



# STILL SMILING



## Christmas 2023/ New Year 2024

Welcome to this annual edition of Still Smiling which hopefully will add to your Christmas Cheer.



A group of men are at a golf club. A mobile phone rings and a man answers it and puts it on loud speaker. Everyone else in the room stops to eavesdrop . Man: "Hello." Woman: ". Are you at the club?" Man: "Yes. "Woman: I stopped by the Lexus dealership and saw a new one I really liked for £90,000. Can I buy it as a your Christmas present "I'm at the shops now and found this beautiful leather coat for £2,000; is it okay if I buy it as another Christmas present from you.?" Man: "Sure". Woman: " "OK that's fine", . "Fantastic . I'll see you later! I love you so much!" The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths wide open. He turns around and asks, "Anyone know whose phone this is?"



An elderly man takes his wife to a very expensive restaurant together as a Christmas treat. The man addresses his wife with all sorts of endearments, calling her his darling, sweetheart and his treasure and wishes her another happy year together. When the lady goes to the bathroom, the waiter says to the man, "Wow, you have a great relationship with your wife, all those lovely names you call her." The man says, "To be honest, it has become a necessity. We've been married over 50 years and I actually forgot her name about three years ago."



It is with great sadness that I have to mention the loss of a few further local businesses around our Town just before Christmas. The bra manufacturer has gone bust, the specialist in submersibles has gone under, the manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation, a dog kennel has had to call in the retrievers, the suppliers of paper for origami enthusiasts has folded, the Heinz factory has been canned as they couldn't ketchup with orders, the tarmac laying company has reached the end of the road, the bread company has run out of dough, the clock manufacturer has had to wind down and gone cuckoo, the Chinese has been taken away, the shoe shop has had to put his foot down and given his staff the boot, the laundrette has been taken to the cleaners! The pet shop has gone to the dogs. The butcher's had the chop, the Greengrocers in a vegetative state. The venetian blind shop has closed, so it's curtains for us all. The wall paper shop has taken a pasting. the fish mongers been battered. The florists are now pushing up the daisies and finally the milkman's lost his bottle



An old man wanted to plant his winter bedding seeds in the soil but it was difficult work. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison for multiple murders. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament: "Son, I'm getting too old to plant my Christmas seeds." His son replied. Don't dig up that garden. I've told the authorities that's where the bodies are buried. At 4.00 a.m. the next morning, the local police dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. "Vincent then wrote , "Go ahead Dad and plant the seeds now".



Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates. "In honour of this holy season," Saint Peter said. "You must each possess something that symbolises Christmas to get into heaven." The first man went through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle," he said. "You may pass through the pearly gates," Saint Peter said. The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells." Saint Peter said: "You may pass through the pearly gates." The third man started searching through his pockets and pulled out a pair of women's glass es. Saint Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked: "And just what do those symbolise?" The man replied: "They're Carol's



At Christmas a young lady was given a present of an acting day out by her parents. She went to the venue and at the end of the busy day, she went back home in a huff of anger . "What's wrong?" asked her parents. "Well, all the acting classes were filled. I couldn't even get into Mime class." "Why not?" "How should I know? You can't get a word out of those people!"



As per his oath of silence, a monk is only allowed to say two words only at Christmas. After his first year, he comes before the head abbot to speak his two words: "Better food ."The head abbot understands and hires a new chef A year later at Christmas again, the monk speakers his next two words: "Warmer blankets." The head abbot purchases new blankets for the monk. The next Christmas, the monk appears once again for his annual two words: "I quit." The head abbot replies, "Well, good! All you've done since you got here is complain."

## FACTS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Christmas was not celebrated as Christ's birthday until AD440.  
Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany .  
The first Christmas card was created in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole.  
Christmas crackers were invented in 1846 by Thomas Smith.  
Prince Albert introduced the first Christmas tree in 1848.  
Until 1857 'Jingle Bells' was a song called 'One horse open sleigh' for Thanksgiving.  
Electric tree lights were first used in 1880.  
Mince pies originally contained beef and spices.  
England had only 7 'White Christmases' in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.  
The Queen's first televised speech was in 1957  
The Dutch gave us the idea to leave Cookies and Milk for Santa  
It's true that Santa has been given his own postcode for mail which is HOH OH0  
The earliest reference to a Christmas tree was in 1843.  
Jingle Bells was written for Thanksgiving, not Christmas in 1857 although now mostly vegetarian)  
Santa visits 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents, travelling at 650 miles a second.  
Robins on cards were a joke 150 years ago when postmen wore red tunics and were named after them.  
Putting tangerines in stockings comes from French nuns who left socks with fruit, and tangerines for the poor. Carols began as an old English custom called wassailing, toasting neighbours to a long life.  
Carols weren't sung in churches until they were introduced by St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century.  
The world's tallest Xmas tree at 221ft high was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.  
Jesus probably wasn't born on December 25th , but sometime in September between 6B.C. and 30.A.D.  
Before turkey, the traditional Christmas meal in England was a pig's head and mustard.  
Parts of the Christmas tree can actually be eaten, with the needles being a good source of Vitamin C.  
Hanging presents on trees may come from the Druids who believed the tree was the giver of all good things. Astronomers believe the Star Of Bethlehem, which guided the wisemen to Jesus, was a comet or Uranus  
Christmas pudding was originally a soup made with raisins and wine.  
Santa Claus's address is 'Main Post Office, Tähtikuja 1 96930 Arctic Circle Finland

