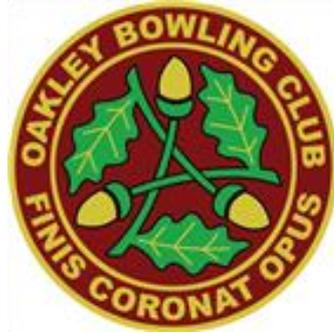


# OAKLEY BOWLERS



## CHRONICLE



**DECEMBER 2020      ISSUE 4**





## CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| President – John Yarrall                         | 3  |
| Past President – Martin Smith – Christmas Wishes | 4  |
| Spencer's Snippets                               | 5  |
| The Formation of Oakley Bowling Club (Part 1)    | 6  |
| Captain's Chatter Box                            | 9  |
| Ladies Secretary's Quiz                          | 11 |
| Men's Captain's Quiz                             | 13 |
| Almoner's Greetings                              | 15 |
| Barry Lee – Life Vice President                  | 16 |
| Christmas Greetings                              | 16 |
| Turnbull's Twitterings                           | 17 |
| From the Green                                   | 19 |
| Covid 19 and Me                                  | 20 |
| Editor's Corner                                  | 21 |
| Answers to Quizzes                               | 22 |

## PRESIDENT – JOHN YARRALL



As your new President I am looking forward to returning to a busy season.

My sincere thanks to all our club members who rolled up to keep the green and pavilion in top condition. The green was visited and maintained every day of the year. To the numerous members who continued to carry out their roles during closure thank you.

My personal thanks go to Ian and Keith who trained me on the mowers and machines guiding the machines around the green has been a great tonic and relief in lockdown. I would highly recommend to members joining the greens team as an invigorating way to start your day.

Thank you to Barry Lee for his long stint as Club Captain looking forward seeing you at the green.

A special mention to the Oakley Wanderers who represented the club in a professional and competitive manner and we will always be indebted to our hosts for their welcome.

Can I also offer my thanks to Past President Martin Smith who has worked hard in saving the tour to Paignton and has moved it to August Bank Holiday 2021.

We are in a perfect position to start bowling and returning to short mat when regulations allow.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2021.

Diane and I wish you and your families a Magical and SAFE Christmas

## **PAST PRESIDENT – MARTIN SMITH**



### **CHRISTMAS WISHES**

Hi to you all

Hope you are all keeping well.

Linda and I have decided to give a donation to St Michaels Hospice this year.

We are doing this because there was no President's Tour to raise the money we would normally.

As Linda and I will not be sending Christmas cards this year we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



# Spencer's Snippets

from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



## Christmas with the Kerleys

It will be an unusual Christmas for Kay and Spencer. For many years we have travelled to Cornwall and more recently Dorset for the New Year Celebrations and for most of these years we have also tried to be away at Christmas. This year, however, is so different. The three “Wise” Men (Boris, Chris and Patrick) have effectively decreed that, in our circumstances, we must stay home for Christmas. We would like to think they might give us a gift on the 16<sup>th</sup> December by changing the



Tier restrictions so that we and our friends can meet up in Dorset for New Year, but that looks unlikely. We are planning, therefore, that we shall be home for the whole period. This has led to Bah Humbug (Kay) being persuaded to have, for the first time for many years, a Christmas tree. Scrooge (Spencer) arranged for the tree to be delivered by some socially distanced Elves from Argos and it is now sitting proudly in our Lounge. Scrooge even managed to find some decorations in the loft!

So, what celebrations will we have? Well, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be the excitement of a visit to Marks and Spencer to pick up our Christmas specials, followed later that day by a visit from Santa Sainsbury. Wednesday should see Spencer swishing at the green and then we will be hunkering down for the Festivities. With plentiful supplies of food and wine we shall enjoy ourselves. We will not need to sit Granny near an open window. We will not need to worry about bringing our own cutlery or sharing the spoon for the roast potatoes. Nor will we be tempted to have drinks outside by a fire pit. As for Christmas presents, the best one will be shared by all of us – the news that a vaccine has been approved and should be widely available in the Spring. The hope of a return to near normality in 2021 should bring Christmas joy to all of us.

Have a Happy Christmas everyone.

