



*Merry
Christmas*

Mariners' Park Newsletter

Winter 2020

Christmas Message from Mick Howarth

Dear resident

Season's Greetings to you all! Despite not being able to have our annual Christmas Lights Switch On party this year, the big tree is lit, the Hub decorated, and it is good see Christmas lights twinkling around the Park to bring some festive cheer.

2020 has been 'a year like no other', and, in truth, one we will be glad to put behind us. It looks like we can look forward to 2021 with some optimism and a spring in our step as the vaccination process gets underway. The process of vaccinating our Care Home staff has started, and by the time you read this newsletter all our Care Home residents will have been vaccinated too. Older people are in the high priority group for vaccinations, so do look out for being contacted in the coming weeks; the over 80s will be called first.

Before then hopefully you can enjoy Christmas. You have the opportunity between December 23-27 to form a "Christmas Bubble" with two other households, so hopefully you can enjoy the company of some of your family, friends or neighbours over the festive period. Please try and social distance whilst indoors and keep the room well ventilated – the virus does not know it's Christmas! Or to quote the Prime Minister, please be "Jolly" careful.

You should all have received a Christmas card from the Chairman of the Welfare Committee, Bob Thornton, on behalf of all the Committee Members, who were keen to send their "Best Wishes" after such a difficult year due to Covid. Please do not forget you can go to the Floral Pavilion at New Brighton for a rapid test to make sure you are not an asymptomatic carrier of the virus.

It is with sadness that we lost two residents last week, Captain Mike Hurley and Mr Dougie Laverie. Our thoughts are with their family and friends at this time, and indeed all residents who have lost a love one this year, leaving an empty chair at Christmas time.

All that remains for me to say is to Thank You for your patience and understanding in following all the Covid rules to help keep everyone safe; it is good to know we haven't lost any Park residents due to the virus.

I, and all the staff at Mariners' Park, hope you have a peaceful and Happy Christmas, but above all a healthy one.

Our very best wishes to you all.

Mick Howarth
Welfare Manager



Image D. Kenny, R..Jackson

’Twas the night before Christmas, when all
through the house

Not a creature stirred not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney
with care,

In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be
there.

The Mariners were nestled all snug in beds,

While memories of sugar-plums danced in
their heads-

Mamma in her ‘kerchief, and Dad in his cap,
had settled their brains for a long winter’s
nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
They sprang from their bed to see what was the
matter.

Away to the window they flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, threw up the sash.

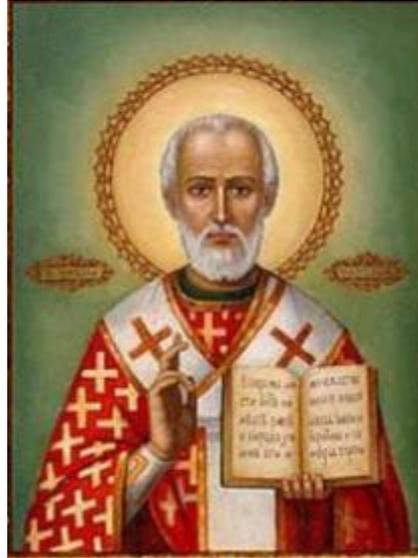
The light on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.

When, what to their wondering eyes suddenly
appears,

But a mother with her cubs – magical snow
bears.



St. Nicholas, Sailors, and Santa Claus



St. Nicholas was a Bishop who lived in the fourth century, in Turkey. He was a very rich man who had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people who needed it. It is believed that the origin of the custom of hanging up stockings to put presents in first started with him.

There was a poor man who had three daughters, who didn't have enough money for their dowry's. One night, Nicholas secretly dropped a bag of gold down the chimney and into the house. The bag fell into a stocking that had been hung by the fire to dry so the oldest daughter was able to get married. This was repeated later with the second daughter. Finally, determined to discover the person who had given him the money, the father secretly hid by the fire every evening until he caught Nicholas dropping a bag of gold down the chimney. Nicholas begged the man to not tell anyone what he had done, because he did not want to bring attention to himself. But soon the news got out and when anyone received a secret gift, it was thought that maybe it was from Nicholas. Because of his kindness Nicholas was made a Saint.

St. Nicholas is not only the saint of children but also of sailors. A story tells of him helping some sailors that were caught in a bad storm off the coast of Turkey. The storm was raging around them and the men were terrified that their ship would sink beneath the giant waves. They prayed to St. Nicholas to help them. Suddenly, he was standing on the deck before them. He ordered the sea to be calm, the storm died away, and they were able to sail their ship safely to port.





Germany



Sweden



U.S.A



Holland

After the reformation in the sixteenth century, in Northern Europe, stories and traditions about St. Nicholas became unpopular. But someone had to deliver presents to children at Christmas. In the UK he became 'Father Christmas' or 'Old Man Christmas', an old character from story plays during the middle ages in the UK and parts of northern Europe. In German-speaking countries he was known as Weihnachtsmann, the "Christmas Man" In France, he was then called 'Père Noël'.

In the early USA he was called 'Kris Kringle' (from the Christkind). Later, Dutch settlers in the USA took the old stories of St. Nicholas with them and Kris Kringle and St Nicholas became 'Sinterklaas' or as we now say 'Santa Claus'!

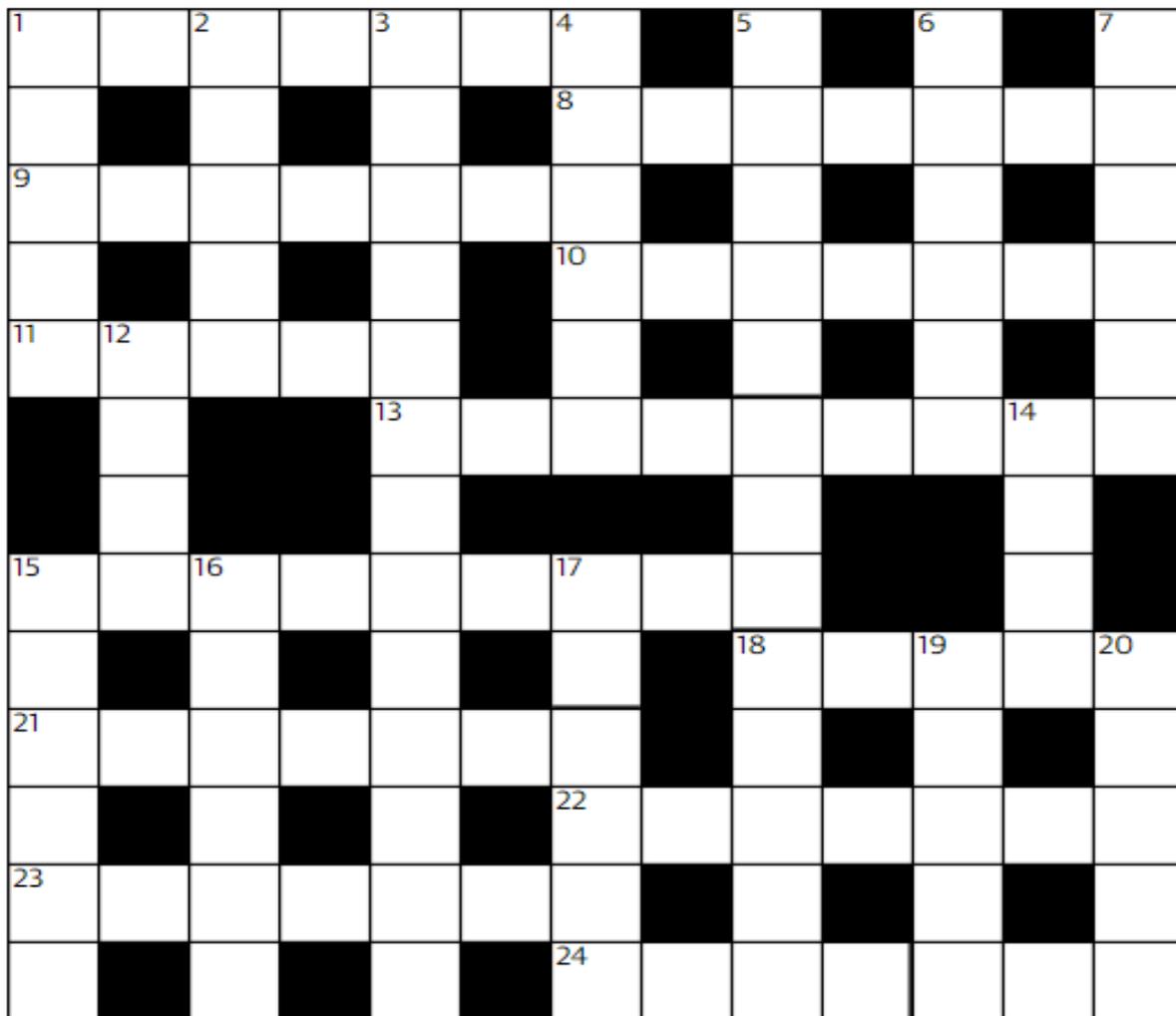
Many countries, especially ones in Europe, celebrate St. Nicholas' Day on 6th December. In the Netherlands and some other European Countries, children leave clogs or shoes out on the 5th December (St. Nicholas Eve,) to be filled with presents. They also believe that if they leave some hay and carrots in their shoes for Sinterklaas's horse, they will be left some sweets.

