

# FAIR ISLE TIMES

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## Fair Isle Primary School News

### A visit from our Head Teacher Christie

This week, we have been very lucky to have our Shared Head Teacher, Christie, visiting us from mainland Shetland. It has been wonderful to have her here for a few days in school and showing her Fair Isle in the sunshine. We took her puffin watching, bird ringing, did Da Voar Redd Up- (more info on that in next week's edition) together. It has been a lovely three days.



Here is an interview, led by Khalicee (6) for you to get to know a little bit more about her in one of our famous Fair Isle Interviews!

### Who is your favourite role model?

Growing up it was probably the Spice Girls.

We then decided that Christie was Sporty Spice and Khalicee, with her curly hair, was Scary Spice!

### If a genie gave you three wishes, what would they be?

To be healthy and happy for me and my family.

To always be able to be active.

To travel to many different places.

### What is your favourite colour?

Turquoise or teal (like the sea).

### What types of things does Daisy (Christie's red merle border collie) like?

Running and swimming.

Cheese and sausages.

Ball or frisbee.

**What has your favourite holiday ever been?**

So many wonderful places to choose from but I loved going to Thailand and Vietnam.

**How many different animals have you seen in Fair Isle?**

Lots of puffins, sheep, lamb, cat, dog, bonxie and a gull.

**What do you love about Fair Isle Primary?**

Excellent learning and opportunities for our children.

It's uniquely beautiful and I am so lucky.

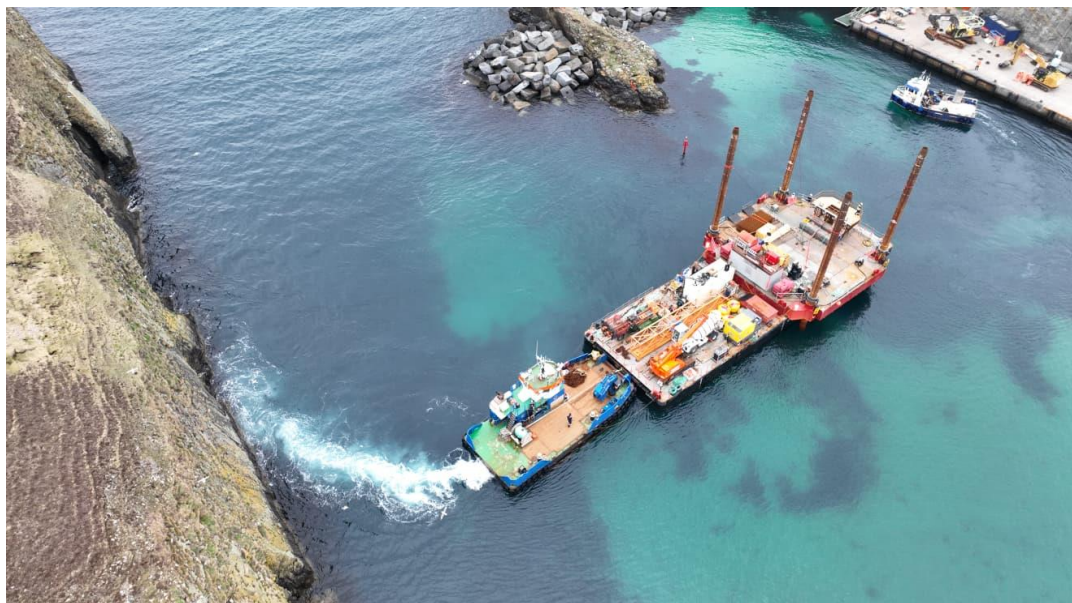
Being a small part in this incredible place.

**Christie writes...**

A big thank you to everyone for being so welcoming. From the children's families to the Bird Obs crew to the shop! I certainly brought the weather with me and it has been such a wonderful week making me reflect on my reasons for wanting to be part of the Shared Headship model, taking on this role and I truly value the experience. The children have brought nothing but joy and it has been so lovely getting to know them better and you should all be very proud to have them as a valued part of the community.



Thanks to Ruben (*Ocean Kinetics*) working at the pier, for this stunning photo of the isle taken from his drone last week, along with the images below of the barge arriving at the Haven, The Swan passing by and a busy Haven





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***Margaret Stout married isle man Alec Stout and spent her married life at Barkland in Fair Isle, raising her two boys Michael and Kenny along with husband Alec. Sadly, Alec passed away before reaching old age and Margaret returned to her native Lerwick for her retirement and is a proud granny to Jenny, Magnus, Freya and Liam.***

Whilst waiting to return to Fair Isle on the Good Shepherd, I have been visiting Margaret Stout at her supported living flat, and this Thursday morning, I went to her Day Care centre Edward Thomason & Taing House, near Tesco. On previous visits she told me she had been working on a knitting machine, having only one arm and hand available for the knitting. She had shown me bits of her lovely work and I remember feeling impressed.



In the early 1980s, Margaret was involved with the setting up of Fair Isle crafts, along with other knitters and finishers in the isle: Triona, Alec, Florrie, Bill, Margo, Ingrid, Pat and some others. Triona tells me there were six machine knitters and six people who learned to finish, with training taking place upstairs in the South Lighthouse flat. The teacher was a Shetland 'wife' - Annie Robertson. The grant to purchase the machines and pay for training came from the Highland & Islands Development board. After that, the Fair Isle cooperative started. Triona tells me that since that initial teaching programme, many other people have been taught the craft and out of them, a few took it on as regular knitters and finishers. From then on till nowadays, the sales of Fair Isle knitwear taking place in the Hall, mostly for cruise ships visitors, have been quite extraordinary.