## **The Formation of Oakley Bowling Club (Part 1)**

On the 11th January 1978, a meeting was held in St Leonard's Centre to discuss the possibility of forming a bowling club in the village. Attended by 60 interested parties, the meeting was chaired by Arthur Dolton, with Councillor Geoff Rogers representing the Borough Council. Considerable enthusiasm was expressed for forming a new club and a Steering Group was set up with a view to producing proposals for an Inaugural meeting to be held as soon as was possible.

That meeting was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February when recommendations were made that the Club should initially look to play outdoors on a new recently built green at Carpenters Down at Popley and should, longer term, try to establish, within the village facilities for both outdoor and indoor bowls. These recommendations were accepted unanimously with Arthur Dolton being elected as President for 1978. Spencer Kerley was to be the Secretary and Barry Lee and Kay Kerley were Committee members. Peter and Ruth Bown (then Ruth Paice) and Life Vice Presidents Frank Tuffs and Bill Britchford (now living in Australia) are believed to be the only current 2020 members present at the meeting. The subscription for that first year was set at a minimal £3.

The next few months were busy ones. In March, the Club played its first ever match indoors at East Dorset. The coach cost £50 and we lost 132-98. Arrangements were finalised with the Council for the Club to have use of the facilities, such as they were, at Carpenters Down. Negotiations were also opened with the Council to build both an outdoor green and an indoor club on land recently compulsorily purchased at Andover Road, adjacent to the Tennis Club.



The 1978 outdoor season began with the formal opening of the new green at Carpenter's Down by Mrs Sheila Knight, the Chairman (they were not referred to as Chairs in those days!) of the Leisure and Recreation Committee. The season saw the Club playing two friendlies against Basingstoke Town (the home game had to be played at the Town because of the inadequate facilities at Popley – the Oakley Ladies did the catering at the Town!). The Club also travelled to the Atherley at Southampton where we played on the newly installed and at that time rare surface – an artificial green. It also proved possible to run the first Club Competitions. That year there were 27 entries in the Men's Singles won by David James and 22 in the Women's Singles won by Gladys Dolton with 23 teams competing in the Pairs event. Interestingly Finals Day was on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Whilst all this bowling was under way, the Committee and Officers were heavily involved in trying to develop an indoor facility at Oakley. The Club affiliated to the English Indoor Bowling Association, having agreed to use the Rushmoor Club at Farnborough as its indoor base and a huge amount of effort went into looking at how other indoor clubs operated and what might be needed to have a successful Club in Oakley. Meetings with the EIBA Development Officer, with Cignet, the prospective builder and with Council Officers and Councillors all seemed promising and it looked as if, after many years of trying, Basingstoke might at last have an indoor facility. Indeed, by October our Councillors were informing the Club that the Leisure and Recreation Committee fully supported the proposals and that, whilst a detailed feasibility study would be required, the Club should now go ahead and obtain outline planning permission.

The Club's optimism was shared by local bowlers many of whom joined Oakley to be able to play indoor bowls and by October the Club had a membership of 221. To accommodate this interest, the Club arranged 14 indoor away games for the 1978/79 season and even entered the Denny Cup where amazingly Banister Park were beaten in the first round. (Banister at that time shared the Atherley indoor green – their splendid facilities at Stoneham were built a few years later when their

home opposite the then County Cricket ground was sold to developers). For indoor games we travelled, by coach to venues as far apart as Bristol and Paddington with the coaches costing £1.50 per head. A programme of indoor games has continued right up to 2020 though of the original fixtures only that against East Dorset has been played continually throughout the Club's history. In amongst this indoor programme there was also time to have a weekend trip to Eastbourne where we played matches at the Indoor Club at Hampden Park and stayed at the 3 star Wish Tower hotel for the princely sum for Dinner, Bed and Breakfast of £10.50 per head. Social and fund-raising events also featured heavily in that first year. A Jumble Sale raised £150. That is £750 in today's money. There was a Skittles evening at the Wheatsheaf and a Disco in the Andover Road Hall. By the year end, Treasurer Harold Line was reporting reserves of over £700.