St. Nicholas became popular again in the Victorian era when writers, poets and artists rediscovered the old stories.

In 1823 the famous poem 'T'was the Night before Christmas', was published. Dr Clement Clarke Moore later claimed that he had written it for his children. The poem describes St. Nicholas with eight reindeer and gives them their names. They became really well known in the song 'Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer', written in 1949... which you can, of course, name? (answers elsewhere)

www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas/origin-of-santa/father-christmas





Christmas Crossword 1.

Across

1. Violent attack (7)
8. Hoping for perfection? (7)
9. Feudal Bondage (7)
10. Source of warmth on Nov 5th (7)
11. Participate (5)
13. Inducement (informal) (9)
15. Home for parentless children(9)
18. Pals (5)
21. Bird of the crow family (7)
22. Feeling – sentiment (7)
23. Military rank (7)
24. Pristine (4,3)

Down

1. Part of a church by the nave (5)
2. Bar or rod acting as a brace (5)
3. Comprehension (13)
4. Roll over and over (6)
5. All day and all night (5,3,5)
6. Immobilise (6)
7. Make attractive (6)
12. Close (4)
14. Scholastic test (abbr) (4)
15. Goal (6)
16. Predicament (6)
17. Also (2,4)
19. Marriage (5)
20. Cord connects muscle to bone (5)

Christmas Quiz

Christmas Quiz 1.

- 1 Who was the first named Native American on a US stamp?
- 2 Which archipelago is at the mouth of Galway Bay?
- 3 The Pythia was the priestess at which ancient site?
- 4 Who died hours after the 33rd performance of Carmen?
- 5 Which dog has Pembroke Welsh and Cardigan Welsh breeds?
- 6 Where did the Joseon dynasty rule for more than 500 years?
- 7 Which portrait was stolen in 1961 as a protest against the TV licence fee?
- 8 When was English cricket's summer of four captains?

What links:

- 9 Charles III; William V; George VII; Charlotte I?
- 10 Line; bar; pie; scatter; spider?
- 11 Spithead and Nore in 1797; Invergordon in 1931?
- 12 New Orleans tram; collection of animal figurines; Brick's wife Maggie?
- 13 Lima; Baghdad; Tehran; Bamako; Muscat; Havana?
- 14 The Beach Boys; Kings of Leon; Bee Gees; Haim?





The Sleeping Forecast:



Take a voyage deep into the winter night

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08yvky8>

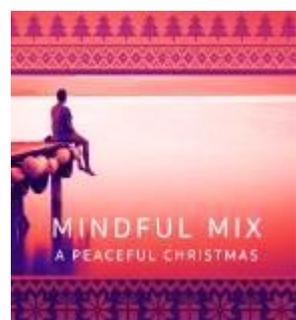
Mindful Mix



Christmas jazz to accompany your festive escape

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08xz5g2>

Mindful Mix 2



Christmas choral music to get you through the festive period

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p07tykyd>





BBC Young Chorister Of The Year

If you havent already, please watch the repeat of the BBC's Young Chorister Of The Year final, on BBC iPlayer.

It will be available untill January, It is totally uplifting and should provide for a joyfull Christmas.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000q6qn/songs-of-praise-young-chorister-of-the-year-final>



1	A	S	2	S	A	3	U	L	4	T		5	R		6	P		7	E
	I		T		N		8	U	T	O	P	I	A	N					
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23	C	O	L	O	N	E	L		C		O		E						
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Christmas Crossword 1. Answers.

1.

1 Pocahontas (1907).

2 Aran Islands.

3 Temple of Apollo, Delphi (Oracle).

4 Bizet.

5 Corgi.

6 Korea (1392–1910).

7 Goya's Portrait of the Duke of Wellington.

8 1988 (Mike Gating, John Emburey, Chris Cowdrey and Graham Gooch).

9 Future monarchs in the current line of succession.

10 Types of graphs/charts to illustrate data.

11 Royal Navy mutinies.

12 Titles of Tennessee Williams plays: A Streetcar Named Desire; The Glass Menagerie; Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

13 Capitals of countries with four-letter names: Peru; Iraq; Iran; Mali; Oman; Cuba.

14 Bands with three siblings: Wilson; Followill; Gibb; Haim.



Five good reasons to open a bottle of wine this Christmas.

Wine focuses the light.

A table set around glasses or a decanter of wine has the ability to focus, channel and magnify that light. That's one reason why glass is always chosen for wine rather than ceramics as, not only does it allow wine's colour to be appreciated, but that colour is then set glittering by sunlight, daylight or candlelight. And as we consume it makes for a celebration of light itself, the source of all life on earth.

Let's raise a glass

Wine draws drinkers together. Christmas means time shared with intimates: those woven into our lives, those in the best position to help and support us. The sharing of wine draws us together, thanks in large part to its symbolic force in the Christian Eucharist and western culture more generally.

Wine brings warmth and refreshment.

Beers usually refresh; spirits generally warm Wine is the alcoholic beverage which, can either warm or refresh and as they say, alcohol is essential to wine's role in 'making glad' the hearts of its drinkers.

Wine is a piece of the world.

Bringing out a bottle of Chianti at Christmas, brings the Tuscan hills to your table. Wine at Christmas can give a reminder of far flung places, celebrating and championing some distant but cherished part of it.

Wine is history in liquid form.

Cherish the time it took to mature, the hands that cherished it, and kept it until ready for your table.





Five of the Best



Tesco Finest Côtes du Rhône Villages 2019

£8.00

French Dry Red Wine with opulent dark fruit flavours Delicious with roast meats or cauliflower, casseroles and great on its own

Morrisons The Best Malbec 2018

£8.00

Lightly oaked intense and flavourful, with vibrant blueberry and bramble fruit. Ideal with pork.



M&S Classics Touraine Sauvignon Blanc Loire, £8.00

For a fishy first course on any of the big Christmas days classic elderflower grassiness and the racing freshness of the Sancerre Course

Lidl - Awatere Valley Sauvignon Blanc

£9.50

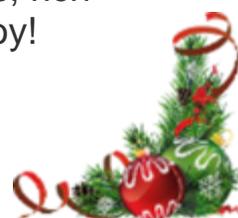
A wine full of flavours .Preserved lemons, herbs and green pepper with a vibrant freshness and a lingering lime note on the finish. Perfect with light winter salads.