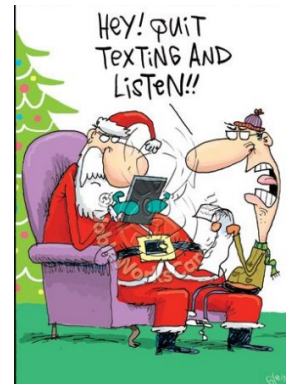
## THEN AND NOW

December comes. Christmas is almost here. A happy time for family and good cheer  
Now there are meals with Turkey and Ham. In bygone days they would be happy with Spam.  
Under that tree are presents galore. So many you wonder what's left in the store?  
Christmas now is so much fun. But is it too much for everyone?  
My thoughts go back to Christmas past, to a family so poor and with money so sparse.  
No fancy food on the table. Times were rough. But we were all happy and that was enough.  
We were so humble and thanked the Lord above, at what we got with our parent's true love.  
Now our blessings are so many. It's great to live in this land of plenty.  
But I would give up all presents I own to have Christmas again with my parents at home.

## POLITICALLY CORRECT AT CHRISTMAS

It was the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck. How to live in a world that's politically correct?  
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves", "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves  
And labour conditions at the North Pole were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul  
Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety, released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.  
And equal employment had made it quite clear, that Santa cannot use just reindeer.  
So Dancer, Donner, Comet and Cupid, were replaced with 4 pigs, and that looked stupid!  
So half of the reindeer were gone, and his wife who said she'd had enough of this life  
Joined a self help group, and left in a whiz, demanding from now on that her title was Ms.  
And as for gifts,, he hadn't a notion that making a choice could cause such commotion  
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur, which meant nothing for him or nothing for her  
Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise. Nothing for girls and nothing for boys  
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific, nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic  
No rugby, no football as someone might get hurt, as playing sports exposed kids to dirt  
So Santa just stood there, perplexed as he couldn't figure out what to do next  
He tried to be merry. He tried to be gay. But you've got to be careful with that word today  
His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground and nothing acceptable was there to be found  
Something special was needed, a gift that he might, give to us all, without angering left or the right  
A gift that would satisfy with no indecision, each group of people in every religion  
Every race, every hue, everyone, everywhere...even you!  
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth. "May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on Earth."

# HO HO HO!







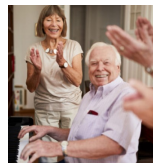
A woman was given a Monkey as a pet from a friend at Christmas. As she had no children she decided the Monkey was going to live with her and her husband – just like one of the family. She said that the Monkey would eat at the same table with both of them and even sleep in the same bed with her and her husband “But what about the smell?” the friend asked. ‘Oh, she said the Monkey will have to get used to it!’



A husband and wife are celebrating Christmas drinking wine when, out of the blue, the wife sighs. “I love you,” she says quietly. The husband narrows his eyes. “Is that you or the wine talking?” “It’s me,” says the wife, “talking to the wine.”



A little old lady answered a knock on the door one day, only to be confronted by a well-dressed young man carrying a vacuum cleaner. “Good morning,” said the young man. “If I could take a couple minutes of your time, I would like to demonstrate the very latest in high-powered vacuum cleaners” .“No thank you!” said the old lady. “I haven’t got any money,” and she proceeded to close the door. Quick as a flash, the young man wedged his foot in the door and pushed it wide open. The salesman had certain targets to reach by Christmas so he pursued the sale. “Don’t be too hasty!” he said. “Not until you have at least seen my demonstration”. And with that, he emptied a bucket of horse manure all over her hallway carpet. “If this vacuum cleaner does not remove all traces of this horse manure from your carpet, Madam, I will personally eat the remainder” .“Well,” she said, “I hope you’ve got a good appetite, because our electricity was cut off this morning!”



A retired man volunteered to entertain patients at Christmas and went to a hospital and began playing the piano. He told some jokes and sang some funny songs for those in attendance. He was very proud of his performance and when he finished he said, in farewell, “I hope you get better.” One elderly gentleman replied, “I hope you get better, too.”



On Christmas Eve a man and his wife walk into a pub and order some drinks. Suddenly they hear someone say: “Hey man “That’s a terrific new suit!” The man looks around to see who complimented him, but he couldn’t see anyone. “Then a voice says ‘Hey madam, ‘you look great in that dress’. The woman looks around to see who complimented her, but she couldn’t see anyone. Then a voice says ‘ ‘What a great looking couple you are’ They both look around but still cannot see anyone. The man then calls the bartender over to ask if who was giving them the compliments. “It’s not me,” the bartender says. “It’s the complimentary peanuts.”



