



YOUR LOCAL ONLINE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Brackley &
District

03/12/2021

This Magazine is hopefully informative, educational,
and helps keep the grey matter turning.

May this Christmas end the present
year on a cheerful note and make way
for a fresh and bright new year.

Here's wishing you all a very

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year.

kindest regards, Terry and Avril.



Information snippet

As the year comes to an
end, we urge you to take
care of yourself and avoid
accidents because spare
parts for old models like
you are no longer in stock.

Find all the answers for the
quizzes and puzzles on the web

If you gave all the gifts listed in
the "Twelve Days of Christmas,"
it would equal 364 presents.
Sing the song and work it out.





ARTWORK BY THE BRACKLEY u3a ART GROUP

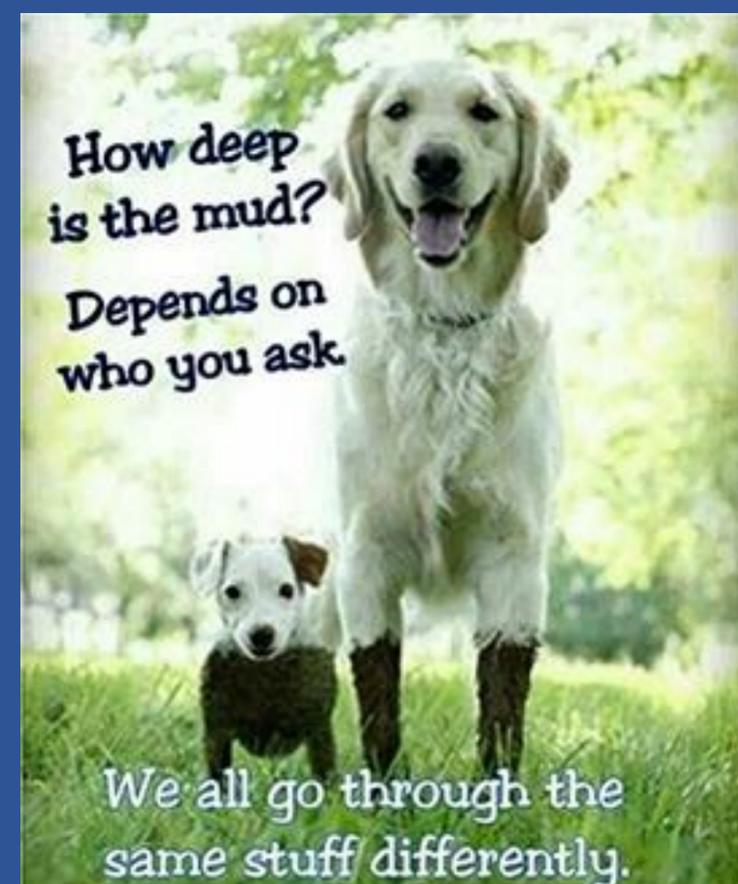
ROUND OF



APPLAUSE!!!

In 1958 the North American Aerospace Defence Command Tracker was created due to a child's misunderstanding. A young child [accidentally] dialled the Continental Air Defence Command in Colorado Springs, believing she was calling Santa Claus. Colonel Harry Shoup, saw an opportunity to create a little Christmas magic, and assured the youngster that CONAD would guarantee Santa a safe journey from the North Pole, sparking the idea to track Santa's travels each year to the delight of children all over the world.

Jingle Bells was the first song played in space. (Crew of NASA's Gemini 6A space flight got into the Christmas spirit and made history when they played "Jingle Bells" on December 16, 1965).