1978 ended on a high. A new outdoor bowling Club had been successfully established. The New Year would see its members participating for the first time in District and County events and hopes were high that Oakley would soon have on the Andover Road site both outdoor and indoor greens, giving the village probably the best bowling facilities in the County. As we all know Oakley went on in 2013 to be voted the National Club of the Year but it is a Club quite different to that envisaged by its founders. In the next few articles, we will explain what happened to the Indoor dream and how the Club came to play at Malshanger.

# Captain's Chatter Box

From Angie Smith, Club Captain



Well, what a year this has been and to cap it all I've walked into a pair of boots even bigger than Santa's! A very big thank you to Barry for everything he has done as Club Captain for so many years. I will do my best to continue where he has left off and help to carry on moving the club forward.

Disappointment abounded when the decision was made not to open this year but when word went out that Howard Park had opened their gate and invited other clubs to join them for the summer who would have guessed so many of us would join up. Calling ourselves The Oakley Wanderers the roll ups, competitions and fun games saw Oakley almost taking over the green. Dunking mats, jacks and beer/wine glasses as well as social distancing took about 2 sessions to become a habit! But all that extra play paid off. Winners and runners up regularly featured the Oakley shirt and are on the Roll of Honour in their pavilion.

Not long after joining up I was asked if Oakley would like to play a friendly against Howard Park. Within 10 mins we had enough for 3 rinks and a few phone calls later we had a full house for 4 teams of triples. The game was played July 14 and we won by 13! Followed by a socially distanced picnic and drinks it was a day full of fun, banter and rivalry. Naturally Howard Park wanted to book a revenge match and this was duly played on Sept 8. This time 5 rinks of triples but in the true tradition of the game we allowed them to win so we could finish the season on equal footing!! This will now be an annual match in honour of Covid-19 and the 2021 game is already booked.

We were also offered a day to ourselves so we had a drawn pairs competition. Playing 3 rounds on 4 rinks it was drawn on the day and the position you were given was where you played! Most had a chance to play in a different position from their norm which proved that some people just need a push! Eventual winners were Jim Dixon and Peter Ball with runners up John Yarrall and Brian Beswick. A total of £100 from game fees and raffle was collected on the day and passed to President Dennis Barber and Chairman Alan Tait as a thank you for all they had done during the season.

We will always remember the Fantastic 5s, Crown bowls and Scroungers for all the head scratching that went on while trying to figure out how to play the games which were frequently interrupted by the shout 'IT'S ALAN'S RULES!' but will we ever forget the Candlelit bowls. Fish and chip supper followed by the match in darkness apart from 250 flickering tealights. From 'where's the jack?' to

'did I get there?' the fun continued to the bitter end. The final was very nearly a win for Oakley. Less than a quarter inch after being measured 3 times by torchlight! I have a copy of all the rules for the games (Shhh, don't tell Alan!) so if we find we can't play friendlies next year we can carry on with something different.

If anyone is on Facebook I have set up a private group where we have been chatting, call outs for roll-ups and competition places as well as match reports. Just search The Oakley Wanderers, request to join and I'll let you in. You'll see what we've been up to and taking it forward it may be useful when we re-open.

While we're talking about next year I would like to thank Ian and his team for looking after the green during these difficult times and with luck we will be allowed to open in April and start again.

For some of us Christmas is going to be very different but we will keep smiling through it and be ready to not only see in 2021 but also say good riddance 2020 so from me to you

Nadelik Lowen ha Blydhen Nowydh Da dheugh-why pub oll

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

# Ladies Secretary's Quiz

from Janie Vickers



Janie has kindly sent this quiz to task our little grey cells.

Hope you enjoy, the answers are on the Editor's page.

Many thanks Janie.



## What is my journey?

### On

## The London Underground

**Example: Vicars feeling unwell = Parsons Green**

**Clues:**

1. Remain upright longer than anyone else
2. Football estate
3. Bread Road
4. Low alcohol beer
5. Statue
6. Monks from the dark
7. Riverside

8. Abba song
9. Elizabeth Infanta of Castle
10. Not round
11. Well provisioned
12. Queen's station
13. Not a King's Yard
14. Make them envious
15. Line up for flowers.



# Men's Captain's Quiz

From Ric Newson

Ric has kindly supplied a Christmas Quiz, the answers are on the Editor's page.