Whilst having a Christmas lunch, three ladies were discussing the downsides of getting older. One said: “Sometimes I catch myself with a jar of mayonnaise in my hand, while standing in front of the refrigerator, and I can’t remember whether I need to put it away, or start making a sandwich.” The second lady chimed in with: “Yes, sometimes I find myself on the landing of the stairs and can’t remember whether I was on my way up or on my way down.” The third one responded: “Well, ladies, I’m glad I don’t have that problem. Knock on wood,” as she rapped her knuckles on the table, and then said: “That must be the door, I’ll get it



John asks his wife Mary what gift she wants for Christmas. “Would you like a new fur coat?” he asks. “Not really,” says Mary.” Well how about a new Mercedes-Benz sports car?” says John. “No,” she responds. “What about a new holiday home in the country?” he suggests. She again rejects his offer with a “No thanks.” Well what would you like for a Christmas present??” John asks. “John, I’d like a divorce,” answers Mary. John paused. “Oh Mary, I wasn’t planning to spend that much...”



A man is throwing away the Christmas left overs and sees a snail on the patio . He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later he is on his patio and sees the same snail. The snail says: “What the hell was that all about?”

## CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Mulled wine flowing, faces glowing, throngs of people having fun.  
Bells a jingling, folks a-mingling, Christmas market has begun  
Kiddies flock to Santa's grotto, some with glee and some with fear,  
Christmas trees all brightly tingling it's the best time of the year.  
Sparkling lights in every corner, goodies everywhere.  
Bunting flying, no denying, the festive magic in the air  
Creamy cocoa foe the children, something stronger for the rest.  
'Tis the season to be merry, love your neighbour, look your best.  
Homeward bound now, giving thanks, we wend our way as all is done,  
Looking forward to next year, Christmas markets are such fun.

## AWAY IN A MANGER

An angel called to Mary one day "You will have a baby," she heard him say,  
Now not yet married was Mary – however, The obedient girl just said, "Whatever."  
Now the trip to Bethlehem was long and tiring. The poor old donkey was sure perspiring.  
'Twas a nasty burden upon their backs. That compulsion to pay a Roman tax!  
A dirty stable with mouldy hay. 'Twas a dismal place to end the day.  
Of simple comforts there was a dearth and no wise midwife to help give birth.  
God's son in a manger, Can anything be stranger?  
A truly odd place for a baby to sleep. A feeding trough for a cow or a sheep!  
An angel came to shepherds that night. It's not surprising – they were filled with fright.  
"No need," said he, "for such behaviour, Cause tonight for you is born a Saviour!"  
When the shepherds got there, this they found A babe in a manger and straw on the ground.  
Maybe they wondered, it's obvious since he didn't look much like a royal prince!  
Some wise men came from far away, with gifts for a king they wished to convey.  
They called with Herod – an evil king, but rival monarchs were not his thing!  
When the wise men came, they entered the house, found Jesus, Joseph and Mary, his spouse.  
Presented their gifts, most precious we're told. Frankincense, myrrh and a casket of gold.  
His birth was humble, His death was tragic, but the rest of his story was more than magic.  
Though buried on Earth, he rose up to the sky as our Lord in Heaven, never more to die.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

We have often heard of Christmas Eve, though we don't know how she looks.  
We hear her mentioned on the radio, even written about in books.  
She appears to be exciting, when she is welcomed every year  
The kiddies all love Christmas Eve as she tells them Christmas time is near.  
She gets mentioned in the papers, and in the TV listings too.  
I love to see her photograph, but I don't know what to do.  
She comes around here every year, but I haven't glimpsed her yet.  
Though I don't know what she looks like, I'm sure I'd know her if we met.  
I imagine she's very sparkly, and a very busy madam.  
And although we hear of Christmas Eve, we never hear of Christmas Adam!

## CHRISTMAS REALITY

Christmas is the time that I reflect the year gone by and realise I can't get back my youthful ways however hard I try!  
When I was young and active, I never thought of getting old or of a creaking ancient body that wouldn't do as it was told.  
I want to do the things I did, like romping up the hills. Not feeling so exhausted as I shovel down the pills.  
Alas, I'm too unsteady to go wobbling on my bike, but I suppose I could look silly and buy myself a trike.  
My memory is failing, I put things in all wrong places. I'm even bad with people's names and putting names to faces.  
I have cleaned my teeth with Votanol, sprayed hair with Savlon cream. I used to be efficient but those days are just a dream.  
Whenever I go shopping I may forget the things I need. And with the list I wrote gone missing, how on earth can I succeed?  
Shopping can be done online to get food and all your stuff. But you must understand technology which I find rather rough  
Deliveries are random, you may not get what you expect, Sometimes goods can go astray which leaves me rather vexed.  
Due to my advancing years I get confused dot com. I can't cope with the cyber world and often get it wrong.  
With the High Street banks all closing, online banking is the game. But I can't understand it, which I suppose is rather lame.  
Mobile phones confuse me with all these wretched apps. And when I want to go somewhere I can't use Google maps  
And if the mobile doesn't work and leaves me full of fright. I have to call the grandkids to put my tablet right.  
And should you wish to travel and can't use a clever phone. You give up in frustration and decide to stay at home.  
We coped so well in our youth, taking all things in our stride. The world is changing fast and our wisdom's not required.  
However, we must keep on smiling, and pretend that we don't care. Having had amazing times we're lucky we're still here.  
We'll enjoy our days at Christmas whatever age we are, where we all can come together whether near or far.



