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Fair Isle Primary School News

Brought to you this week all the way from the year 1901 with some sensational newspaper articles about a spooky lighthouse tale. Let Teddy, Luca and Ander wow you with their writing “hot of the press” from our lighthouse topic.

The Teddy Times

25p

Date: 1st January 1901. Special Edition.

The Mystery of Flannan Isles

It was discovered that on Boxing Day three lighthouse keepers on the remote and hard to get to Flannan Isle had vanished without trace. Several details have been unearthed, and this tale is not for the faint of heart and is discombobulating many. The Teddy Times has sent out our most experience reporter, Teddy Phenix, to discover more.

A tragic incident has sent us down the route of the three keepers being presumed dead because on the remote Isle of Flannan they have completely vanished. It is apparent that James Ducat, Thomas Marshall and Donald McArthur are gone, but where? We have exclusively interviewed the skipper who works on the Hesperus, Joseph Moore. He was the first to the scene.



He reported that when the relief boat (The Hesperus) moored he saw that there wasn't any sign of human life, there were no flags flying. Continuing, he told us that, when he

walked into the eerie dark lighthouse, there were two oil skins missing, the clocks had stopped working, there was a chair knocked over and a half-eaten meal, their beds were made and a fireplace was set and they must have cleaned the light.

Upon returning to the boat, he also retold the sinister evidence: the logbook and the bad weather. We were told by the crew who saw the bent railings ripped out of the concrete foundation. They spotted this on the west landing on their return.



Joseph Moore and the N.L.B (Northern Lighthouse Board) say it was likely they were swept out to sea. Two of them were trying to fix the railing and the other one spotted a freak wave, knocked over the chair to try and warn them but sadly they were washed away. Others say an alien abduction is the truth but the chance of that is slim. The chance of them being deceased is high.

10p

TOP NEWS

JOURNALIST: LUCA ROTOLO

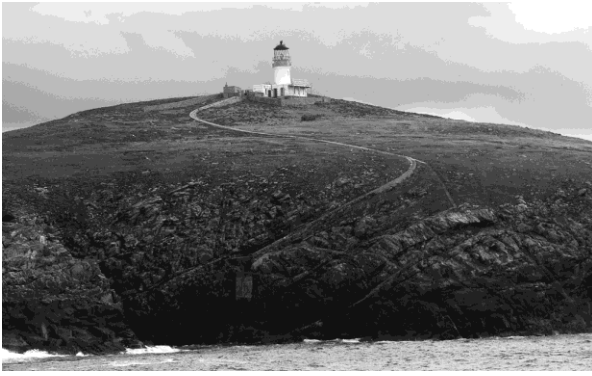
DATE - 1ST JANUARY 1901

BREAKING NEWS! REMOTE ISLAND PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS

On Boxing Day 1900, a spine-chilling mystery has been discovered at the Flannan Islands lighthouse. Many details have been uncovered that means this creepy tale may be solved. And to help find the answer Top News has sent out experienced reporter Luca Rotolo to find out answers.

A tragic accident has clearly taken place on this cut-off island. It is apparent that all three keepers, Thomas Marshall, Donald McArthur and James Ducat, are missing and supposedly dead. This newspaper (Top News) has exclusively interviewed relief boat captain, Joseph Moore, who was there first on this mysterious scene.



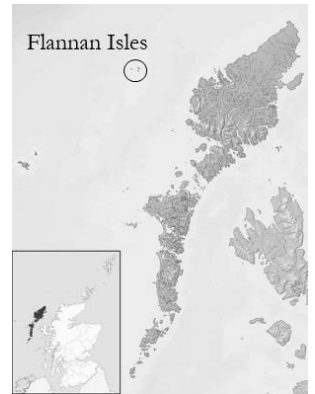


He reported that, when he arrived on scene, he saw that there were no flags flying and nobody waiting to greet him. When he walked up to the lighthouse, he noticed that the beam was off and the railings were ripped out of the ground.

Continuing after he found that the beam was off, he found

some bone-chilling things. The first thing was that there was no body there. He also found that there were two missing oil skins followed by a half-eaten meal with an overturned chair. As well as that, the clocks had stopped, the fire set and the beds were made, the light was also clean.

Based on the interview with the skipper of the relief boat, Joseph Moore, our theorist Luca Rotolo thinks that two of the keepers were trying to fix the railings in their oil skins, while the other keeper was eating his tea. The other keeper saw a massive wave coming towards the two keepers, he ran out to warn them of the wave. The wave got them all and they all got washed out. One person thinks that they were taken away by aliens and now are in a galaxy far, far away. However, this is probably not true. But the real answer may never be discovered.



