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Fair Isle Primary School News - A Trip to South Lighthouse

Read all about it...

South Lighthouse Report – written by Luca (11)

Deryk

Deryk has been coming to clean and to check the lighthouse for 12 years. He has had a few exciting moments like the time he found a goose's head after it crashed into the window. Deryk has a different job than the rest of the lighthouse board because he does not fix anything. If it's broken, he just reports it to the board. The board, which has newly refurbished the comfortable flats positioned at the base of South Light, will send in workmen to carry out repairs

The building

The buildings used to be filled with batteries, but they have been renovated so workmen can stay in them to fix the lighthouse. In the actual tower, it has three floors: the floor with the light, the floor with the new batteries and one with a ladder to get to the batteries. It has a staggering 106 steps.

The Light

The light is now LED and apparently can shine further. A long time ago, the lighthouse keeper had to go up and down to rewind the pulley that spins. Because it is an LED light, it does not use much electricity and that's why they could clear the batteries for the workmen to stay in.

Fair Isle South Lighthouse – written by Teddy (11)

Deryk

Deryk is a thoughtful person and gave up his time for the school trip to the South lighthouse (Fair Isle). He took me and all other Fair Isle school children up it. He goes there once a month: he cleans, checks the power and lighting system. Once he found a goose's head next to the light.

The building

The building is located on the most southerly point of Fair Isle. The building is 26 meters (73 feet) tall. The north lighthouse is 26 feet smaller than the south lighthouse. There are 106 steps including the 3 ladders. Along with south light, the Northern Lighthouse Board owns another 202 lighthouses in Scotland and the Isle of Man.



The Light

The light is incredibly bright. The batteries are new and they are small because of the LED lights. A cool fact is Fair Isle South Light was the last to be automated in Scotland. Back in the day, lighthouse keepers would go up to check the light every 45 minutes. Every lighthouse has a different sequence of blinking and flashes. The South Light one is 4 flashes grouped together over 10 seconds and then about 20 seconds of no flashes

Fair Isle South Lighthouse Report – written by Ander (8)

The Way Up

If you want to go up you need to climb a series of stairs and there are 106 steps in the lighthouse (including some ladders).

The Building

The lighthouse is 26m tall and is a thin structure which is white and yellow (with a little bit of black as well).

The Light

By the light itself, there is a very complex system because it needs to shine from miles away to help fishermen around Fair Isle. If you are curious about what the light looks like, here is a photo (*photo right*)



Dear Deryk,

I was very excited. I enjoyed it and I liked going up the twisty stairs. Thank you. From Khalicee (6)

Dear Deryk,

I really liked the light. Thank you for showing us the ladders and showing us around. From Hetty (6)



Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA update

- FIMRO have been shortlisted for a [Nature of Scotland Award](#) in the category Innovation for their work on community-led research as part of the Fair Isle DR MPA project. The Nature of Scotland Awards recognise the very best in Scottish nature conservation and are delivered by the RSPB in partnership with sponsor NatureScot. The awards ceremony will take place on the 19th of November at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. Congratulations and good luck to FIMRO!

- The survey report for the 2025 Fair Isle inshore fish survey is also available on FIMRO's website [here](#). This year's survey is due to take place from this weekend/into next week, weather depending.
- The Fair Isle DR MPA Summer newsletter is now live on FIMRO's website [here](#)
- Save the Date – Friday 6th of November 2026 for a community celebration of 10 years of the Fair Isle DR MPA

Katie Cubbon – Fair Isle DR MPA Research Officer

Fair Isle Colour Project

Can a poem be just one line?

Yes it can!

And then can you string the one line poems together to make a longer poem?

Yes you can!

Can you write a one line poem for ALL the colours on the Jamieson's of Shetland Shade Card?

Watch this space...

That was the challenge I brought away with me from my time in Fair Isle this year. The plan was to take the colours Marie's students chose for their knitting projects, write one line for each colour and then string them together to make an original personalised poem for them to take away. Like this:

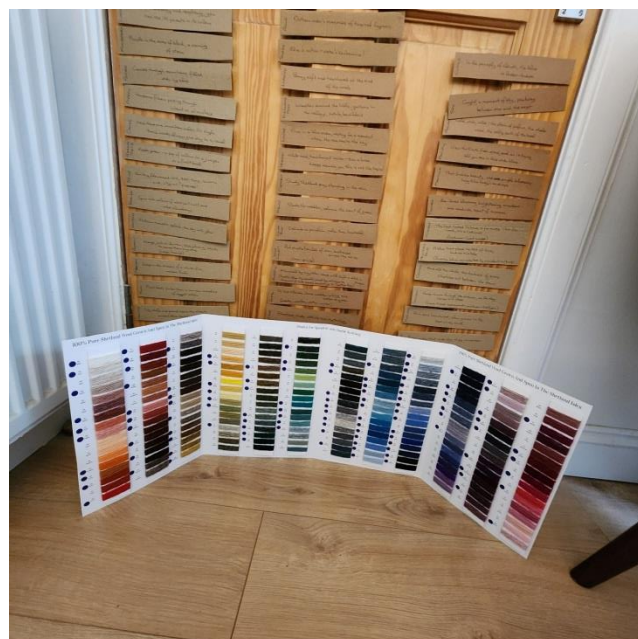


Marie used them on her own projects too:



The purple dots show which ones Marie stocks – there are also the natural shades on the back.