Interpol have circulated this 'photo fit' of a man known as 'Santa Claus', who also has many aliases. He is regarded as a dangerous and 'habitual criminal' and is wanted 'Dead or Alive'. He is suspected of breaking and entering, criminal trespass, drink-driving and excess speeding, as he needs to travel at 650 miles a second and visit at least 5,000 homes per minute to deliver all the World's presents on Christmas Eve. By also driving his sleigh without a pilot's licence, he endangers others as he could easily fall asleep at the reins, as changing time zones will upset his body clock. He flaunts quarantine laws, whilst cleverly moving his reindeers all round the Globe and keeps deer without a permit. He illegally evades passport, immigration and border controls and is probably an illegal immigrant wherever he travels. He is in breach of Data Protection as he has the names and addresses of every child in the world.

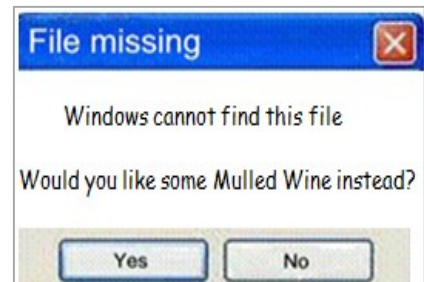


His habit of sitting young children on his knee and giving them 'presents' is also an area of concern. His yearly visit causes millions of otherwise exemplary parents to deliberately lie to their children for many years about his true character. He is a disgraceful work role model, as he only does anything for a maximum of 3 days a year and then eats for the other 362 days.

He has a rotund sedentary image with an unhealthy lifestyle and should share Rudolf's carrots and celery sticks, rather than sherry and mince pies. His physical bulk breaches the EU "Obesity Claus" and he should swap his reindeer and sleigh for a bike or take up jogging. He ignores 'Health and Safety' when landing on rooftops and climbing down chimneys. He is so fat that he is likely to get stuck and will be a big problem to firemen who try to pull him out!

Santa is a 'Master Criminal' who has been fooling everyone for many years. So far Interpol have questioned over 10,000 old men with white beards and glasses who fit the 'Wanted' poster (clever use by Santa of body doubles), but have still not made any arrests. Watch out Santa's still about!

### FOR THE WINE CONNISVERS



### If the three Wise Men had been three Wise Women:

- \* They would have pre- booked a room at the Inn.
- \* Brought enough towels and swaddling cloth.
- \* Packed a telescope to see the bright star.
- \* Delivered the baby.
- \* Shown Joseph how to build a crib.
- \* Sent the three wise men packing!
- \* Cleaned the stable.
- \* Brought practical gifts already wrapped.
- \* **And cooked a Pie for the Shepherds!!**

## 4 poems to show the differing aspects of Christmas.

### SO MUCH TO DO

Season of happiness and good cheer. Pour me a drink, I'm exhausted, dear.  
Got a banging head, my feet are sore, from scampering round that Superstore.  
Must stuff the bird, then peel the sprouts, stop fighting kids, and all their shouts.  
Let's all be cheerful, have a good day, Nana and Granddad are coming to stay.  
Oh, there they are now, that's the bell. Perhaps the turkey they can smell!  
So much to do, so little time. If dinner's late, will it be a crime?  
Every Christmas it drives me round the bend, but it always turns right in the end

### FRIENDS REUNITED

At Xmas time our hearts reach out to friends we think of dearly,  
And checking through our friendship lists, as we all do yearly,  
We stop awhile to reminiscence and pleasantly review,  
Special talks, happy times and things we used to do.  
And though we've been too busy to keep in touch all year.  
We send a Christmas greeting at this season of good cheer.  
So Christmas is a perfect link between old years and new,  
That keeps the bond of friendship forever running true.

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Xmas day, Fantastic mood, Presents, carols, lots of food.  
Fun and laughter round the tree, Family games then watch T.V.  
Tea time comes, we have some cake, Take a walk for good health's sake.  
Xmas over, up to bed, Heavy tummy, Aching head.

