

THE CURRENT

Winter wardrobes

Time to sparkle and shine!

Christmas around the world

Goats, pickles and more!

The best of times, the worst of times

Festive faves and holiday hates



CONTENTS

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|----|
| Editor's Note | | 03 |
| Cosy Little Christmas | <i>Lucy W</i> | 04 |
| The Culture Club Christmas | <i>Kate R</i> | 05 |



| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----|
| Worst Christmas Trees | <i>Daniel P</i> | 08 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----|

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----|
| Winter Wardrobe | <i>Jasmine W</i> | 10 |
|-----------------|------------------|----|

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----|
| Festive flops, festive fun | <i>Katie T</i> | 12 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----|



| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----|
| Best of times | <i>Hanna M + Lucy W</i> | 06 |
| Worst of times | <i>Jasmine W</i> | 07 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----|
| This month in History | <i>Daniel P + Daniel A</i> | 18 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----|

| | | |
|-------------------|--|----|
| This Farming Life | | 19 |
|-------------------|--|----|

| | | |
|-------|----------------|----|
| SPORT | <i>Harry H</i> | 20 |
|-------|----------------|----|

| | | |
|------------|---------------|----|
| What's on? | <i>Rosi B</i> | 24 |
|------------|---------------|----|



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(L-R) Mr. Springett, Katy H., Kate R., Hand M., Emma Mc., Lucy W., Rosi B., Miss. Proudlock, Daniel P., Miss. Henson, Harry H., Jasmine W.

EDITOR'S NOTE

*Christmas is coming
The goose is getting fat*

It has been a wonderful year here at St. Bede's

from teacher strikes, to bus strikes

from Berlin, to Granada

from the Lakes, to London

from the cricket ground, to Cornwall

from broken bones, to confiscated phones

from make-up wipes, to musical nights

from new food, to new faces

from P4, to 50-minute galore

from fallen trees, to ice(?) lollies

from saying hello, to saying goodbye...

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight!

The Editorial Team

OUR AVID READERS

"Hello! Thank you for our copy! We would like to raise some concerns about the person who made the cheese and pizza choices. We believe they are wrong!

We would also like to submit some top 5s of our own. We are working on it....

Kind Regards,
Mrs Rath and 10 Anthony"

"I'm a fierce opponent of hyperbole, but while flicking through the pages of our dear school rag, one cannot help but feel one's faith in humanity recharged. It is as if all the merry joys of human experience have been condensed by expert hands into twenty glossy pages (printing quality matters, you know).

After even a passing glance at the Culture section, the most knuckle-dragging of neanderthals would believe himself to be Oscar Wilde. To leaf through the Sport section, one can feel the roar of the crowd and the tantalising possibility of a 3-0 win. Who hasn't tossed away his moth-eaten wardrobe after perusing the latest in Fashion, to say nothing of a crossword and a wordsearch to tax the snoozing intellect?

My form and I feel rivetted-nourished- energised- as we sail the Current together. As good old Bill Shakespeare once scribbled, the paper is 'a moat defensive against the envy of less happier lands'. Long may the Current rush on."

Mr Gomersall and 10 Benedict

"The link isn't working"

Mr Beaufort-Jones and 11 Ward

HAVE YOURSELF A COSY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

GILMORE GIRLS

The classic cosy watch.

Gilmore Girls first aired in October 2000 and follows the lives of mother and daughter Lorelai and Rory. Lorelai had Rory at 16 and escaped from her strict family home to start a new, independent life with her daughter.

Throughout this comedy-drama, we watch them navigate school and career life and see how their close bond is tested as they both strive to reach their dreams. They go through relationships, break-ups, friendships, grief and much more during the 7 seasons.

The small town in which Gilmore Girls is set, Stars Hollow, is home to many unusual and unique but extremely likeable characters who participate in the traditions of the town and are like an extended family to the protagonists. The show has become a comfort watch for many around this time due to the familiar setting and characters and the plot filled with twists and turns.

Ultimately, Gilmore Girls follows two strong, independent women as they find their feet in the life they are making for themselves.



You can't call yourself a Gilmore Girls fan if you don't appreciate the soundtrack.

From the iconic theme tune by Carole King to Lane's punk rock band, the show offers it all. Other notable mentions include....

Sam Phillips:

If I Could Write

How to Dream

Reflecting Light

The classic Gilmore Girls backing to their daily lives and the events they experience.

The La's:

There She Goes

Featured in season 1, episode 1 of the show, as we begin to get to know the characters.

The Bangles:

Hero Takes A Fall

The Bangles perform in season 1 as Rory tries to develop friendships at her new school.

The Shins:

So Says I

The Shins performed this in season 4 when Rory is at a party during spring break.

BY LUCY WILKINSON

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

It's hard to believe that this iconic film has been screaming cosy vibes since 1947. It is the ultimate watch if you're into the triumph over adversity genre. On a serious note, if you're searching for the true meaning of Christmas you'll get it here.

Plot?

A man (George Bailey) who thinks he has come to the end of his line after having sacrificing his own ambitions for the sake of his family now faces financial ruin.

Plot twist?

An angel (sans wings) appears on a mission which is two-fold - saving George Bailey from himself and earning his wings after a 200 year wait.

Spoilers?

No man is a failure who has friends.



➔ SWEDISH JULBOCK SCULPTURE 'YULE GOAT'

Each year towns throughout Sweden put up large Julbock sculptures, also known as 'Yule Goat' at the start of each Advent which is then revealed to a large cheering crowd. The largest Julbock is in the town of Gavle who put up a massive 42-foot-high, 3.6-ton statue which is made of wood and straw.

There is no real tradition except the tradition of arson, since the locals love to try and set the massive Yule goat sculpture alight. This informal tradition has taken place since 1966 where it was burned down on New Years Eve. Since then there have been dozens of attacks including some Grinches who have tried to drive cars over it, smash it with clubs, and even blow it up with fireworks. There was a Santa and a Gingerbread man who even shot the goat with flaming arrows in the hopes that it will catch alight, along with someone who tried to abduct Julbock with a helicopter.

The poor Julbock has only ever remained unscathed 15 times and is now under constant 24-hour security to remain protected from arson and other attacks.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-24/yule-goat-and-swedish-battle-to-stop-his-burning-down/20181224>



CULTURAL CHRISTMAS



<https://www.dailymail.com/article/1361111/krampus-run-hunch.html>



➔ THE CHRISTMAS PICKLE

According to one legend this pickle tradition comes from a soldier who was taken prisoner during the war. He was starved to near death until he begged a soldier to give him one last pickle before he dies. Apparently this pickle then gave him the mental and physical strength to carry on living through it.

On Christmas Eve parents hide this pickle ornament somewhere deep in the Christmas tree, since the green colour of the tree branches camouflage the pickle making it hard to find.

➔ KRAMPUS

The Krampus is the opposite to what Saint Nicholas is, since Saint Nicholas goes around helping and giving presents to the people that have behaved good whilst Krampus goes around kidnapping and beating up the people who have been behaving well through the year.

They wear animal skins and carved wooden masks with bells tied to their costumes so that people can hear them clanking through the darkness. They also carry a stick and sack with them so that they can beat people up with the sticks and drag misbehaving children away with them through the snow in their sacks. Many parents scare their children with stories of Krampus, telling them he'll come and take them away if they don't start acting good.

IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES

(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)



White Christmas – It must be beautiful in Vermont this time of year...

It's a Wonderful Life – That does it, out you two pixies go...

Muppets Christmas Carol – No cheeses for us meeces

Elf vs Love Actually – Both very marmite (you either love it or you hate it)

Home Alone – Merry Christmas, ya filthy animal

You should try

Serendipity – Maybe the absence of signs is a sign

Scrooged – It's a toaster!

SONGS

Underneath the Tree – Kelly Clarkson

Fairytale of New York – The Pogues

Merry Xmas Everybody – Slade

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
– Frank Sinatra

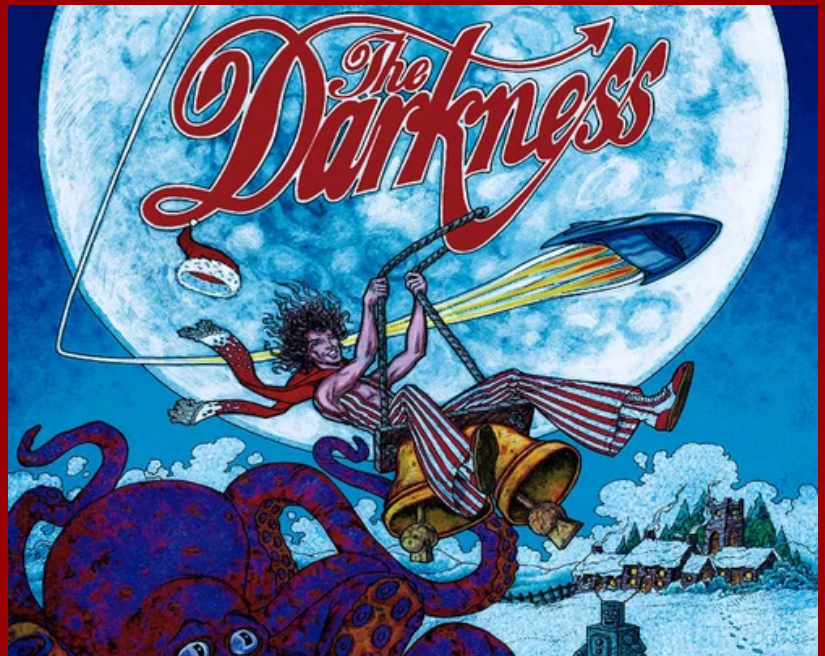
Christmas Time (Don't Let the Bells
End) – The Darkness

You should try

2000 Miles – The Pretenders

Elf's Lament – Barenaked Ladies

25th December – Everything But The
Girl



BAKES



Apple Crumble Cupcakes – recipe from the Baking Explorer

Gingerbread and White Chocolate NYC cookies – Jane's Patisserie

Reindeer Cupcakes – Jane's Patisserie

Gingerbread house - (good kits from Ikea and Costco)

Ginger Wine (non-alcoholic) - To make 3l ginger wine, 1kg of sugar
in 2350ml of boiling water, boil till dissolved. When cooled, stir in
250ml of flaming hot ginger essence (or smooth for a less intense
heat)

IT IS THE WORST OF TIMES

Dear everyone...

Here's what you're doing wrong

- People who put their Christmas decorations up in November—Have a word please.
- Inflatable decorations outside—tacky.
- Facebook posts about how many days until Christmas— it's July
- Christmas songs. EWW just EWW nothing catchy or musical about them. People talking with jingle bells in the background. Tasteless.
- The diabolical smell of pine trees in the house. Additionally, trees are a living organism that you've just killed.
- Cozzy-livs?? Has this flew out of the window for your disgusting yellow lights plastered around your front door?? Do they use the electricity you are complaining about? Have some logic.
- Christmas crackers— pointless. Jokes aren't remotely funny, why does a 7-year-old want a bottle opener or a shoehorn? Cause of many family feuds. You may need family therapy after these things.
- Christmas dinner. Don't get me wrong lovely cuisine, but why are we waiting all year for it when it you could have it on any Sunday?
- Christmas is a part of the winter season, but why would any normal person like snow? Absolutely diabolical form of weather. Your feet are cold, shoes are wet, hurts your eyes and you have lost your ability to use your hands.
- Advent calendar. People who have an advent calendar— someone with either no common sense or no self-control. Buy yourself 2 chocolate bars cut it up into 25...You've just saved a whole £10 for having self-control and logic.
- What is Boxing Day even for?
- Being nice to people.
- Elf on the shelf? You are willingly messing up your own belongings and house.

Be better.

Your expert on all things in good taste,
Jasmine Wright x



ABSOLUTE

TREESON THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

While I personally feel no compulsion to dislike Christmas, when done wrong it can be one of the least wonderful times of the year.

Perhaps the most insufferable mistake one can make at Christmas is failing in the fundamental festivities.

Admittedly, maybe being hung, drawn and quartered in this instance is a step too far... but if you are unable to perform the most basic of tasks, you should be condemned to a fate worse than coal on Christmas Day.

Of course, there are many obstacles to overcome whilst decorating your house over the festive period, however, one job which should pose no challenge is the simple Christmas tree.

How can anyone get something so straightforward wrong? Well, that was the question I found myself asking prior to reviewing some of the worst trees of all time.

Here come the culprits...

For starters, the tree itself looks horribly out of place, as if erected in the middle of September – which knowing some fools is highly possible – and in addition the photo isn't even taken at night when you can actually see the lights, why even have them on during the day if you cannot see them?

As if this is not bad enough, the tree itself is entirely dysfunctional as many of the branches still have not been extended to their full length. This leaves the tree looking off balance; with one small gust of wind this innocent Christmas tree could be turned into a dangerous projectile. Evidently, this is not only a threat to the sanity of the local community, but also to their elderly population who could, at any given moment, be hit by this monstrosity whilst enjoying a cup of tea in their living room.

This tree not only invalidates actual Christmas trees but also discredits the entire celebration of Christmas with its deformed figure.



Next we have this Christmas “tree” which only qualifies for this title due to the intent behind it, rather than the outcome.

If it even has any leaves, they are hidden by the unfortunately designed external layer. This tree is located at a mall in America, but even by *their* standards it is inconceivably disproportional and lopsided.

There have been deliberately comical trees which have far exceeded this abomination aesthetically, the addition of the lights is perhaps the only thing which keeps this decoration from being easily mistaken for human waste.

Yet another public Christmas tree which fails to serve its purpose. Decorations are there to be looked at, they create the vibe - THIS Christmas tree is simply unpleasant to lay eyes upon.

Though it is certainly better than other trees on the list (it actually resembles a tree) this does not excuse its poor appearance. It is difficult to criticise because I have no idea what has gone wrong, other than it being a horrible shape.

So perhaps this one is the fault of the seller, who has clearly scammed the shopping centre where this is placed.

A first household Christmas tree! But it is in no way domesticated, its branches fly out in random directions creating total disarray. Besides the clear failure to contain the Christmas tree, it also appears as though the foliage has become detached from the caucus of the tree itself.

It's clear that a disaster has occurred in the process of putting the tree up which begs the question: *why continue to decorate it?* At this point surely it is a far better idea to simply give up and purchase an artificial Christmas tree – even a Christmas flower would look better than how this tree has turned out.



WINTER WARDROBES

WHAT COULD WE BE WEARING THIS FESTIVE SEASON?

The month of December is filled with festive events, but it could also be filled with an exploration of various new and bold fashion styles- maybe ones we have never considered before?

A fundamental part of our festive fashion is experimenting with colour and texture, gold, green, sequin or silky. Why not make it spectacular this year? While some like to keep it formal for Christmas, others like to indulge into the spontaneity of the season.

Let's talk metallic, chrome attire is set to take the crown this winter with its extravagant effect while also keeping it classy but never boring. Gold, silver and olive-green metallic items are most definitely an option for your festive wardrobe, especially in skirts, tops, shoes or even as subtle as a bag or headband.

Furthering this trend, what is Christmas without some aesthetically pleasing sequins as one of your staples? This is a timeless and original seasonal piece; despite the slightly problematic mess they tend to make annually. Regardless of this, these small shiny disks will turn your Christmas outfit from boring to brilliant!

Has there ever been a more perfect time to express personal creativity? As we all know, comfort is an essential factor in our holiday choices, so why not focus on a fashionable but functional silk outfit. Silk is not only a stylish choice, but it also appears sophisticated, ensuring you look that elegant part on Christmas.

Despite my personal preference on Christmas jumpers, there are a minority of these garments that look acceptable (if I do not include this, I will be labelled a 'scrooge' for the foreseeable future). These jumpers often have intricate, (or should we say questionable) designs on, which will most definitely spice up your outfit in one way or another, therefore, why not embrace it for the festive period (which is thankfully only a month long for normal people).

**NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO
TRANSCEND WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS
ATTIRE...AND I PROMISE YOU WILL
NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!**

WHAT WILL YOU DECIDE ON?



NORTH EAST IN THE SNOW







THANK YOU TO MRS DISTON, MRS MCINTOSH, MR SPRINGETT, MR TONES AND MRS OLIVER FOR THE SNAPS

FESTIVE FLOPS

BY KATIE THOMPSON

AS CHRISTMAS DRAWS CLOSER, A MULTITUDE OF MOVIES AND SPECIALS EDGE TOWARDS US, FROM BRILLIANT TO BOTCHED, WE'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE INS AND OUTS OF WHAT YOU SHOULD - OR SHOULDN'T - BE WATCHING.



Merry Little Batman

Merry Little Batman /Trailer / Animation Movie / Prime - YouTube

Although this may sound appealing as he is one of the greatest DC superheroes, 'Merry little Batman' should not be at the top of your watchlist.

Not only does Bruce Wa---, I mean Batman leave Wayne Manor for Christmas, but he also leaves behind one of his children, Damain Wayne. Alone at Christmas, he must fight to survive against dangerous villains, such as The Joker, Bane, Penguin and the Riddler, yet miraculously, the 10-year-old prevails.

If you think that's inaccurate, then the new character designs will certainly defer you. The Batman we've all grown to know and love would never allow his charismatic billionaire reputation to plummet to this.



Ex-Mas

Christmas romance films are loved by the film industry this year, unfortunately, none of them meet the expectations of the past. Films such as Elf, Love Actually and more are now being roped into disappointments like Ex-Mas.

Previously engaged, the female lead (Ali Moyer) misses her ex-fiancés family and their Christmas traditions. In expectation of him deserting his own family on Christmas, Ali discretely contacts his family and they each agree to spend Christmas without the ex (Graham Strop).

Conveniently, Graham surprises his family on Christmas and reunites with Ali in shock. Of course, their love grows over the festive season, and they expectedly become a couple once again.



Christmas Rescue

Following a trail of disappointment, another Christmas romance film emerging this winter is Christmas Rescue.

Rather than promoting a healthy Christmas romance and showing kindness through the holiday season, the couple's relationship begins with the lead actor kidnapping the leading actress from her own wedding.

Over the course of the unbelievable introduction, the kidnapper and kidnappee fall in love. Encouraging toxic relationships, Christmas Rescue should reside at the bottom of your Christmas watchlist this year.



FESTIVE FUN



The Holdovers

This new coming of age film will make you feel a range of emotions- joy, sadness and fulfilment- as the story develops of a grumpy, hated history teacher (none of those at St Bede's) who remains on campus over the Christmas holidays.

Joining him are one of his trouble-making students and the school's head cook, who too has nowhere to go. Here, the unlikely trio become acquainted and share their stories as they grow a tolerance of each other, dare I even say friendship?

This new comedy-drama film will definitely tug on your heart strings this Christmas!



Candy Cane Lane

Coming to Netflix, Candy Cane Lane is the Christmas movie carrying the film industry this year. Starring Eddie Murphy, the film follows the story of a man who is desperate to win his neighbourhood Christmas decoration contest - clouded by his desires, he makes a deal with an evil elf, who plans to ruin Christmas.

With his family's help, the man strives to save Christmas. Rather than following themes of romance and drama, Candy Cane Lane focuses on both Fantasy and Horror.

Ghosts Christmas special

Luckily, the BBC Horrible Histories cast are granting us with another Christmas special - after season 5, heaven knows it's needed.

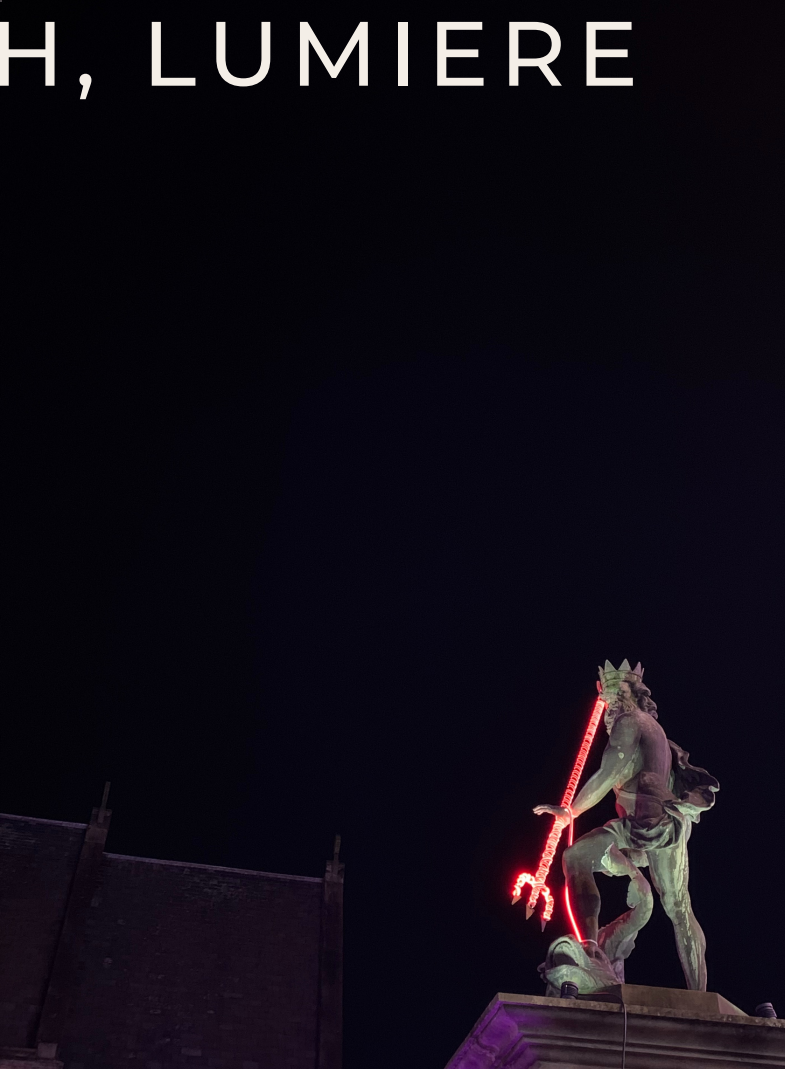
With the show ending, the Christmas special may be Alison and Mike's final appearance, along with their paranormal tenants and the last time we see the chaotic events of Button House.

On a lighter note, Kitty may find some Christmas balloons!





LIVE, LAUGH, LUMIERE



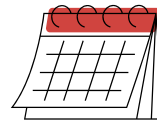


STILL LIVING,

LAUGHING, LUMIERING



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...



A TAPESTRY OF INTRIGUE,
ABDICATION, AND TRIUMPH



8TH DECEMBER 1981 JOHN LENNON ASSASSINATED

On the 8th of December 1980, John Lennon, an ex-Beatle, was assassinated by estranged fan, Mark David Chapman, leading to international grief.

His assassin was believed to be a recent Christian convert who had taken issue with a number of Lennon's lyrics as well as his claim to be more popular than Jesus.

16TH DECEMBER 1916 RASPUTIN IS MURDERED

The day the self-proclaimed spiritual healer was assassinated by Russian nobles due to his growing influence over the Russian Tsar and Tsarina. As rumours raged about his affairs with the Russian Empress, the nobles had to act.

Despite famously failing to kill him multiple times (including gun shots and poison!), he was eventually bound and drowned in the Neva river.

11TH DECEMBER 1936 ABDICATION OF KING EDWARD VIII

King Edward VIII of the United Kingdom took the controversial decision to abdicate from the British throne as he wanted to marry a woman named Wallis Simpson but was prevented from doing so if he remained as King since Simpson had been divorced twice.

This decision changed the succession and led to the Queen's father, George VI, taking the throne.



19TH DECEMBER 1848 DEATH OF EMILY BRONTË

In the literary world, a solemn note echoes as we bid farewell to one of the most enigmatic and brilliant minds of the 19th century—Emily Brontë.

The author of the timeless classic "Wuthering Heights" leaving behind a legacy that continues to captivate readers across the ages. Brontë's untimely death at the age of 30 has cast a poignant shadow over the landscape of English literature, extinguishing a flame that burned fiercely with raw passion and unparalleled imagination.

Born into the Brontë literary dynasty, Emily's contribution to literature was a singular masterpiece that defied convention. "Wuthering Heights," a tale of love, revenge, and the unforgiving Yorkshire moors, stands as a testament to her unparalleled storytelling prowess.

Emily Brontë's departure marks not only the end of a remarkable life but also the closing of a chapter in literary history. Her words, etched into the fabric of English literature, continue to resonate, inviting readers to explore the haunting depths of her imagination, ensuring that Emily Brontë's legacy will endure for generations to come.



11TH DECEMBER 1981 MUHAMMAD ALI DEFEATED – Drama in Bahama –

In his final fight on the 11th of December 1981, Muhammad Ali was defeated by Trevor Berbick on points in his final ever fight, marking the end of an illustrious career and a sign of his Parkinson's disease beginning to take over his body.

The fight was dubbed "Drama in the Bahama" as it took place in Nassau but is remembered more for closing the curtain on the career of the man who is referred to both by himself and the boxing world as the "greatest of all time", than for being a dramatic fight.



THIS FARMING LIFE

AS TOLD BY JOEL PEART
TO MISS PROUDLOCK



Your one stop shop for all your agricultural anecdotes (that means farming stories).

Once upon a time, I needed to write a history essay.

I intended to write it during my frees, however, I was overcome with exhaustion as a result of my "labours" during the wee small hours of the previous night.

Now, the birth of livestock on farms a pretty standard occurrence. But this night? Let's just say there was nothing standard about it. Unlike humans, animals usually need very little intervention to deliver their young successfully.

So when the cow's labour extended past midnight, I started to get a little twitchy (and tired). Eventually the cow was delivered of a new born baby calf (see artists impression).

Unfortunately, it was also delivered of its womb. I believe the veterinary term is a Uterine Prolapse- look it up people. Let's just say the cow required some manual help to arrange some vital organs.

I didn't write that essay. Ms. Murphy was unforgiving.





FOOTBALL AT CHRISTMAS: AN ENGLISH TRADITION

Christmas is a time where we overindulge in many things; presents, food and football.

The period of Boxing Day to New Year is relentless for English football with teams usually playing 3 games within a week before the FA Cup 3rd round in early January. In contrast, the other

European leagues such as the Bundesliga, La Liga and Ligue 1 all stopping before the 25 December and resuming in mid-January.

This makes the Christmas football schedule a very English tradition, one that fans look forward to each year when the fixtures are revealed.

The tradition of Boxing Day games began after Blackpool against Blackburn, the last match on Christmas Day in 1965.

In the 58 years since, the festive fixtures have served up some very entertaining encounters. Even last year there were 22 goals in the 7 games, an average of around 3 a game.

There have been many legendary games on Boxing Day (Man City 6-3 Leicester, Man Utd 4-3 Newcastle) but the most famous group of fixtures is that of 1963, where fans were treated to 66 goals in only 10 games.

Burnley thrashed Manchester United 6-1 at Turf Moor, Blackburn ran riot over West Ham in an 8-2 win and Fulham inflicted a 10-1 humbling on Ipswich to name a few. A crazy day of games. Nothing since has been as entertaining.

The fixtures this year will most likely deliver with some intriguing games set to be played.

The weekend before Christmas (23-24 December) features Liverpool vs Arsenal, West Ham vs Man United and Wolves vs Chelsea, the first game on Christmas Eve in 28 years.



| BOXING DAY - 1963 | | | |
|----------------------|------|-------------|--|
| DIVISION ONE RESULTS | | | |
| BLACKPOOL | 1-5 | CHELSEA | |
| BURNLEY | 6-1 | MAN UTD | |
| FULHAM | 10-1 | IPSWICH | |
| LEICESTER | 2-0 | EVERTON | |
| LIVERPOOL | 6-1 | STOKE | |
| NOTT'M FOREST | 3-3 | SHEFF UTD | |
| SHEFF WED | 3-0 | BOLTON | |
| WEST BROM | 4-4 | TOTTENHAM | |
| WEST HAM | 2-8 | BLACKBURN | |
| WOLVES | 3-3 | ASTON VILLA | |

Boxing Day kicks off with Newcastle at home to Nottingham Forest before the 3pm kick-offs. Liverpool travel to Burnley and Man United host Aston Villa in the later games. The following day 3 more games commence including Everton against Manchester City at Goodison Park.

Arsenal and Spurs round off the week with the Gunners facing West Ham and Ange Postecoglou's side travelling to Brighton. All games in this period (26-28 December) will be shown on Amazon Prime.

The last weekend of the year begins with Luton hosting Chelsea in the early game with Man City, Wolves and Everton all involved in the 3pm matches. Manchester United are at the City ground for the late game.

Fulham vs Arsenal is the only legally televised game on New Years Eve with Spurs vs Bournemouth an option for firestick users. Liverpool vs Newcastle is the first game of 2024, as the Magpies hope to end their 8-year winless period against Jurgen Klopp.

As it is every year, the festive period is packed with football.

SPORT

THE FA CUP: 3RD ROUND



The FA Cup 3rd round is the final selection of matches before the holidays end, perhaps the best have been saved until last.

The obvious highlight is the Tyne-Wear derby as Sunderland host Newcastle, the first meeting of the 2 since 2016 where St James' Park saw a 1-1 draw with Aleksandar Mitrovic cancelling out Jermain Defoe's opener.

A lot has changed for the 2 sides since then. Firstly the relegation and promotion of Newcastle as Rafa Benitez led them back to the Premier League. Sunderland by contrast suffered 2 consecutive relegations and spent 4 seasons in the 3rd tier.

Both have seen changes in ownership with a Saudi backed consortium taking over Newcastle from the unpopular Mike Ashley while Sunderland were sold to Oxford based businessman Stewart Donald by American Ellis Short following the Black Cats' relegation to League 1.

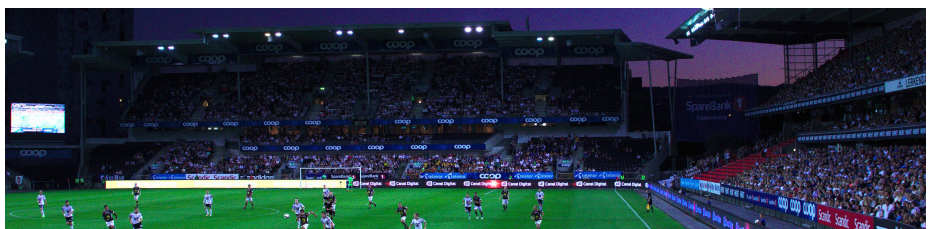
Donald then sold to Frenchman Kyril Louis-Dreyfus after an unsuccessful spell as owner, documented in the infamous 'Sunderland till I die' series on Netflix.

One moment perfectly summed up Donald's incompetence, refusing to spend more than £1 million on Will Grigg before making the Wigan man the most expensive League 1 signing, paying a staggering £4 million. It was a gamble that did not work as Grigg failed to inspire Sunderland to promotion in any of his 3 seasons, scoring only 5 league goals.



The Black Cats eventually secured promotion via the playoffs in 2022, symbolising a new dawn for the club under the new ownership. While not as successful as Newcastle, the Mackems are certainly on the rise again with promotion to the Premier League looking a possibility after an impressive 22-23 campaign in the Championship.

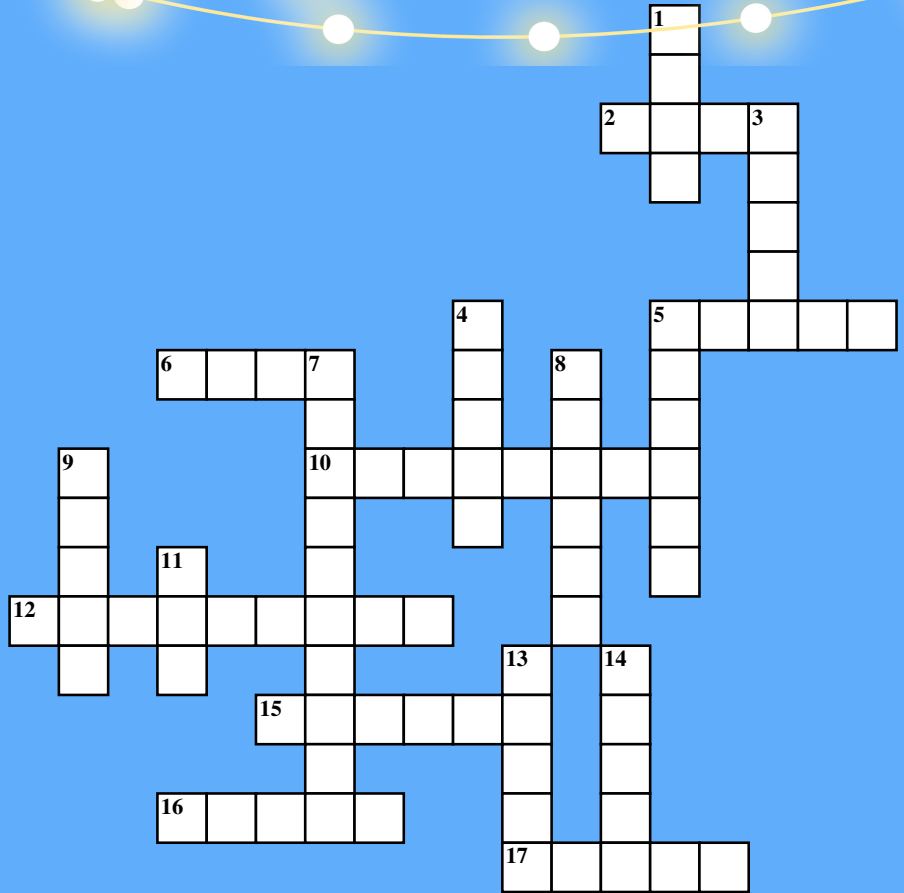
Newcastle will be hoping to end their winless run, having lost 6 in a row to Sunderland before 2016. As a side who qualified for the Champions League last season Newcastle are certainly favourites but Sunderland will be hoping to perform at the Stadium of Light. In the FA Cup anything can happen, it certainly promises fireworks.



Complete the Christmas Songs!

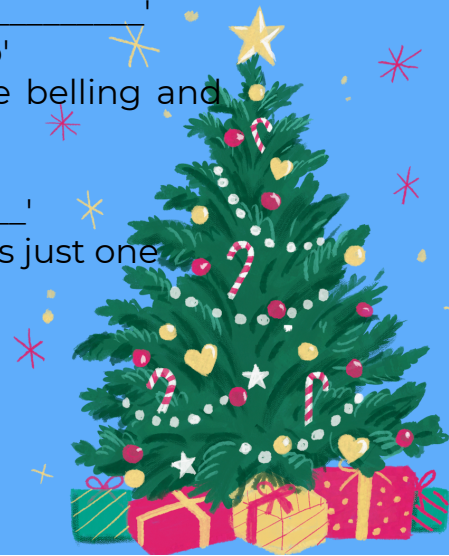
Across

- [2] Fairytale of New York: 'The _____ of the NYPD choir were singing Galway Bay.'
- [5] Happy Xmas, War is Over: 'Another year over, a new one just _____'
- [6] I wish it would be Christmas every day: 'When the kids start singing and the _____ begins to play'
- [10] Jingle Bells: 'Over the fields we go, _____ all the way'
- [12] Mary's boy child: 'A long time ago in _____'
- [15] Do they know it's Christmas?: there won't be snow in _____ this Christmas time '
- [16] Rocking around the Christmas tree- 'voices singing let's be _____'
- [17] Have yourself a merry little Christmas: 'next year' our troubles will be out of _____'



Down

- [1] Step into Christmas: 'We can watch the _____ fall forever and ever.'
- [3] Jingle Bell Rock: 'Jingle bell _____ and jingle bell ring'
- [4] Rudolph the red nose Reindeer: 'then one _____ Christmas Eve'
- [5] White Christmas: 'May your days be merry and _____'
- [7] Let It Snow: 'The weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so _____'
- [8] Wonderful Christmas Time: 'the mood is right, the _____ is up'
- [9] It's the most wonderful time of the year- 'with the kids jingle belling and everyone telling you be of good _____'
- [11] Last Christmas: 'Once bitten, and twice _____'
- [13] Driving home for Christmas- 'oh I can't wait to see those _____'
- [14] All I want for Christmas: 'I don't want a lot for Christmas, there is just one _____ I need'



Christmas Wordsearch



U G
 N N
 S Z A N
 U L M T
 T S S W I S
 Y E L O N T
 H R J L N S V Z
 S T N E S E R P
 K J X S B Y L H O M
 J G A N E A J M T I
 Z X C U V B V P M V S E
 Q S L O R A C L H X T N
 S D S O V Q Y U E E D L W F
 J L N A B N K D V Q M E S Q
 D E C O R A T I O N S A T E N N
 M H V J X Z P I E S A B O L A F
 P J K N K J H Q C R D S C E D Y Z E
 W Y E K R U T S E L B U A B N Q Y F
 J S A M T S I R H C G I D X G A W C P P
 N P V A S B S I U X A I A Q S C Q O C K
 L F H A E E E J D E C N I M Z S E I K O O C
 S Q B L E N Y Y N K N G D A Z Z A B N K Y L
 P A Z G Q T A H K M E E Y X E O D M R X G R J H
 H B N J O Y C V G R R W N D Z I R C Q O S R U T
 L C I D H T A E R W T S R E E D N I E R C F E B L F
 Q J R W S N C A T N A S A Z U P S C K V J C M I D R
 E Q O C
 Z G H R
 A W L Z
 Y L B T

BAUBLES
 CANDY
 CHRISTMAS
 DINNER
 JINGLE
 MINCE
 PRESENTS
 SNOWMAN
 WREATH

BELLS
 CANES
 COOKIES
 ELVES
 JOY
 MISTLETOE
 REINDEERS
 TINSEL

CANDLES
 CAROLS
 DECORATIONS
 JESUS
 MERRY
 PIES
 SANTA
 TURKEY

LIGHTS!

CAMERA!

ACTION!

**CASTING THE NATIVITY....
WITH STAFF!**



CASTING BY JEMIMA LYONETTE, GRACE KEARNEY AND KATIE THOMPSON

Mary – Mrs Hutchings
The mother of Jesus, as well as Sixth Form.

Jesus – Miss Proudlock
The one and only messiah

Joseph – Mr Muggeridge
Gives off major carpenter vibes.

Angel Gabriel – Mr Gillingham
Angelic in every way.

Angels- Miss White, Mr Watson, Miss Turland
Gabriel's gang

Donkey - Mr Bunting
No comment.

Herod – Mr Chapman
If you know, you know.

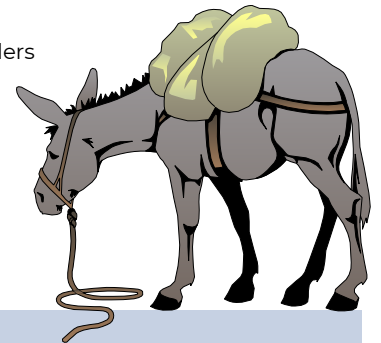
Star of Nazareth – Mrs Jukes
Drags us towards our future prospects.

Shepards – Mr McCarthy, Mr Swales, Mr Hewitt
Look like shepherds, need I say more?

Sheep- Miss Eddy, Mrs Oliver, Mr Boyle, Mrs Marsland, Mrs Walker, Miss Stemp
Cute and fluffy.

Wise men – Mrs Pine, Miss Hare, Mr Saunders
Wise if not manly

Inn keeper – Ms Murphy
Seems like the type...



WHAT'S ON?

This year, like always, Sixth Form are collating hampers for the elderly to give back to the community. However, the rest of school are joining the hamper creation with their SVP reverse Advent calendars. We are also collecting for food banks. Y7 are going to enjoy the Nativity, "In the eyes of the Donkey" and Advent Sessions.

The Chaplaincy team have been working hard to prepare for the Christmas season, helping plan liturgies. They are also assembling a Christmas Train, so stayed tuned for that!

Wreaths have been placed around school to help us reflect on what really matters at this time of year; hope, peace, joy, and love.

On 20th, we have both a Christmas dinner and concert to look forward to. It looks to be a day full of festivity – remember to preorder lunch and get your tickets!

We are fundraising for Norah's North Pole this year, supporting families over a tricky period and ensuring Christmas is special for every child. Donations from Christmas Jumper Day on 22nd December will go towards this charity. In the last week of term, we have Year Group Reward and Achievement Assemblies, Reward Secret In-House Cinema events and Pop-up Christmas Music to look forward to.