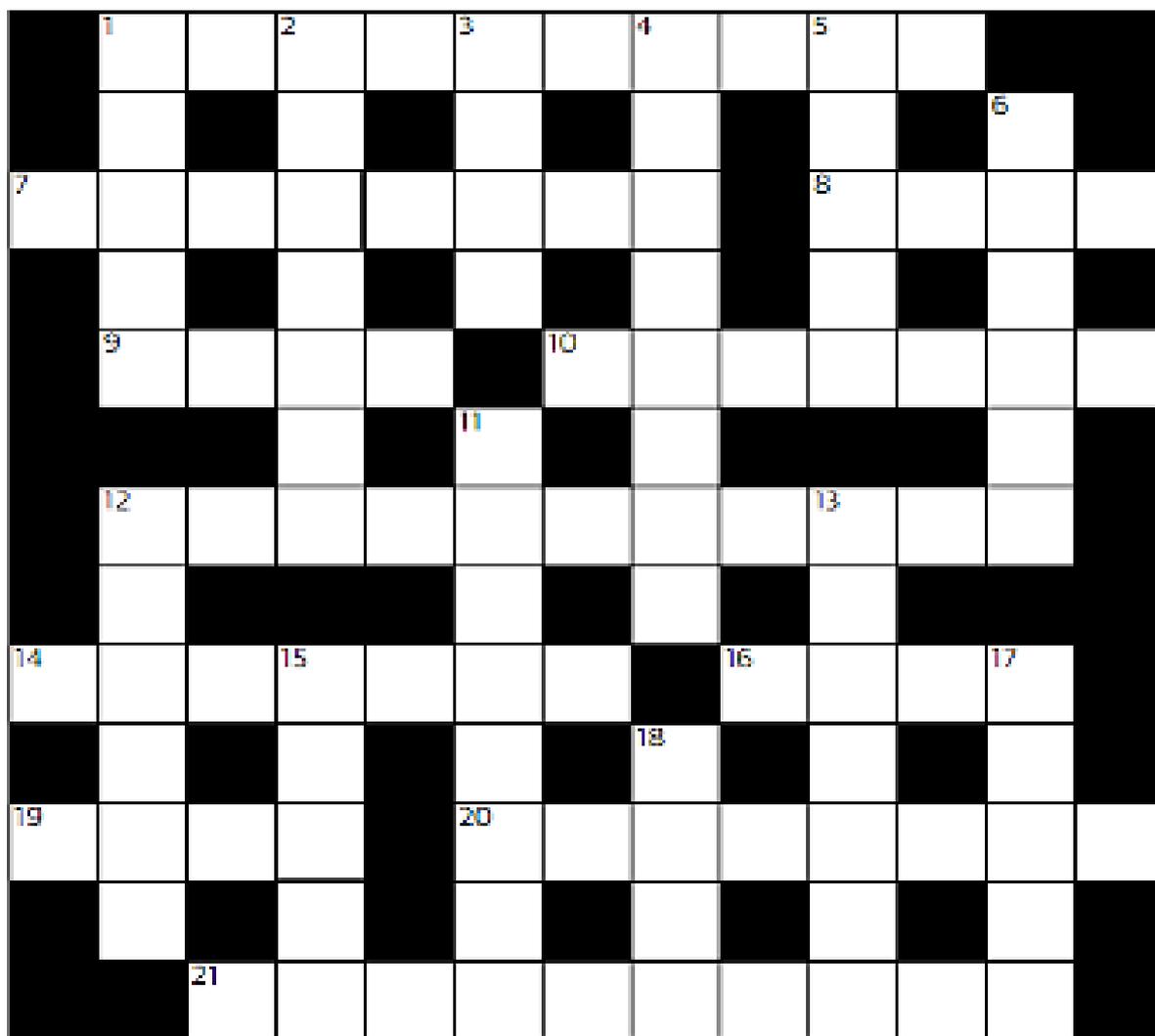


Morrison's own-brand Champagne

£18.00

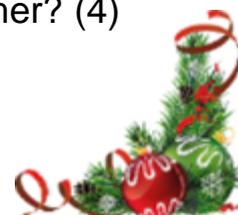
It beat all supermarket rivals in a blind taste test, Judges described the fizz as a 'golden champagne with stewed apple aromas, rich flavours and a hint of sweetness'. Enjoy!

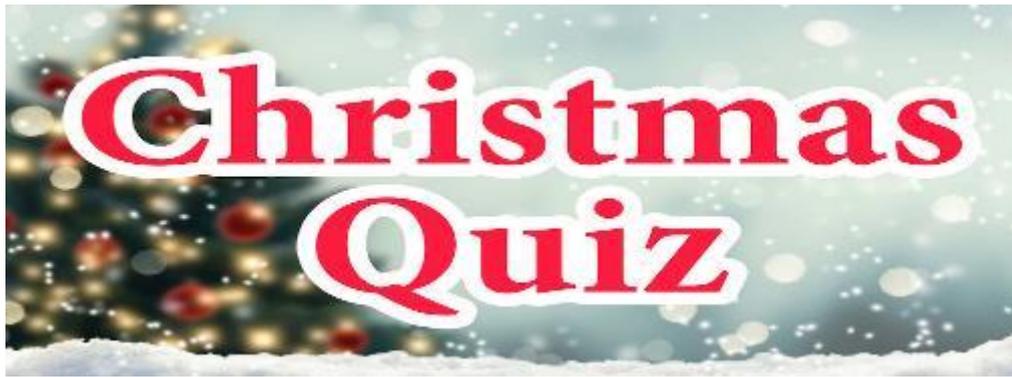




Christmas Crossword 2.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Kitchen appliance (10) | 1. River Mouth (5) |
| 7. Minor inconvenience (4,4) | 2. Strew (7) |
| 8. Notion (4) | 3. Sudden impulse (4) |
| 9. Pretentiously cultured (4) | 4. Lincolnshire seaside resort (8) |
| 10. As an alternative (7) | 5. Remove from a residence (5) |
| 12. Discreet (11) | 6. Old term for now Lebanon |
| 14. Limp (7) | 11. Giving off light (8) |
| 16. Declare solemnly (4) | 12. Surrounding band (6) |
| 19. Small pointed missile (4) | 13. Wrap right round (7) |
| 20. On the other side of the page (8) | 15. Mutilate (3,2) |
| 21. Punctuation mark (10) | 17. Use a loom (5) |
| | 18. Hardie of Starmer? (4) |



A graphic with the words "Christmas Quiz" in a large, red, outlined font. The background is a soft-focus image of Christmas lights and snowflakes.

Christmas Quiz

Christmas Quiz 2.

- 1 Who rallied the troops at Tilbury?
- 2 What school of psychology named after German for “form”?
- 3 Florence Thompson was the subject of which Dorothea Lange photograph?
- 4 What rose from £30 to £45 in April?
- 5 Which six EU members are monarchies?
- 6 What was built in Paris to house the Crown of Thorns?
- 7 Part of the space weather forecast, what is a CME?
- 8 Which Labour leader climbed 108 Munros

What links:

- 9 Dorothy L Sayers; Fay Weldon; Don DeLillo; Salman Rushdie?
- 10 Archibald Ormsby-Gore; Alan Measles; Pudsey?
- 11 Shields; America; Carolina; Korea?
- 12 Clydesdale; Suffolk; Shire; Percheron?
- 13 Concrete; Palatinate; Varsity; Cherwell?
- 14 Oklahoma; Hello, Dolly; Oliver; Twang; Moulin Rouge?
- 15 Al Oerter; Carl Lewis; Michael Phelps; Kaori Icho?





Dutch Queen Wilhelmina & princess Juliana as snow people- Holland 1913.



Us! 1950's.

A brief history of the Snowman

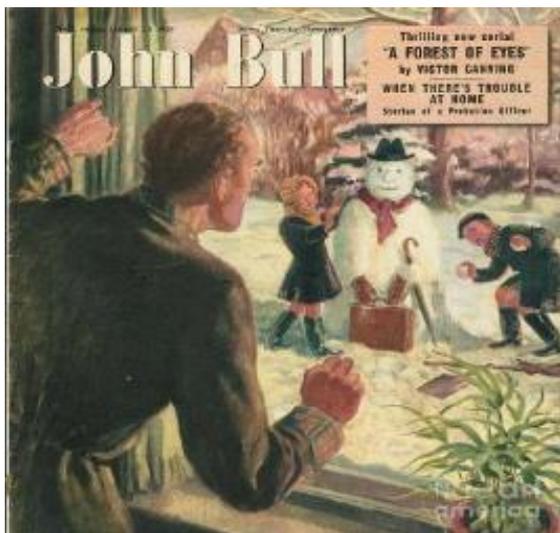
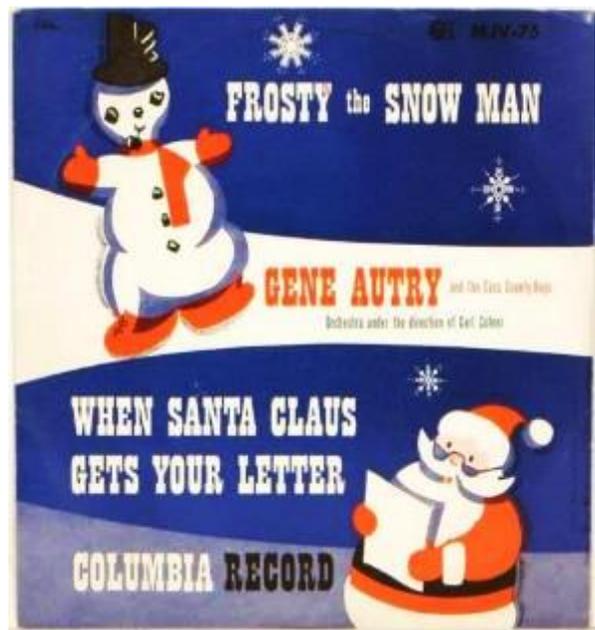
Many of us have built or to tried to build a snowman when we were children. Friends and relatives taught us how to build one, just as they learned when they were young. But It turns out that the snowman has a longer history than many people realise. The earliest reference was found in 1380 in an illuminated manuscript of the Book of Hours in The Hague. Building snowmen was a popular form of entertainment in the Middle Ages as a way for a community to get together during icy weather.



However, the fact that Snowman are short lived gives it an unmistakeable air of pathos as Hans Christian Anderson showed in *The Snowman* (1844). It is a fairy tale of unrequited love. The Snowman falls in love with, of all things, a hot stove which of course leads to the inevitable ending.

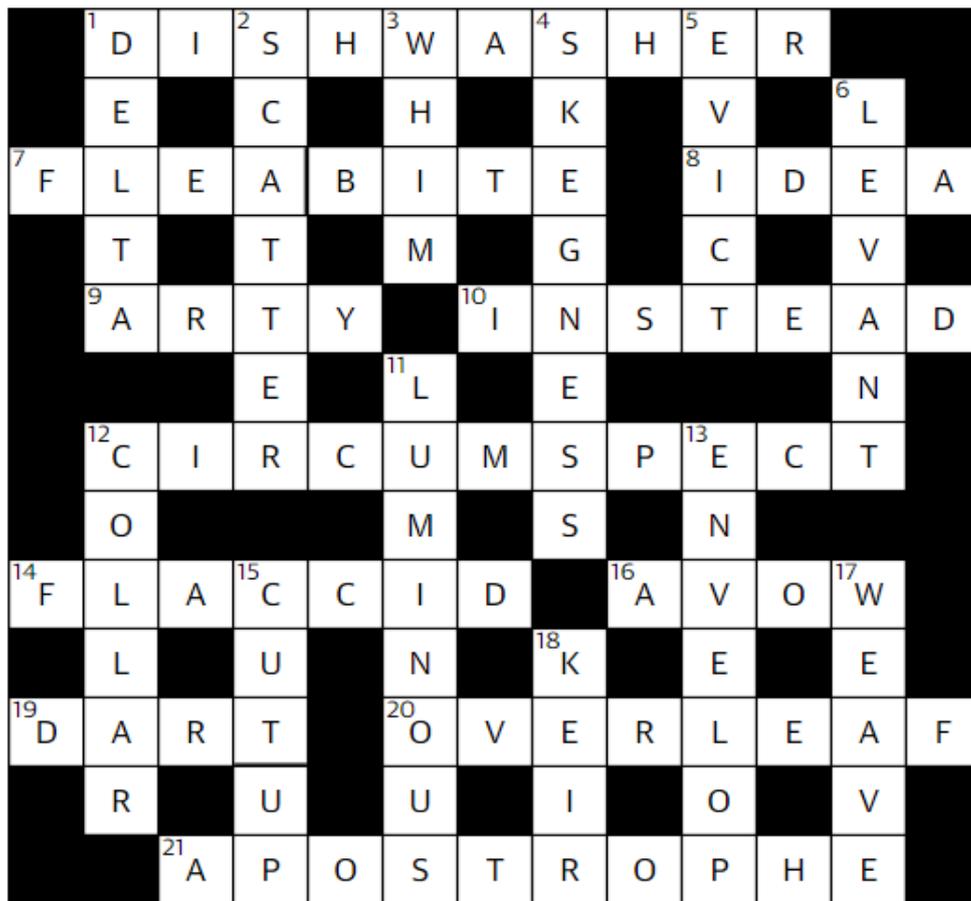
On the Continent, building snowmen continued as a popular winter pastime and it was not until Prince Albert brought it to London that the snowman's place in the tradition of Christmas holiday diversions, along with ice-skating and horse-drawn sleighs, gained high status in the early Victorian era.

Snowmen building carried on throughout the country during the war years and it was when Gene Autry recorded Frosty the Snowman, in 1950, that the snowman became an established identity. It describes Frosty as having "a corn cob pipe, a button nose, and two eyes made out of coal. It was during this time that people also gave their snowman a carrot for a nose,



The John Bull magazine was published post war until the 1960's. The 1950 edition featured a Snowman built in the garden under the title of, "When there's trouble at home." Diaries of a probationer officer" What dreadful children throwing snowballs at the window!

It was not until 1978 that attitudes changed when Raymond Briggs published "The Snowman" and its film adaptation in 1982, not only made an international star of Aled Jones with its only song "Walking in the Air" but gave the Snowman his own personality and assured that the Snowman will eternally live in the hearts of children and adults alike.



Christmas Crossword 2. Answers.

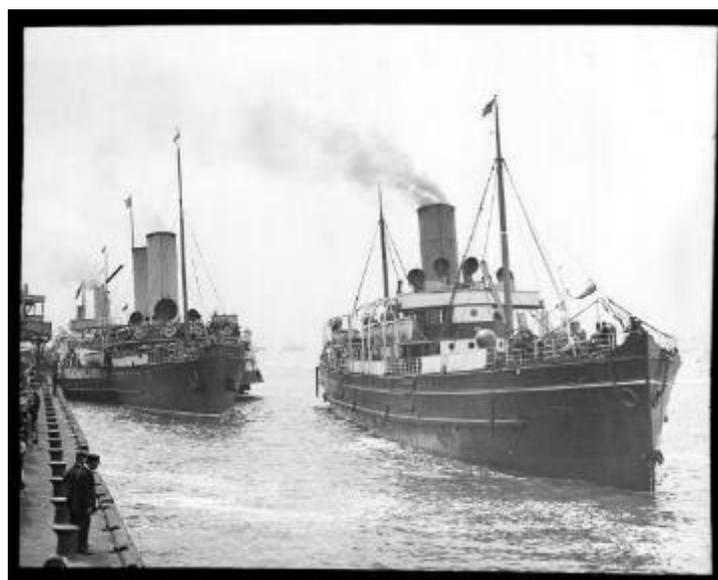
2.

