

FAIR ISLE TIMES

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Fair Isle Primary School News

Fair Isle Primary School is going to "Go Blue for a Loo".



In our Health & Wellbeing lessons here at Fair Isle Primary, we have been learning about the importance of water and how everyone in the world should have access to clean and safe water. Article 24 on the UNCRC states that all governments must provide clean water so that children can stay healthy and that richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this. So, we wanted to play our part in this very important sustainable development goal. This Sunday (22nd March 2026) is World Water Day so two days later on **Tuesday 24th March** we are going to **"Go Blue for a Loo"**. We will be dressing up in blue clothing (who knows? Facepainting may also be happening) and raising money to twin our school toilet with a latrine in South Sudan via the charity Toilet Twinning (more information on that can be found here: [Toilet Twinning - Find your toilet's other half](#)).



Please check out this fabulous poster (*above*) created collaboratively by P1-P6.

If anyone would like to make a small donation of £1 or £2 to contribute toward our Toilet Twinning please do pop into school to see us on the Tuesday itself and we can chat to you about it. Any remaining funds will be donated to Water Aid UK.

Eileen has been in touch with the team at Parkol (the shipyard currently building our new boat) and they are very interested to share a bit about their company and team in Whitby. Very much a successful local family business, Parkol are also really keen to learn more about Fair Isle and the impact this new ferry will have on our community. From speaking to the team, there are more similarities between the two places than might be expected – of course we are both places closely tied to a maritime way of life but there are also links in knitwear too – Whitby being known for fisherman’s ganseys. We hope to be able to share a bit more on Parkol and the care they have for this project, and likewise they are keen to read the Fair Isle Times and find out a bit more about Fair Isle. As ever, if any readers have interesting anecdotes regarding the links between our two places, please do get in touch. This week we are introduced to a key worker in the Parkol team, the man responsible for ensuring that the Good Shepherd V is welded to a high standard.

Eileen

MEET THE TEAM - *building the Good Shepherd V*

As the new ferry for Fair Isle is starting to take shape on Parkol Marine Engineering’s boatyard in Whitby, we have learnt about great interest from Fair Isle residents in this build’s progress and people building her. At Parkol we are proud of our team of specialists and happy to introduce them to the Fair Isle community.



Right: Sam now and when he started with Parkol as a young lad!

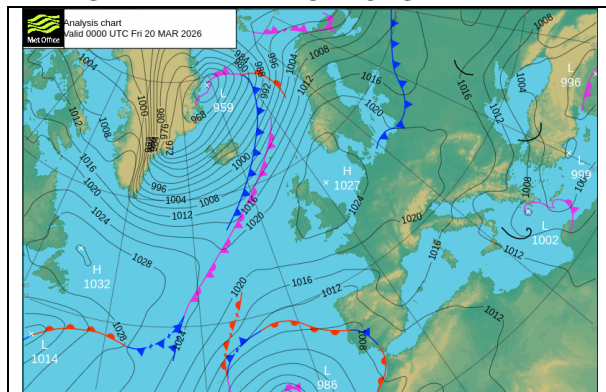
We decided to start with our Welding Inspector / Chargehand Samuel Hutchinson, who came to Parkol straight from school, learnt his skills on the job and continues to grow professionally at Parkol. He is the perfect example of a young person who has built a successful professional career in the small town where he grew up, rather than moving away to a city or pursuing an offshore job. Samuel is managing a team of welders on this build and recently gained a CSWIP qualification in weld inspection, which was enabled as part of the Fair Isle build. This allows him to conduct non-destructive testing to ensure quality of welding. Outside of work Samuel spends his time skateboarding, walking in the countryside and, recently, learning to snowboarding.

In his own words:

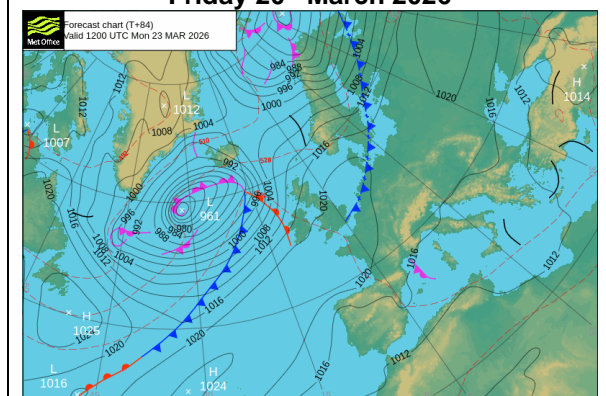
I began my apprenticeship at Parkol in April 2014 with very little knowledge or experience in welding. For the first few months I was helping the fabricators with small tack welds and stitch welding frames. With guidance from James Morrison and other welders, I began to understand the different techniques and machine settings needed to complete a variety of welding jobs in different positions. By the time I started college in September 2014 I already had a good practical knowledge and improved quickly while also learning about the theory behind different welding procedures. In 2015 I earned an apprentice of the year award and in 2016 I completed my apprenticeship and became a fully qualified welder. For the next 3 years I continued to work hard and take on more crucial jobs such as welding the hull seams, keel, and stern tubes. In 2019 I was promoted to Welding Chargehand, which meant I oversaw the welding of all new builds and any boats that come in for repair as well as performing maintenance checks on welding machines and equipment. This year, after some intense studying, I achieved my CSWIP 3.1 qualification to become a Weld Inspector. After 12 years of working at Parkol I still enjoy coming to work as every day presents a new challenge.

Isle notices: Sunday service – we will meet this week for an informal worship and hymns at Lower Stoneybrek. All welcome to join at 11am on Sunday.

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0000 UTC
Friday 20th March 2026



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Monday 23rd March 2026

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 20th March 2026

On the northern edge of a weak ridge of high pressure across the British Isles a rather cloudy westerly airflow covers the Northern Isles. As the ridge declines weak fronts affect the north during the weekend.

Pressure is expected to remain relatively high to the south and east of the British Isles through next week. This means areas of low pressure are kept to the west and northwest of Scotland with weak associated fronts passing close to or over the Northern Isles.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND Chance of 10° on Friday otherwise temperatures 8° or 9° by day, 4° or 5° overnight.

SATURDAY 21st: Mostly cloudy with chance of showers. F4 SW winds occasionally F5. Chance of lift rain later. **Sea State:** Rough or very rough at W 4 to 5 metre. East of Shetland slight or moderate at SW 1 to 2 metre.

SUNDAY 22nd: Cloudy with outbreaks of mostly light rain at first. Drier later. F6 SSW winds. **Sea State:** Rough or very rough at W 4 to 5 metre. East of Shetland slight or moderate at SW 1 to 2 metre.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperature 7° or 8° by day, 4° or 5° overnight.

MONDAY 23rd: Bright with sunny spells, scattered showers and fresh W winds. Rain and stronger winds later. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at W 3 to 4 metre. East of Shetland moderate at 2 metre.

TUESDAY 24th: Cloudy with rain at times and fresh or strong W winds. **Sea State:** Mostly rough or very rough at WNW 4 to 5 metre. Inshore east of Shetland moderate at NW 2 metre.

WEDNESDAY 25th– SUNDAY 29th: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain on Wednesday though lighter winds. The end of the week mainly dry though rather cloudy with fresh S winds. **Sea State** Wednesday: Mostly rough at W 3 metre.

Dave Wheeler

