

Number 56: 2020 The Covid Christmas Edition!



Word from the Chair

Greetings to you all.

I hope everyone is keeping well and managing to keep busy.

It was nice to see so many of you at the Zoom AGM and looking so well.

I think we just about managed to fumble our way through the meeting, although there were a few hiccups with people not being able to get into Zoom. I'm afraid that quite a few of us are novices at this

sort of thing including myself. Hopefully by next year we maybe back to "normal".

I think Christmas will be a little different this year for everyone, with no parties, no meals out with our friends and we will be lucky if we can see our families. Maybe we should have a good old knees up when everything has cleared up.

I wonder if anyone is interested in joining us on the committee as we now have some vacancies and it would be nice to have some new faces to bring new ideas. If you don't want to be a committee member but feel that you can help in any way please give me a ring. (652766) Trevor Barnett and Les Holmes have both stepped down and they will be missed. Trevor has been the treasurer since the beginning of AWAKE and he now feels it is time to put his feet up. He has passed it over to Denise Roberts who is doing a good job.

If any of you who are living alone and would like one of our members to give you a weekly phone call, please let us know as we are ready and waiting to hear from you.

I think I have said enough now so I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

Cheers, take care and stay safe.

Sue.



2020 AGM

The AGM originally scheduled for 17th June 2020 finally took place via the Zoom internet platform on Wednesday 18th November, 40 members participated in the meeting.

1. The previous year's AGM minutes were accepted.
2. Chair, Sue McPhee presented her annual report.
3. Treasurer, Denise Roberts presented her annual financial report and the finances for 2019/20 were unanimously accepted.
4. Lambert Clerical was unanimously reappointed as Examiner of the Accounts for 2021.
5. The change to the Object Clause in the AWAKE Constitution was unanimously accepted.
- 6a & 6b All current Committee Officers & members were unanimously re-elected (Note: Trevor Barnett and Les Holmes have stepped down from the Committee currently leaving three vacancies.
7. No AOB issues were raised
8. Next AGM – 16th June 2021



A selection of the Zoom AGM participants

Latest News/Events

Two Great opportunities to get together

1. Christmas Singalong – The Three Ukulele

Groups invite you all to join them at **2pm on Wednesday 23rd December** for a ZOOM Christmas Singalong

Please wear your Christmas jumpers & hats!

**Zoom Details- Meeting ID 89161829329,
Passcode 308691**

2. Speaker booked for January 2021

January 2021 Monthly Meeting. Our last monthly meeting, when we were all able to meet was February. Nine months ago, and it certainly feels like it. The good news is, for all you 'Zoomers' is that one of our speakers is able to give his talk via zoom. **This will be on 20th January next year**, which would have been our normal meeting time. (I can't see us being back to normal by then, can you?) **The meeting is entitled, Butlins: The Rise and Fall of a Holiday Empire by Stephen Wells.** Stephen began as a Butlin's redcoat and was responsible for booking some of the biggest names in show business. This will be a fully illustrated talk with lots of great stories about the stars, including Cliff Richard, Bob Monkhouse, Ringo Starr, Tommy Cooper and lots more. So, to cheer yourself up in gloomy January join us for this zoom talk. Make yourself a cup of tea and settle back to enjoy what should be an entertaining afternoon. **You can log on from 1.45 for a prompt start at 2 o'clock. The meeting ID is 827 8291 1960 and the passcode is 759411.**
Joan Greenley

**Calling out to all members
Could YOU volunteer to help
Spread the load of running
AWAKE U3A**



AWAKE NEEDS YOU

As a result of the appeal for help in our last Newsletter both Michael Ebeling & Sue Dyson have volunteered their assistance.

We are still in need of any member willing to join the Committee or help in a variety of other capacities

Perhaps you can – *work on a computer, welcome new members, organise paperwork, or have experience with statistics, make a mean cup of tea, be fit enough to move chairs and tables, organise a group of people, teach someone a skill you have, give your opinion or deliver the newsletter.* All of these things are essential to running U3A and we need you.