Many thanks Ric



## Christmas Quiz Questions

1. What is the chemical formula of snow?
2. US President Franklin Pierce introduced what to White House Christmas tradition in 1856?
3. Which charity in 1949 was the first to produce a Christmas card?
4. What red-blooming Christmas plant came originally from Mexico?
5. Brandy is made from distilling what?
6. What was Girls Aloud's 2002 UK Christmas number one single?
7. Which famous comedy double-act partner made the first ever UK mobile phone call, New Year's Day, 1985?
8. White Christmas, a cake made of coconut, crisped rice and dried fruit, is popular in which country?
9. Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday is a 25th December celebration in which country?
10. Who is the narrator in the 2000 film The Grinch Who Stole Christmas?
11. What was the cyclone named that hit Darwin, Australia, in Christmas 1974?
12. Pine needles are said to be a good source of which vitamin?
13. Choirboy Peter Auty sang the film version of which song later recorded as a hit record by Aled Jones?
14. What drink invented by Francis Showering has a fawn mascot?
15. What creature, noted for feeding on its berries, is linked by name to the mistletoe plant?
16. In which Christmas carol does this line feature: "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither"?
17. What is the birth sign of people born on 25 December?
18. The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus on or around 1 January celebrates specifically what happening to the baby Jesus?
19. Complete the famous rhyming line which follows: "At Christmas play and make good cheer, ... ?
20. 'Full of Eastern Promise' is an advertising slogan of what exotically positioned chocolate product?
21. Which poem written by Clement Moore was originally titled A Visit from Saint Nicholas?

22. What was the title of the first Christmas TV special Peanuts cartoon?
23. What celebratory receptacle is falsely claimed to have been modelled on the breast of Marie Antoinette?
24. Which two states in the US have towns called Christmas?
25. Which author and creator of Jekyll and Hyde, gave his birthday by formal deed to Anne Ide because she disliked her own birthday of December 25th?
26. What animal is the Scandinavian Christmas Julbock symbol?
27. Christmas Crackers was the first Christmas edition of which popular UK comedy series?
28. What song topped the UK charts at Christmas in 1957 and in a medley version in 1978?
29. Which hugely popular actor was born on Christmas day 1899?
30. What British spacecraft was lost on Mars at Christmas 2003?
31. What was Queen's 1984 Christmas single called?
32. American cartoonist Thomas Nast is credited with creating the traditional image of which popular Christmas character?
33. Jackie Wilson's re-issued song Reet Petite became the 1986 UK Christmas number one after helping to advertise what brand?
34. What is the name of Dorothy Gale's dog in The Wizard of Oz?
35. Born Christmas day 1908, by what name was gay icon author of The Naked Civil Servant popularly known?
36. What is a baby Turkey more correctly called, other than a chick?
37. La Befana is the legendary character who delivers Christmas presents to children in which country?
38. Who is the central businessman character in the film It's a Wonderful Life?
39. In technical astronomical terms what is the duration of the winter solstice; an instant, a day, three months, or six months?
40. What Christmas-time song did James Pierpont compose in 1857?
41. What is the title of biggest selling Christmas single, globally?
42. Gwyl San Steffan is the name for 26th December (St Stephen's Day or Boxing Day) in which country?
43. Which actress singer who charted with Santa Baby and starred as Catwoman died on Christmas day 2008?
44. What Christmas item takes its name from the old French word estincelle, meaning spark?
45. Who is regarded as the first Christian martyr?
46. Kiritimati, the first inhabited place to experience each New Year, is more commonly known as what?
47. What Paul McCartney hit song video featured the First World War Christmas Truce meeting of German and British soldiers in no-man's land between the front line trenches?
48. Who was said to have presented the baby Jesus with Frankincense?
49. In which city was the Salvation Army founded?
50. When the Julian calendar was switched to the Gregorian calendar how many days were dropped?

# Almoner's Greetings

From Lesley Allard



I was always encouraged to not 'wish my life away' but I think that we will all be glad to see the back of 2020.

COVID has caused us to re-evaluate our lives in general and made us thankful for what we have, family, friends, homes with gardens and an appreciation of nature.

Now that we have the promise of a vaccine, we have better days to look forward to and not the least, bowls at Malshanger in the Summer, when the new President John Yarrall, and Club Captain Angie Smith, have a programme of social as well as competitive bowling for us.