HERE'S A CRACKER OF A QUIZ BY BRIAN STARKEY

- 1 IF YOU WERE BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY WHAT IS YOUR BIRTH SIGN
 - 2 WHICH OF SANTAS REINDEER WAS THE SAME NAME AS THE GOD OF LOVE
 - 3 HOW DO YOU SAY MERRY CHISTMAS IN SPANISH
 - 4 IN WHICH COUNTRY DID EGGNOG ORIGINATE
 - 5 WHICH SELLS MORE IN THE UK EACH YEAR - ARTIFICIAL OR REAL CHRISTMAS TREES
 - 6 IN ESTONIA IT'S TRADITIONAL FOR A FAMILY TO TAKE A SAUNA TOGETHER ON CHRISTMAS EVE - TRUE OF FALSE
 - 7 IN WHICH PANTOMIME DOES "BUTTON" APPEAR
 - 8 EATING A KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN MEAL IS A CHRISTMAS TRADITION IN WHICH FAR EASTERN COUNTRY
 - 9 WHICH ANGEL VISITED MARY
 - 10 WHICH MUST HAVE ITEM FOR THE CHRISTMAS TABLE DID TOM SMITH INVENT IN THE EARLY 1850's
 - 11 WHICH CAROL IS "THIN SINGLET" AN ANAGRAM OF
 - 12 IN WHICH EUROPEAN COUNTRY DID CAROLING ORIGINATE
 - 13 WHAT IS TRADITIONALLY HIDDEN INSIDE A CHRISTMAS PUDDING
 - 14 STILL ON FOOD - WHAT DO THE SCOTTISH CALL PIGS IN BLANKETS
 - 15 WHAT HAS HELPED US COUNTDOWN FROM THE 1st TO THE 25th OF DECEMBER
 - 16 WHAT COLOUR ARE THE BERRYS FOUND ON THE EUROPEAN MISTLETOE PLANT
 - 17 DECEMBER THE 26th MARKS WHICH SAINTS DAY
 - 18 WHAT KIND OF FOOD DID CHRISTMAS CRACKERS ORIGINALLY CONTAIN
 - 19 WHICH ANIMATED FILM FEATURES THE SONG "WALKING IN THE AIR"
- AND FINALLY
- 20 UNSCRAMBLE THE CIRCLE OF LETTERS TO FIND MY 2 WORD WISH TO YOU ALL

C R
Y S
S R
A M
M R
T E
H I

Just been to the gym.
They've got a new machine
in. Only used it for half an
hour as I started to feel
sick.
It's great though. It does
everything -
KitKats, Mars bars,
Snickers, Crisps, the lot.



Answers on the web



Mistletoe translates to "dung on a stick." When you find yourself standing under a sprig of mistletoe, it's time for a Christmas kiss. But, while once considered an aphrodisiac by the Druids, it also happens to mean "dung on a stick." According to Interflora, the original name was mistaltan—mistal comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for "dung" and tan means "stick." How utterly unromantic!



José Feliciano - Feliz Navidad
(Official Audio) – YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8NcQzMQN_U

Working at Christmas Time

For me, working at Christmas was to be looked forward to. It was one of the few times when the stable yard was free of people and just the grooms were there with our beloved horses - which weren't actually ours, but we looked after them for the people who did own them.

Winter had started early this particular year. The stables where I worked had had a busy time keeping the horses fit, well and exercised. Not always easy when the weather is bad but this year, we were lucky because the temperature rose as Christmas neared. We grooms were a little jaded and were looking forward to our traditional Christmas midnight ride. Completely mad and nowadays probably would not be allowed.

It was 11.30pm when I walked into Bridie's stable. She gave her usual soft welcoming nicker and her gentle nose nuzzled my hand, looking for the carrot she knew would be there.

As I tacked her up, I saw a little quizzical look from her as if to say, "What are we doing at this time of night!" One of the many joys of working over Christmas was this midnight ride.

There were six of us and once we were all mounted up and ready to go, a car moved off in front to give us some lighting, and one followed at the rear with hazard lights flashing.

We went at a steady trot until we came to the lovely quiet lane called Lever Causeway on the Wirral when the lead car sped up and we galloped as a group over the springy turf.

Being at one with our horses as we charged along was exhilarating. There were no other cars or people around and when we came to a stop our lead driver told us we'd been doing 29 miles an hour! No wonder it felt exciting.

Our horses walked energetically home - they can see very well in the dark and they knew there would be warmth and food for them in their stables.

Our boss had stayed behind to put thick straw bedding, full hay nets and fresh water in each stable and as soon as I had unsaddled Bridie and put her rug on, I gave her a feed of warm bran and oats, gave her a hug and left her to relax in peace for the night.