### BOXING DAY

Christmas over, Boxing day, snow replaced by rain, turkey eaten, presents opened, bones and wrapping remain.  
Silent carols, muted bells, the candles all burned out. Bottle tops, nutshells and gift tags lay round about.  
Glittered cards, ribbons and bows, tinsel, baubles and more. Unwanted gifts, stale perfume, all strewn across the floor.  
The tree bare, bulbs blown, forgotten cracker jokes. Empty bottles, hangovers and Santa's just some bloke.  
Party poppers, paper hats, plastic Jesus in his stable. Fallen cards, holly leaves litter the festive table.  
Melancholy Mistletoe, the anti-climax seems sad, But in my heart It will always be the best Christmas I've ever had.

## BEING WOKE AT CHRISTMAS 1



It was the night before Christmas and Santa was sad.  
He lived in a world which was politically mad.  
His workers no longer would answer to 'Elves'.  
'Vertically Challenged' they were calling themselves.  
And as for the gifts, he'd never a notion,  
That making a choice could cause such commotion.  
Something special was needed, that people would cite  
A gift that he might give to all people that would always be right.  
A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,  
Each group of people, every religion.  
Every ethnicity, every hue, everyone, everywhere, including you.  
Nothing that might be construed to pollute  
Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot.  
Nothing that made lots of noise. Nothing for just girls, or just for the boys.  
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific. Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.  
No rugby, no football, kids could get hurt; playing sports exposed them to dirt.  
Santa tried to be merry, he tried to be gay but he couldn't use that word today.  
So Santa just stood there, so very perplexed. To find a solution of what to do next.  
Then he found the right gift, it's a price beyond worth...

May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on Earth.

## BEING WOKE AT CHRISTMAS 2



We wish you a Woke Christmas and hope we got our pronouns right.  
He, Him She, Her or they. What you like best .Or they or theirs or what you might.  
For those who are a strict adherent to woke rules -there are no other,  
Correct rules by birthing parent, on no account use the word 'mother'  
When Santa comes we've left a treat for him to mark the festive time  
A glass of something that's not alcoholic for that would be a crime  
Or Milk a word that might offend those who want to take offence  
When will this nonsense ever end and we return to common sense?  
Meantime we hope your Christmas Day for you and those most dear.  
Brings you happiness to stay, for Christmas and New Year

## MORE CHRISTMAS JOKES TO MAKE YOU GROAN (SORRY)

At Christmas I was given a one day escapology course. Now I'm struggling to get out it  
It's hard to be nostalgic at Christmas when you can't remember anything.  
I had trouble at Christmas finding the latest book on poltergeists? It's flying off the shelves  
Difference between in-laws and outlaws at Christmas. Outlaws are wanted.  
My friend's selling a load of broken yo-yos on his Christmas market stall, no strings attached.  
Sign in a high street shop. 'Only 2 shoplifters in the shop at one time at Christmas.'  
I asked my wife. 'Where do you want this bubble wrap?' "Just pop it in the corner," she said. It took me three hours.  
The car park at my Church at Christmas is Pray and Display  
My daughter asked me for a pet spider for Christmas, I got her one very cheaply off the web..  
I used to own a chicken dating agency, but it was a struggle to make hens meet.  
The ghost of Christmas came last night, but I beat him off with a Vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.  
Whilst playing the game at Christmas I always feel it's wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly  
After New Year, a successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.  
Chess players bragging in a Hotel lobby at Christmas were chess nuts roasting on an open fire  
Christmas trees are like bad knitters. They keep losing their needles  
Since the snow came, all the wife has done is look through the window. If it gets any worse, I'll have to let her in.  
Did you hear the forecast for Christmas Eve? They're calling for rain, dear!  
If your car breaks down at Christmas you call the AA and get a Mistletoe  
The snowman in my garden had a temper tantrum I think he's having a melt down.  
The elves have to clean up Father Christmas's sleigh after Christmas. They use Santa-Tizer  
Ebenezer Scrooge wouldn't eat at the pasta restaurant as it cost a pretty penny!  
What diagnosis did the doctor give to the patient who kept eating Christmas decorations? Tinsel-itis.  
Sheep love Xmas time as they can say to their family' Happy Christmas to ewe'.





## NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS

It is amazing that most of us were born before any of the following: In no particular order, we did not have frozen foods, bar codes, smoke detectors, velcro, xerox, fax, contact lenses, the pill, cash machines, credit and debit cards, chip and pin, ballpoint pens, tights, botox, dishwashers, microwaves, refrigerators, tumble driers, food mixers, sandwich makers, bagless vacuum cleaners, lithium batteries, pocket calculators, camcorders, electric blankets, disposable nappies, electronic ignition, air conditioning, superglue, drip dry clothes,

TV Remote Control, Sky TV, Freeview, Netflix, ITVX, Amazon Prime, Catch Up TV, ITVX, ceefax, digital music, cameras and radios, laser beams or cordless tools. 747's, Concorde, Ryanair, Wizz, Easyjet. Electric and Hybrid cars, cruise control parking sensors. Satellite Navigation. There were no motorways, traffic wardens, yellow lines, parking meters, penalty points, breathalysers, dialysis machines, artificial hearts, laser surgery, pacemakers, polio vaccine, genetic engineering, DNA testing, test tube babies, aircraft black boxes, cordless phones, scanners, pagers, oyster cards and freedom passes. No Jubilee and Victoria tube lines, The Channel Tunnel, Eurostar, HS1, Space travel, Hovercrafts, Nuclear submarines, The Samaritans, National Lottery, Premium Bonds, Decimalisation, Call Centres, EU, Woke, Human Rights legislation.

