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Fair Isle Primary School News

Introduction (written by Luca, aged 11)

Welcome back to a whole new term of Fair Isle Times. Spring is upon us: lambs are jumping about, flowers are blooming but the sea is as rough as ever. Also, don't forget that the Obs is reopening and that means Kenny's Bar is returning so we can hang out and socialise together. We are enjoying welcoming back familiar faces. In this edition of the Fair Isle Times, we are interviewing (drumroll please...) Luke and Maebh! The much-missed duo have returned.



Before the interview, we had some fun by playing a game of "Mr and Mrs" with our guests (where you are asked joint questions and have to see if your answers match). They knew each other exceptionally well. We learned that they first met on Lundy, that Luke is the better driver, Maebh always has the last word in an argument and they are most likely to argue about keeping the room tidy!

All questions generated and written by Ander (aged 8)

1. What have you missed most about Fair Isle?

Maebh: I have missed the people the most. The community here is so welcoming because at home there isn't much of one so it is nice to be back here where everyone is so friendly.

Luke: The birds! And the wild weather too. All the seabirds returning like Bonxies and Fulmars.

2. What is your favourite Fair Isle bird, and why?

Luke: Bonxies. They are so good at what they do. They are amazing predators as they chase after Gannets and make them crash into the sea and regurgitate their food. They are also great parents, and they are beautiful when they are out on the water despite being a bit clumsy on land.

Maebh: Eider ducks! The ducklings are so cute. I could spend hours watching them bob about on the water.

3. What have you been up to since you left Fair Isle?

Luke: We went to China for a whole month. We were birdwatching and saw Siberian cranes and Spoon-billed sandpipers (there are only 300 of these left in the world). Everyone was really lovely.

Maebh: We saw Red and Giant pandas, walked around historic sites and ate lots of beautiful food. The best food was the dumplings and pork soup noodles.

4. What have you done since you returned to the isle?

Luke: We have been doing lots of back-to-normal Bird Obs things: fixing Heligoland traps, building shelves and doing census. We also went to a birthday party where there was a cool upstairs disco! (*Hmmm... we can't imagine where that was!*)

Maebh: I have been going out on census too and doing lots and lots of walking. I have missed walking around Fair Isle. We have also been enjoying Nair's delicious food, which we have missed a lot.

5. What has changed at The Obs for the new season?

Maebh: We have a new swanky library. There were books scattered everywhere but now the shelves are up and it looks lovely. We have new mugs too and chocolate orange and white chocolate twirls in the tuckshop!

Luke: We have a new logo for the Bird Obs, which is of two Arctic skuas. It is orange and really stylistic. We have some merchandise coming out so people should be able to buy some.



Thank you so much for visiting us at school, Luke and Maebh. Here's to another season at the Obs.

Fair Isle 10k & Half Marathon

Join us for a friendly, inclusive run open to all runners over the age of 18, regardless of ability.

Starting at Fair Isle Hall.
Saturday 3rd July 2026
10:30am start.
Everyone welcome.

Information on routes to follow but please contact Jonathan with any questions if you have them.

This is not an official "race" so there will be no road closures and all runners join at their own risk.

The Fair Isle Times was on holiday when the following advert was submitted to us, incidentally on the 1st of April...

*No need to fly to Tenerife or the Costa Del Sol
Holiday instead with:*

B(e) A(lmost) M(ad) Holidays at

FAIR ISLE PARADISE PARK

Where you can **PUFF-IN** or **PUFF-OUT** at your convenience (or their convenience)
Instruction given by BAM drivers to help you navigate the roads on Fair Isle, SO BOOK NOW!

To where the air is always fresh and often strong!

The **Fair Isle Paradise Park** stands (and now encroaches upon) the famous **Lighthouse golf course**, so unfortunately the full course is no longer available. However, it looks directly on to a beautiful pebble beach and the renowned outdoor pool at **Gunglesund** is only a ten minute walk away. This pool is frequented by islanders but is not greatly accessible for those with restricted mobility! Our stunning sandy beach is perhaps a 40 minute walk to the north and faces the **North Pole**, so sun-worshippers are facing the wrong way! There is a picturesque picnic area above the sand and Kenny's Bar in the new Bird Observatory, which will revive the body for the long walk home to your accommodation.



