

LEICESTER

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NEWS SHEET

Friday 18th December Edition Number 36

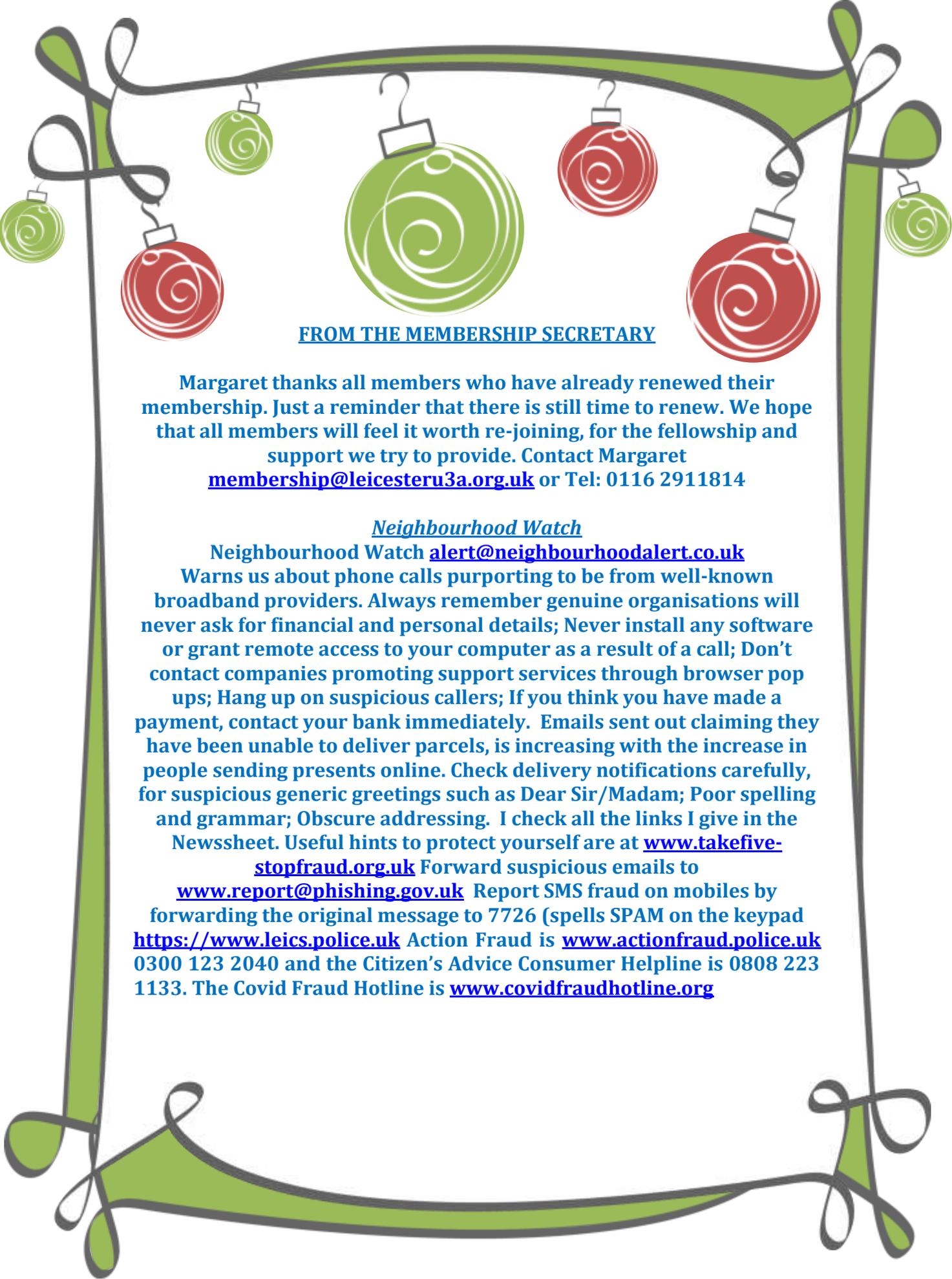
*Joyeux Noel et Bonne Annee Frohlicke Weihnachten
Nollaig Shona*

*Felicem Nativatis Diem Feliz Navidad
Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!!*

Welcome to Christmassy Edition Number 36 of Leicester U3A's Newsheet, with Christmas In Your Interest. A virtual mince pie to Leicester U3A's Languages groups: French Advanced 1, French Advanced 2, German Intermediate Conversation, Irish Language, Polish up Your Rusty Latin, Spanish Beginners, Spanish Conversation and Welsh Improvers! And keep on sending your suggestions to newsheet@leicesteru3a.org.uk Click on the links!