This morning, Margaret sits near the knitting machine, which the Care centre bought from Hobby Craft. Behind Margaret, there are shelves full of cones of Shetland wool in many colours. The wool has been donated by folk who spend time in the day care centre.

One of the staff members of the care home kindly shows me all the products which Margaret and other people have been involved with. Little croft houses with knitted Fair Isle rooves, glass jar lamps with Fair Isle motifs, cushions etc.

I felt incredibly inspired that the local Fair Isle craft is being used to raise money for supporting care projects and seeing people that have lived long lives are still sharing their skills and raising their own funds. Also how cool for us Islanders to be part of a long craft tradition that has helped people to survive, to be creative and use local resources selling beautiful crafted products. Thanks to all the women and men who have gone before us keeping something alive and evolving for the pleasure and use of many. Awesome really.

Josie, South Lighthouse

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**First cruise ships of the season.** We begin our 2026 cruise ship season this Monday morning with the visit of the Ocean Explorer with around 90 passengers, followed by the Silver Endeavour (c200 pax) on Thursday morning. With the North Haven being rather busy with construction works for the improved slip for the Good Shepherd V, all ships will moor at the south end and land at Kirkigeo, with Carla leading walks to the Holms. As with any cruise ship visits, the Hall will be open to all for refreshments and home-bakes and for a chance to buy lovely crafts and isle souvenirs. The museum will also be open and all are welcome.



*Silver Endeavour* by Alex Penn

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May Ocean Explorer Hall & Museum open 0900-1100 (cash/card payments depending on stall)**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May Silver Endeavour Hall & Museum open 0900-1200 (cash/card payments depending on stall)**

Please note the Hall will be kept locked overnight during busy cruise periods, if you have any questions please get in touch. Here's to another wonderful season of welcoming folk to wir boannie isle  
Eileen

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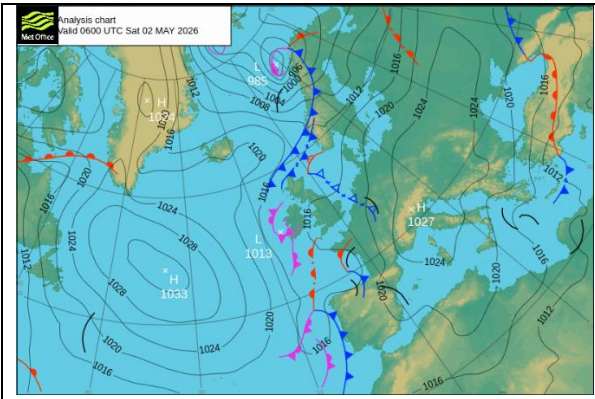
### **Good Shepherd build update from Parkol in Whitby**

Build 070 this week - Fairleads have been fitted to the bulwarks and the aluminium section of the stairwell is in place. At the stern, work is being done to prepare for fitting of the propellers and, in the workshop, construction of the wheelhouse and mast continues. A range of other jobs are being done throughout the boat.

The Fair Isle Ferry and Infrastructure Replacement Project is funded by UK Government, Levelling Up Fund, with a grant of £26.8M and Shetland Islands Council providing £18.6M.

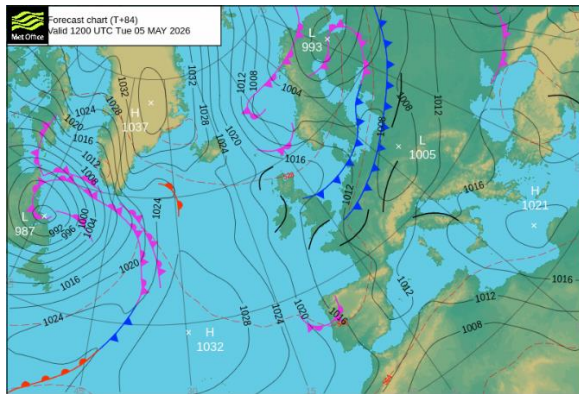


# FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



**Analysis Chart 0600 UTC**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**



**Forecast Chart 1200 UTC**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

## GENERAL SITUATION

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May April 2026**

A trough of low pressure in the southern Norwegian Sea will bring a cool showery north-northeasterly airflow. This backs north-westerly as the low edges towards the Norwegian coast and pressure builds west of Scotland. The fresh north-westerly airflow is likely to persist through much of next week.

## OUTLOOK FOR THE WEEKEND

Temperatures below average at 8° or 9° by day 4° to 6° overnight.

**SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Rather cloudy with some patchy drizzle and a F5 NNE breeze. **Sea State:** Moderate at N 2 metre.

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Mostly cloudy with the small risk of a shower. A F3 W to NW breeze. **Sea State:** Moderate or slight at NW 1 to 2 metre.

## FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK

Cool with temperatures 8° or 9° by day, 4° to 6° overnight.

**MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup>:** Rather cloudy with some sunny spells between showers. Fresh NW winds. **Sea State:** Moderate at NW to N 2 metre.

**TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup>:** Cloudy with scattered showers and fresh NW winds. **Sea State:** Moderate at NW to N 2 metre.

**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup>:** Remaining cool with fresh NW winds and further showers along with the occasional sunny or clear spell.

**Dave Wheeler**