Unheard of were: Walkmans, Compact disc players, FM Radios, Tape Recorders, Stereos, Cassette Players, 3G, 4G, 5G, ADSL, BMX, VHS, VCR, CD, LED, LP, EP, DLR, DVD, GPS, HD, ISP, IHT, MB, MP3, MRI, PVC, PDF, VAT, Media Players, Microsoft, Wii's, Cellphones, Ringtones, Fibre Optic, Nintendo's, Xboxes, Play Stations, Desktop Computers, Cash machines, USB sticks, Wi-Fi, Laptops, Mobiles, iPods, iCloud, I Pads, iPhones, iTunes, iPlayer, YouTube, Skype, Apps, Ebay, Email, Broadband, Routers, Modems Video games, Kindles, Websites, Texting, Cyber Crime, Online shopping, Blu-Ray, Bluetooth, Touch screens, colour and large screen TV's, Cyberspace, Google, Blogs, Wikipedia, Facebook, Facetime, Twitter, Dropbox, Instagram, Podcasts, Webcams. E-books 'Selfies', E-Cigarettes 3D Printers and now AI

'The web' was the home of a spider, 'tweeting' was the noise of a bird, 'streaming' was a body of water and 'cell' was a jail. "Kindle" started a fire, 'tablets' and 'viruses' were just medicinal and a 'worm' and a 'mouse' were usually found in your garden. 'Boot' was on your foot, and a 'cookie' was a biscuit. A 'hard disc' was in your back, an 'external hard drive' was where you parked your car, 'RAM' was a sheep, a 'server' worked in a restaurant. "Windows" were made of glass and a 'firewall' was in a fire station.

Most people got married first and THEN lived together. 'Fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat, and 'crumpet' was what you had for tea. 'Sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus. A 'chip' was a piece of wood or a fried potato. 'Time sharing' meant togetherness. 'Spam' was just a cheap meat. 'Made in Japan' meant junk. 'Stud' was something fastened to a shirt and 'Going all the way' meant staying on a bus to the terminus. 'Grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coalhouse, 'weed' was just a nuisance in the garden. 'A joint' was Sunday dinner, and 'pot' was something you cooked in. A 'gay' person was a happy person, a 'camp' person was a Guide or Scout singing 'Ging Gang Goolie Goolie' around a fire, whilst 'aids' meant helping someone in trouble. 'Hacking' was a bad cough. PC was Mr. Plod, not a computer, or politically correct and Apple, Blackberry and Orange were just fruit! However we DID have banks everywhere and free home delivery from Bakers, Milkmen and The Tizer man! And at least 3 Postal deliveries a day!

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

My New Year's resolution is to be more optimistic by keeping my cup half-full with whiskey.

My resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions.

This New Year's I resolve to be less awesome since that is really the only thing I do in excess.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year resolutions.

My prayer for 2024 is a fat bank account and a thin body. Please don't mix it up like you did this year.

Many things can be preserved in alcohol this New Years Eve, but dignity is not one of them.

.On New Year's Eve, you panic to do all the things you will resolve not to do in the new year.

My New Year's resolution is to help all my friends gain ten kilograms so I look skinnier.

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

My wife still hasn't told me what my New Year's resolutions are.

At the beginning of this year I made a New Year's resolution to lose 10 kilograms. Only 15 more to go!

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up for New Years, middle age is when you're forced to.

I'll remember 2023 like it was yesterday

**NOW TRY THE CHRISTMAS DINGBATS, QUIZ AND ANAGRAMS**

# Dingbats – Christmas Edition

<p>ABCDEFGHIJ KLMNOPQ RSTUVWX YZ</p>	<p>Y Y MEN Y</p>	<p>MISTLETOE XXX</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS → CHRISTMAS</p>
1	2	3	4
<p>DONKEY → DONKEY</p>	<p>CE CE CE <sup>↓</sup> CE π π</p>	<p>MANAWAYGER</p>	<p><u>LEFT</u> TURKEY</p>
5	6	7	8
<p>NIGHT</p>	<p>PRES ENTS</p>	<p>W ← ↑ ↓ → E S</p>	<p>JACK</p>
9	10	11	12
<p>XMAS</p>	<p>GOOD DAY SPRING HI THERE SUMMER HEY AUTUMN HELLO WINTER</p>	<p>PPP </p>	<p>BLANPIGPIGKETS</p>
13	14	15	16
<p>D NER</p>	<p>DECOR = 8/10</p>	<p>VORDERMAN DANVERS SMILLIE KING</p>	<p><u>PRESENCE</u> PRESENTS</p>
17	18	19	20