We grooms had a quick cup of cocoa while cleaning our saddles and bridles then to bed for a few hours before being up and ready for mucking out, feeding and filling water buckets on Christmas morning. We checked the horses over again in case of injury from last night then went into the boss's kitchen to be treated to an enormous breakfast of bacon, eggs, sausage and as much toast, marmalade and coffee as we could manage.

The years working at the stables were a joy and Christmas Days very satisfying. The horses seemed to know it was a special time, particularly when on Christmas Night we met up in the stable yard to hold a candle and sing carols with the horses looking on.

Pat Noble

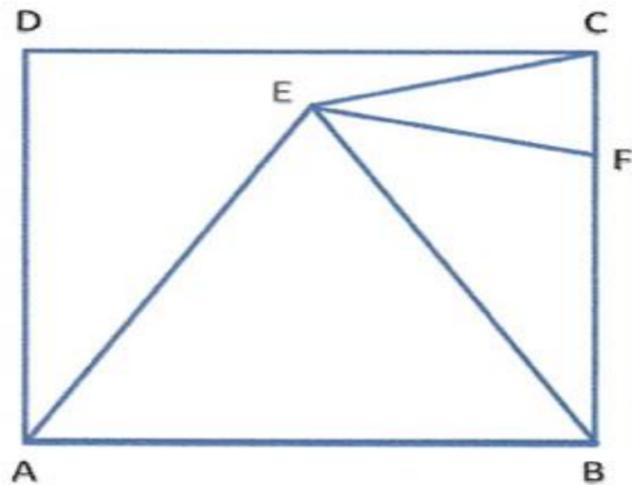


The Statue of Liberty is the largest Christmas gift ever given. Standing over 150 feet tall and weighing 225 tons, the Statue of Liberty is an impressive figure. It was considered a Christmas gift when it was given to the U.S. by France in 1886, so it's officially the largest Christmas present in the world. That's a lot of wrapping paper and ribbon!



**SO I'VE BEEN BARKING FOR 20 MINUTES
AND YOU KEEP TELLING ME TO SHUT UP
AND YOU KEEP IGNORING ME.....ANYWAY
YOUR CAR IS GONE!**

Maths4Fun Question from Ken



This picture shows an Equilateral Triangle ABE in a Square ABCD.

A point F is on the line BC such that $EC = EF$.

What is the angle BEF? Answers on the web



Christmas photos

by

Stephen Pope



The yule log calls back to a Christmas tradition from the Iron Age. According to History.com, that log-shaped, chocolate-y dessert that you present to your guests every year has its roots in Gaelic and Celtic winter solstice traditions. "To cleanse the air of the previous year's events and to usher in the spring, families would burn logs decorated with holly, pinecones or ivy," the site states. "Wine and salt were also often used to anoint the logs. Once burned, the log's ashes were valuable treasures said to have medicinal benefits and to guard against evil." Over the centuries, the good-luck ritual developed into this tasty Christmas treat.



O Come All Ye Faithful

<https://youtu.be/1tM5pwvUGMI>



A man was sitting quietly reading his paper when his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with a magazine. 'What was that for?' he asked.

'That was for the piece of paper in your trouser pocket with the name Laura Lou written on it,' she replied.