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Chair and the Committee of Leicester U3A extend to all members a Happy Christmas and New Year. We hope you are in good spirits despite what has been a really shocking 2020 for us all, and not just the U3A. At least we have good tidings with the arrival of the vaccine. Let's hope that this will allow us all to get back to normal life before too long. We wish you the very best Christmas it is possible to have and look forward to a much better 2021.

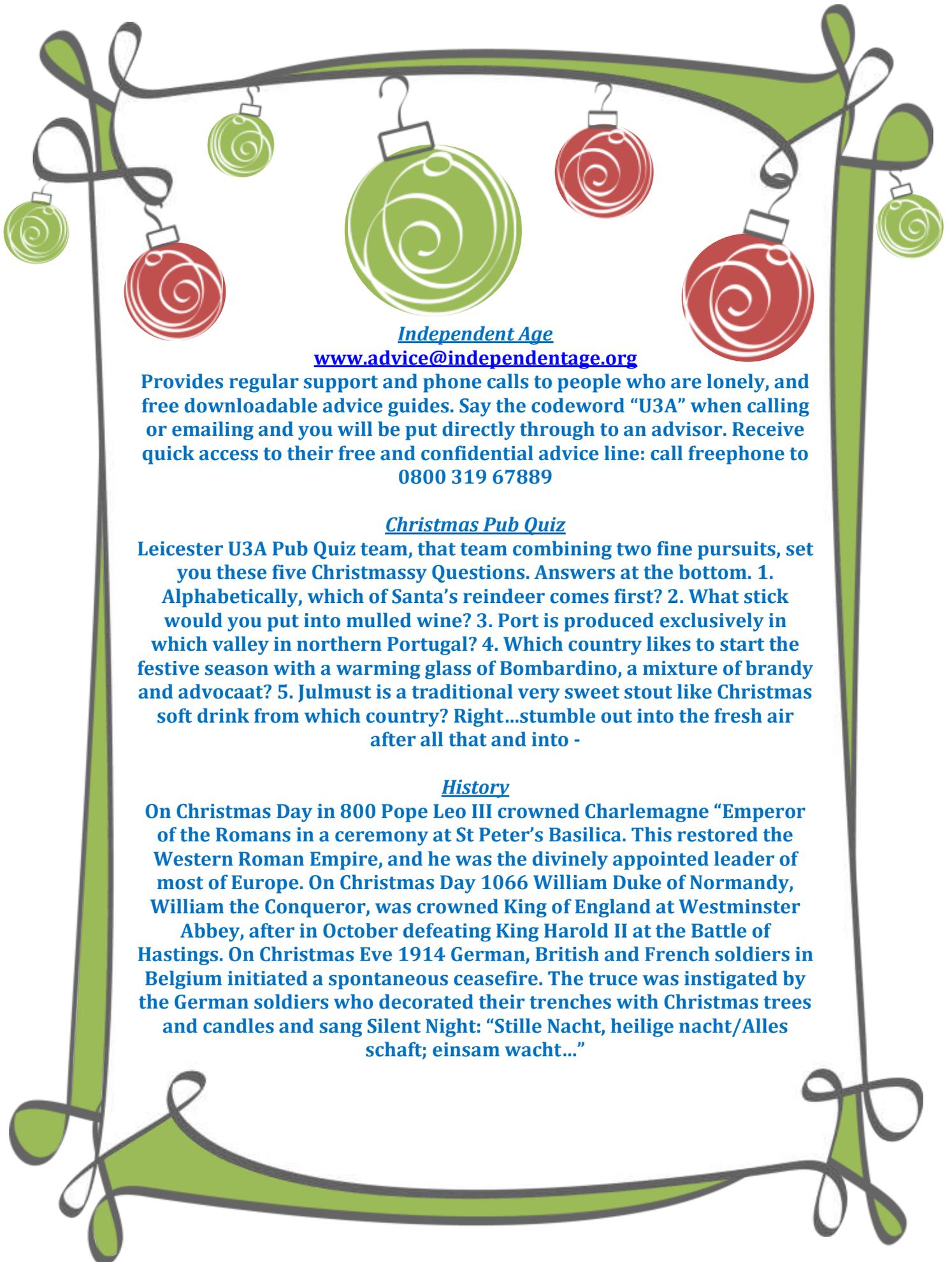


FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Margaret thanks all members who have already renewed their membership. Just a reminder that there is still time to renew. We hope that all members will feel it worth re-joining, for the fellowship and support we try to provide. Contact Margaret membership@leicesteru3a.org.uk or Tel: 0116 2911814

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk
Warns us about phone calls purporting to be from well-known broadband providers. Always remember genuine organisations will never ask for financial and personal details; Never install any software or grant remote access to your computer as a result of a call; Don't contact companies promoting support services through browser pop ups; Hang up on suspicious callers; If you think you have made a payment, contact your bank immediately. Emails sent out claiming they have been unable to deliver parcels, is increasing with the increase in people sending presents online. Check delivery notifications carefully, for suspicious generic greetings such as Dear Sir/Madam; Poor spelling and grammar; Obscure addressing. I check all the links I give in the Newsheet. Useful hints to protect yourself are at www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk Forward suspicious emails to www.report@phishing.gov.uk Report SMS fraud on mobiles by forwarding the original message to 7726 (spells SPAM on the keypad <https://www.leics.police.uk> Action Fraud is www.actionfraud.police.uk 0300 123 2040 and the Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline is 0808 223 1133. The Covid Fraud Hotline is www.covidfraudhotline.org



Independent Age

www.advice@independentage.org

Provides regular support and phone calls to people who are lonely, and free downloadable advice guides. Say the codeword "U3A" when calling or emailing and you will be put directly through to an advisor. Receive quick access to their free and confidential advice line: call freephone to 0800 319 67889

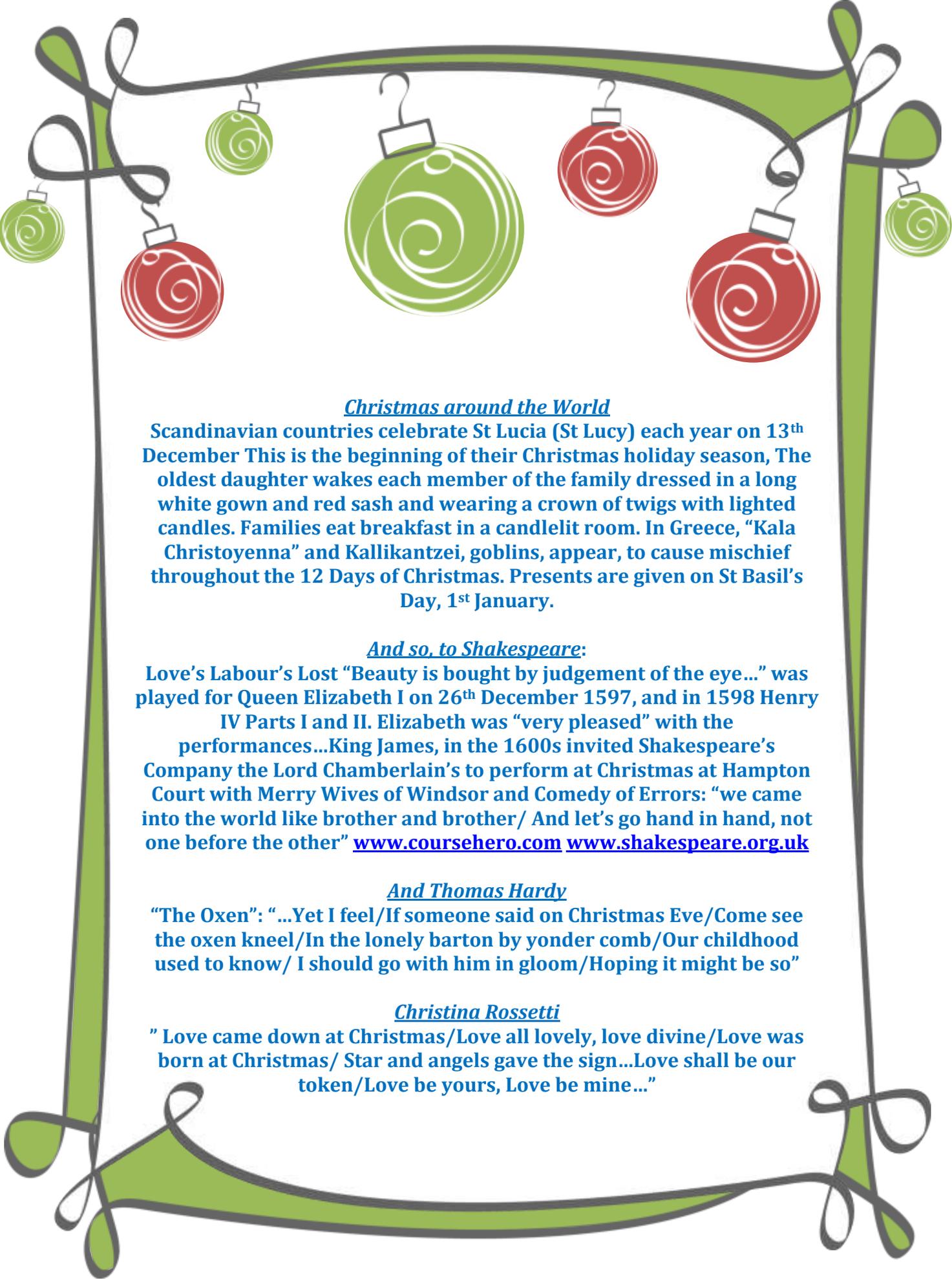
Christmas Pub Quiz

Leicester U3A Pub Quiz team, that team combining two fine pursuits, set you these five Christmassy Questions. Answers at the bottom. 1.

Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first? 2. What stick would you put into mulled wine? 3. Port is produced exclusively in which valley in northern Portugal? 4. Which country likes to start the festive season with a warming glass of Bombardino, a mixture of brandy and advocaat? 5. Julmust is a traditional very sweet stout like Christmas soft drink from which country? Right...stumble out into the fresh air after all that and into -

History

On Christmas Day in 800 Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne "Emperor of the Romans in a ceremony at St Peter's Basilica. This restored the Western Roman Empire, and he was the divinely appointed leader of most of Europe. On Christmas Day 1066 William Duke of Normandy, William the Conqueror, was crowned King of England at Westminster Abbey, after in October defeating King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings. On Christmas Eve 1914 German, British and French soldiers in Belgium initiated a spontaneous ceasefire. The truce was instigated by the German soldiers who decorated their trenches with Christmas trees and candles and sang Silent Night: "Stille Nacht, heilige nacht/Alles schaft; einsam wacht..."



Christmas around the World

Scandinavian countries celebrate St Lucia (St Lucy) each year on 13th December This is the beginning of their Christmas holiday season, The oldest daughter wakes each member of the family dressed in a long white gown and red sash and wearing a crown of twigs with lighted candles. Families eat breakfast in a candlelit room. In Greece, “Kala Christoyenna” and Kallikantzei, goblins, appear, to cause mischief throughout the 12 Days of Christmas. Presents are given on St Basil’s Day, 1st January.

And so, to Shakespeare:

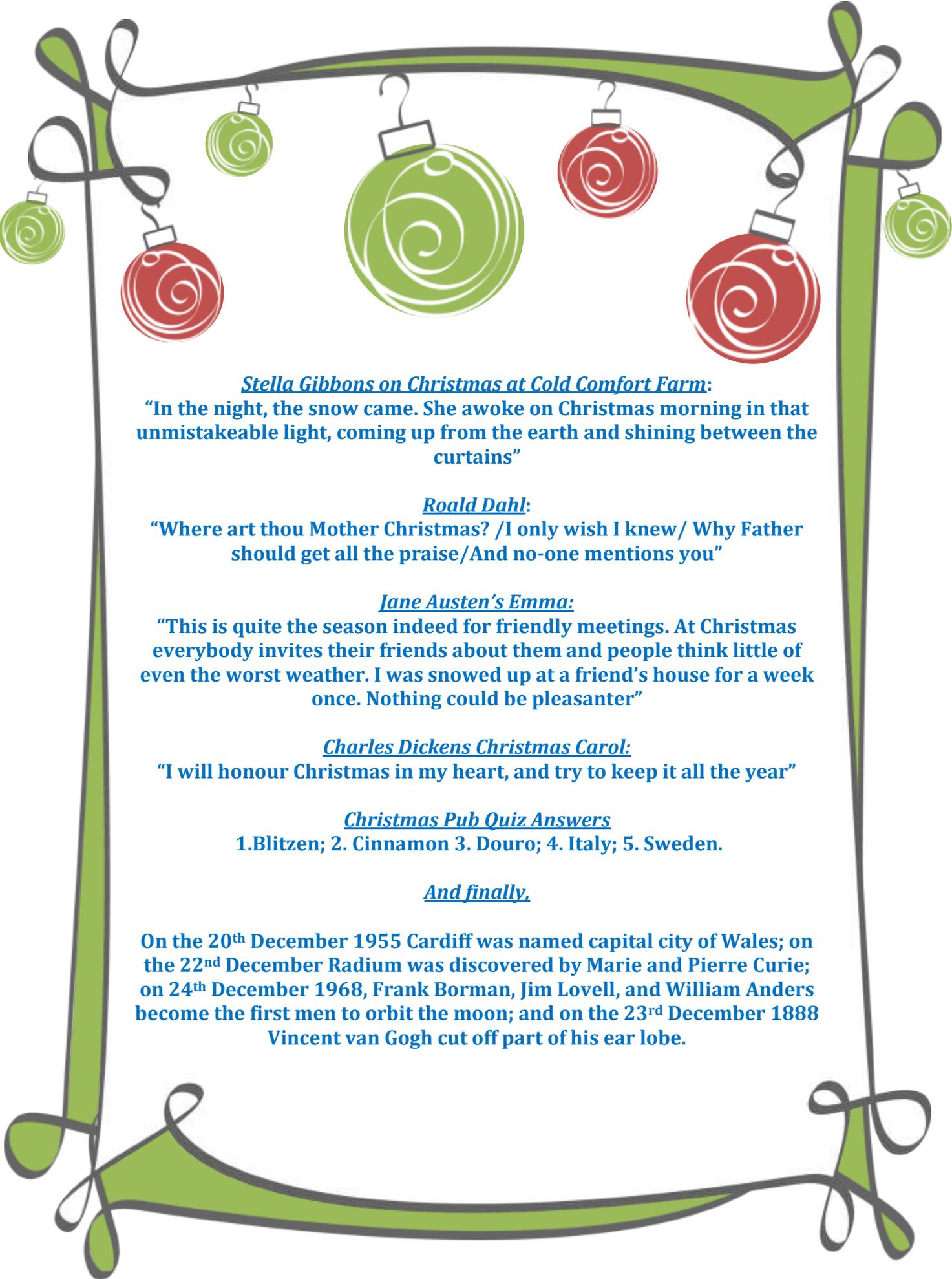
Love’s Labour’s Lost “Beauty is bought by judgement of the eye...” was played for Queen Elizabeth I on 26th December 1597, and in 1598 Henry IV Parts I and II. Elizabeth was “very pleased” with the performances...King James, in the 1600s invited Shakespeare’s Company the Lord Chamberlain’s to perform at Christmas at Hampton Court with Merry Wives of Windsor and Comedy of Errors: “we came into the world like brother and brother/ And let’s go hand in hand, not one before the other” www.coursehero.com www.shakespeare.org.uk

And Thomas Hardy

“The Oxen”: “...Yet I feel/If someone said on Christmas Eve/Come see the oxen kneel/In the lonely barton by yonder comb/Our childhood used to know/ I should go with him in gloom/Hoping it might be so”

Christina Rossetti

” Love came down at Christmas/Love all lovely, love divine/Love was born at Christmas/ Star and angels gave the sign...Love shall be our token/Love be yours, Love be mine...”



Stella Gibbons on Christmas at Cold Comfort Farm:

“In the night, the snow came. She awoke on Christmas morning in that unmistakable light, coming up from the earth and shining between the curtains”

Roald Dahl:

“Where art thou Mother Christmas? /I only wish I knew/ Why Father should get all the praise/And no-one mentions you”

Jane Austen’s Emma:

“This is quite the season indeed for friendly meetings. At Christmas everybody invites their friends about them and people think little of even the worst weather. I was snowed up at a friend’s house for a week once. Nothing could be pleasanter”

Charles Dickens Christmas Carol:

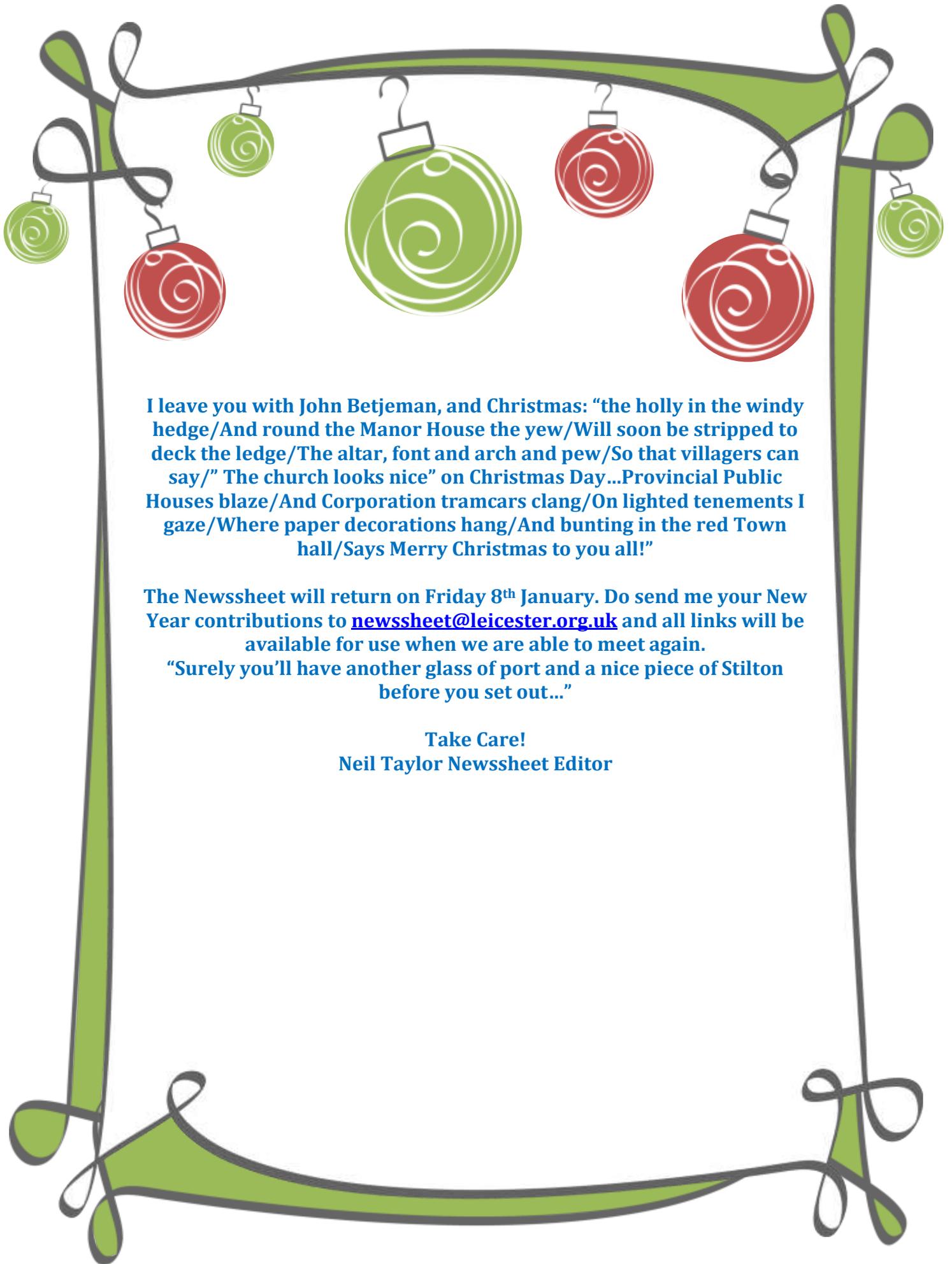
“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year”

Christmas Pub Quiz Answers

1.Blitzen; 2. Cinnamon 3. Douro; 4. Italy; 5. Sweden.

And finally,

On the 20th December 1955 Cardiff was named capital city of Wales; on the 22nd December Radium was discovered by Marie and Pierre Curie; on 24th December 1968, Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and William Anders become the first men to orbit the moon; and on the 23rd December 1888 Vincent van Gogh cut off part of his ear lobe.



I leave you with John Betjeman, and Christmas: “the holly in the windy hedge/And round the Manor House the yew/Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge/The altar, font and arch and pew/So that villagers can say/” The church looks nice” on Christmas Day...Provincial Public Houses blaze/And Corporation tramcars clang/On lighted tenements I gaze/Where paper decorations hang/And bunting in the red Town hall/Says Merry Christmas to you all!”

The Newssheet will return on Friday 8th January. Do send me your New Year contributions to newsheet@leicester.org.uk and all links will be available for use when we are able to meet again.

“Surely you’ll have another glass of port and a nice piece of Stilton before you set out...”

**Take Care!
Neil Taylor Newssheet Editor**