I didn't have those lolly sticks at home so I used strips of cereal packets and cardboard boxes instead, blu-tacking them to my door as I went. I've done 121 so far, for the colours Marie currently stocks, but since Jamieson's has over 200 shades, I'm going to run out of space on this side of the door soon!



It's been a fun challenge so far. Next, the other side of the door!



Joan Lennon – persistent resident at Lower Leogh

25-7-2026



We knew that getting everyone to Fair Isle for our wedding was going to be something of a challenge. We perhaps underestimated quite how much of an undertaking it would be. But somehow, that was part of what made the whole thing so special.

On the Thursday night we kept up the tradition for the 'Isle Hen and Stag'. A great night of beer, bonfire, and music down at the North Haven's fish store was the perfect start to the wedding festivities. At this point we really began to relax and enjoy ourselves, despite Lachlan being locked in stocks.

We had planned a low key day for the Friday of just making sure everything was ready and keeping our heads down. Unbeknown to us however, our guests had a different idea - a surprise 'blackening' (*Editor: a tradition in the northern isles, especially Orkney, where the bride and groom-to-be are tied to a trailer and floured and treacled – and worse!*).

The weather was up to its usual tricks and had us sweating from Monday onwards. Despite this, thanks to Airtask and the Good Shepherd crew everyone who was due in so far had made it in plus a few early

arrivals. Sadly our luck was to run out there.

High winds on Friday and Saturday meant that Lachlan's aunties, uncles and cousins couldn't make it, while some friends and most of the band were stuck in Shetland. It was a huge shame to have people we love unable to be there, especially after everyone had made such an effort to get to Shetland in the first place.

Luckily, we weren't completely without musicians. Ewan and Martha were already on the island, and in true Fair Isle fashion, they formed an impromptu band with Neil and Eileen for the weekend. They



were absolutely brilliant as we knew they would be and it perhaps made it even more special.

The ceremony and wedding meal took place in the stunning new Fair Isle Bird Observatory and it was so, so far beyond what we could ever have expected. The food all week was fantastic topped by the most incredible wedding buffet from Nair and the team. Most importantly, the warm and welcoming atmosphere made the Obs feel like the perfect place to celebrate.

We also owe a huge thank you to Dave Wheeler, who delayed his retirement one more year to conduct our ceremony!

An evening of dancing and good company followed at the hall which for some carried on into the small hours. Despite this a game of rounders at South Light on the Sunday blew away the cobwebs and set everyone up to go again for the 2nd Night on Sunday.

So, in all, we couldn't have asked for a better wedding. We genuinely had such a blast the entire time.

We were incredibly lucky to have so many people make the journey to celebrate with us, and to have the whole island play such a big part in our wedding.

Thank you to everyone who helped. Everyone who travelled, everyone who got stuck, everyone who hosted guests, everyone who played, baked, cooked, knitted, decorated, ferried, and generally kept everything moving.

Finally, thank you to Fair Isle for giving us the most brilliant place to get married. It was chaotic, windy, occasionally logistically impossible, and completely unforgettable. You will forever be home.

Lachland and Mhairi, Burkle and Stirling





LATEST SIGHTINGS
THURS 23rd JUL
① **LEACH'S STORM PETREL**: 1 caught & ringed
01:20 at South Haven + 231 Storm Petrels caught
② **MHAIRI + LACHLAN**: Caught and ringed @
14:15pm, Biet Obs **♥ XXX**