We will all miss Barry Lee's captaincy but hope that he and Margaret will be able to join us often.

I hope to be seeing more of you when my anticipated move to Oakley takes place in the New Year; exactly when depends on how quickly solicitors work!!

Meanwhile, have a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Don't forget to let me know if you will be celebrating a significant anniversary or know of a member who would appreciate a card wishing them well.

I am not sure whether I will be able to retain my land line number when I move but my mobile number is in the club programme booklet.

Best wishes to you all

## Barry Lee, Life Vice President

As you all know Margaret and I had to self isolate after I tested positive for Covid 19. We are now back in circulation, as much as tier 2 will allow, and fortunately I didn't suffer any severe symptoms so I consider myself very lucky.

I am trying to come to terms with my illness, mild cognitive impairment, which as many of you will know has slowed me down quite a bit and has led to me surrendering my driving licence.

I was the club captain for over 20 years and would like to thank everyone for their support over those years also I wish the new club captain and vice captain all the best and offer some help if required. Please support them in any way you can.

Finally, Margaret and I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hopefully see you all on the bowling green next year.

## Christmas Greetings



Wishing all members of Oakley Bowling Club a Merry Christmas and let's hope 2021 will be a better year when we can all meet up again.

We will not be sending cards this year but will make a donation to charity.

Take care and stay safe.

Kay and Spencer

## **Turnbull's Twitterings**

Don't worry, I haven't capitulated to Social Media, but wanted a headline.

49 years ago, our first Christmas as a married couple, we did the right thing and travelled up North for Christmas with Mary's family and New Year with mine. Apart from the horrendous journey up the A1 at Christmas, the actual visits went reasonably well and we quite enjoyed the fuss made of us. However, we hadn't bargained for the fallout from the visits. I had never thought of my mother as an accomplished mathematician, but goodness me, she had calculated to the hour how much time we had spent at each place and for the next several months we had to put up with her subtle (and not so subtle) digs at us for getting the balance wrong. From then on we flatly refused to travel to either of them at Christmas, and established a successful tradition of staying at home on our own for Christmas Day, which persists to this day. We let the kids and grandkids visit us for a couple of hours on Boxing Day, but that's it!! They deserve to be left alone on Christmas Day itself.

Our other long tradition is to never have a Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day. Over the years our dinners have ranged the world over – we try for a stereotypical meal from all sorts of countries, including pizza, curry, tagine, paella, goulash, southern fried chicken, kangaroo steaks, Belgian mussels and frites, bockwurst, reindeer, ostrich ..... One year we even had egg and chips. The idea is to avoid having to get up in the middle of the night to start cooking the sprouts and cabbage and allows us to focus on enjoying our own company.

This year will no doubt be a different experience for most people, but our Christmas will not be much different from usual. Our Boxing Day visits with the kids will be via Skype, even if the restrictions are relaxed as seems likely, because we really can't take any risks – having endured the long isolation since March to keep Mary safe, we don't want to mess it up just when a vaccine seems to be on the horizon.

Talking of vaccines, we attended a webinar on Saturday run by the Polycystic Kidney Disease charity with very esteemed experts in the field and I asked the question "Given that vaccines generally work by stimulating the immune system to fight the virus, how can they work on someone taking immunosuppressant medication following a transplant?" The professor of epidemiology from Birmingham University said that the level of immunosuppressant given in the first 6 months after a transplant is usually very high, so a vaccine might not be effective, but after a few months, the medication is reduced and the vaccine will be very effective. Hopefully this might mean a lot of us cautious vulnerable people can begin to hope for a more normal 2021.

I'm sorry to have to let you know that I have decided not to run the Monday Spoon Drive next year, whatever happens with the vaccine. Hopefully, if it is able to go ahead, one of its loyal regulars will agree to take it on. I'll happily provide any advice, guidance and encouragement to my successor. I understand that the committee is also looking at innovative ways of making next season a great success.

Finally, I would like to appeal to members to give a thought to the plight of charities this year. All charities have suffered financially and would be very grateful for any support they receive. In particular, OBC's "pet" charity, St Michael's Hospice have missed out on our usual donations from the tour and the Spoon Drive.