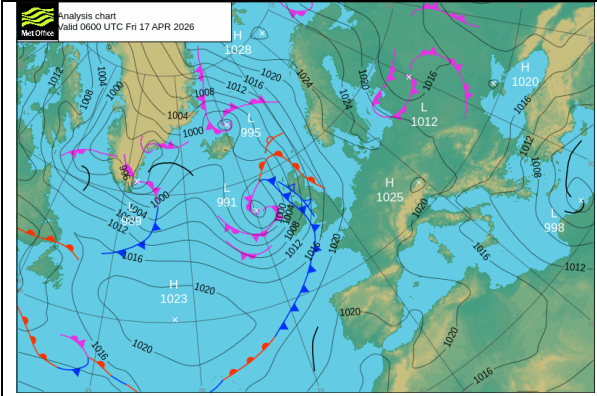
ISLE NOTICES

- **Good Shepherd sailing this week:** The Good Shepherd will be sailing to Grutness on Monday (for certain pre-arranged freight only) departing isle 07:00. The following day (Tuesday) the Shepherd will sail from Fair Isle to Lerwick for usual deliveries departing the isle at 07:00.

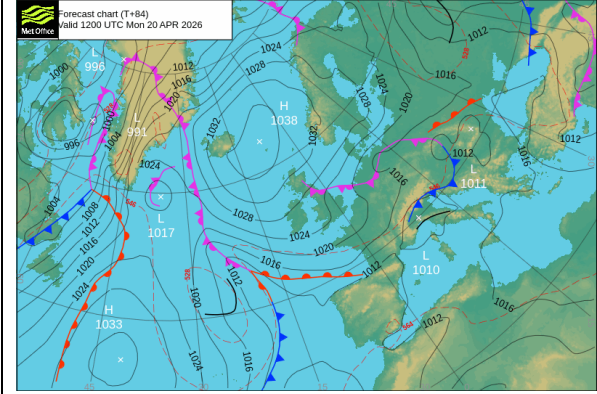
Thanks, Ian - Skipper Good Shepherd IV

- **Suggestion!** Can we have a naming competition for the temporary accommodation at the Puffinn (*see previous article, above*). The suggestor would personally like to ban the word Puffin from the answers! Any light-hearted (and publishable) answers to the editor please. (**Editor:** *While we may jest about the temporary accommodation being built at the south end of the isle, we are delighted as to the reason for it – the much needed and long awaited improvements to the Haven for our new ferry coming later this year!!*)

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



**Analysis Chart 0600 UTC
Friday 17th April 2026**



**Forecast Chart 1200 UTC
Monday 20th April 2026**

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 17th April 2026

With a depression just west of the British Isles a fresh to strong south-easterly airflow covers the Northern Isles. With the filling low forecast to track north close to Shetland the airflow is likely to ease on Saturday before freshening west-northwesterly on Sunday. Winds ease again on Monday as a weak ridge of high pressure swings east over northern Scotland. Pressure remains relatively high over the north until midweek with pressure then falling over the Norwegian Sea resulting in a freshening north-westerly airflow developing over Shetland.

OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND Temperatures 11° or 12° by day 6° or 7° overnight.

FRIDAY 17th: Cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle during the morning becoming persistent for a time in the afternoon. F4-5 SE winds. A drier evening then further rain overnight. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough at S 2 to 3 metre.

SATURDAY 18th: A cloudy morning with scattered showers followed by a brighter afternoon with some sunny spells developing and showers becoming fewer. Fresh to strong winds. Rather cloudy with some brighter spells between showers. F4-5 S wind veering SW. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough at SW 2 to 3 metre.

SUNDAY 19th: Mostly cloudy with rain or showers and a F5 WNW wind. **Sea State:** Mostly rough at NW 3 metre. East of Shetland moderate at W 2 metre.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperatures 10° or 11° by day, 5° to 7° overnight. Cooler later.

MONDAY 20th: A few showers otherwise mainly dry with some sunny or clear spells. A fresh NW or N breeze easing later. **Sea State:** Moderate at NW 2 metre.

TUESDAY 21st: A dry bright day with light a light NE breeze. **Sea State:** Moderate at WNW 1 to 2 metre.

WEDNESDAY 22nd– SUNDAY 26th: Wednesday and Thursday mostly cloudy though mainly dry with light N or NE winds. Showers and fresh or strong NW winds to end the week. **Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate at NW 2 metre

Dave Wheeler