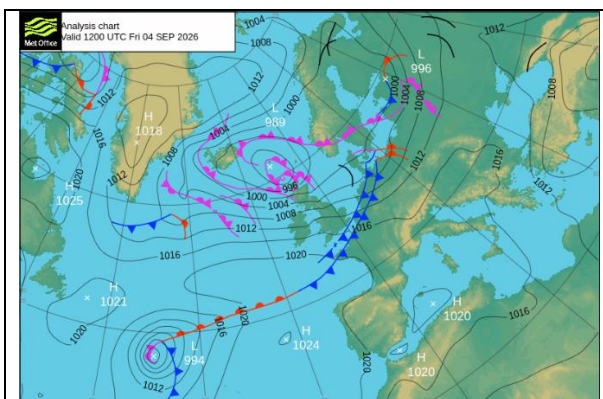


ISLE NOTICES

- **No chapel** this week, back next Sunday at 11am – all welcome. Dave B will be leading
- **Fair Isle Committee Quarterly Meeting & EGM of FIDC.** 7.15pm on Monday 14th September in the committee room. Any items for the agenda please, to Eileen and Jonathan
- **NTS property Fire Extinguisher** checks on Thursday 10th Sept. As ever (if it looks like plane weather!!) please drop your extinguishers at the Hall car park in time for the morning plane, collecting in the afternoon.
- **GP visit postponed** – The visit of Dr Briggs has been postponed by one week, now taking place on Wednesday 16th September. Please contact Tammy at the clinic for more info
- **Harvest 2026** – we plan to hold the Harvest festival on **Sunday 26th September at 3.30pm-5.30pm** in the Hall. Please take any home produce and crafts for display to the Chapel at 2pm on Saturday 25th and all other raffle prizes etc to the Hall on Sunday afternoon - thank you in advance! We'd love to see some lovely arts and crafts for prizes for the raffle from you talented folk ☺ Get in touch if you have prizes and/or produce to donate and if you would like to help with the Sunday teas. As usual we will donate half of the funds raised to the Goodwill Children's Village in India, with the other half going to a different good cause – any suggestions to Eileen please. The Fair Isle folk and visitors frequently raise hundreds of pounds for charity on this special and fun day. Any questions please get in touch with me. Thanks, Eileen

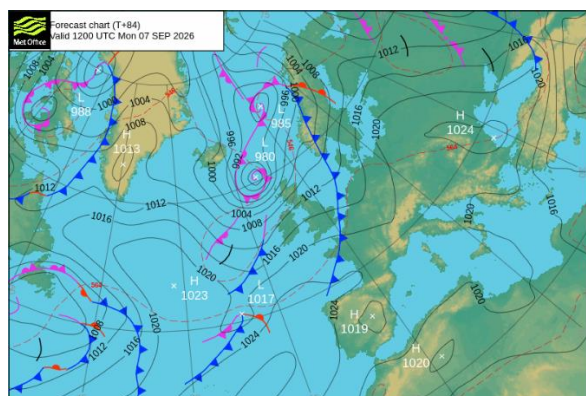


FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0600 UTC

Friday 4th September 2026



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC

Monday 7th September 2026

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 4th September 2026

With a depression over Faroe a strong showery south-westerly airflow now covers the Northern Isles. This will ease and back through Saturday before strengthening southeasterly overnight as developing wave low runs quickly north west of Scotland, bringing heavy rain and possible gales Sunday. The low continues north, leaving a strong showery south-westerly airflow on Monday. While a quieter spell may follow on Tuesday for the north a further small though possibly vigorous low may well bring heavy rain and strong winds to the south of the UK midweek. Confidence is currently low but, should the low continue east, the Northern Isles may see north-west winds and showers later next week.

OUTLOOK FOR TODAY AND THE WEEKEND Temperatures 13° or 14° by day, 11° overnight. **SATURDAY 5th:** Sunny spells and scattered showers. F5-6 W winds. Mainly dry overnight with winds easing and backing SSW F4. **Sea State:** Rough at W 3 metre. East of Shetland moderate at 2 metre. **SUNDAY 6th:** Dry bright start but rain soon arriving as SSE winds freshen F5-6. Perhaps F6-7 later. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at W 2 metre.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK Temperatures 13° by day, 10° overnight. **MONDAY 7th:** Rain and mist clearing then sunny spells and showers with strong SW winds. **Sea state:** Slight or moderate at N 1 to 2 metre. **TUESDAY 8th:** A cloudy day with scattered showers. Moderate SW winds becoming fresh N. **Sea State:** Mostly moderate at N 2 metre. **WEDNESDAY 9th – SUNDAY 13th:** Rather cloudy with scattered showers and fresh

or strong NW winds. **Sea State Wednesday:** Moderate or rough at NW 2 to 3 metre.

Dave Wheeler

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A FAIR ISLE CORNCRAKE.

FRIDAY:
CROUCH IN IRIS



SATURDAY:
CROUCH IN IRIS



SUNDAY:
CROUCH IN IRIS



MONDAY:
MANHANDLED BY
LICENSED BIRD
RINGER



TUESDAY
CROUCH IN IRIS



WEDNESDAY
CROUCH IN IRIS



THURSDAY
CROUCH IN IRIS



FRIDAY
MIGRATE TO AFRICA