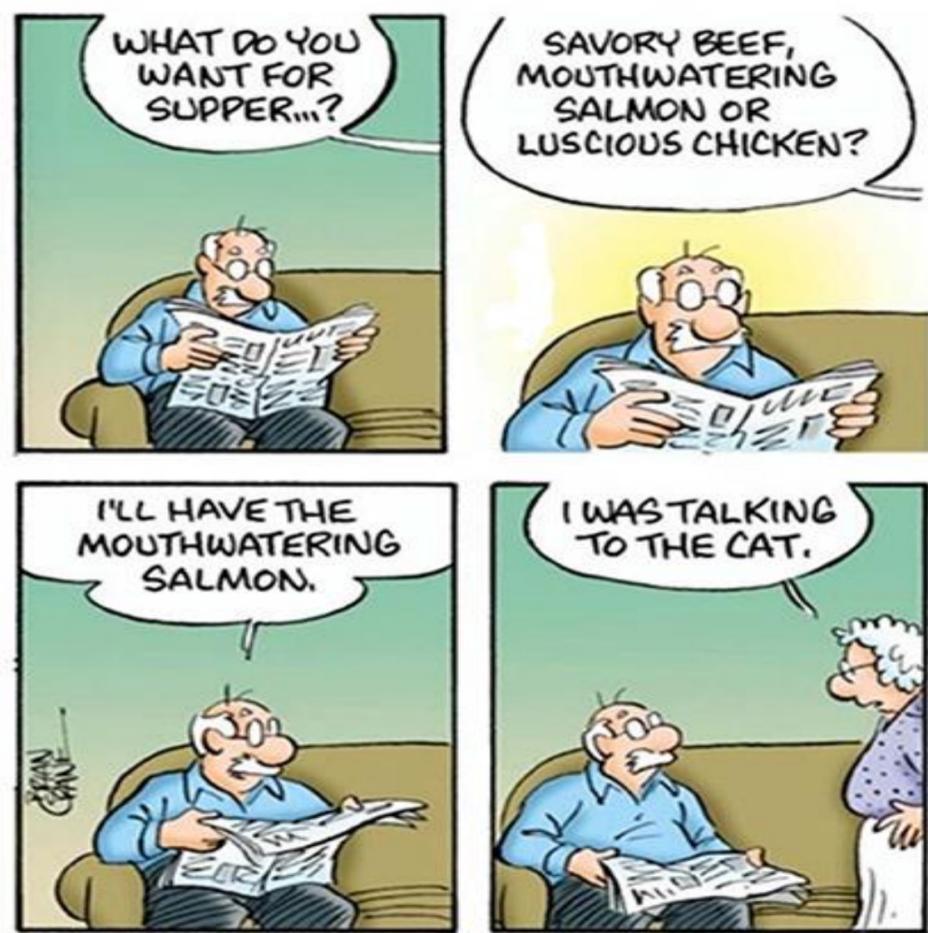
'Two weeks ago when I went to the races, Laura Lou was the name of one of the horses I bet on, I bought you those flowers with the winnings,' he explained.

'Oh darling, I'm sorry,' she said. 'I should have known there was a good explanation.'

Three days later he was watching TV when she walked up and hit him in the head again, this time with a frying pan, which knocked him out cold.

When he came to, he asked, 'What was that for?'

'Your horse phoned'



Molly's Christmas Plan

It was a Sunday afternoon in late November and Molly was reading her library book, "Little Women" but she was distracted. Not by her 2 older sisters who were both out, nor by her mother, Mrs Smythe, who she could hear talking loudly on the phone to the Vicar, busy making arrangements for Christmas Day lunch in the church hall for parishioners who would otherwise be on their own. Lunch would be followed by Carols, which Molly was going to accompany on her beloved keyboard, a surprise thank-you present from the family of her neighbour, Mrs Barnes. On Halloween the previous year, Molly had raised the alarm when, whilst out Trick or Treating, had found Mrs Barnes lying on the floor of her lounge, having fallen whilst going to draw her curtains. They'd been firm friends ever since.

No, it was the first line of Little Women which was distracting Molly, "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents" and this made her very sad to think that some people wouldn't be getting presents. At tea-time, she asked her mother "Will some of the Christmas lunch guests not have any presents at all?" Her mother replied "Yes some won't but we do hand out a 'little something' to everyone as they leave, of course funds are tight". Molly frowned and tutted, just like her mother, thinking "A little something? That's not a Proper present!" And then she had a Plan.

