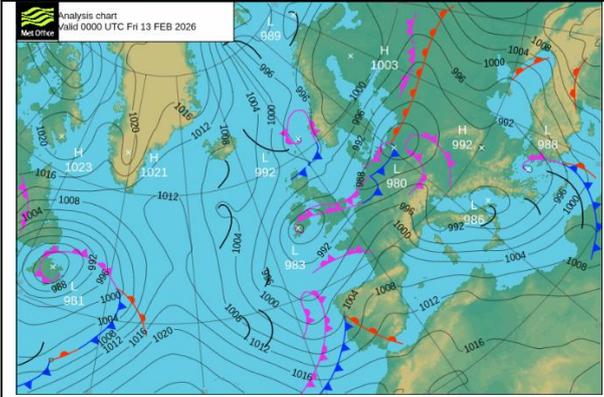
At last, after driving airport Ann mad with phone calls every day, the plane flew! The weather on landing took me by surprise; brutal and dramatic. Since arriving, I've been watching the sea crashing ashore from my Obs window. I had forgotten what a stunning view I have from my room. No heating and no hot water, but a great view. Deryk saved the day today by delivering a heater so that I don't have to sleep in my duck down coat and bob hat again tonight. Luxury!

Thanks to wonderful Alice I can continue with my efforts to get fitter and stronger. My first yoga class was painful fun and a great way to socialise with my island friends. Thankfully, no more Tesco meal deals and instead, wholesome home cooked fare, courtesy of Chris, Steve and Ruth.

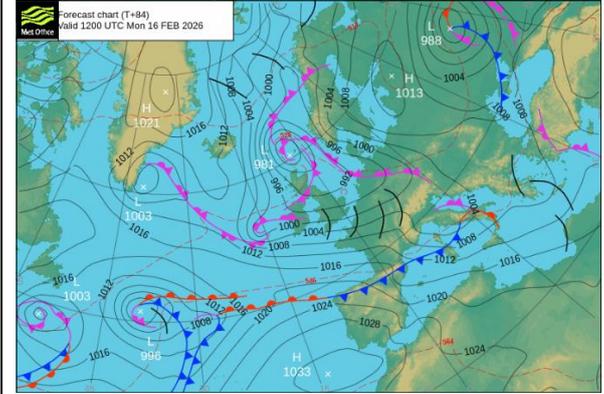
I'm settling back in now and looking forward to another special season on this magical island. In my cosy, warm room with a view.

Tracey at the Obs

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



**Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 13th February 2026**



**Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Monday 16th February 2026**

GENERAL SITUATION

Friday 13th February 2026

The persistent 'blocking' anticyclone over Scandinavia has finally shifted eastwards, allowing Atlantic depressions to follow a more northerly track towards the British Isles. At the moment the first of these is tracking east across southern parts of the UK and, as it does so, will result in a brief outbreak of cold Arctic air penetrating south into Scotland, bringing the risk of wintry showers and overnight frost. Over the weekend the next depression is likely to bring unsettled and milder conditions with rain and a strong southerly airflow. Predicted to track north close to Shetland we could see a northerly airflow return next week.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Cold on today with temperatures 3° or 4° by day, 0° to -2° tonight. The weekend milder with 5° or 6° by day, 4° overnight.

FRIDAY 13th: A cold day with a few wintry showers and bright or sunny spells and a F4 NNW wind. Chance of further snow showers overnight with clear spells and risk of ice patches and F3-4 NW winds. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at NW 2 metre.

SATURDAY 14th: A bright cold start with risk of a wintry shower before cloud thickens and rain, preceded by snow or sleet, arrives as winds freshen F5 SW. Rain possibly heavy overnight as winds strengthen F5-6 SW. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at NNW 2 metre.

SUNDAY 15th: Cloudy with persistent rain and F5-6 S winds. **Sea State:** Rough at SE 4 metre.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Colder again with temperature 4° or 5° by day, 2° or 3° overnight.

MONDAY 16th: Mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain and fresh SE winds backing E or NE. **Sea State:** Rough at NNE 3 metre.

TUESDAY 17th: Cloudy with chance of wintry showers. Moderate or fresh NE winds. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at N 3 to 4 metre.

WEDNESDAY 18th– SUNDAY 22nd: Rather cloudy with scattered wintry showers and moderate occasionally fresh N to NE winds. **Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate occasionally rough at NE 2 to 3 metre. **Dave Wheeler**