Finally, we have decided not to send any Christmas cards this year, but to make a substantial donation to St Michael's Hospice instead, so we would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous and joyful New Year.



# From the Green

From Ian Rickman

Christmas Greetings  
From  
The Green



In a year where the green has had a summer holiday and been maintained on a minimal work schedule even though it doesn't feel like it's been minimal, thankfully the only stress the green suffered was due to the extreme hot temperatures it had to endure. With no play being permitted we were able to keep the height of cut at our usual winter height which also helped the green to remain stress free plus not having numerous bowls and footfall pounding up and down 7 days a week took pressure off me and the team, now that initial period has passed by and we got through a different style of renovation this year it pleases me say the green is in excellent condition for the time of year now we are back on track with the usual autumn /winter feed and regular Chisel Tinning, Sarel rolling plus monthly spraying for disease prevention also spraying liquid fertilizer with extra nutrients to put back what was lost over summer the period. Hopefully as you can all see from the picture above the green has a beautiful uniform colour all over. Perhaps this brief statement explains why we were still maintaining the green even though no play was allowed. This year has certainly been a challenge the biggest challenge I've ever faced in 50 years as a Greenkeeper/Manager which now leaves me to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year, Thank you to you my dedicated green team perhaps we might get some fresh faces come forward in the new year.

Many thanks

Here endith from the green by  
St Ian

# Covid 19 Lockdown

## And Me

From Ian Rickman

For me lockdowns have been spent thinking and organising minimal maintenance programmes for our green, other than that I've been teaching myself new skills, like cake baking putting my spin on Victoria sponges, using different jams and butter cream fillings. Even though I say it myself with great success, I even got into making biscuits of varying types ie Peanut Butter, Lemon, Ginger and even Chocolate Chip cookies.

Making bread was a bit of a challenge especially a Mango twist loaf when kneading and getting stuck to my fingers so as you can all imagine it got quite messy in my kitchen, but after a lot of deep breaths and counting to ten I proved to myself I could do something as tricky as this using only one hand. One recipe I would like to thank Joan Ball for is her T-Loaf recipe, this has become a great favourite in my house as I've added an extra ingredient just for flavouring yes I've added some alcohol just a splash of brandy or rum!!

Anyway, Merry Christmas everyone. I've made my Christmas cake and puddings, But! There's more than a splash of alcohol gone into those Laugh out Loud.

So nothing is impossible remember yesterday is the past, tomorrow's the future, and every day is a new beginning.



## Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):



### Christmas Quotes

“It’s Christmas Eve. It’s the one night of the year when we all act a little nicer, we smile a little easier, we cheer a little more. For a couple of hours out of the whole year, we are the people that we always hoped we would be.”

“Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can’t see.”

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men and Batteries are not included.

**The first two are from movies, do you recognise which ones?**

1. Scrooged
2. The Polar Express

I would like to thank all those members who have contributed to this Christmas issue, thank you also to those who sent me pictures of their Christmas trees.

I hope everyone enjoys the news and quizzes which will keep us all using our little grey cells and maybe improving our knowledge especially if there is nothing on the TV to see us through this different Christmas period.

Happy Christmas to one and all and let us hope for a healthy New Year.

Sandra and Chris

## Answers to Janie's Quiz

- 1.Stanmore
- 2.Wembley Park
- 3.Baker Street
- 4.Barbican
- 5.Monument
- 6.Blackfriars
- 7.Embankment
- 8.Waterloo
- 9.Elephant & Castle
- 10.Oval
- 11.Stockwell
- 12.Victoria
- 13.Earls Court
- 14.Turnham Green
- 15.Kew Gardens.