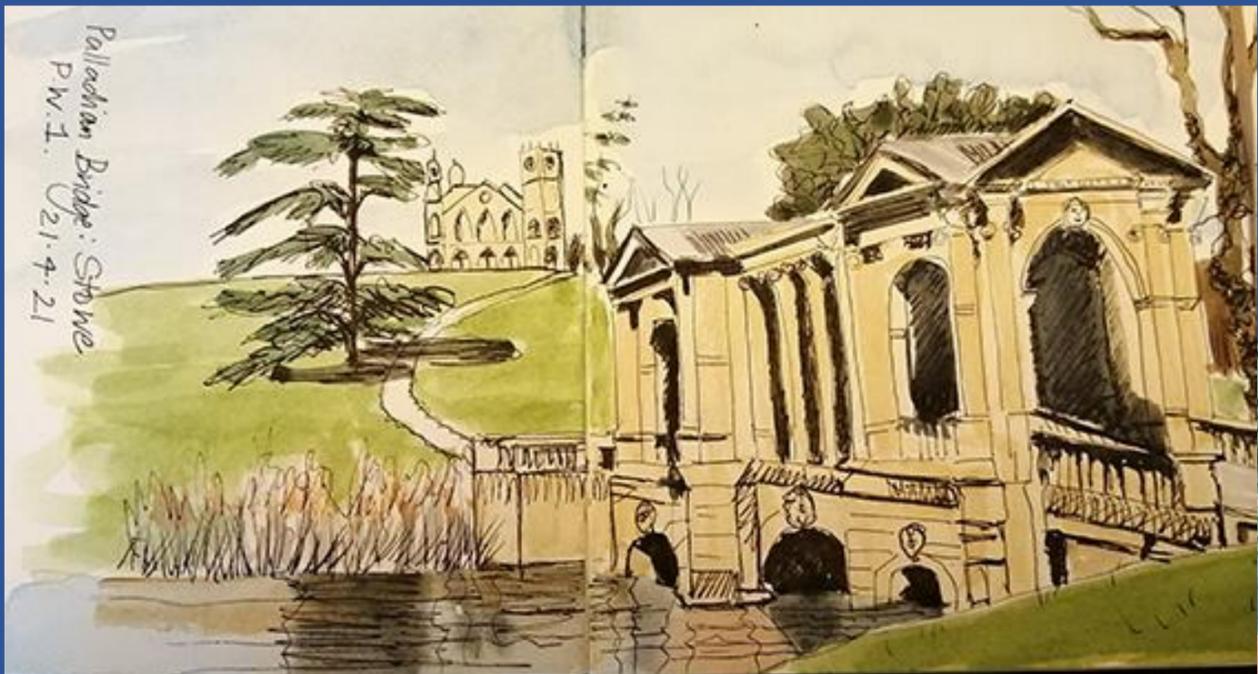
Christmas Day

It had been a hectic few weeks but when Molly had told her Teacher and classmates about her plan, they had all been Very generous in donating lovely gifts and stocking-fillers, as had family friends and neighbours, especially Mrs Barnes, who being a keen knitter, had knitted beautifully designed Christmas stockings. As Molly, helped by her sisters, had been wrapping gifts and filling stockings, Mrs Smythe, although secretly pleased, had tutted "Don't forget to put some nuts and a Satsuma in each stocking like I used to have when I was little" The girls had rolled their eyes and groaned!

Now, with Lunch and Carols over, Molly was helping to hand out presents and stockings to delighted recipients. She smiled to herself and thought "For these guests, this year Christmas Isn't a Christmas without any Presents"

Susan Smith

Congratulations to Ruth Harris and Sally McGurk who have walked the Palladian Way (125 miles), raising funds for Parkinsons UK. (19th April - 8th September)

