

Bramhall

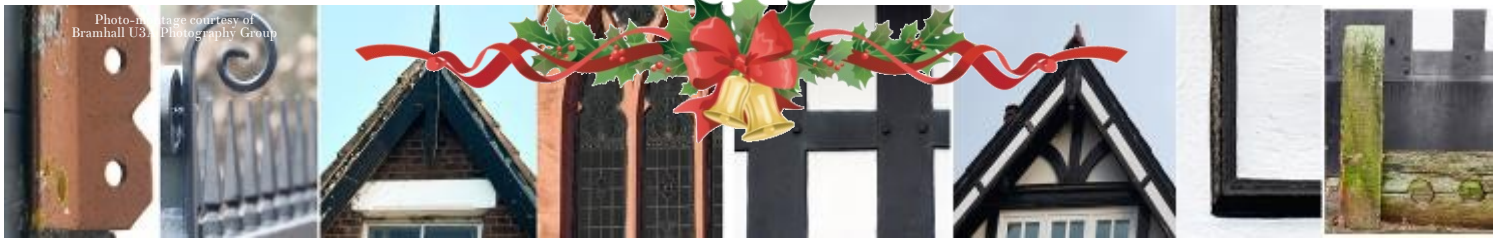
Ho, Ho, Ho it's December 2020

U3A
Learns, laughs, lives

Uppbeat Christmas



Photograph courtesy of David Pechey



"It was snowing. It was always snowing at Christmas. December, in my memory, is white as Lapland, though there were no reindeers. But there were cats."

Dylan Thomas, A Child's Christmas in Wales

Did you know?

Christmas is a shortened form of "Christ's mass". The word is recorded as *Crīstesmæsse* in 1038 and *Cristes-messe* in 1131.

Crīst (or *Crīstes*) is from Greek *Khrīstos*, and *mas* or *mæsse* is from Latin *missa*, the celebration of the Eucharist.

The English term Christmas, or mass on Christ's day, is of fairly recent origin. The earlier term used was **Yule**, which may have derived from the Germanic **jōl** or the Anglo-Saxon **geōl**, which referred to the feast of the winter solstice. In Old English, **Gēola (Yule)** referred to the period corresponding to December and January, which was eventually equated with Christian Christmas. "**Noel**" (or "**Nowel**") entered English in the late 14th century and is from the Old French **noël** or **naël**, itself from the Latin **nātālis (diēs)** meaning "**birth (day)**". In addition to "Christmas", the holiday has been known by various other names throughout its history.

The Anglo-Saxons referred to the feast as "midwinter", or, more rarely, as **Nātiuiteð** (from Latin **nātīvitās**) or "**Nativity**", meaning "**birth**".

Although the month and date of Jesus' birth are unknown, the church in the early fourth century fixed the date as December 25. This corresponds to the date of the winter solstice on the **Roman calendar**. Most Christians celebrate on December 25 in the **Gregorian calendar**, which we use and has been adopted for use throughout most of the world.

However, some **Eastern Christian Churches** celebrate Christmas on December 25 on the older **Julian calendar**, as proposed by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, which currently corresponds to January 7 in the **Gregorian calendar**.

Nativity

A moment in time, stretched thin as gossamer. The exhausted young woman looked down at the tiny child placed on her breast by her husband. The shocked little face, eyes tightly shut, the fists clenched in anticipation. How different was this from the way she had imagined the birth of her first child. Her mother should have been there, her family awaiting that first cry to tell them that she was safely delivered. Instead that interminable journey to this place, Bethlehem, and the terrifying realisation that there was nowhere to stay, as the contractions strengthened. Calm, stoic, sweet-natured Joseph had held her, talked to her and finally delivered this atom of flesh, while the tears flowed and Mary shouted, startling the animals in the stalls around.

She devoured the face with her eyes, searching for signs that would tell her that this helpless scrap of humanity was indeed as extraordinary as had been foretold.

In that held moment, a light fell on the tiny face, crowned with its smear of still-damp black hair. She looked up to see the source of the cool, silvery ray and saw, through a ragged hole in the stable roof, a star of such intensity that she blinked and her heart lurched.

Imprinted on its brilliant surface were shadows, wavering and indistinct; a cross, a thorn, a crown.

Helen Webster



A very warm December welcome to you all ...

