



December 2023 Festive Edition – cover artist Freyja Parnaby

Harris' favourite jokes:

What is Santa's dog called?

Santa Paws



What kind of photos do elves take?

Elfies



How does a frog open his Christmas present?

Rippit! Rippit! Rippit!



Gillian's favourite jokes:

What did Santa do when he went speed dating?

He pulled a cracker!

What did the salt say to the pepper on Christmas?

Season's greetings!



What do you call a reindeer with no eyes?

No eyed deer!

What do you call an old snowman?

Water!

What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

Santa Pause!

Luca's favourite jokes:



What happens when you eat Christmas decorations?

You get tinselitis!

**Why was the turkey in the pop group?**

Because they were the only one with drumsticks



**What did one Christmas tree say to the other?**

Lighten up!

**Freyja's favourite jokes:**

**What did the grumpy sheep say when his friends wished him a merry Christmas?**

Baaaaaaaa humbug



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### **A Fair Isle Nativity**

The children thoroughly enjoyed performing their Christmas Concert last week and I am extremely proud of their hard work and effort. The children's performance was exceptional and they all really enjoyed being up on stage. Even little Brodie was keen to get up there at one point! Heidi took part very well in the rehearsals as a little black cat and we might see her up on stage in a year's time.

As I said the other night, it was a real team effort from all staff and pupils, from the initial concept discussed just after the October holidays, to the main event. There are many people to acknowledge and thank:

**Hollie**, thank you for being a real sport and taking on many different parts and for your exceptionally speedy costume changes in the kitchen. You were brilliant!

**Pat**, thanks for practising the Good Shepherd song with the children – they were super on the chime bars - and also for stepping in to support rehearsals when Hollie and Ander were away; this was much appreciated!

**Fiona**, thank you for working on the fantastic set pieces and back-drop with the children, and for your advice on how to incorporate the different scenes. This ensured smooth transitions and worked really well.

**Amy and Eileen** – thanks for sourcing, finding or making props for the show!

**Eileen, Susannah and Grace** – thanks for baking all the delicious goodies for all to enjoy afterwards.

And finally, many thanks to **Deryk** for taking photos, and to **Tom** for recording the performance. You can watch it via the following links:

Part 1 - A Fair Isle Nativity 2023

<https://youtu.be/oJMKGaMGf6o?feature=shared>

Part 2 - A Fair Isle Nativity 2023

<https://youtu.be/AxEDtQzLmY?feature=shared>

Here are some photos of the stars up on stage and the lyrics to the Good Shepherd song. **SPOILER ALERT:** Do not go any further if you haven't watched the performance yet as the photos will give a lot of the story away!

Thanks, Gillian 😊





**Good Shepherd**  
*(to the tune of Little Donkey)*  
Good Shepherd, Good Shepherd

On the choppy sea.  
Pitching this way, rolling that way,  
Sick-bags on your knee.

Good Shepherd, Good Shepherd  
Almost at the pier,  
Got to keep on, rolling onwards,  
Isle-folk waiting there.

Ring out the foghorn tonight,  
Fair Isle, Fair Isle.  
Follow Aurora tonight,  
Fair Isle, Fair Isle.

## Christmas Lunch

We really miss having Sue as our school cook (Sue, you know we would love to have you back!). The Parent Council offered to cook us a Christmas lunch this year which was delicious and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Thank you so much Eileen and Susannah!



*Have a wonderful Christmas everyone!*

From the staff and pupils of

**Fair Isle Primary School**

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### RIDDLES

Q. What is green and can jump a mile a minute?

A. A grasshopper with hiccoughs.

Q. What do porcupines have for dinner?

A. Prickled onions.

Q. When is a car not a car?

A. When it turns into a garage.

Q. What animal is grey and has a trunk?

A. A mouse going on holiday.

Q. What did one angel say to the other angel?

A. Halo!

Q. How do you get in touch with a fish?

A. Just drop him a line.

### TONGUE TWISTER

A tooter who tooted a flute

Tried to tutor two tooters to toot.

Said the two to their tutor,

Is it harder to toot or

To tutor two tooters to toot?