THE DAILY HEBRIDES

ISSUE NUMBER 152

DATE: 3RD JANUARY 1901

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE ON FLANNAN ISLE



It has been reported to us that the Flannan's lighthouse has not been lit since Boxing Day. The S.S Archtor [U.S passenger steamer ship] communicated to the Lighthouse Board that it was in complete darkness. Now this tale is not for the faint of heart. And the Daily Hebrides has sent our bravest reporter, Ander Rotolo, to report back.

A tragic incident has clearly taken place in this remote isle. It is apparent that the three experienced lighthouse



keepers, James Ducat, Thomas Marshall and Donald McArthur, have vanished and probably died.

Joseph Moore reported when they landed on the relief vessel, he [the skipper of the boat] walked up to the lighthouse yelling but there was no answer. He went in the ominous lighthouse and saw two oilskins missing from the hanger. When he returned to the vessel, he told his fellow crew that something creepy had happened in the lighthouse. So, he and some of his crew went up again and discovered the railings on the west landing were ripped out of the ground. Meanwhile in the lighthouse: there was a tipped over chair, a half-eaten meal and the clocks had stopped.

After our interview with Joseph Moore, this reporter thinks that two of the keepers were fixing the railing but one of them was eating dinner and saw a huge wave coming so he ran out of the lighthouse to warn them but all three of them got caught in the wave.

Thanks to Dave and Josie for this account of their once-in-a-lifetime trip to Spain to see a full solar eclipse. Those of us in the isle were lucky enough to see it fairly well too – with the cloud staying away just long enough to view from the Isle.



A total solar eclipse is one of the most awesome sights in nature. They occur when the Moon, in its orbit around the Earth, passes directly in front of the sun and for a brief time blots out its light. The problem is that they don't occur very often as the alignment of the Earth, Sun and Moon have to be just right - and most of the time they aren't! Also as in astronomical terms the moon is quite small its shadow only covers only a small portion of our planet's surface, so you have to be in the right place at the right time in order to see it.

On August 12th this year everything was exactly right. The previous total eclipse in Europe had been in 1999, (I went down to Devon to see that one but it was cloudy!) The path of this year's eclipse started in Greenland took a wide sweeping curve over the North Atlantic and across northern Spain before ending in the Mediterranean.

The path of the partial eclipse (when only some of the sun is blotted out) can be a few thousand miles wide and so you got a good view of that here on Fair Isle. However to see the total eclipse you have to be right in the middle of the shadow in a strip only about 100 miles across. So I chose to go to the town of Burgos about 100 miles south of Santander as the central path of the eclipse passed right through it.

I knew nothing about Burgos other than it was in the right place but it turned out to be a beautiful medieval town with a fabulous Cathedral and wonderful ruined castle. Just behind the castle on the top of the hill was a large empty field which the thoughtful Spanish citizens kept as a dog walking area but it was also an ideal eclipse viewing spot and it was from there that we viewed the event.

An eclipse is a wonderfully dramatic and eerie event as the sun very slowly disappears behind the moon and the world gets gradually ever darker and quieter as the birds settle down for sleep and colour fades from the landscape. Just before totality an ever narrowing fine crescent breaks into a series of bright beads as the last of the sun shines along valleys on the very edge of the moon. Then even they have gone. But it isn't dark. Only now it's possible to see a pearly white light

surrounding the dark hole that was the sun. This is the corona, the outer atmosphere of the sun, normally blotted out by the brilliance of the sun's surface. In places too around the 'black hole' you can see red dots, these are prominences huge eruptions of hydrogen vast enough to peep over the moons edge but also normally hidden by the sunlight. Then you see the moons shadow moving across the sky towards you the overwhelmingly bright first rays of the sun suddenly flash into view and after 1 minute and 44 seconds it was all over as colour started to creep back into the sepia landscape and the birds started to sing again. However it wasn't quite yet over for us as the sun was still in partial eclipse as it disappeared over the horizon in lovely hazy sunset.