I know Christmas is still three weeks away but, as I won't be able to see you at our usual party this month, may I say a Merry Christmas to You and Yours and wish you a Happier, Healthier and, hopefully, prosperous New Year. However you plan to celebrate, enjoy it!

Lots of good news about vaccines against coronavirus as I write this, which cheers me up. Mind you, I wasn't that unhappy anyway. Like most people our age I like to look on the bright side of things. I've also saved a small fortune on eating out.

A question for you,

"What do you get when you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?"

The answer, "A pineapple." I got that one out of a cracker!

Till next year, have fun, look after yourselves and keep taking the tablets.

Alaister Macrae



Christmas is Family Time

Well, now, this is nice isn't it?

All the family together for Christmas dinner. Julian, get your paper hat on. Just because you're at university and think you're such a rebel doesn't mean you can behave badly at the table. And Harriet, how lovely to have you here, with - er - it's Wayne, isn't it? A delightful surprise. St John, that's quite enough Pinot. You won't enjoy your sprouts. And listen to what your daughter's saying. Now, Wayne, I believe you work in the same office as Harriet. I'm never sure exactly what she does there in the City, but, of course she has an excellent degree, so I suppose it's something terribly important. Oh, you got a degree as well? Well, fancy that. And what does your father do, Wayne? Oh, a builder. How - er - useful. Did you say your parents were on holiday? Oh, the Seychelles? Of course, we always go to Eastbourne, so civilised, you know.

I believe the Seychelles are quite the place to go. Oh, they have a villa there. Julian, don't you dare leave the table. If you must smoke those strange smelling cigarettes, do it after dinner, in the garden. Erm, does your father build anything in particular? I mean, does he lay bricks and do things with mortar, or whatever it is. Oh, his own company. I see. High-rise apartments. Well, how - er - interesting. St John, wake up. You're leaning on the turkey. I must say, Harriet, that car you two arrived in makes the most extraordinary noise. Julian told me it's something Italian. A Lamborghini. How quaint! The Italians seem to be able to make anything sound like a type of pasta. Oh, do stay a little longer. We're playing charades after the pudding . . .

Helen Webster

A Christmas Poem.

So Christmas Day this year will bring a different sort of fun,
Perhaps the news will be we've got that virus on the run.
Though it's a shame the family can't gather in one room,
At least this high-tech age allows a meeting via Zoom.
And things won't be so terrible for all the girls and boys.
Old Santa, with his face mask on, will still bring all the toys.
And after lunch we'll go for a quick stroll around the block,
Returning just in time to see the Queen at three o'clock.
So have a Merry Christmas and keep cheerful, everyone.
Let normal Christmas be resumed in 2021!

Dave Mangnall





Alaister Macrae
Chairman



Peter Webster
Vice-Chair,
Newsletter & Magazine



Alistair Gardner
Treasurer



Chris Stubbs
Groups



Christine Hollingsworth
Holidays



Bob Dumbarton
Events,
Newsletter & Magazine



Meg Rowell
Minutes
Secretary

Along with: **Helen Webster*** - Speakers; **Dudley Newall*** - Outings; **Kay Witham** - Membership; **Edward Haynes** - Community;
Frances Bell - Theatre; **Jill Rickman** and **Vera Moore**

**New committee members for 2021*

Vacancies: Business Secretary & Groups Accommodation Secretary

Your festive committee for 2021



What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?
Santa walking backwards!

How did Mary and Joseph know
Jesus' birth weight?
They had a weigh in a manger!



What kind of motorbike does
Santa ride?
A Holly Davidson!

Who hides in the bakery at
Christmas?
A mince spy!

Bramhall U3A

Contact information for your U3A

Our website address, for everything you need to know about your U3A: www.bramhallu3a.org.uk

Group enquiries: groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk **General enquiries:** enquiries@bramhallu3a.org.uk

Charity items: charities@bramhallu3a.org.uk **Upbeat Magazine articles:** magazine@bramhallu3a.org.uk

Your **Bramhall U3A** website .

www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/

Stockport MBC website.

www.stockport.gov.uk/

*****Check your bin collection days*****

Please refer to the sheet recently distributed by Stockport MBC

Or go to ...