- 1 Elizabeth I (1588).
- 2 Gestalt.
- 3 Migrant Mother.
- 4 Contactless payment limit.
- 5 Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden.
- 6 Sainte-Chapelle.
- 7 Coronal mass ejection (from the sun).
- 8 John Smith.
- 9 Novelists who worked as advertising copywriters.
- 10 Teddy bears: John Betjeman's; Grayson Perry's; Children in Need mascot.
- 11 Places with North and South prefixes.
- 12 Draught horse breeds.
- 13 Student newspapers: UEA; Durham; Cambridge; Oxford.
- 14 Musicals and film musicals missing exclamation marks.
- 15 Won four consecutive Olympic golds in the same event: discus; long jump; 200m medley swimming; women's 63kg wrestling.





Wallasey Historical Society



Christmas Present Ideas

The Wallasey Historical Society web site contains some stunning images, they make an ideal and unique gift for Christmas.

<https://gallery.wallaseyhistoricalsociety.co.uk/>



The Dusty Teapot



The Wallasey Blitz

More Christmas Present ideas from the Dusty Teapot.

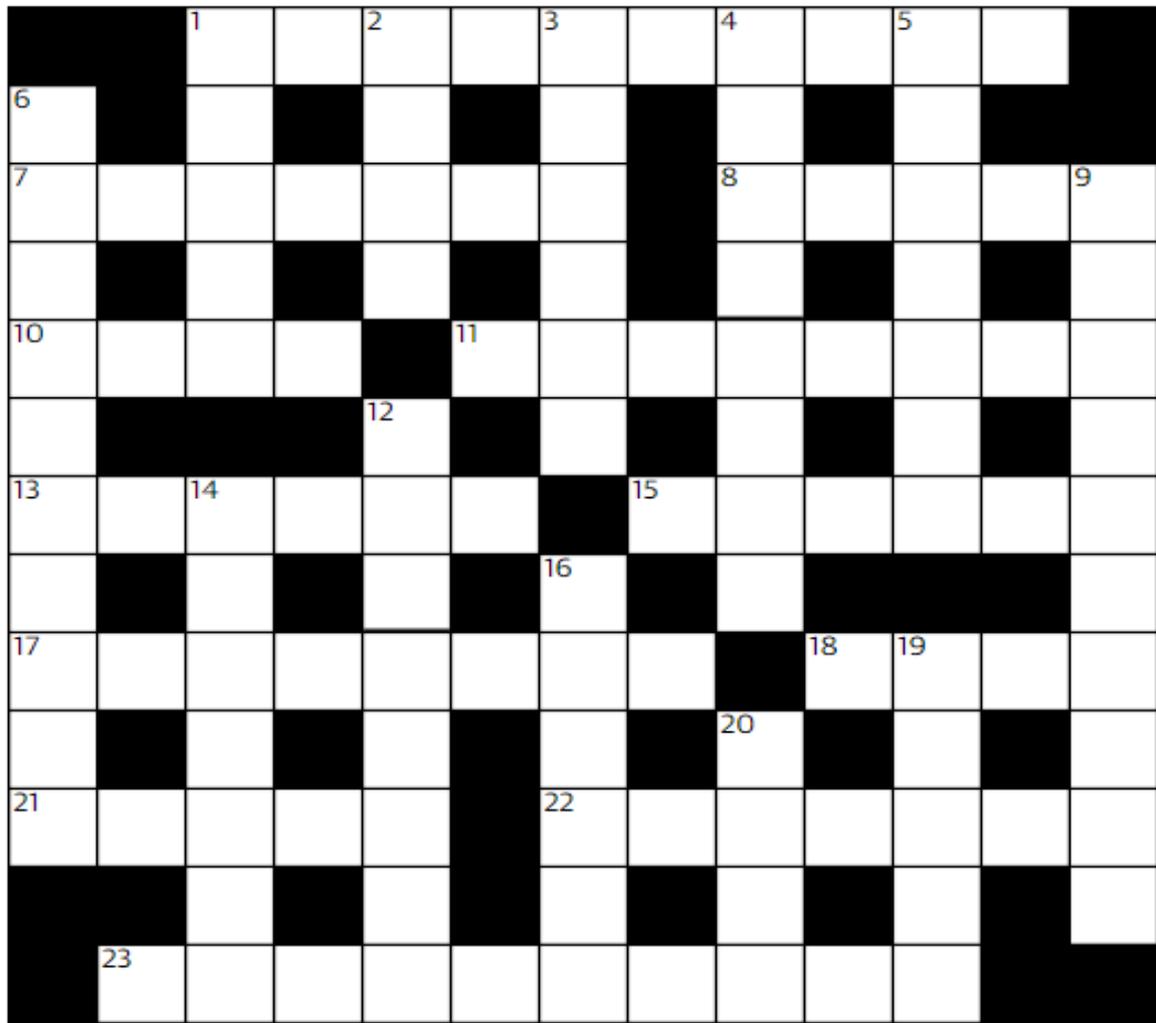
Local authors of local history books, the Dusty Teapot is based in New Brighton in the old NatWest Bank. Open 10am-4pm Mon-Sat
As a concession to Mariners, books will be delivered to the Hub for free.

Well worth a visit

<https://www.devilsnest.co.uk/shop>

1950's Christmas cake





Christmas Crossword 3.

- 1. Feeling of concern (10)
- 7. Indifferent to pain and pleasure (7)
- 8. Spiral- horned S.A Antelope (5)
- 10. Make out (4)
- 11. North West Italian region (8)
- 13. Silly (6)
- 15. Roam (6)
- 17. With unconventional life style (8)
- 18. Aggressive seabird (4)
- 21. Boob (5)
- 22. At a standstill (7)
- 23. Anyway (10)

- 1. Bend forward (5)
- 2. Good fortune (4)
- 3. Long haired sheep dog (6)
- 4. Lacking an ear for music (4,4)
- 5. Precious stone (7)
- 6. Apparently, not necessarily true (10)
- 9. Later on (10)
- 12. Coffee flavoured liqueur (3,5)
- 14. Dismount – our hens (nag) (7)
- 16. Brought up (6)
- 19. Pottery ovens (5)
- 20. Ivy League University (4)



Christmas Quiz

Christmas Quiz 3.

- 1 Grand Central Terminal, Park Avenue, New York is the world's?
- 2 Entomology is the science that studies?
- 3 One science discipline for which the Nobel Prize awarded.
- 4 Hitler's party which came into power in 1933 is known as?
- 5 Epsom (England) is the place associated with?
- 6 Name a famous Italian astronomer.
- 7 Why does sunlight help to improve a person's health?
- 8 Golf player Vijay Singh belongs to which country?
- 9 The Gulf cooperation council was originally formed by?
- 10 The first China War was fought between?
11. What decade was this Christmas party celebrated in?





Christmas at Sea

The sheets were frozen hard, and they cut the naked hand;
The decks were like a slide, where a seamen scarce could stand;
The wind was a nor'wester, blowing squally off the sea;
And cliffs and spouting breakers were the only things a-lee.

They heard the surf a-roaring before the break of day;
But 'twas only with the peep of light we saw how ill we lay.
We tumbled every hand on deck instanter, with a shout,
And we gave her the maintops'l, and stood by to go about.

All day we tacked and tacked between the South Head and the North;
All day we hauled the frozen sheets, and got no further forth;
All day as cold as charity, in bitter pain and dread,
For very life and nature we tacked from head to head.

We gave the South a wider berth, for there the tide-race roared;
But every tack we made we brought the North Head close aboard:
So's we saw the cliffs and houses, and the breakers running high,
And the coastguard in his garden, with his glass against his eye.
The frost was on the village roofs as white as ocean foam;
The good red fires were burning bright in every 'long-shore home;
The windows sparkled clear, and the chimneys volleyed out;
And I vow we sniffed the victuals as the vessel went about.





The bells upon the church were rung with a mighty jovial cheer;
For it's just that I should tell you how (of all days in the year)
This day of our adversity was blessed Christmas morn,
And the house above the coastguard's was the house where I was born.

O well I saw the pleasant room, the pleasant faces there,
My mother's silver spectacles, my father's silver hair;
And well I saw the firelight, like a flight of homely elves,
Go dancing round the china-plates that stand upon the shelves.

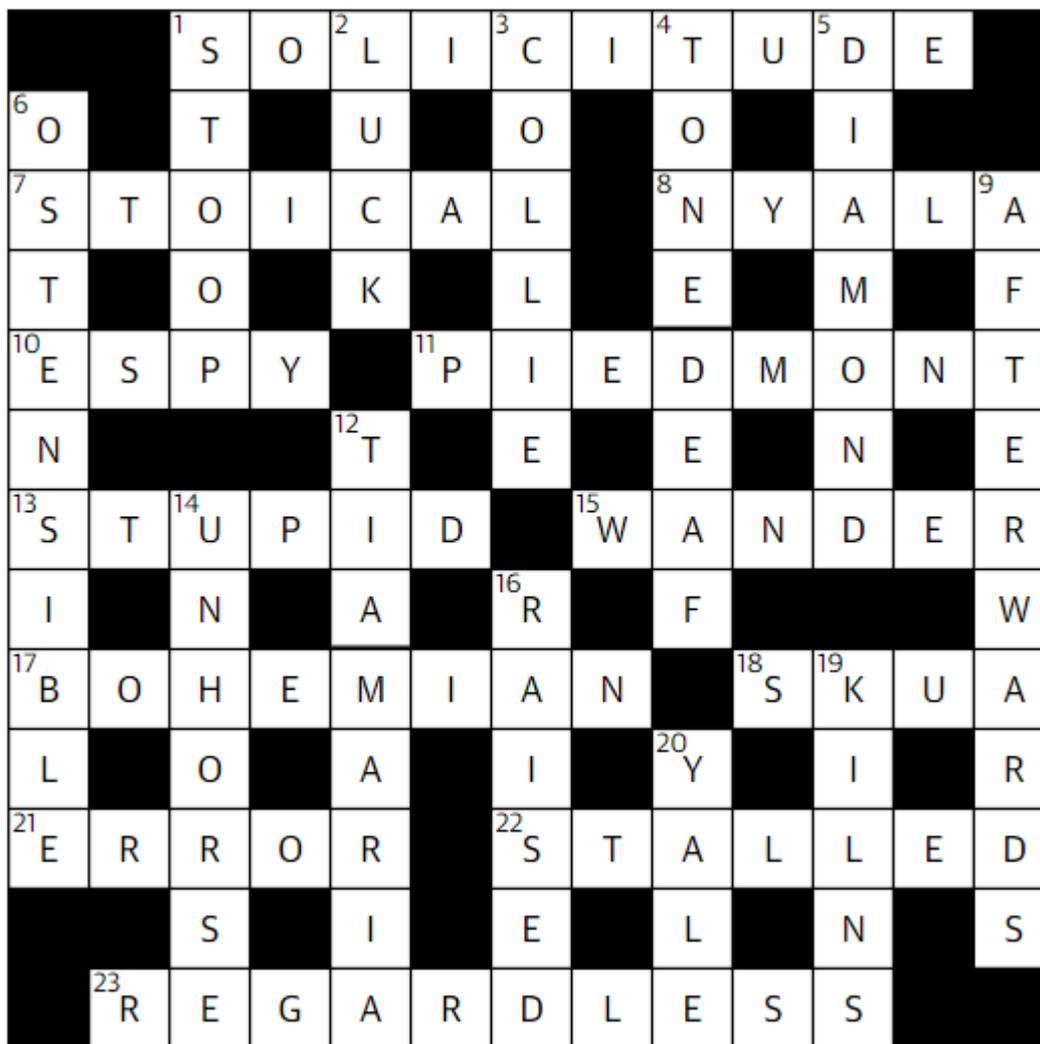
And well I knew the talk they had, the talk that was of me,
Of the shadow on the household and the son that went to sea;
And O the wicked fool I seemed, in every kind of way,
To be here and hauling frozen ropes on blessed Christmas Day.

They lit the high sea-light, and the dark began to fall.
"All hands to loose topgallant sails," I heard the captain call.
"By the Lord, she'll never stand it," our first mate Jackson, cried.
..."It's the one way or the other, Mr. Jackson," he replied.

She staggered to her bearings, but the sails were new and good,
And the ship smelt up to windward just as though she understood.
As the winter's day was ending, in the entry of the night,
We cleared the weary headland, and passed below the light.

And they heaved a mighty breath, every soul on board but me,
As they saw her nose again pointing handsome out to sea;
But all that I could think of, in the darkness and the cold,
Was just that I was leaving home and my folks were growing old.





Christmas Crossword 3. Answers.



3.

Answers

- 1 ... largest railway station
- 2 ... Insects
- 3 ... physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine.
- 4 ... Nazi Party
- 5 ... Epsom
- 6 ... Galileo
- 7 ... Ultraviolet rays convert skin oil into Vitamin D
- 8 ... Fiji
- 9 ... Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and U.A.E
- 10 ... China and Britain – The first Opium War.
11. ... 1960's





The 17th Century Cookbook

The Closet Opened, is an English cookery book first printed in 1669, by Sir Kenelme Digby and it certainly has some unusual instructions for the cook. For example: back then, a cook had to be creative in determining how long an egg should sit in boiling water before it was ready to serve. Sir Digby suggested that a perfectly boiled egg would result each and every time if it was cooked “while your pulse beats 200 strokes!” He was also the first to discuss the perennial British argument over the best way to make a cup of tea. Warning that “the water is to remain upon it no longer than whiles you can say the ‘Miserere Psalm very leisurely. For those of you who need reminding its psalm 51 and takes about 15 seconds. Poaching lampreys takes a bit longer – the time it takes to say an Ave Maria (20 seconds),

When making gruel, the cook was exhorted to “make it rise in great ebullition, in great galloping waves”. Makes gruel (a watery porridge consisting of oatmeal, treacle, water and salt), sounds like the most exciting of dishes one could possibly make in the kitchen.

The book also contains at least 50 recipes for making metheglin, a type of mead made with herbs and spices, as well as ones for stepony, a raisin wine; bragot, an ale flavoured with honey and spices; and a somewhat less tempting tea made with eggs!

Later the Croft family of Stillington Hall in Yorkshire, included a family recipe for making “Mrs Haslers receipt for a thick cream cheese”, which involved taking the mornings milk of 7 cows and the nights cream of 7 cows!

I am sure if your passing a door and you hear ‘Happy Birthday To You’, followed by the ‘Miserere Psalm, there’s a cuppa brewing!





Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph.

Santa originally had 8 reindeer and it was not until 1939 that Rudolph came into the scene to make 9. Olive, 'The Other Reindeer', was introduced from a misunderstanding of the lyrics of 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'. Instead of "All of the other reindeer", some people have thought it to be "Olive, the other reindeer" and so this mistake has generated a new reindeer character.

- Dasher - Loves to go fast skill at sewing.
- Dancer - Completely extrovert loves all kinds of dance.
- Prancer - A bit vain, though affectionate loves prancing.
- Vixen - Slightly tricky has magical abilities.
- Comet - Handsome easy-going, good with children.
- Cupid - Affectionate brings people together.
- Donner - Loud enjoys singing.
- Blitzen - Fast as a bolt! Can electrify the others.
- Rudolph - A little down on himself his nose glows.
- Olive - Admits when she's wrong, good at hide and seek.