(please contact Sue McPhee to discuss possibilities)

Information for Restarting Groups

Just a reminder of the current Interest Group procedure for restarting groups, as time passes this system may change and will be communicated when information is available:

Prior to Groups restarting, Risk Assessments must be completed, this comes in three parts:

1. A written Risk Assessment conducted by the Venue for the general use of the venue/room.

2. A written Risk Assessment conducted by the Group Leader for their activity being held in that venue/room

3. Your responsibility as a member of that group

First you should look at your own health – are you displaying any symptoms. Secondly have you been in any contact with anyone else who is displaying symptoms or has been diagnosed as having Covid-19. Then taking into consideration all of what has been put in place for your safety – Do you feel safe to take part? When all of this has been thought about you make the decision to attend, if for any reason you do not feel it is the right time you will be more than welcome to attend when you are ready *All of these things are in place for the safe return of all group members to their activity groups so please assist your group leader in any of the requests they may make.*

Interest Group News

As you know there are no groups meeting physically at the moment, the three Ukulele groups are currently meeting on zoom as is the Wine Group and I have started a flex and stretch on zoom every Thursday morning, 10am start, we exercise for about 30-40 minutes, this group is open to any of our AWAKE members. See Page 7 for information on Zoom Coffee & Chat. I know we can chat on the phone but it is nice to see our friends. I have got a few names to join the singing for fun so I will look to starting it after Christmas. If anyone has any other ideas for groups please let me know.

The entrance code for zoom for any of my meetings is 561 160 2647 Password 1RiRhp (652766)

Sue McPhee

Please note, information on all of our Interest groups can be found on our website (just put Awake U3A into google, other search engines are available!)

Book Club

Hello Everybody. Nothing ever seems to go as planned this year does it!! In the last Newsletter I was thinking we would be able to meet-up in person in January but that might now have to be put on hold. Whatever happens I'm going to try and arrange Zoom meetings for each of the groups in January just so we can

all see each other again. I'll let you know details etc. later. If possible could you let me know if you can get Zoom and what your e-mail is. In the meantime have a great Christmas and a much happier and healthier New Year. Take care everybody. Chris

Correspondence received from Roger Coates regarding CARAVAN

Given the Chinese whispers going around, Caravan members are owed an explanation. You will have read about the new rules from U3A H.Q on travel events. They do not suit Caravan which was formed around independent travel and my experiences and knowledge as a member. The Committee of AWAKE accepted these new rules with no attempt to discuss with H.Q the basis of our long established and popular independent travel group "Caravan". There will be a big cost increase and less convenient hotels.

Group leaders were asked to write a small piece for the printed newsletter. I learned that the Committee assumed Caravan had closed down. Nobody had asked me. Sue McPhee (Chairman) was not sure where that idea had come from. I wrote the requested piece. The committee unanimously decided to censor the whole thing from our newsletter. What you read was written by the editor.

Where next? Caravan is alive for now. I am doing work on the best way forward after travel restrictions are lifted.

I will honour my promise to lead a trip to Leamington. This will be under old rules at old prices and be direct with me. I will contact you one day. The canal trip is full and paid for but under Covid control. We are not a family bubble.

R.J. Coates

Committee Response

Our prime concern as a Committee & as Trustees for all of our Interest Groups is to ensure the protection of all members with respect to their safety, wellbeing and finances.

We made contact with u3a H.Q. regarding the organisation of travel and they reiterated the statement made in their Financial Matters document under 7.4 Holidays which states "The only safe way to organise them is through a Travel Agency/Tour

Company, so that you are fully covered by their liability insurance" we believe this to be the best method to protect any money paid by members for trips etc. Roger has been given a copy of the AWAKE u3a travel procedure and he has agreed to abide by it, if Roger organises future CARAVAN events within the aforementioned guidelines then we have no issues.

Please note: As inferred if Roger uses his 'old' method of organising trips for the Leamington visit then this will NOT be deemed an AWAKE trip.

Roger has also made a number of adverse comments regarding the way the Committee runs AWAKE and with the Committee make up.

In the last newsletter (& repeated in this edition) a plea was made for members to volunteer to come forward to either join or assist the Committee in a number of capacities, we have had two responses to date and are grateful for their offer.

We are keen to know if other members share Rogers concern with the way the Committee operates therefore:

If you have ANY issues with the way we run our u3a PLEASE let us know or equally if you are happy with the job we are doing again please let us know.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR FEEDBACK.

Please contact Sue McPhee with your views. (652766 or suemcphee@outlook.com)

Chess Club???