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/find-your-collection-day>

Please put your bins out by 7am

Bramhall U3A subscriptions for 2021

Just a reminder that the Committee have unanimously agreed that the annual subscription for **2021** will be held at **£10** and also that it will not be required to be paid until the end of **March 2021**.

The membership fee has remained at £10 since Bramhall U3A started in 2010.

Groups and U3A info.

This month two of our longstanding coordinators have sadly resigned from their groups.

Firstly a big thank you goes to **Joyce Kilgour** who has been active for the last ten years leading several groups: ukulele, humour and art appreciation, as well as running the first few Memory courses. We wish her luck in her move to Wilmslow and know she will be missed by the many members she has inspired during her time in Bramhall. Her leaving means there is a vacancy for an art appreciation coordinator. If you are willing to lead a small team running the group please email groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

Secondly a big thank you goes to **David Pechey** who has relinquished his role as Photography Coordinator. Not only have we become accustomed to his stunning photographs in the newsletter and magazine, but to seeing him walking around with his camera taking photographs to commemorate our various functions. We are sorry to see David stepping down, but welcome **Mike Faragher** and wish him all the best in his new role. **Chris Stubbs**

Art Appreciation

The next Art Appreciation talk will be on Wednesday December 9th at 4pm and the topic will be British Comics .
For further information please contact groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk **Kay Witham**

Cafe Book Group 3

Our book group read this month was '**Tall Chimneys**' by **Allie Cresswell** and so we were delighted when Sharon, our coordinator, arranged for the author to join us in our Zoom meeting to discuss the book.

Allie Cresswell was born and raised in Stockport before moving to Cumbria. She began writing fiction at the early age of 8 and is the recipient of two coveted One Stop Fiction Five Star Awards, one of which is for 'Tall Chimneys', and three Readers' Favourite Awards.

Allie told us that the inspiration for this book was watching a house restoration programme on TV. It featured an old mansion house that the locals thought was abandoned. It transpired however that two elderly sisters had been living there for years, staying mostly in the kitchen for warmth and subsisting on vegetables from a small garden and eggs from their hens. When Social Services became involved they refused to leave. Allie took this idea, of surviving as the world passed you by, being totally cut off, and the hold your home can have on you, to explore in her writing.

'**Tall Chimneys**' is set in the Yorkshire Moors. The story is told by the youngest daughter of a wealthy family who has been deserted by them and sent to live in the remote ancestral home. The plot, spanning 100 years, looks at her struggle, as much as the 20th Century's history, and the political moments that pass her by.

Allie Cresswell writes in a strong, descriptive, almost classical, style which makes this and her other books an enjoyable read.

If you would like to join this Book Group, we have a few spaces available. In normal times we meet on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month. Please email groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk for the attention of **Sharon Turner**, group coordinator.

U3A Tuesday Talks

An update on the talks organised by the committee for the North West Region of the U3A. The talks will be held on the second Tuesday of the month starting at 10.30am.

The program to date is: 8th December 'Winter Warmer' with Fool's Gold Acoustic musicians

Join our winter celebrations led by Carol and Steve Robson, with music and tales

12th January Cyber Security

Dave Carlos, a Lancashire Police volunteer, will provide advice in keeping safe in the digital age. U3A members from the North West can register for the online talks by going to <https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events>

Talks from U3A National Office

Some new talks and other events have been added to the website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>.

Mike Hollingsworth

Supporting our nominated charities

Bramhall U3A has two nominated charities. **St Ann's Hospice** and **The Wellspring** and below are some ideas from fellow members in the Card and Knitting Groups, to support them both. They are also excellent ideas for presents for friends and family. Donations to either charity can be made, directly to them, via their websites

The Knitting group

The Knitting group still has some Christmas items to sell in aid of St Ann's Hospice:

Knitted Christmas Novelties

Various covers for Chocolate Oranges - £2.50

Stockings and mini gift bags - £1.50

Smartie Tube covers - £1.50

Ferrero Rocher covers (includes chocolate) - £1.00



If you would like to help us raise much needed funds for St Ann's Hospice, by purchasing any of these items, then please email charities@bramhallu3a.org.uk for the attention of

Sheila Porter



The Card Group

A big December hello from the Card Group

This month's try-at-home idea - Christmas Trees made from one piece of paper

1. Concertina folds from the short end along the length at half inch increments.
2. Mark the centre of the short edge with a dot.
3. Cut from the bottom corners to the centre mark.
4. Refold all the concertina folds except the small top triangle.
5. Punch a hole through all the folds.
6. Thread a kebab stick through the hole.
7. Apply a dab of glue to the top of the triangle and the stick.
8. Use a cork or an old button as the base.
9. Decorate as desired using printed paper, sequins, beads etc.