Santa's reindeer have been depicted as males throughout the media but science proves that these depictions are wrong! Santa's reindeer are female as male reindeer lose their antlers in early December when the mating season has ended, whilst female reindeer keep theirs throughout winter. As Santa's reindeer are depicted with antlers, this can only lead to the conclusion that it is females that power the sleigh through the sky on Christmas Eve each year... As usual, the ladies do all the work!
Best wishes, Comet.





Personalised Photo Memory Album.

Stuck for an unusual idea for a Christmas present?

Consider making a personalised photo album or notebook containing your favourite phone snapshots which you can print out at a supermarket such as Asda, or order online

Buy a small album or make one yourself in a note book. Choose an individual, a theme, a year, a celebration, a pet or just your favourite photos. Make sure they the images are well lit and are in focus. Then after gluing them in add a caption with dates. Then add names, locations and your recollections.

Remember this album is not about looking professionally made, the most important thing is the information it contains relating to the photograph. Which, in itself, will make it a treasure forever.



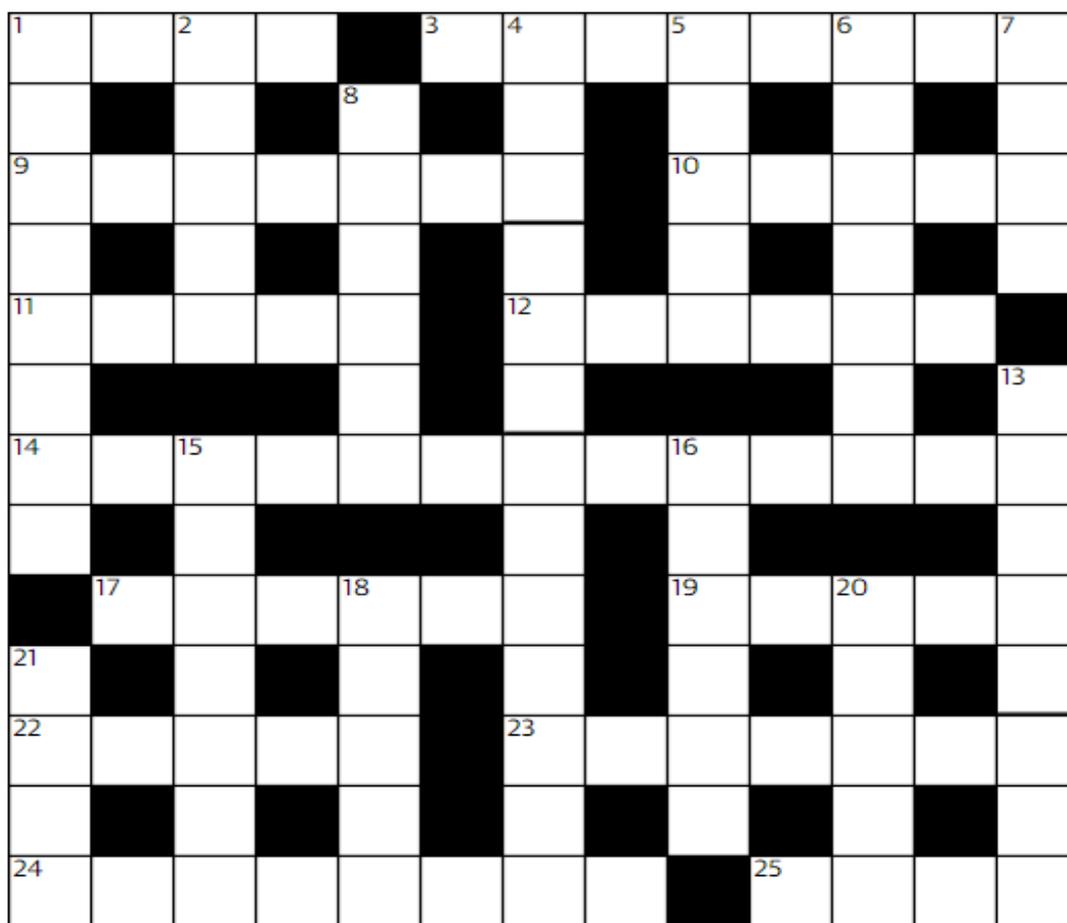
Santa on the Oriana



Santa on the Queen Mary



The Empress of England



Christmas Crossword 4.

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | HEADGEAR? (4) | 1 | Start (8) |
| 3 | Trounced (8) | 2 | Flower part (5) |
| 9 | Agricultural tool shaped like a pickaxe (7) | 4 | Act in a way likely to cause a problem (3,3,7) |
| 10 | Small hammer (under which things may be sold) (5) | 5 | Business magnate (5) |
| 11 | Swiss mathematician, d. 1783 (5) | 6 | Malicious retaliation (7) |
| 12 | Accessible by computer (6) | 7 | Uninteresting (4) |
| 14 | Sweets collectively (13) | 8 | Unrefined (6) |
| 17 | 1960 Hitchcock film (6) | 13 | Becoming extinct (5,3) |
| 19 | Mode of transport (5) | 15 | Beginning to develop (7) |
| 22 | Spotted scavenger (5) | 16 | Clamour (6) |
| 23 | Tortilla – I or Burt (anag) (7) | 18 | Noise of metal on metal (5) |
| 24 | Weary (8) | 20 | Still breathing (5) |
| 25 | Garden of England (4) | 21 | Raymond Blanc, for example (4) |



THE TREASURE OF THE MERCHANT ROYAL



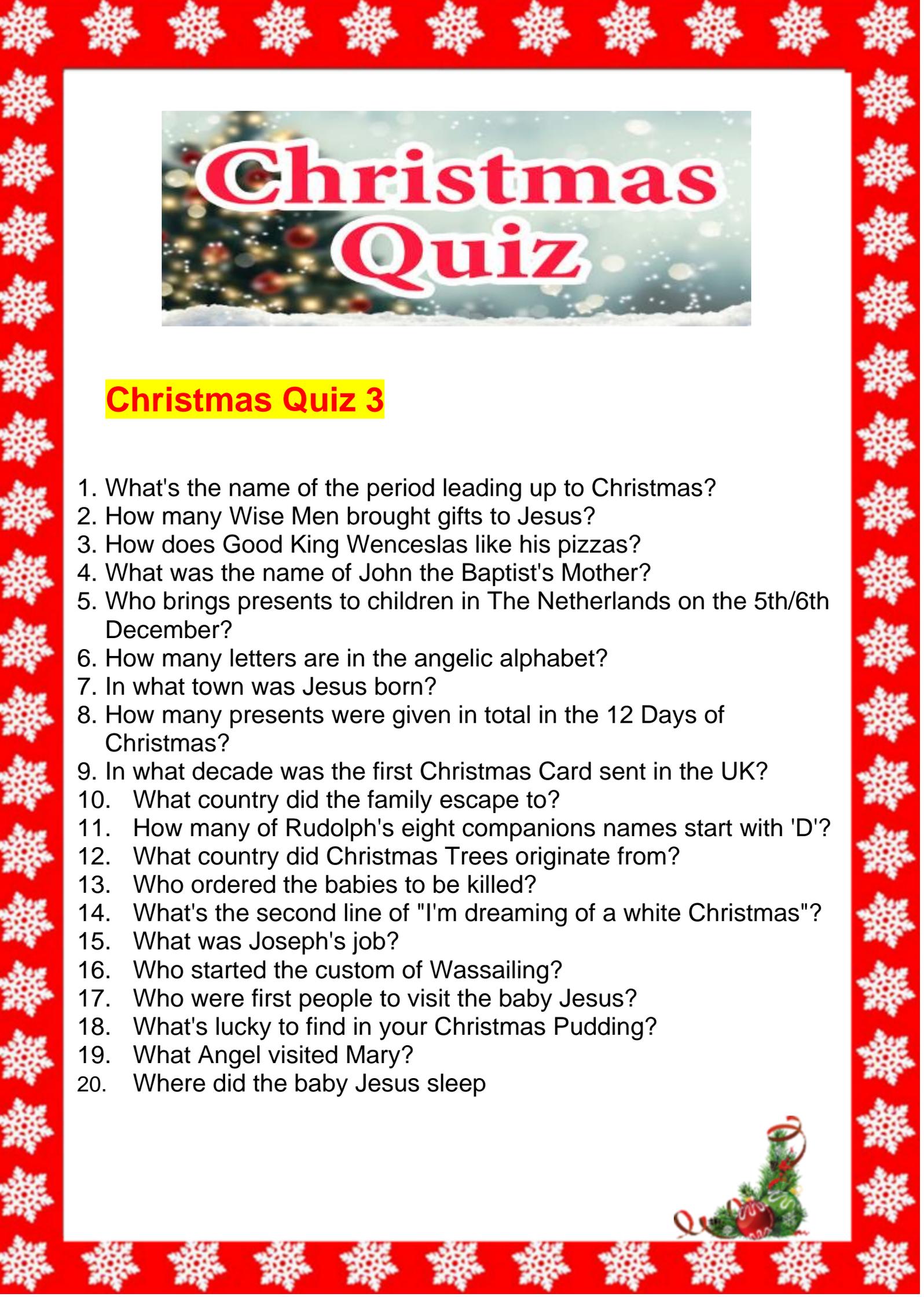
The remains of the Merchant Royal are known as one of the richest shipwrecks ever. She set sail from the New World in 1641 laden with 100,000 pounds of gold, 400 Mexican silver bars, and thousands of precious gems, a haul thought to be worth \$1.3 billion today. The loss of the treasure made headlines, with its value estimated to be equivalent to one-third of the government's revenue from taxes in 1641

The 700-ton Merchant Royal was built in Deptford, London, in 1627 she was caught in a storm and was thought to have gone down somewhere off the coast off Land's End in Cornwall. She was owned by English merchants when she set sail from the Spanish colonies of San Domingo, in the West Indies. In January 1637, she arrived successfully in Cadiz, southern Spain, where she rested until 1640. On her voyage to England, she began to leak, and rescuers were unable reach her in time. Eighteen men drowned, and 40 crew had to be rescued by the Dover Merchant.

Her wreck became known as the “el Dorado of the seas”, due to the enormous value of her cargo, which to this day remains undiscovered. In 2019 fishermen snagged what is thought to be the anchor from the Merchant Royal. It is an admiralty patterned long shank anchor, whose design matches one that the Merchant Royal would have used in the 17th century as there is no stock (a marking etched into an anchor), because they weren't used till a century later. The anchor was found in about 300ft (91mt)of water.

To date, its dangerous conditions and extreme depths at which she is thought to lie have meant her treasure has remained unclaimed, so perhaps it's time to get your charts out!





Christmas Quiz

Christmas Quiz 3

1. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
5. Who brings presents to children in The Netherlands on the 5th/6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. In what town was Jesus born?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK?
10. What country did the family escape to?
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companions names start with 'D'?
12. What country did Christmas Trees originate from?
13. Who ordered the babies to be killed?
14. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?
15. What was Joseph's job?
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
17. Who were first people to visit the baby Jesus?
18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas Pudding?
19. What Angel visited Mary?
20. Where did the baby Jesus sleep



¹ C	A	² P	S		³ H	⁴ A	M	⁵ M	E	⁶ R	E	⁷ D
O		E		⁸ C		S		O		E		U
⁹ M	A	T	T	O	C	K		¹⁰ G	A	V	E	L
M		A		A		F		U		E		L
¹¹ E	U	L	E	R		¹² O	N	L	I	N	E	
N				S		R				G		¹³ D
¹⁴ C	O	¹⁵ N	F	E	C	T	I	¹⁶ O	N	E	R	Y
E		A				R		U				I
	¹⁷ P	S	Y	¹⁸ C	H	O		¹⁹ T	R	²⁰ A	I	N
²¹ C		C		L		U		C		L		G
²² H	Y	E	N	A		²³ B	U	R	R	I	T	O
E		N		N		L		Y		V		U
²⁴ F	A	T	I	G	U	E	D		²⁵ K	E	N	T



4.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Advent | 11.3 - Dasher, Dancer and Donner |
| 2. More than one, the Bible | 12. Latvia, part of Germany then! |
| 3. Deep pan, crisp and even! | 13. King Herod |
| 4. Elizabeth | 14. Just like the ones I used to know |
| 5. St. Nicholas | 15. Carpenter |
| 6. 25; 'no el'!!! | 16. Anglo Saxons - 'good health' |
| 7. Bethlehem | 17. Shepherds |
| 8. 364 | 18. A six pence |
| 9. 1840s - 843 -Sir Henry Cole | 19. Gabriel |
| 10. Egypt | 20. In a manger |



Christmas – Lonely ?

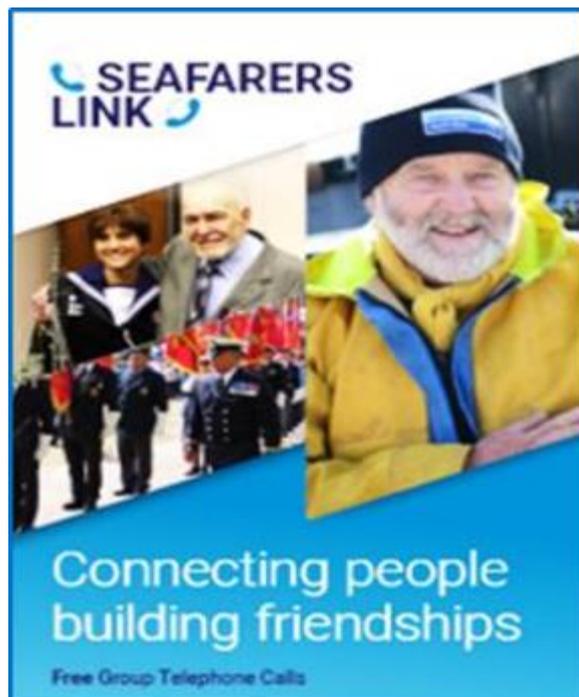
Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat. But you may still like to talk to someone over Christmas

Seafarers Link offers a way for Seafarers to make new acquaintances by getting together with others from the Merchant Navy.

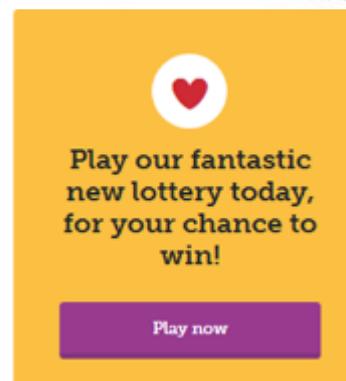
Try a call, its free of charge.

Phone

020 7224 2072



NEW NEW ... NEW
Give a little Christmas Cheer
£1.00 a ticket – draw every Friday



Seafarers UK is partnered with Sterling Lotteries as a member of The Unity Lottery. This weekly lottery helps raise vital funds for seafarers in need and their families while giving you the chance to win £25,000, plus many other fantastic cash prizes, each week.

<https://www.unitylottery.co.uk/causes/seafarers-uk/>





Homeward Bound

**She's riding tonight
with a good light draft.
Lines are stowed
forward and aft.**

**The holds are empty,
the ballast in.
Booms secured
and fast again.**

**She's swept and washed
from stem to stern,
and we're sailing for home
in the morning –
Ira Fredricksen**

*Merry
Christmas*

**The Office and Hub Reception
will be closed on:**

Thursday 24th December

Friday 25th December

Monday 26th December

Friday 1st January 2021