Denise & I recently watched the Queens Gambit on Netflix, a great drama revolving around Chess, as a result we have started to play and wondered if this could become a new Interest Group when Covid restrictions allow.

Do we have any budding Grandmasters out there? Or anyone interesting in joining, please let me know and if we have enough interest we will set it up. (Steve Roberts 659816)

Coffee Club

I'd like to wish you a Happy Christmas and hope you are all well and keeping safe.

Under the present circumstances I am not planning to start our regular coffee and chat mornings at Tea & Bisque-It until further notice. If you fancy a chat, please do not hesitate to ring me and let's hope 2021 will be a better year for us all!

Regards, Liz 572563 

Coffee and Chat (Zoom version) – Sue McPhee

There is no need to have coffee on your own why not join us on Tuesday mornings for a coffee and chat. We have just started this group on Zoom, it was so nice to see people. There are no topics the chat just seems to flow, it is only for 40mins from 10-30am. Bring your own coffee.

To be able to join us the code is; 561 160 2647 Password 1RiRhp

Craft Group

I hope that you are all well and that your crafting is keeping you occupied.

Lock down has given us an opportunity to sort out our craft supplies and catch up on any unfinished items. I know that I have far too much stashed away and I am missing the donations table to pass on many threads and fabrics.

If anyone is running out of anything please contact me and maybe I can help or just have a chat about work in progress.

I am sorry that we will not be able to have our usual Christmas lunch this year.

We will look forward to our release date and in the meantime keep busy and safe.

Best Wishes to Everyone

Brenda Stapleton

Discussion Group

I Hope you are all keeping well and hope to see you all in 2021 when hopefully we can resume the cut & thrust of discussion!

Renee Bell

Family History

I hope you are all keeping well. Just wanted to wish you all a Happy Christmas, it will be a strange one this year for many of us but we will find a way of coping I'm sure.

If you need any help or advice regards your research you've only got to drop me an e mail or phone me and I'll be happy to help. Keep safe all of you, hope to see you next year.

Chris Gibbs

French Conversation Group

We managed to meet in the Alfred Kersh Room at the library

from September until we went into Tier 2, and it was really good to have face to face contact again even if it was only for a few weeks. Since lockdown we have had to revert to splitting into two groups and meeting on WhatsApp. However, this has been very successful, and we have been meeting weekly instead of fortnightly in the good old days. We plan to use Zoom for the last meeting before Christmas so that we can all be together.

Joyeux Noël à tous!

Michael Ebeling



Local History Group

Despite not having been able to meet since last March, a growing number of articles on aspects of the local history of our area can now be accessed on the AWAKE u3a website by copying the following link <https://u3asites.org.uk/awake/page/22001> into your browser. Since the last Newsletter in October, a further chapter (Part 6) in the story of South Ella has been added. This traces the extraordinary life of Major William Newland Hillas, who lived at South Ella Hall during the 1920s. The next and penultimate chapter is now in preparation and is imminent! Following that, look out for a fascinating story about an unlikely connection between Kirk Ella and a small village in Devon. A big thank you to all those who have helped in the preparation of these stories.

As there is still uncertainty about the time when we shall be able to meet again, a formal programme of talks for 2021 is not yet available. However, as soon as we get the green light to restart, a programme will quickly materialise. All last year's speakers are lined up and ready to go! Until then, please feel free to contact me at any time with any queries or comments about the local history of our area. I would love to hear from you. You can reach me at francisvdavies@live.co.uk or on 01482 650449. Lastly, but not leastly, I would like to wish all members a very Happy Christmas!

Francis

Pudding Club

Christmas Biscuits. You've finished your Christmas shopping, the presents are wrapped and the tree is glittering away in the

corner. Time to relax, and what better way than to sit down with some home-made biscuits (soft and fudgy, cookie like) , the tipples of your choice and your favourite Christmas film? These are very easy to make and perfect for baking with the grandchildren.

Chocolate Fudge Crinkle Biscuits

60g cocoa powder

200g caster sugar

60ml vegetable oil

2 large eggs

180g plain flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

70g icing sugar

1 Mix the cocoa, sugar and oil together. Add the eggs one at a time and whisk until fully combined.

2 Stir the flour, baking powder and a pinch of salt in a separate bowl, then add the cocoa mixture until a soft dough forms. Chill for an hour.