Use as place markers or make a seasonal forest.

We hope you enjoy making our trees & book marks. Send a photo to Upbeat; we would love to see them.

The Card Girls wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Chris D, Jill, Avril & Chris W.

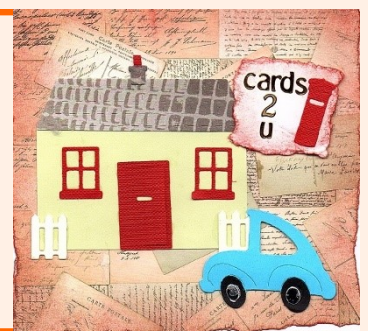
Our card delivery service is a great success.

We are so grateful to all those who have ordered cards from us, as it means we can continue to support our nominated charity, **The Wellspring**.

We have decided to make this a regular service, so that people who do not attend monthly meetings where we have a stall, can still benefit from getting our hand-made cards. Many thanks to you all.

Jill Rickman - Card Making

charities@bramhallu3a.org.uk



A Chocolate Tiffin or 'Fridge Cake' Recipe

from Colleen Worrall

Ingredients:

- 200 grams dark chocolate, broken into pieces
- 100 grams butter, cubed
- 1 tablespoon golden syrup or honey
- 75 grams sultanas or raisins
- 150 grams digestive biscuits
- * optional a few pieces of crystallised ginger, chopped

Method:

- Line a loaf tin, about 20 x 10 cm with baking parchment.
- Put the chocolate, butter and syrup or honey into a heatproof bowl.
- Stand the bowl over a pan of just simmering water, until melted and smooth.
- Meanwhile, roughly chop the ginger, if using, and crush the biscuits to a coarse crumb.
- Take the melted chocolate mixture off the heat and stir in the biscuit crumbs, ginger and sultanas, mixing well.
- Tip the chocolatey mixture into a prepared tin and smooth it out. Leave to cool, then transfer to the fridge for several hours to set completely.
- Lift the tiffin from the tin, remove the parchment and use a sharp, heavy knife to cut it into bite-size pieces.
- *You could use amaretti biscuits or shortbread for the crumb, if preferred. Any dried fruit works well too: dried cranberries or a few coarse nuts such as walnuts or hazelnuts would be quite seasonal.



Then . . . Enjoy



What do you call an obnoxious reindeer?

Rude-olph!

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

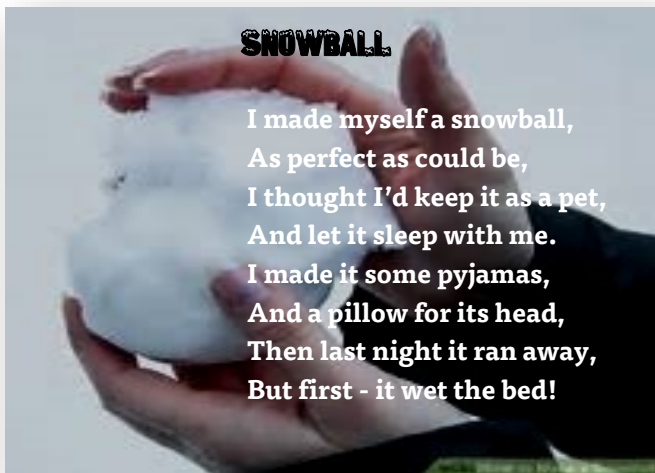
Claus-trophobia!

A new Christmas carol for 2020?

You better watch out
You better not cough
You better not pout
Or Christmas is off
Santa Claus isn't coming to town

He's booking a test,
He's been denied twice,
Can't find out if he's contagious or nice
Santa Claus isn't coming to town

♪ He sees you if you mingle,
♪ He sees you in your cliques.
♪ He knows if you've been bad or good
♪ So keep to the Rule of Six.



I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pyjamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first - it wet the bed!