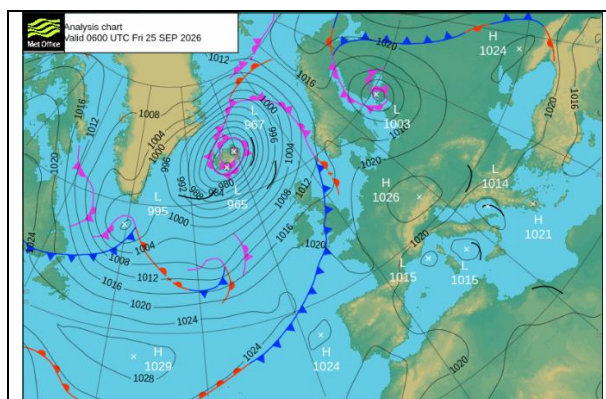
It was a wonderful experience and though I was expecting a lot, I got far more than that. If you ever get the chance to witness one, do take it. Astronomical events are like buses and the next total eclipse is in 2027 but you would like more time to prepare, the next European one is in 2053!

Dave B at the South Lighthouse (photo below by Josie)



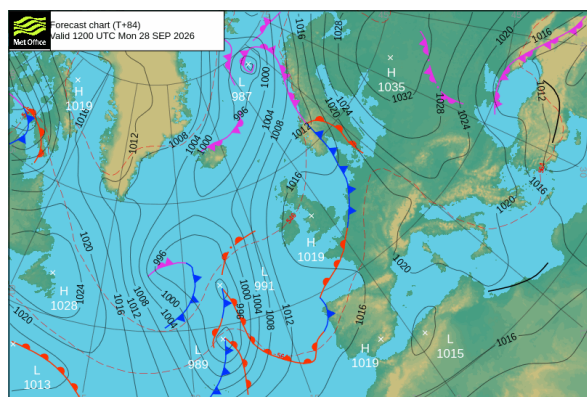
- **Harvest 2026 is this Sunday 27th September at 3.30pm-5.30pm** in the Hall.
- Please take any home produce and crafts for display to the **Chapel at 2pm TODAY Saturday 26th** and all other raffle prizes etc to the Hall on Sunday afternoon - thank you in advance! We'd love to see some lovely arts and crafts for prizes for the raffle from you talented folk – huge thanks to those who have offered and delivered prizes so far! Get in touch if you have any more 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 the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance this year, a very valuable cause (they have been here to medevac folk on many occasions). See you all then! Thanks, Eileen
- **Harvest Thanksgiving service – 11am in the Chapel, all very welcome to join**

FAIR ISLE WEATHER FORECAST



Analysis Chart 0600 UTC

Friday 25th September 2026



Forecast Chart 1200 UTC

Monday 28th September 2026

GENERAL SITUATION Friday 25th September 2026

With a large deep depression over Iceland a fresh showery south-westerly airflow covers the northern half of the British Isles. Across the south of the UK the northwestern edge of continental high pressure results in quieter calmer weather. Moving little the Icelandic depression drives a frontal trough east across northern Scotland during the weekend backing the airflow southerly. Early next week a deep area of low pressure may develop west of the British Isles resulting in very strong south or southeasterly winds and possible gales across much of the UK. After midweek gales moderate and strong winds turn south-westerly as the low moves away northwards. **OUTLOOK FOR TODAY AND THE WEEKEND** Temperatures 13° or 14° by day, 9° or 10° overnight.

FRIDAY 25th: A cloudy start then sunny spells developing with a few showers possible. F5- SW winds. Further showers this evening more frequent and heavier overnight. **Sea State:** Very rough at WSW 5 metre. East of Shetland moderate or rough at SW 2 to 3 metre. **SATURDAY 26th:** Showers frequent at first but becoming scattered with sunny spells developing. F5 SW winds backing S. Scattered showers overnight. **Sea State:** Rough at WSW 3 to 4 metre. East of Shetland moderate SW 2 metre. **SUNDAY 27th:** Scattered showers with sunny spells at first then rain occasionally heavy for the afternoon and evening as S winds strengthen F5-6. **Sea State:** Rough at SW 3 metre.

FORECAST FOR NEXT WEEK - Temperatures 12° or 13° by day, 10° or 11° overnight. **MONDAY 28th:** Sunny spells and showers with moderate or fresh SW winds. **Sea State:** Moderate or rough

at WSW 2 to 3 metre. **TUESDAY 29th:** A bright morning with early sunshine but clouding over as fresh S winds back SE. Outbreaks of rain by afternoon and misty later with low cloud. SE winds strengthening gale force. **Sea State:** Rough at SE 3 metre. **WEDNESDAY 30th – SUNDAY 4th:** Occasionally heavy rain Wednesday morning clearing east through the afternoon. Fresh or strong S winds and occasional showers. Thursday and Friday cloudy with showers and fresh occasionally strong S or SE winds. **Sea State Wednesday:** Rough at SE 4 metre. **Dave Wheeler**