3 Heat the oven to 190c/170fan/gas5.

4 Form a heaped teaspoon of the dough into a ball and roll it in the icing sugar to coat. You should get 35-40 small ones or 20 bigger ones. Evenly space onto a baking tray lined with parchment.

5 Bake for 10-15 minutes depending on the size. They will firm up as they cool and will have a soft middle.



Quizzing Group????

Hi Everybody. I really must apologise for not getting Quizzes on the website these last few weeks. I'm hoping to get one on for Christmas. As I mentioned in the last Newsletter there are some really good quizzes on the National U3A website so if you want to exercise your brains and you haven't already had a look at them go on line and have a go. Hopefully once we've all had our jabs we can get back into routine and all meet up again. In the meantime enjoy Christmas, however you spend it and hope 2021 is healthier for us all. Take care and keep safe.

Chris Watson



Christmas Quiz (David Newman)



1. Which actress and singer who charted with 'Santa Baby' died on Christmas Day 2008?
2. Who wrote the songs for the film 'White Christmas'?
3. Before the tradition of hanging stockings up at Christmas, what did Dutch children hang by the fireside?
4. Christmas Island is a territory of which country?
5. Singing cowboy Gene Autry had three US novelty Christmas hits between 1947 and 1950 which we all know today. What were they?
6. "Nadolig Llawen" means Merry Christmas in which European language?
7. When did Queen Elizabeth II deliver her first televised Christmas message to the nation?
8. How long does it take a Scots Pine Christmas tree to reach a typical retail height of 6 to 7 feet?
9. Which British spacecraft was lost on Mars at Christmas 2003?
10. Which popular Christmas song was first performed by Judy Garland in the 1944 film 'Meet me in St Louis'?

Answers on Page 17

Stately Homes Group

Hope you're all managing to cope with all the lockdowns and are keeping safe and well. It was very disappointing not to be able to go on our Summer Trip in July but our deposits are being kept safely by Acklams until we decide what is happening in relation

to next year's trip. My suggestion at the moment is that we carry out the same visits etc that we originally planned for this year. The only difference is that we will have to go in June (possibly the first week) instead of the first week of July as the rescheduling of one of my missed holidays is now early July. I'm sure some of you have had to also rebook holidays so let me know if the change of our trip to June next year would cause any difficulties for you. There have been some brilliant 'visual tours' of Stately Homes and Collections on-line and places are slowly being reopened for visits. At the present time it seems unlikely we will all be able to meet up together until well in the New Year because of the size of the group but once anything seems possible I'll be in touch with you all. Could you all let me know if you still would want to go on the Holiday Trip in 2021 (as above) when with a bit of luck we'll all be jabbed -up and raring to go. In the meantime hope you all have a great Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Take care and keep safe.

Chris

Ukulele Groups

The Main Street Ukes

The Beginners Group are beginners no more and are now a group in their own right from now on to be known as **THE MAIN STREET UKES** and now led by Steve Clarkson & Dave Fisher, they are still meeting on a fortnightly basis on Zoom and the Group continue to enjoy the opportunity to regularly play together and socialise.

Steve Clarkson & Dave Fisher

Sunshine Strummers

What is the best present anyone could receive for Christmas? A ukulele of course!! That would certainly be the recommendation from members of the Sunshine Strummers Ukulele band, all of whom have gained so much pleasure from this amazing instrument.

Despite all the challenges we have faced this year, the group has met every Monday since March. Indeed, by Christmas members will have strummed and sung enthusiastically in 36 sessions on the Zoom platform.

Over 150 new songs have been added to our repertoire covering many different genres including Country and Western, Blues, Pop, Reggae and Heavy Rock and featuring songs from artists by Harry Belafonte to The Clash.



Hopefully, we can get back to performing live in 2021!!
Garry & Hazel Hughes



Barely Awake

It is with great regret I have to announce that our good friend and founder member/Tutor of Barely Awake, Eric Brown passed away recently. As a result of Eric's teaching commencing over 5 years ago, well over 50 people have now taken up the Ukulele. Eric has been a pivotal member of the group and his musical

expertise and sparkling wit will be sadly missed but never forgotten. Our thoughts are with Janet.

We are carrying on with a fortnightly zoom meeting and a monthly zoom big bash incorporating all three groups **and all three groups will be hosting a zoom Christmas singalong to which you are all invited (see page 3 for details)**

Steve Roberts



A selection of the Uke players enjoying The 'Animals' themed Big Bash

Wine Groups - WAG-1

The Group continued its series of monthly Zoom meetings on Monday evening, November 26th. On this occasion only four of us attended, as two of our members were away. Two wines were presented. Bob and Maggie Charlton had selected an Arabella chenin blanc 2019 from the Western Cape, South Africa, supplied by Naked Wines at £6.99. This was a 12.5%, light wine with a guava bouquet and was more enjoyable than another Arabella wine, a shiraz – viognier, that they had tasted previously. Enid and Alan Townshend had selected a 13.5% 2018 Chateau Pineraie malbec from Cahors in Southwest France, bought from Roberts and Speight in Beverley for £11.99. The 2016 version of this wine had received a gold medal in Decanter magazine's annual wine competition. It had been described as "sumptuous and rustic but rich and silky at the same time". We felt that this

was a bit over the top for our 2018 version and was more a £8.99 wine. However it was still quite acceptable.
Alan Townshend

Walking – Longer Walks

From December 2nd. the latest restrictions for Tier 3 areas will allow for "a group of up to six to meet in outdoor spaces such as parks or countryside". Consequently, we can reform walking "bubbles". Please contact Neville on 651681 or rnchamberlain47@hotmail.co.uk if you want details of the established walks stored in our OS Maps library.

Christmas Poems

Christmas By Sue McPhee

Christmas lights are appearing,
Christmas songs we'll soon be hearing.
Decking the halls with boughs of holly,
Will this Christmas be that jolly?
Houses bedecked with lights and trees,
Windows dressed for all to see.
Wanting to spread a little Christmas cheer,
Giving us hope for a better new year.
Children telling Santa what they would like,
I want a doll, some games or a mountain bike.
Fond memories of Christmas when we were young,
Our stockings on the end of the bed were hung.
An orange and apple at the bottom of our sack,
I don't think those days will be coming back.
The air was filled with mother's cooking,
Mince pies and tarts were only for looking.
Not to be eaten until Christmas day,
After the turkey, that was our way.
No point in looking back at the past,
Let's hope the future is better at last.
So put a smile on your face and all will be fine,
Christmas should be a happy time.



Where did Jesus come from?

By Dave Bodecott

Joseph and wife Mary to Bethlehem they went,
They couldn't find a room to spare, not even a two-man tent,
So they settled for a stable, it was humble and forlorn,
And that's where Joseph and Mary's little boy was born,
They laid him in a manger, they didn't want a fuss,
But people came from miles around, some even hired a bus,
From the East came three wise men, one was six foot four,
And just as he was entering, he banged his head on the door,
JESUS, he cried as he stumbled in, rubbing his poorly head,
Mary said "That's a nice name, we were going to call him Eric,
But we'll call him **Jesus** instead.

IN MY OWN WRITE

Write an article for *AWAKEN* and win £20. Your article will appear under the title 'IN MY OWN WRITE.' What we are looking for is a reflective, interesting, amusing or opinion piece rather than a purely informative article. The content can be lighthearted or serious but it must be suitable for the *AWAKEN* readership. Your article must be approx. 450 words long (one side of A5). Avoid religion, politics and too many exclamation marks!!! Include your Name and Membership no.

Contributions should be sent to Steve Roberts, preferably email sadrob@outlook.com or on paper copy to 18, Ellerker Rise, Well Lane, Willerby HU10 6EY

*I was **APP**rehensive when I received this story but thoroughly **APP**roved when I read it, see what you think.*

A tale of our times from Jennifer Jackson, earns her the £20 prize for an 'In your own write' story

App's

Approaching my twilight years I hear a lot listening to conversations about **App's**. It's an **App** for this and an **App** for the other. When I was at school and work **App** was short for appendage, approximately, application, appointment, apparatus and apple, of which you purchased for one old penny at the corner shop. If there happened to 'scabs' you got two apples for the price of one.

My mobile phone allows me to ring and text, also to put 'ICE' into my contacts. Anything else is all very mysterious to me. A few months ago I was listening to my grandchildren discussing

procedures on their mobiles.