It's always worth sharing your Upbeat

If you can read the U3A magazine online and have a friend or 'buddy' who cannot, then please contact them to chat about it or give them your copy. If you can, please print parts of it yourself and post it or give it to them.

Elizabeth Raffald

A local entrepreneur and cook . . . that you've probably never heard of



Despite her name appearing in Suffragette Square in Stockport, Elizabeth Raffald, a truly remarkable woman, predated the move toward female emancipation by a century and a half. However, she was a woman of extraordinary independence and resourcefulness, who would have been a natural ally of those indomitable women who later stood for the rights of women to be treated equally, at least as voters.

She was born Elizabeth Whittaker in 1733 in Doncaster and took her first job as a domestic servant at **Arley Hall**, where she rose to be the housekeeper. It was here she met and married John Raffald, the head gardener at Arley. They later moved to Fennel Street, Manchester, which is where her remarkable entrepreneurial life took off.

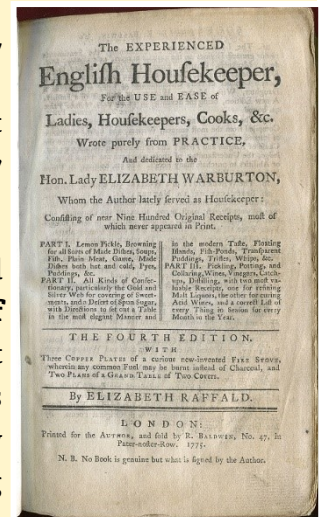
She rented her spare rooms and created what was effectively an agency, to bring together, for a fee, domestic staff with employers. She also ran cookery classes and an outside catering business. In 1766, the Raffalds moved to larger premises in Exchange Alley, where Elizabeth added a trade in exotic foreign foods such as pistachio nuts, preserved pineapples, Turkey figs and truffles. By 1771, she had branched into the sale of cosmetics, French soap, swan-down powder puffs, lip salve and perfume, to name but a few. Her ability to speak French, which she maintained through regular practice in her spare time, probably proved an asset here.

While this was progressing, Elizabeth was also writing her highly regarded cook-book, **'The Experienced English Housekeeper'**. This was published in 1769 and a second edition, including a hundred additional recipes, in 1771. In the introduction to the first edition, she wrote, *'I can faithfully assure my friends that ... [the recipes] are wrote from my own experience and not borrowed from any other author.'*

It must be noted that Elizabeth's work was plagiarised heavily throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, notably by **Isabella Beeton** in her bestselling **'Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management'** (1861) and many others. In the twentieth century, eminent cookery writers such as Elizabeth David and Jane Grigson have also included her recipes in their publications. Handwritten copies of individual recipes have been located in family recipes around England and Queen Victoria copied several of Raffald's recipes, including one for 'King Solomon's Temple in Flummery', when she was a princess.

Our redoubtable heroine is credited with inventing the Eccles cake and, notably, the forerunner of the modern wedding cake. This was referred to in 'The Experienced English Housekeeper' as a 'Bride Cake', a rich fruit cake decorated with two types of icing, marzipan and what later, when used to decorate Queen Victoria's wedding cake, became known as royal icing.

It must be mentioned here that some of her recipes had elements of fantasy, such as *'A Transparent Pudding Cover'd with a Silver Web, and Globes of Gold with Mottoes in Them.'* A rather bizarre recipe was for 'Rabbit Surprised', where the cook is instructed, after roasting, to *'draw out the jaw-bones and stick them in the eyes to appear like horns'*.



Elizabeth Raffald's Directory of **MANCHESTER and SALFORD** 1772



£3.75

An illustrated reprint of the first Manchester and Salford Directory

It should also be noted at this point that the amazing Mrs Raffald compiled the first ever trade directory of Manchester in 1772, and during this time, invested in and supported two local newspapers, 'The Manchester Mercury' and 'Prescotts Journal.' As if this were not enough alongside all her other work, she co-wrote with Charles White, the then primary physician of Manchester, a manual for midwifery.

All these astonishing achievements were accomplished while Elizabeth was pregnant most of the time, giving birth to at least nine children. Her husband was not supportive, being a heavy drinker and suicidal. In fact at one point when John said that he wanted to drown himself, Elizabeth replied with characteristic forthrightness, *'I do think it might be the best step you could take, for then you would be relieved of all your*



troubles and anxieties and you really do harass me very much.'