## Ric's Christmas Questions and Answers

1. What is the chemical formula of snow? **H2O**
2. US President Franklin Pierce introduced what to White House Christmas tradition in 1856?  
**Christmas tree**
3. Which charity in 1949 was the first to produce a Christmas card? **UNICEF**
4. What red-blooming Christmas plant came originally from Mexico? **Poinsettia**
5. Brandy is made from distilling what? **Wine**
6. What was Girls Aloud's 2002 UK Christmas number one single? **Sound of the Underground**
7. Which famous comedy double-act partner made the first ever UK mobile phone call, New Year's Day, 1985? **Ernie Wise**
8. White Christmas, a cake made of coconut, crisped rice and dried fruit, is popular in which country? **Australia**
9. Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday is a 25th December celebration in which country? **Pakistan**
10. Who is the narrator in the 2000 film The Grinch Who Stole Christmas? **Anthony Hopkins**
11. What was the cyclone named that hit Darwin, Australia, in Christmas 1974? **Tracy**
12. Pine needles are said to be a good source of which vitamin? **C**
13. Choirboy Peter Auty sang the film version of which song later recorded as a hit record by Aled Jones? **Walking in the Air**
14. What drink invented by Francis Showering has a fawn mascot? **Babycham**
15. What creature, noted for feeding on its berries, is linked by name to the mistletoe plant?  
**Mistle thrush**

16. In which Christmas carol does this line feature: "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither"? **Good King Wenceslas**
17. What is the birth sign of people born on 25 December? **Capricorn**
18. The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus on or around 1 January celebrates specifically what happening to the baby Jesus? **Circumcision**
19. Complete the famous rhyming line which follows: "At Christmas play and make good cheer, ... ? **For Christmas comes but once a year**
20. 'Full of Eastern Promise' is an advertising slogan of what exotically positioned chocolate product? **Fry's Turkish Delight**
21. Which poem written by Clement Moore was originally titled A Visit from Saint Nicholas? **The Night Before Christmas**
22. What was the title of the first Christmas TV special Peanuts cartoon? **A Charlie Brown Christmas**
23. What celebratory receptacle is falsely claimed to have been modelled on the breast of Marie Antoinette? **Champagne coupe**
24. Which two states in the US have towns called Christmas? **Arizona and Florida**
25. Which author and creator of Jekyll and Hyde, gave his birthday by formal deed to Anne Ide because she disliked her own birthday of December 25th? **Robert Louis Stevenson**
26. What animal is the Scandinavian Christmas Julbock symbol? **Goat**
27. Christmas Crackers was the first Christmas edition of which popular UK comedy series? **Only Fools and Horses**
28. What song topped the UK charts at Christmas in 1957 and in a medley version in 1978? **Mary's Boy Child**
29. Which hugely popular actor was born on Christmas day 1899? **Humphrey Bogart**
30. What British spacecraft was lost on Mars at Christmas 2003? **Beagle 2**
31. What was Queen's 1984 Christmas single called? **Thank God it's Christmas**
32. American cartoonist Thomas Nast is credited with creating the traditional image of which popular Christmas character? **Santa Claus**
33. Jackie Wilson's re-issued song Reet Petite became the 1986 UK Christmas number one after helping to advertise what brand? **Levi's**
34. What is the name of Dorothy Gale's dog in The Wizard of Oz? **Toto**
35. Born Christmas day 1908, by what name was gay icon author of The Naked Civil Servant popularly known? **Quentin Crisp**
36. What is a baby Turkey more correctly called, other than a chick? **Poult**
37. La Befana is the legendary character who delivers Christmas presents to children in which country? **Italy**
38. Who is the central businessman character in the film It's a Wonderful Life? **George Bailey**
39. In technical astronomical terms what is the duration of the winter solstice; an instant, a day, three months, or six months? **An instant**
40. What Christmas-time song did James Pierpont compose in 1857? **Jingle Bells**
41. What is the title of biggest selling Christmas single, globally? **White Christmas**
42. Gwyl San Steffan is the name for 26th December (St Stephen's Day or Boxing Day) in which country? **Wales**

43. Which actress singer who charted with Santa Baby and starred as Catwoman died on Christmas day 2008? **Eartha Kitt**
44. What Christmas item takes its name from the old French word estincelle, meaning spark? **Tinsel**
45. Who is regarded as the first Christian martyr? **St Stephen**
46. Kiritimati, the first inhabited place to experience each New Year, is more commonly known as what? **Christmas Island**
47. What Paul McCartney hit song video featured the First World War Christmas Truce meeting of German and British soldiers in no-man's land between the front line trenches? **Pipes of Peace**
48. Who was said to have presented the baby Jesus with Frankincense? **Balthazar**
49. In which city was the Salvation Army founded? **London**
50. When the Julian calendar was switched to the Gregorian calendar how many days were dropped? **Eleven**