**Last night, December 14<sup>th</sup>, the folk of Fair Isle** were treated to something exceptional. We gathered at the Hall for the annual school play, knowing we would enjoy the evening and it would be fun. What a surprise! The agenda declared 'A Fair Isle Nativity' created by the Primary school pupils. They used the present difficulties of getting to Fair Isle to illustrate Mary and Joseph's problems getting from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The bumpy sea, dramatic boat movements and paper sick bags followed by the story in the song were a delight. The lack of flights recently from Tingwall brought to mind that there were no buses for the young couple crossing the desert all those years ago. Noted no nurse present for delivery! My late wife Betty and I made several attempts to travel to Israel but were prevented because of the bombing out there. Standing outside Jerusalem, on a desert road looking north towards the mountains, dramatically changed our perspective of the Holy Family's journey on a donkey. Only this month I have been reflecting upon current conditions, remembering how we passed through heavy restrictions when entering Bethlehem and then were continually watched over by soldiers armed with machine guns. My stained glass illustration is tight, with figures overlapping, which is my way of showing that the

Q. What did one flea say to the other flea?

A. Shall we walk or shall we take the dog?

Q. Why do birds fly south?

A. Because it's too far to walk.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE.

From Elizabeth, Nick, Naomi, Niko, Leo and Max

Christmas story was not as pretty as is regularly pictured on cards today.

From John at Utra



Thanks to Pat for these Fair Isle flower anagrams, see if you can work them all out!

A clean G I

And den oil

Ape skin

West dome awe

Ah there

Met fort gone

Hit it green spice

Bruce tipp

Boring grade

Planet story

Chide port dot

Trots congas

Answers later!

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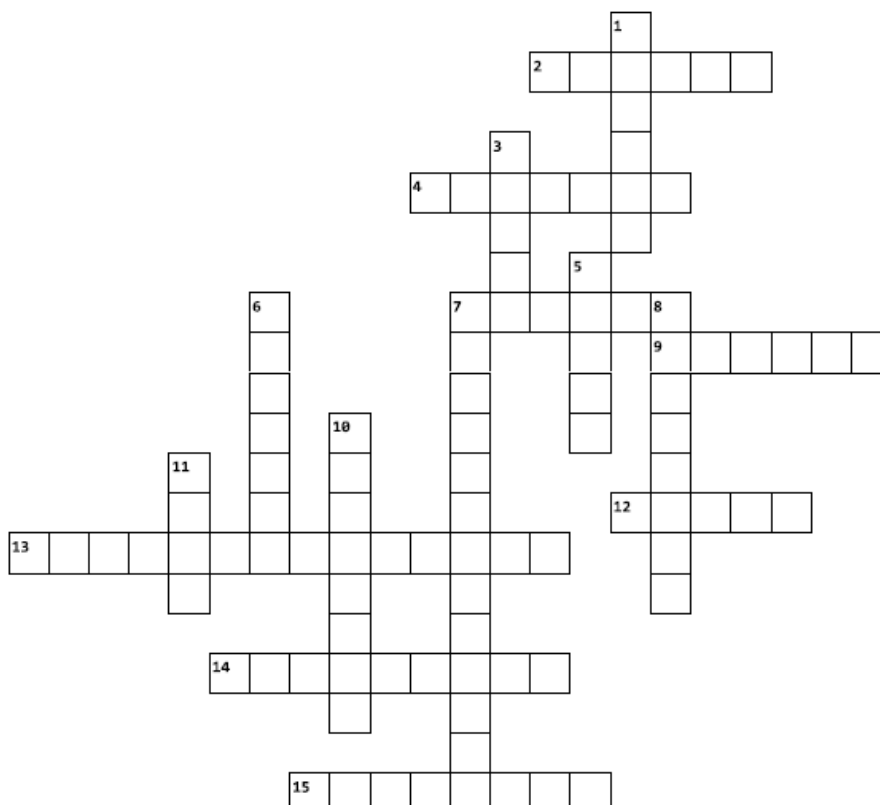
**Across**

**Down**

- 2. Santa's favourite tipple.
- 4. Pull this for a Christmas joke.
- 7. Christmas songs.
- 9. A traditional Christmas day dinner.
- 12. One of Santa's reindeer.
- 13. I'm dreaming of a .....
- 14. A Christmas kiss is guaranteed.
- 15. A traditional Christmas delicacy.