In the midst of this frenetic activity, Elizabeth died quite suddenly in April 1781, at the age of 49. Her death was described as being the result of 'spasms, after only one hour's illness', probably a stroke. She is actually buried at St Mary's church in Stockport, but sadly there is no headstone.

In 2013, Arley Hall introduced some of Raffald's recipes into the menu at the hall's restaurant, but she is largely a forgotten figure.

In 1852, an article in the Manchester Guardian pointed out:

'Mrs Raffald was an extraordinary person and deserves to have her name rescued, however imperfectly, from oblivion, and to be recorded as one of our Manchester authors and worthies of the eighteenth century.'

We can only agree.

Helen Webster



Now, some important philosophical questions on life

Submitted by George Carroll

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds in our drives and put our useless junk in the garage?

Do you ever wonder...

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed

Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes?

Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavouring, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?



Be aware she can move in any direction



Christmas Quiz Time ...

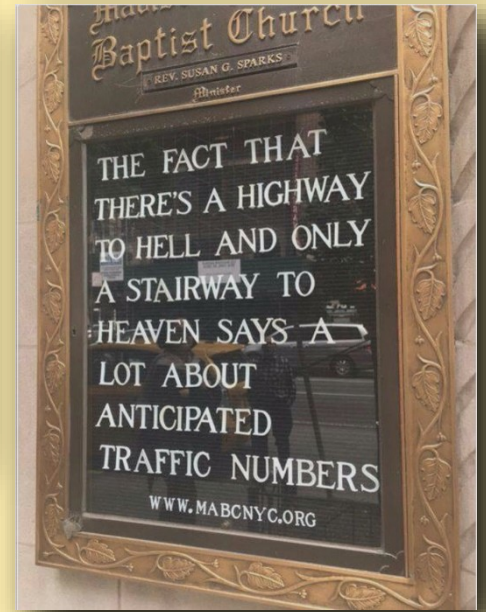
Answers to all questions are on the back page, but no cheating ...

A Special, and rather large, Christmas Quiz Courtesy of PUB QUIZ QUESTIONS HQ

- 1) In the Dr Who Christmas special in 2017, which actress made her first official appearance as the 13th Doctor?
- 2) Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first?
- 3) Who is generally recognised as writing the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" also known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"?
- 4) Snowflakes are often portrayed as being 6-sided, but studies suggest that less than what percentage of snowflakes exhibit the ideal six-fold symmetric shape? **Is it a) 0.1% b) 1% c) 10%**
- 5) A Bellini is flavoured with which fruit?
- 6) From the Morecambe and Wise Christmas Special of 1971 can you complete this quote: 'I'm playing all the right notes but ...'?
- 7) In 'The Gingerbread Man' fairytale, who or what devours the gingerbread man in the end?
- 8) What stick would you put into a mulled wine?
- 9) In the 1947 version of Miracle on 34th Street, who plays the little girl Susan Walker?
- 10) Who wrote the Band Aid song 'Do They Know It's Christmas'?
- 11) The Australian external territory of Christmas Island is in which ocean?
- 12) Modern Christmas trees originated in the 16th century in an area now known as which country?
- 13) In the novel 'A Christmas Carol', which is the first ghost to visit Scrooge?
- 14) Driving Home for Christmas, was written during a car journey back to which town?
- 15) In the Christmas song 'Let it Snow' what has happened to the lights?
- 16) In the film 'Scrooged' starring Bill Murray, which actress plays the Ghost of Christmas Present?
- 17) Which Christmas hit for Harry Belafonte in 1956 is now widely performed as a Christmas Carol?
- 18) Port, the Portuguese fortified wine, often drunk at Christmas, is produced exclusively in which valley in Northern Portugal?
- 19) Which famous scientist who developed the three laws of motion, was born on Christmas Day 1642?
- 20) Which wordless children's picture book by Raymond Briggs was first published in 1978?
- 21) In Matthew's version of the birth of Christ in the bible he mentions the arrival of the Magi.
Who or what are the Magi?
- 22) One of the most popular toys of 1970 was a NERF Ball. What does the acronym NERF stand for?
- 23) Pepparkakor are very similar to gingerbread cookies but much thinner, hard and very crisp and are found everywhere over Christmas in which Scandinavian country?
- 24) La Noche Buena refers to which time over the Christmas period in Spain?
- 25) How many Drummers Drummed?



On a lighter note ... Seasonal USA Church signs



The Gourmand Christmas Day

Unto a peaceful family
The Gourmand did appear
And to the peaceful family
He shouted in their ear

“Bring out the beef!
Spoon out the spuds!
Pass me my plate!
And the biggest Yorkshire pud!”

“Fill up my glass!
Yes! Right to the top!
Where are the mince pies?
No! I am not ready to pop!”

And when the food hath ended
The gourmand could gorge no more
He sits alone and ponders
Then begins to gently snore.

With dreams of far off puddings
Of Mickerbrook, Wetherspoon and
such
Piles of meat with lots of veg
The price of which is not much.

He burps and then awakens
His hat has fallen down
Sits up, his back he straightens
And again, begins to shout



“Bring out the chocs!
Bring out the cake!
Hush it’s 3 o’clock!
What a noise you all do make!”

“Laugh at my jokes!
Do what I say!
Don’t sit down for long!
It is the Gourmand’s Christmas
Day!”

“Now it’s present time!
Where is the one for me?
What do you mean I have none?
Why, it is there under the tree!”

“Thank you for my dinner!
And cheers for my wine!
Happy Christmas Everyone!
I look forward to next time!”

LesleyAnn Keefe

The Computer’s first Christmas Card

jollymerry
hollyberry
jollyberry
merryholly
happyjolly
jollyjelly
jellybelly
bellymerry
hollyheppy
jollyMolly
marryJerry
merryHarry
happyBarry
heppyJarry
bobbyheppy
berryjorry
jorryjolly
moppyjelly
Mollymerry
Jerryjolly
bellyboppy
jorryhoppy
hollymoppy
Barrymerry
Jarryhappy
happyboppy
boppyjolly
jollymerry
merrymerry
merrymerry
merryChris
ammerryasa
Chrimerry
asMERRYCHR
YSANTHEMUM

Edwin Morgan

from *The Second Life* (Edinburgh University Press, c1968)
also published in *Collected Poems* (Carc Janet, 1990)



Beautiful Cyclamen
(Photo by Hubert Worrall)

Stay Safe Stay in Touch



Cheeky Squirrel
(Photo by Hubert Worrall)



David Pechey

A picture Quiz. Answers on the Back Page
Outings and Holidays remembered (again)

Can you guess the locations?



Quiz - can you name the product?

Below are the advertising slogans

- 1 **Splash it all over**
- 2 **Making the unmissable, unmissable**
- 3 **Fortifies the over forties**
- 4 **Made in Scotland, from girders**
- 5 **Vorsprung Durch Technik**
- 6 **Boom-Boom-Boom-Boom**
- 7 **The best a man can get**
- 8 **Central heating for kids**
- 9 **It does exactly what it says on the tin**
- 10 **Refreshes parts other beers can't reach**
- 11 **And all because the lady loves . . .**
- 12 **Finger lickin' good**
- 13 **Lick the lid of life**
- 14 **Just do it**
- 15 **I liked it so much, I bought the company**
- 16 **Reassuringly expensive**
- 17 **Because she's worth it**
- 18 **The car in front**
- 19 **The appliance of science**
- 20 **It's metter to bix things up**
- 21 **Where do you want to be ?**
- 22 **Don't say brown, say . . .**
- 23 **Softness is a thing called . . .**
- 24 **You're never alone with a . . .**
- 25 **Naughty but nice**
- 26 **Where do you want to go today?**
- 27 **Probably the best lager in the world**
- 28 **It's good to talk**
- 29 **Helps you work, rest and play**
- 30 **I bet he drinks . . .**

Courtesy of Kens Quiz

Answers are on the Back Page, but no cheating.

Why don't you ever see Father Christmas in hospital?

Because he has private elf care



Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?

Because their days are numbered!

Why was the turkey in the pop group?

Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?

He was picking his nose . . .

How does Darth Vader enjoy his Christmas Turkey?

On the dark side!



Stay Safe Stay in Touch



David Pechey



Memories of Christmas

All my Christmases roll together
Like a giant snowball
Bundling down the hill that is our street
And stopping at the edge of an ice-encrusted lake
Where I twirl on skates
And occasionally land ignominiously on my bottom.
Scraping my hands along the powdery, icy surface,
Snowflakes deflect from my face
Encouraging my cheeks to glow.

There was always snow in December
And laughter in the frozen landscape.
Bundled up in furry parkas,
Scarves tied tightly round our necks,
Ice cold fingers wrapped in woolly mittens,
Ears fur-capped,
Artic boots slithering through drifts of snow,
The waves folding like whipped cream
As we ploughed our way back home.

Huffing and puffing and hurling snowballs.
Perfect angels created as we lay flat in the snow, whirling our arms.
Smoke signals sent with warm breath as we screamed out in delight.
And it snowed and it snowed.

Heavy flakes shaken from white clouds hovering above us
As our fantasy kingdom sprang into life.
And in the morning, from foggy steamed up windows,
We gazed dumb-struck
At the solid whiteness and cleanness of the world.

An expedition to church; a few choruses of 'Silent Night',
Then home to the tantalising smell of roast turkey and the sight of a flaming pudding.

And at last there were the presents, so many presents
Stockings filled with jelly beans and oranges and shiny coins.
And beneath a bauble-laden, dazzlingly bright tree,
And lovingly wrapped were brightly coloured scarves,
And embossed cuddly sweaters,
And daintily dressed dolls that creaked as they walked and cried incessantly,
And books, a multitude of books.

A special time, a special place, and special people.

Pat George

The Back Page

The rather large, Christmas Quiz ...

The Answers:

- 1) Jodie Whittaker
- 2) Blitzen (Blitzer)
- 3) Clement C. Moore
- 4) a) 0.1%
- 5) Peach
- 6) 'not necessarily in the right order.'
- 7) A fox
- 8) Cinnamon
- 9) Natalie Wood
- 10) Bob Geldof and Midge Ure
- 11) Indian Ocean
- 12) Germany
- 13) Jacob Marley
- 14) Middlesbrough
- 15) They've been 'turned down low'
- 16) Carol Kane
- 17) Mary's Boy Child
- 18) Douro Valley
- 19) Sir Isaac Newton
- 20) The Snowman
- 21) The three wise men/kings
- 22) Non-Expanding Recreational Foam
- 23) Sweden
- 24) Christmas Eve
- 25) 12

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Outings and Holidays remembered (again)

The Answers

- 1 Police Museum, Manchester (January 2018)
- 2 Liverpool waterfront (May 2018)
- 3 The Kelpies (August 2018)
- 4 Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey (July 2016)
- 5 Windsor castle (October 2016)
- 6 Manchester Ship Canal (July 2015)
- 7 Bath (September 2015)
- 8 Yorkshire Sculpture Park (July 2014)
- 9 Welsh Highland Railway (May 2015)

Name the product - Answers

- 1 BRUT
- 2 BBC iPLAYER
- 3 PHYLLOSAN
- 4 IRN-BRU
- 5 AUDI
- 6 ESSO BLUE
- 7 GILLETTE
- 8 READY BREK
- 9 RONSEAL
- 10 HEINEKEN
- 11 MILK TRAY
- 12 KFC
- 13 MULLER YOGURT
- 14 NIKE
- 15 REMINGTON
- 16 STELLA ARTOIS
- 17 L'OREAL
- 18 TOYOTA
- 19 ZANUSSI
- 20 BRITVIC J20
- 21 VIRGIN TRAINS
- 22 HOVIS

- 23 COMFORT
- 24 STRAND (CIGARETTES)
- 25 CREAM
- 26 MICROSOFT
- 27 CARLSBERG
- 28 BRITISH TELECOM
- 29 MARS BAR
- 30 CARLING

Do you ever wake up, kiss the person sleeping beside you, and feel glad that you are alive? I just did and apparently will not be allowed on this airline again....

Help us keep YOUR Magazine Upbeat

To help us to keep creating a quality magazine for everyone, all Members are invited to contribute ideas

Send your submissions to magazine@bramhallu3a.org.uk

The Upbeat Magazine Production team ...

Bob Dumbarton (Content Editor); **Peter Webster** (Layout & Graphics) & **Helen Webster** (Production Assistant)

The next edition will be available on the **FRIDAY JANUARY 8**

We would really welcome your articles, pictures, quizzes, jokes and, of course, feedback.

Please submit all items for the JANUARY magazine by DECEMBER 18