# CHRISTMAS EDITION DINGBATS ANSWERS

## Dingbats – Christmas Edition

<b>ABCDEFGHIJ KLMNOPQR STUVWXYZ YZ</b>	<b>Y Y MEN Y</b>	<b>MISTLETOE XXX</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS → CHRISTMAS</b>
1	2	3	4
<b>DONKEY</b> → DONKEY	<b>CE CE CE CE</b> $\pi$ $\pi$	<b>MANAWAYGER</b>	<b>LEFT TURKEY</b>
5	6	7	8
<b>NIGHT</b>	<b>PRES ENTS</b>		
9	10	11	12
<b>XMAS</b>	<b>GOOD DAY SPRING HI THERE SUMMER HEY AUTUMN HELLO WINTER</b>	<b>PPP</b> 	<b>BLANPIGPIGKETS</b>
13	14	15	16
<b>D NER</b>	<b>DECOR = 8/10</b>	<b>VORDERMAN DANVERS SMILLIE KING</b>	<b>PRESENCE PRESENTS</b>
17	18	19	20

1. Noel 2. Three Wise Men 3. Kisses under the mistletoe. 4. Last Christmas 5. Little Donkey  
6. Mince Pies 7. Away in a manger 8. Leftover turkey 9. Holy Night 10. Opening presents  
11. North Pole 12. Jack Frost 13. White Christmas 14. Seasons Greetings 15. Peace on earth  
16. Pigs in blankets 17. Donner 18. Decorate 19. Carols 20. Presence over presents

## CHRISTMAS DINGBATS 2

<p><b>DONKEY</b> → DONKEY</p>	<p><b>HODRIVEME</b> <b>XMAS XMAS</b> <b>XMAS XMAS</b></p>	<p><b>S</b> </p>	<p><b>EMINEM</b> </p>
1	2	3	4
<p></p>	<p><b>SENFRAKSE</b></p>	<p></p>	<p><b>FIR</b> — <b>HERE HERE</b> <b>HERE</b></p>
5	6	7	8
<p></p>	<p><b>+</b> <b>OUTLET</b></p>	<p></p>	<p><b>NOE</b></p>
9	10	11	12
<p><b>Grrrr</b> <b>+</b> <b>2.54cms</b></p>	<p><i>Jingle</i> → ← <i>Jingle</i> <i>Jingle</i> → <b>END</b></p>	<p><b>HORROR</b> <b>Dec 24th</b></p>	<p></p>
13	14	15	16
<p></p>	<p><b>EVE EVE EVE</b> <b>HOLLY HOLLY</b> → <b>CAROL</b></p>	<p><b>CARIBBEAN</b> <b>OFFSPRING</b> <b>HEY HI HELLO</b></p>	<p><b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> → <b>CHRISTMAS</b></p>
17	18	19	20



## CHRISTMAS DINGBATS 2 ANSWERS

<b>DONKEY</b> DONKEY	HODRIVEME XMAS XMAS XMAS XMAS	S	<b>EMINEM</b> 
1	2	3	4
	<b>SENFRAKSE</b>		<b>FIR</b> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/> <b>HERE HERE</b> <b>HERE</b>
5	6	7	8
	+ <b>OUTLET</b>		<b>NOE</b>
9	10	11	12
<b>Grrrr</b> + <b>2.54cms</b>	<i>Jingle</i> → ← <i>Jingle</i> <i>Jingle</i> → <small>END</small>	<b>HORROR</b>  <b>Dec 24th</b>	
13	14	15	16
	EVE EVE EVE HOLLY HOLLY → CAROL	<b>CARIBBEAN</b> <b>OFFSPRING</b> <b>HEY HI HELLO</b>	CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS → CHRISTMAS
17	18	19	20

- 1 - Little Donkey 2 - Driving Home for Christmas 3 - Snowman 4 - Wrapping Paper 5 - Snowball 6 - Frankincense 7 - Tinsel 8 - Presents Under The Tree 9 - Festive Cheer 10 - Advent Round 2 - Christmas Movies 11 - Home Alone 12 - Noel or Noelle 13 - The Grinch 14 - Jingle all the Way 15 - The Nightmare Before Christmas 16 - Jack Frost 17 - The Nutcracker 18 - A Christmas Carol 19 - Season's Greetings 20 - Last Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1) In the novel A Christmas Carol, which is the first ghost to visit Scrooge?	
2) The Twelve Days of Christmas traditionally finish on which date?	
3) St. Stephen's Day is also known as?	
4) Between 1996 and 1998, which British girl band celebrated three consecutive UK Christmas number one singles?	
5) In the song 'Twelve Days of Christmas', how many ladies were dancing?	
6) 'Walking in the Air' is a song taken from The Snowman. Who was the teenager who made it a hit	
7) Which UK monarch delivered the first Christmas Broadcast to the BBC?	
8) Band Aid, released which song in 1984 to raise money for anti-famine efforts in Ethiopia?	
9) In the Dr Who Christmas special in 2017, which actress made her first official appearance as the 13th Doctor?	
10) Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first?	
11) A Bellini is prosecco flavoured with which puréed fruit?	
12) What stick would you put into a mulled wine?	
13) In the 1947 version of Miracle on 34th Street, who plays the little girl Susan Walker?	
14) Miracle On 34th Street centres on what real-life department store?	
15) The Australian external territory of Christmas Island is in which ocean?	
16) Which Christmas hit for Harry Belafonte in 1956 is now widely performed as a Christmas Carol?	
17) Port, the Portuguese fortified wine, often drunk at Christmas, is produced exclusively in which valley in northern Portugal?	
18) What is a male turkey called	
19) 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?	
20) What popular Christmas song was actually written for Thanksgiving?	