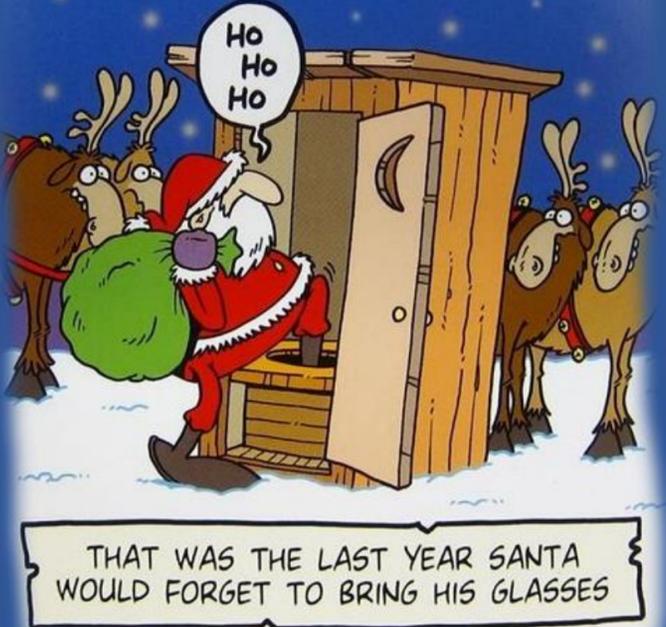


Start: Palladian Bridge Stowe

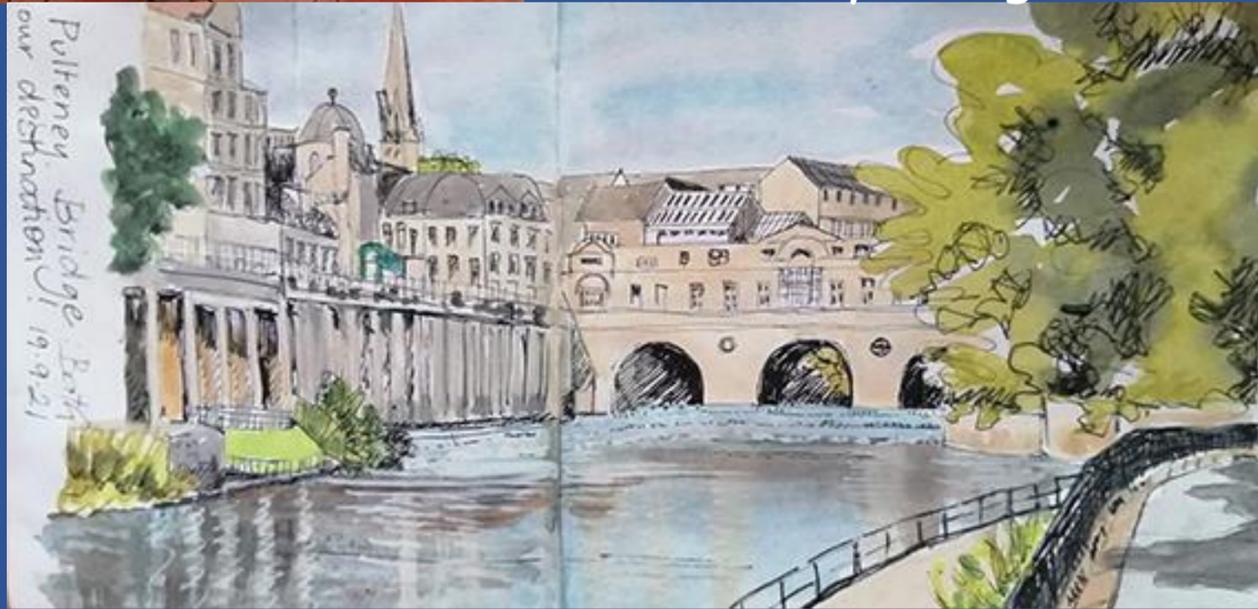


Roof tops of Malmesbury

Finish: Pulteney Bridge Bath



Hark the Herald Angel Sing
<https://youtu.be/LDPwNPAV6tA>





Spot the difference

There are 10 differences in the bottom picture

Good Luck

Answers on the web

DEAR SANTA,
THIS YEAR PLEASE
GIVE ME A BIG FAT
BANK BALANCE
AND A SLIM BODY.
DONT MIX THOSE
UP LIKE YOU DID
LAST YEAR.
THANKS

GENTLEMEN

QUOTE OF THE DAY

TWO GOLDEN RULES OF LIFE:



1. The wife is always right
2. When you feel she is wrong, slap yourself & read rule no.1 again.



Husbands
Brain

Wife's
Brain



WHEN WE'RE YOUNG,
WE SNEAK OUT OF OUR
HOUSE TO GO TO
PARTIES.

WHEN WE'RE OLD, WE
SNEAK OUT OF PARTIES
TO GO HOME.



A festive message just to say
We hope you have the most
wonderful



Most happy Christmas Day
A wish for you this Christmas
In words so very few
Filled with joy and caring thoughts
With this message



Sent to you

Editors



Huge thanks go to our contributors without whom the magazine would be very short and uninteresting. I'm sure you will agree that we are lucky to have such talented members.

The next edition will be issued in time for Easter, if anyone wishes to submit stories, poems, artwork, photos, interesting facts or quizzes we would be very glad to receive them.

It's beginning
to cost a lot
like Christmas.

Them: What inspires you to get out of bed every morning?

Me: My bladder mostly.