- 1. Dress your tree in sparkles.
- 3. His belly shook like a bowlful of jelly.
- 5. Red, green and prickly.
- 6. Santa's favourite reindeer.
- 7. Sits in a bucket with a star on top.
- 8. Hang this up on Christmas Eve.
- 10. The story of Christmas.
- 11. The first \_\_\_\_\_, the angels did say.

FIPS Christmas Crossword





## Fair Isle Marine WhatsApp records summary

The Fair Isle Marine WhatsApp group has been active for over a year now and is a great place for the community to add photos of interesting finds along the Fair Isle shoreline (or elsewhere).

Since the WhatsApp group began in October 2022, over 40 different species have been identified and reported! These include approximately 8 species of cetacean, 4 species of cnidaria, 3 species of crustacean, 3 elasmobranch species, 10 fish species, 5 mollusc species, one nudibranch as well as some coral, seabirds and terrestrial birds too.

At the end of this summer, towards the beginning of autumn, the Fair Isle Marine WhatsApp group was certainly dominated by lots of exciting cetacean sightings. Between August and November alone, more than 150 white-beaked dolphins, 80 minke whales, 50 Risso's dolphins, 40 harbour porpoises, 8 orca and 3 humpback whales were sighted. There have even been recent credible reports of Beluga whales off the coast of Fair Isle!

These records will help to build up a species image library of the wildlife we have on our shores and monitor some of the changes in biodiversity. We encourage anyone who spots something interesting/different/cool/exciting to please take a photo and send an approximate location or grid reference and either email to [fairislempa@gmail.com](mailto:fairislempa@gmail.com), or send to the Fair Isle Marine WhatsApp group. There are now 32 members in the group which is great! If you would like to be added to the group, please let either Katie, Martha, Susannah, Fiona or Neil know and keep the updates coming!

### Fair Isle Marine WhatsApp Highlights 2022-2023

**Eileen Thomson 12/11/22**

Spiny Starfish *Marthasterias glacialis*



**David Parnaby 6/12/22:** Plumose Anemone  
*Metridium senile*



**David Parnaby 21/02/23:** Long-spined Sea Scorpion.  
Sompal



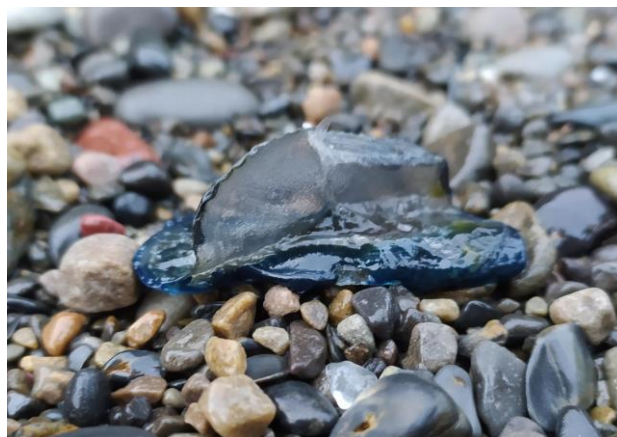
**David Parnaby: 27/02/23:** The fourth Flapper Skate of the winter. This one was around 160cm and 220cm nose to tail and was at the low water mark at Muckle Uri Geo



Tommy Hyndman 06/10/23: Minke whale



David Parnaby 06/11/23 By-the-Wind Sailor at Sompal



David Parnaby 02/11/23: Risso's dolphin and its cute baby off Lerness



**FI Bird Observatory Update** - 2023 saw

us make substantial progress in the rebuild of the Observatory.

Eventually the weather relented and we were able to bring over the remaining modules from Orkney and have them installed. Following upon this we then managed to complete the roof and outside cladding making the building wind and watertight just in time before we entered winter. This was our target for this year and we are pleased to have achieved this.

The next stage in the rebuild will be broken down into 3 phases consisting of us completing internally the mechanical, electric and plumbing works together with the remaining interiors. Work has already commenced on the first phase and overall this stage will take several months to complete.

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Thereafter we have to fit out the Obs with its furniture and plenishings allowing us to complete the full rebuild later on next year.

Once we have more certainty on a completion date we will advise every one of the position regarding bookings and the recruitment of new permanent staff. It's good to be in the position whereby we are definitely nearer the end than the beginning of the project with the finishing line now appearing!

As ever, can I on behalf of the Obs wish you all the compliments of the season and thank the Isle for

your continuing support and assistance and we look forward to welcoming you all to the new Obs in the not too distant future.

Douglas Barr - FIBOT Chairman

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# The Christmas When No One Ate Turkey

by Leo Casagrande (age 9, Winchester, Massachusetts, U.S.A.)



One Christmas the turkeys had a plan. When people came to find a turkey to cook, a turkey held up a sign saying: "You are a vegetarian." Everyone was hypnotized. Then the turkey flipped the sign over. On the other side it said: Vegetarians R Us. The turkeys had set up a store selling everything except meat. So instead of turkey people had tatties, Christmas pudding and mince pies, and the turkeys had a happy Christmas.

The end

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**Merry Christmas** and a huge thank you to all the residents of Fair Isle for your continued support of the Goodwill Children's Village in India

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**I would like to wish everybody** a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year with love from Margaret (Stout, formerly of Barkland now of Lerwick)

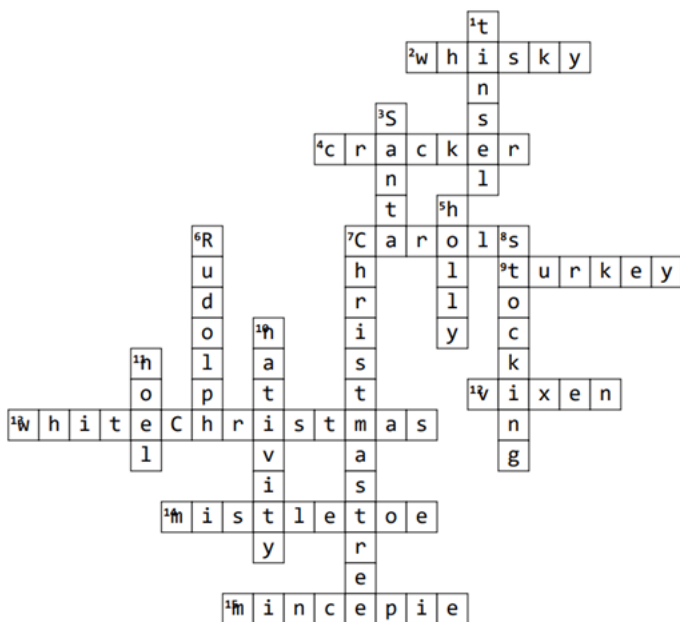
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**Collecting stamps** – Anne will be collecting stamps from charity so please keep any and give to Anne at Busta please

And finally a huge thank you to everyone who makes the Fair Isle Times what it is!! Biggest thanks have to go to the bairns and staff of Fair Isle Primary who provide us with lovely stories every week - no mean feat! Thanks to Dave for the weather forecasts (better weather for the start of 2024 please!) and to Maavi for his ever interesting insight! To all of you who offer (or give in when we pester) to write da week dat's awa and any other wonderful contributions. We editors are very grateful indeed! And to you readers, we hope you enjoy this peerie glimpse into Fair Isle life and continue to find it interesting into volume 47 next year!!

Eileen, Hollie, Ruth and Iain

Puzzle solutions – no cheating!!!



**Fair Isle Flower answers:**

- |                  |                |               |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Angelica         | Dandelion      | Sea pink      |
| Meadowsweet      | Heather        | Forget me not |
| Creeping thistle | Butter cup     | Ragged robin  |
| Oyster plant     | Spotted orchid | Cotton grass  |

Macquish TONGUE



WHIT NEEST....



WI DA RISE



O ISOLATIONISM & NATIONALISM.



BLEEMIN FOLK NO LIK WIS



FUR A' THING... WIS HIT NO



DA WY DAT CHRISTMAS WIS



FUR EVERYBODY...!!

NT