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

1) In the novel A Christmas Carol, which is the first ghost to visit Scrooge?	Jacob Marley
2) The Twelve Days of Christmas traditionally finish on which date?	January 5th
3) St. Stephen's Day is also known as?	Boxing Day
4) Between 1996 and 1998, which British girl band celebrated three consecutive UK Christmas number one singles?	Spice Girls
5) In the song 'Twelve Days of Christmas', how many ladies were dancing?	Nine
6) 'Walking in the Air' is a song taken from The Snowman. Who was the teenager who made it a hit	Aled Jones
7) Which UK monarch delivered the first Christmas Broadcast to the BBC?	George V
8) Band Aid, released which song in 1984 to raise money for anti-famine efforts in Ethiopia?	"Do They Know It's Christmas?"
9) In the Dr Who Christmas special in 2017, which actress made her first official appearance as the 13th Doctor?	Jodie Whittaker
10) Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first?	Blitzen (Blitzer)
11) A Bellini is prosecco flavoured with which puréed fruit?	Peach
12) What stick would you put into a mulled wine?	Cinnamon
13) In the 1947 version of Miracle on 34th Street, who plays the little girl Susan Walker?	Natalie Wood
14) Miracle On 34th Street centres on what real-life department store?	Macey's
15) The Australian external territory of Christmas Island is in which ocean?	Indian Ocean
16) Which Christmas hit for Harry Belafonte in 1956 is now widely performed as a Christmas Carol?	Mary's Boy Child
17) Port, the Portuguese fortified wine, often drunk at Christmas, is produced exclusively in which valley in northern Portugal?	Douro Valley
18) What is a male turkey called	A Gobbler
19) 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?	The three wise men/kings
20) What popular Christmas song was actually written for Thanksgiving?	"Jingle Bells"

## CHRISTMAS ANAGRAMS

1	CHANTS IN A SILO	
2	GAL DID STING	
3	BIG ONYX AD	
4	TECH STUNS	
5	HELP OR NOT	
6	SEE BEE ZONE GROCER	
7	HE BILLS LEGS	
8	TINY VITA	
9	LENT REAR DOWNWIND	
10	FIND DUG PIGGY	
11	MY NICHE	
12	MANS OWN	
13	ROUGHENED RIBS	
14	COORDINATES	
15	RESIST REMATCH	
16	JACKS FORT	
17	KNIFE SCANNER	
18	BE THE HELM	
19	CLEANING SLEWS	
20	LENS BELL JIG	



<b>CHRISTMAS ANAGRAMS ANSWERS</b>	
1 CHANTS IN A SILO	<b>SAINT NICHOLAS</b>
2 GAL DID STING	<b>GLAD TIDINGS</b>
3 BIG ONYX AD	<b>BOXING DAY</b>
4 TECH STUNS	<b>CHESTNUTS</b>
5 HELP OR NOT	<b>NORTH POLE</b>
6 SEE BEE ZONE GROCER	<b>EBENEZER SCROOGE</b>
7 HE BILLS LEGS	<b>SLEIGH BELLS</b>
8 TINY VITA	<b>NATIVITY</b>
9 LENT REAR DOWNWIND	<b>WINTER WONDERLAND</b>
10 FIND DUG PIGGY	<b>FIGGY PUDDING</b>
11 MY NICHE	<b>CHIMNEY</b>
12 MANS OWN	<b>SNOWMAN</b>
13 ROUGHENED RIBS	<b>GINGERBREAD HOUSE</b>
14 COORDINATES	<b>DECORATIONS</b>
15 RESIST REMATCH	<b>CHRISTMAS TREE</b>
16 JACKS FORT	<b>JACK FROST</b>
17 KNIFE SCANNER	<b>FRANKINCENSE</b>
18 BE THE HELM	<b>BETHLEHEM</b>
19 CLEANING SLEWS	<b>KING WENCESLAS</b>
20 LENS BELL JIG	<b>JINGLE BELLS</b>

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR**