

Learn, Laugh, Live



## Newsletter December 2024

Dear u3a members,

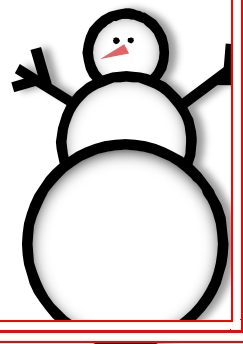
This newsletter brings you a festival of pictures to wish you a very Happy Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Our first monthly meeting of 2025 will be on Monday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House. We will send you a reminder early in the new year. Meanwhile, in this issue you will find:

1. Littleborough u3a groups celebrate Christmas
2. Littleborough u3a Tenth Anniversary Lunch
3. Littleborough u3a Christmas meeting
4. A Christmas quiz for all the family
5. Cracker Jokes
6. Quiz Answers

### 1. Joyeux Noel

Fun pictures from the French group's Christmas meeting. If you have any pictures of your group doing something special or indeed something ordinary, please do let me have them.





It's a game, Hildred Lister, French Group Convenor, tells me – describe and draw your Christmas lunch. In French I presume. *Qu'il est bon, le champagne!*

## 2. Happy Birthday Littleborough u3a

Ten Years old this December. Just for now I am drawing a veil over the hugely disappointing food service so we can celebrate our success even while we bemoan the failure of others. We are working hard and fast on the submission of a strong complaint to the Town Hall and are very grateful to the more than 100 of you who have sent your feedback.

The pictures below tell a great story of the people that make our u3a so vibrant and friendly. A big thank you to everyone in the u3a who worked so hard to organise the event and we are grateful to John Cannell for the photographs.

The u3a Craft Group make the table decorations





And don't they look great in situ!



Alan Tallow, our Toastmaster, declared the event open.



As we went in to find our seats, Graham Chamberlain played the wonderful old organ to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere.



It was only right that we began with a thank you to the people who founded the u3a back in 2014 – Janice and Russell Bray and Lis Kay.



We were royally entertained, first by Graham on the organ, then by the Hoyle String Quartet and finally by The Three Valleys Gospel Choir with their inspiring young Ukrainian conductor. They were all excellent. Our final flourish was the hidden raffle tickets and the lucky winner of a lovely painting donated by member and local artist, Liz White.





THANK YOU TO ALL OUR u3a MEMBERS for your company and friendship over the years and HAPPY BIRTHDAY Littleborough u3a!

### 3. **Annual u3a Christmas Monthly Meeting.**

This traditionally includes entertainment from our creative and performing groups. This year it was held at the Cricket Club to give us a bit more space.

We were not sure how many would turn up – unfamiliar venue and only two days after the Anniversary event. Actually more than 150 members were there and congratulations to Brenda and her helper team who served mince pies and a glass of fizz and/or tea and biscuits to all 150 with no hassle and well within the time.





The entertainment was just that – fun, lyrical, seasonal. There were some lasting images – who is that person in the black wig...? Gloria in the kitchen. Don't mention the tutus!





## 4. The BIG Christmas Quiz

Host your own Christmas quiz with the following 50 questions! Answers at the end, no cheating 😊

1. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of which country?
  - A. North Pole
  - B. Lapland
  - C. Germany
  - D. Bethlehem
2. In which direction should you stir mincemeat for good luck? 
  - A. Clockwise
  - B. Anti-Clockwise
  - C. You don't, you fold the mixture
3. What would you stick into an orange when making a pomander? 
  - A. Cinnamon Sticks
  - B. Nutmeg
  - C. Star Anise
  - D. Cloves
4. On which day were Calling Birds gifted in the 12 days of Christmas? 
  - A. 4th
  - B. 6th
  - C. 8th
  - D. 10th
5. What is a “Buche de Noel” commonly eaten in France at Christmas?
  - A. Mince Pies
  - B. Gingerbread
  - C. Yule Log
  - D. Christmas Cake
6. What would you be drinking if you had “Gluhwein”?
  - A. Eggnog
  - B. Mulled Wine
  - C. Buck's Fizz
  - D. Spiced Brandy
7. Which dish was served in the song We Wish You A Merry Christmas? 
  - A. Christmas Pudding
  - B. Panettone



- C. Figgy Pudding
- D. Semifreddo

8. When was the first Christmas card sent?

- A. 1843
- B. 1889
- C. 1924
- D. 1962

9. The first Christmas tree appeared in the USA 

- True
- False

10. How many reindeer drive Santa's sleigh? 

- A. 5
- B. 6
- C. 7
- D. 9

11. Which of these gifts were NOT a gift given by the Wise Men? 

- A. Gold
- B. Silver
- C. Myrrh
- D. Frankincense

12. Which of Santa's reindeer is named after another animal? 

- A. Cupid
- B. Donner
- C. Vixen
- D. Prancer

13. Which Christmas decoration is made from a parasitic plant? 

- A. Pine Tree
- B. Holly
- C. Poinsettia
- D. Mistletoe

14. Where was St. Nick born? 

- A. Turkey
- B. Lapland
- C. Netherlands
- D. Germany



15. What did Noel mean in Latin before being used for Christmas?
- A. Birth
  - B. Festive
  - C. Tidings
  - D. Season
16. When did the term “Xmas” start?
- A. 14th Century
  - B. 15th Century
  - C. 16th Century
  - D. 17th Century
17. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have? ❄️
- A. 6
  - B. 8
  - C. 10
  - D. 12
18. Which country created eggnog? 🍷
- A. Germany
  - B. Holland
  - C. USA
  - D. England
19. Which country gifts the Christmas tree that’s placed at Trafalgar Square in London? 🎄
- A. Norway
  - B. Germany
  - C. France
  - D. Iceland
20. Which is THE most popular ornament used to place at the top of a Christmas Tree? 🎄
- A. Star
  - B. Angel
  - C. Bow
  - D. Tinsel
21. How many candles are on an advent wreath?
- A. 12
  - B. 25
  - C. 4
  - D. 24



22. On the 10th day of Christmas, what does my true love give to me? 📺  
A. 10 swans a-swimming  
B. 10 geese a-laying  
C. 10 Drummers drumming  
D. 10 Lords a-leaping
23. What is the best-selling Christmas song of all time? 🎵  
A. All I Want For Christmas Is You  
B. Last Christmas  
C. It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas  
D. White Christmas
24. In the carol, We Three Kings, which way is the star leading them? 🌟  
A. North  
B. East  
C. South  
D. West
25. Which Christmas song says "I really do believe in you, let's see if you believe in me"?  
A. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town  
B. Santa Baby  
C. Joy To The World  
D. Mary's Boy Child
26. How many gifts in total were given in the 12 days of Christmas song? 📺  
A. 12  
B. 248  
C. 364  
D. 412
27. What was Frosty the Snowman's nose made from? 📺  
A. A carrot  
B. A lump of coal  
C. A button  
D. A pebble
28. Which popular Christmas song was actually written for Thanksgiving? 🎵  
A. Jingle Bells  
B. Fairytale of New York  
C. Let It Snow  
D. Winter Wonderland
29. Which spy recently keeps an eye on naughty or nice children?  
A. Father Christmas



- B. Rudolph
  - C. The Grinch
  - D. The Elf On The Shelf
30. In A Christmas Carol, what was Mr. Scrooge's first name?
- A. Jacob
  - B. Marley
  - C. Ebenezer
  - D. Tiny Tim
31. What kind of Christmas does Elvis sing about? 🎵
- A. White
  - B. Red
  - C. Blue
  - D. Snowy
32. What is the name of The Grinch's dog? 🐕
- A. Pete
  - B. George
  - C. Max
  - D. Arthur
33. Who is Rudolph's Father? 🦌
- A. Dancer
  - B. Donner
  - C. Dixon
  - D. Blitzen
34. What Christmas food is made from "marsh-whorts"?
- A. Stuffing
  - B. Roast Potatoes
  - C. Marshmallows
  - D. Cranberry Sauce
35. Which ocean is Christmas Island in? 🗺️
- A. Pacific Ocean
  - B. Atlantic Ocean
  - C. Indian Ocean
  - D. Arctic Ocean
36. What is Santa's real name? 🧑🏻‍🎅
- A. Noel
  - B. Chris Kringle
  - C. Feliz Navidad



D. Kris Kringle

37. When are Christmas decorations meant to be taken down? 

- A. 5th January
- B. 12th January
- C. 31st December
- D. New Years Day

38. What is a Smoking Bishop?

- A. An eggnog cocktail
- B. A shot of warm brandy
- C. A type of Mulled Wine
- D. Hot Mulled Cider

39. What is Wassailing?

- A. Kissing under the mistletoe
- B. Wishing neighbors a long life
- C. Writing Christmas cards
- D. Attaching gift tags to presents

40. What fruit is usually placed in stockings?

- A. Figs
- B. Currants
- C. Tangerines
- D. Apples

41. What was Christmas pudding originally?

- A. A condiment similar to cranberry sauce
- B. A type of bread pudding
- C. A soup/porridge
- D. Christmas cookies with currants

42. What's lucky to find in your Christmas pudding?

- A. A silver coin
- B. Nuts
- C. A chocolate coin
- D. A ring

43. Which Christmas song did astronauts broadcast from space? 

- A. Jingle Bells
- B. Christmas won't be the same without you
- C. I'll be home for Christmas
- D. Rockin' around the Christmas tree



44. What is the most common choice of meat at Christmas? 🍷
- A. Chicken
  - B. Turkey
  - C. Ham
  - D. Duck
45. How big was the world's largest Christmas tree? 🌲
- A. 121 ft high
  - B. 221 ft high
  - C. 321 ft high
  - D. 361 ft high
46. Who does a speech every year in the UK on Christmas Day?
- A. The Prime Minister
  - B. Father Christmas
  - C. The King
  - D. The Queen
47. In The Night Before Christmas what did children have visions of?
- A. Father Christmas coming to town
  - B. Stockings stuffed with presents
  - C. Sugar Plums
  - D. Sweet candy canes
48. When was the last white Christmas in the UK? ❄️
- A. 2018
  - B. 2012
  - C. 2010
  - D. 2000
49. There are 365 days in a year, what number day is Christmas?
- A. 357
  - B. 358
  - C. 359
  - D. 360
50. How many days are there on a traditional advent calendar? 📅
- A. 24 days
  - B. 25 days
  - C. 12 days
  - D. 31 days



## 5. Jokes for Christmas

When the jokes in the cracker make you groan, see if these make you groan louder ...

What do you call an obnoxious reindeer? Rude-olph.

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? Stick with me and we'll go places.

How is Christmas like your job? You do all the work and some big guy in a suit gets all the credit.

Why did nobody bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on ebay? Because they were two deer.

What do reindeers say before they tell you a joke? This one will sleigh you.

What do you call Santa's little helpers? Subordinate Clauses.

Why do you never see Santa in a local hospital? He has private elf-care.

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent Calendars? Their days are numbered.

How can you tell when Santa is around? You can sense his presents.

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their bidding prowess in a hotel lobby? Chess-nuts boasting by an open foyer.

How come Scrooge won the football game? The ghost of Christmas passed.



Christmas is a time to remember as well as a time to enjoy. So I hope you remember that we live in a rather lovely place on a sunny day in the snow and I hope you will all have time to laugh, to smile, to eat something good and to be with someone you love. Happy Christmas to you all.

Jo Wiggans  
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## 6. The Essential Answers to the quiz

- 1: C
- 2: A
- 3: D
- 4: A
- 5: C
- 6: B
- 7: C
- 8: A
- 9: B
- 10: D
- 11: B
- 12: C
- 13: D
- 14: A
- 15: A
- 16: C
- 17: A
- 18: D
- 19: A
- 20: B
- 21: C
- 22: D
- 23: D
- 24: D
- 25: B
- 26: C
- 27: C
- 28: A
- 29: D
- 30: C
- 31: C
- 32: C
- 33: B
- 34: D
- 35: C
- 36: D
- 37: A
- 38: C
- 39: B
- 40: C
- 41: C
- 42: A
- 43: A
- 44: B
- 45: B
- 46: D
- 47: C
- 48: C
- 49: C
- 50: A