The other day my family took me for a meal. I had already decided on garlic chicken. We sat out in the sunshine in the beer garden. My daughter went to see what the procedure was for ordering and came back to the table saying, "I need an **App**." She ordered our meal on her phone it was delivered and payed for all using her phone. I proceeded to ask my grandson, who was visiting me at the time, but in a hurry as usual, "Where do I get an **App**?" Running down the path he shouted, "From the App store, Granny." So the next day I popped into town to try and find the App Store. I did Google it and now know from where to get an **App**.

My friend and I now have a standing joke whenever we want to purchase anything we say, "Do you need an App."

As an afterthought maybe in the future App will stand for

AFTER PANDEMIC PEACE

Or do we need an **App** for that?

Jennifer Jackson

Quiz Answers

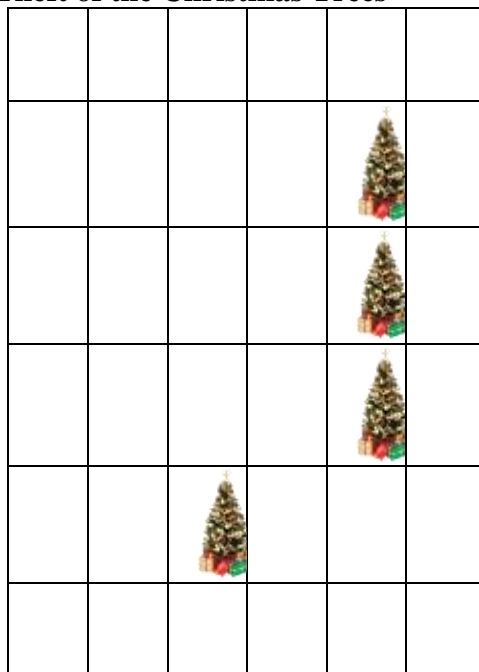
1. Eartha Kitt
2. Irving Berlin
3. Shoes (clogs)
4. Australia
5. Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman and Here Comes Santa Claus.
6. Welsh
7. 1957
8. 7 years (accept 6-8)
9. Beagle 2 - accept just Beagle
10. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas



Holmes and Watson's Poser

(It's not an easy one!)

The Theft of the Christmas Trees



Police Headquarters were spread over three buildings with a fourth police building a small distance from the others. All four buildings had their Christmas Trees stolen from the front of their buildings. Each of the four buildings belonged on different police patches. All four patches were identical in covering the same number of squares and were also identical in shape. Can you outline the four identical patches with a missing Christmas tree in each patch.

Just some extra little riddles that appeared in the crackers at the police Christmas Party

'The man who made it did not want it, the man who bought it did not use it and the man who used it never saw it. What is it?'

'You can only hold me for seconds, sometimes you lose me, and yet I am with you all your life. What am I?'

'What is broken as soon as you say it?'

'What will grow if you feed it, but dies if you give it water?'
'The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?'
Answers in our next edition

A scary Halloween



A great walk not too far away



Next *AWAKEN*

Following our appeal in the last Newsletter and on the zoom AGM many members have agreed to receive their Newsletters by email thus saving on paper, delivery & stamps.

If you would be happy to receive your newsletter in this way please let Steve Roberts know

Hopefully we will continue to produce the Online Newsletter, keep checking the *AWAKE* website for this and keep sending articles, stories & photos for inclusion.

Registered Charity Number 1150988 ANLABY WILLERBY AND KIRK ELLA U3A the website may be found at <http://u3asites.org.uk/>

Thoughts from the Editor



I've decided this Christmas to form a Christmas choir, anyone wanting to join will be welcomed.... So far, I have Dean, Don, Mary, Lee & I

Frosty the Snowman was recently seen looking through a pile of carrots.....he was picking his nose!

Deck the Halls, I did that once and Mr. & Mrs. Hall were NOT happy

I once bought my kids a pack of Batteries for Christmas with a note saying, Toys not included

Did you know ELFi's Presley is Santa's favourite singer, I once had a mouse called Elvis, sadly...HE WAS CAUGHT IN A TRAP!

Just think If Bjorn & Bennie had been called Steve and David, ABBA would be known as ASDA

Start a new job as a bellringer at the weekend, I have to go tonight to be shown the ropes!

The Grim Reaper came for me last night but I managed to beat him off with the vacuum cleaner, talk about 'Dyson with death'



CHRISTMAS SORTED!



Christmas shopping done. Presents wrapped.

