



# NEW SBIDGE

## The Magic of Christmas

All the beautiful stories told about Christmas; help to make it the magic that it is, especially stories involving

birds, animals and flowers.



For instance, legends tell us of the raven being the first bird to know of the birth of Jesus. Apparently he was flying over Bethlehem when he heard the angel's singing of a newly born infant. The cockerel also became aware of the good news, and proclaimed it to the world by crowing throughout the night. Ever since cocks are believed to celebrate the Nativity by crowing

frequently during Christmas night.



Perhaps the most beautiful story of all is the ancient belief that animals kneel facing the East at midnight on Christmas Eve, and for a short time are given the power of speech.



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### December Events

**6<sup>th</sup>** Mulled Wine

**20<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Dinner

**24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve,**  
Clubhouse Open 11am to 2.30pm

**27<sup>th</sup>** Clubhouse Open  
from 11am to 2.30pm

**31st New Years Eve**  
Clubhouse opens 11am to 2.30pm

## December 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 Policy Meeting Art Class Walking Group Journeying forward class	3 House meeting Healthy Eating Wellness Day Kildare Men's group Creative Writing	4 Art Class Standard & Employment Meeting Ladies group	5 <a href="#">Clubhouse</a> <a href="#">Men's Group</a> Walking Group Newsletter Team	6 Mulled Wine	7	8
9 Policy Meeting Art Class Walking group Journeying forward class	10 House meeting Healthy Eating Wellness Day Kildare Men's group Creative Writing	11 Art Class Ladies group Standard & Employment Meeting	12 <a href="#">Clubhouse</a> <a href="#">Men's Group</a> Walking Group Newsletter Team	13 Relaxation Crafts Discussion Group	14	15
16 Policy Meeting Art Class Walking group Journeying forward class	17 House Meeting Healthy eating Wellness Day Kildare Men's group Creative Writing	18 Art Class Ladies group Standard & Employment Meeting	19 <a href="#">Clubhouse</a> <a href="#">Men's Group</a> Walking Group Newsletter Team.	20 Christmas Dinner	21	22
23 Policy Meeting Art Class Walking Group Journeying Forward Class	24 Christmas Eve Clubhouse Open 11am-2.30pm	25 Christmas Day Open	26 Clubhouse Closed	27 Clubhouse open 11am - 2.30pm	28	29
30 Clubhouse Closed	31 New Year's Eve Clubhouse Open 11am – 2.30pm					



## **Christmas**



The festive season is upon us once again. December can be a difficult, depressing and challenging month for us all. Some of us having lost or been bereaved by family members. When we come into January we look upon it as a new beginning after having the old year behind us with all its problems and the hardship encountered.

At Christmas we try to make it a special time for every one as the children look forward to Santa, love ones abroad come home to be united with their families. It's a time to reflect and spend some quality time visiting and celebrating.

This year can be hard for a lot of us after the budget in October with lots of cutbacks and we wonder how we are going to cope with the presents and putting food on our tables with the little money we receive.

I for one, will find myself cutting back a lot and rather than worry, I'll be looking forward to the small things that make Christmas for me. I will enjoy the Christmas songs and hymns sung all over. They bring so many happy memories to my mind. I'll remember Jesus and the stable at Bethlehem.

We can reminisce on all that happened down through the years and thank god for all that we have.

Everyone complains about the cold weather but I'll look forward to a little bit of snow if we are lucky because I'll remember a time when I was young and wondering how Santa could deliver all the presents down the chimney. There's nothing as magical as a white Christmas.

We can give a little of ourselves on this Christmas by being there for one another, helping our next door neighbours or just being ourselves and enjoy what we have.

After all Christmas means a lot more than giving and receiving of presents. I will be thanking god for the gift of my life, my family, friends and neighbours. For each day we live is a new day, a new dawning to live it to our best, as tomorrow will take care of itself.

And also a happy and peaceful Christmas to each and every one of you.

**Frances H**

## **Christmas Jokes**

**Q.** How long should a reindeer's legs be?

**A.** Just long enough to reach the ground!

**Q.** What is the best Christmas present in the world?

**A.** A broken drum, you can't beat it!

**Q.** What says, "Now you see me, now you don't; now you see me, now you don't?"

**A.** A snowman on a cross walk!

**Q.** What do you get if you cross Santa Claus with a duck?

**A.** A Christmas Quacker!

**Q.** Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners?

**A.** Rude-olph

**Q.** What do cows say at Christmas?

**A.** MOOey Christmas!

**Q.** What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

**A.** THE Christmas alphabet has no NOEL!

**Q.** What do call Santa when he stops moving?

**A.** Santa Pause!

## CATERING UNIT



**Mulled Red Wine**



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One of the easiest ways to entertain some of your friends before Christmas is to serve Mulled wine and Minced Pies with lots of whiskey cream. At that stage they are still a novelty, whereas after Christmas people tend to groan, "Oh no! Not mince pies again!"

- 1 Bottle of good red wine

- a small piece of cinnamon bark

- 4 ozs (110 g / 1 cup) sugar

some cloves

Thinly paired rind of 1 lemon

Mace

Put the sugar into a stainless steel/cast iron saucepan, pour the wine over, and add the lemon rind, cinnamon bark, mace and the clove.

Heat slowly; stirring to make sure the sugar is dissolved.

When it is hot but not scalding serve in glasses with a wedge of lemon in each one if desired.



### A Christmas Tale

I was in bed one night, when I heard a voice say, Get Up, I need your help. I turned on my side and who was sitting on the bed beside me but, Santa Claus. First of all I thought it was a dream, but again he said Get Up, I need your help. What I can do to help you, I asked! Have a sore back and I will not be able to get down the chimneys this night to deliver the presents to the children, so how can I fit down the chimneys I replied. By magic dear son, he replies. Up out of the bed I got to follow Santa. The first house we called at, Santa sprayed a spray on me, and down the chimney I went. Every house I called at I got plenty of food and cake to eat. However at one house a little child caught me, so when you see the Kellogg's cornflakes add, it is me in it not Santa. When all was done after a quick tour of the world, Santa dropped me back home. To this day no one would believe this story, it is hope to you to believe it or not. Magic. By the way, Rudolf does eat carrots, but he also likes Christmas cake.

Philip



### **The Stroll Part 3**

And now I come to the end of my stroll. Ending up at the shop where I had my first job, the pay was two and sixpence an hour. I stood behind the counter hardly able to see above the glass case which contained buns, cakes and biscuits. The till was a drawer with compartments for notes: pounds, ten shilling notes and five pounds. The other compartments were for half Pennies, Pennies, Three Penny Bits, Six Penny Bits, Shillings and Half Crowns.

I served in the shop for two hours every day and a half day on Saturday. I delivered messages to a lot of the customers. I also delivered Briquettes. The messages would include loose tea, loose biscuits, and bottles of milk, sugar, and newspapers etc. Cigarettes were sold by ones, threes, fives or tens.

I will finish now I hope you enjoyed my stroll and maybe you will join me again.

John F

### **Our Christmas Robin**

A Robin perched on a holly tree  
Christmas morning bright and early  
Plucking berries as its eyes could see  
It feasted on them daily

Chuttering as loud as it could  
It seldom felt no danger  
A tiny creature feeling so good  
Never minding any stranger

A songster of many it is indeed  
As all birds are of plenty  
Once it had its daily feed  
Its tiny stomach was never empty

Fly with me my little one  
To a place full of holly  
Until your berries are all gone  
On your Christmas time so jolly

Paddy M



### **December Birthdays**



**Patricia B, Joe G,  
Colm R, Ann L, Declan K,  
Maciej P, Christy D, Shay D,  
Brain H, Shane T, Clive C**

## Admin unit

*The members and staff of the clubhouse are at present very busy getting ready for the Christmas Season.*

*On the 6/12/013 we have our Mulled Wine Morning in the clubhouse.*

*On the 20/12/13, all the members and staff are going to have Christmas Dinner in Platinum.*

*Our Christmas tree is up, and all we are waiting for now is for Santa Claus to bring us our Christmas Presents.*

*May I wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.*

*I would also like to thank all the members who have submitted articles for the newsletter over the past year, and we are looking forward to more articles in the New Year.*

### Platinum does shoe boxes for Belarus

Members of Platinum Clubhouse had been asked to do shoe boxes for children in Belarus for the very first time. Now James was helping them by telling them what to put in this shoe boxes like: teddy bears, dolls etc. but James made sure to add not to put in toy soldiers because these shoe boxes are going to war torn countries. Now when these shoe boxes got collected from Platinum there was about 15 boxes from Platinum and they were told that this was more shoe boxes then they thought Platinum would give. And they were also told by James that when they come back after the Christmas holidays to look up the Open Arms website and they would be able to see some of these shoe boxes been given to these children in Belarus. And we would like to give Platinum Clubhouse a big thank you from Open Arms church.



By James P



Santa



Over thirty years ago I was out of work coming up to Christmas. The local supermarket was looking for somebody to play Santa Claus in the shop and I got the job. I dressed up as Santa for three weeks, it was fantastic I sat in my grotto listening to all of the children's wishes, photos were taken and each child received a present.

One day a child was telling me what she wanted for Christmas and my beard slipped as she was speaking to me. John F is Santa Claus and she ran off to tell her friends but the children kept coming to see Santa.

To this day I still remember my time as Santa and I hope some of those children remember me.

From Santa

Happy Christmas and many blessings to all.

**John F**



### Sayings, Customs and Traditions

It is believed that if you eat a mince pie each of the twelve days of Christmas, it brings twelve happy months in the year to follow.

A spider's web found on Christmas morning is believed to bring good luck.

Alabama was the first state to recognise Christmas as an official holiday. This tradition began in 1836.

Christmas carolling began as an old English custom call wassailing, toasting neighbours to long and healthy life.

The Christmas Season begins at Sundown on the 24<sup>th</sup> December and last's through Sundown on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January and for that reason this is known as the 12 days of Christmas.

*Merry Christmas*

## Have a very happy Christmas 2013!

Christmas is a very special time of the year as it comes in the middle of the dark and dreary days of winter. It is a time of celebration, a time of goodwill to be happy, jolly and of good cheer.

At the heart of Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, born in a stable at Bethlehem. This birth was acknowledged by the shepherds minding their sheep, the angels who sang, "Glory to God in the highest" and the three wise men who came from the East. At Christmas, households put up Christmas decorations which often include a Christmas tree, a crib and other suitable items which inspire an atmosphere of celebration and happiness over the Christmas period which lasts from December 8<sup>th</sup> until January 6<sup>th</sup>.

For a number of weeks before Christmas the shops are very busy selling as customers buy presents for their family members which they give to one another on Christmas day. Outside the shops carol singers sing Christmas carols collecting money to distribute to various charities and to people in need over the Christmas time. Everywhere is a buzz with human activity as a hectic pre Christmas rush ensues.

Christmas is a very special time for children as Santa Claus comes from his home in the North Pole with gifts to be distributed all over the world on Christmas Eve night. Children eagerly await what Santa is going to bring them; they waken up early Christmas morning full of excitement and joy as they open their Christmas presents. Many people attend Church services on Christmas Day. Then there is the Christmas dinner of turkey and ham, the Christmas pudding and the Christmas cake to be eaten and enjoyed with some nice drinks as people enjoy this wonderful day. Even the television has special programmes on this day.

All the better if it is a white Christmas i.e. if snow is lying on the ground and there is a beautiful crisp winter sunshine which enables the family to go for a walk to digest all the Christmas food they have eaten.

A beautiful Christmas story was written by Charles Dickens called "A Christmas Carol". It features Mr. Scrooge, a miser, who is visited by the ghost of Christmas past, present and future. I will not tell you the outcome of the story but I can assure you it is a great read for both young and old and will warm your heart during this festive time.

We spare a thought for those who do not have enough money at Christmas time, for those who have no food or shelter, the victims of natural disasters such as was experienced in the Philippines recently. We hope that in some way their plight may be eased and that all the people of the world will benefit from the goodwill and happiness generated at this special time of the year.

Have a very happy Christmas!

Hugo M

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

This month's interview is with

**Santa**

Favourite Meal: Turkey and Ham

Favourite Movie: Home alone

Favourite Sport: Throwing snow balls

Favourite Hobby: Feeding Rudolf

## About Platinum Clubhouse

Clubhouse is a member run and centred service, where every individual has something valuable to contribute to the clubhouse and to society at large, irrespective of their diagnosis or level of function.

We offer members a supportive environment in which they can work alongside staff in planning and operating.

Members participate in mutually planned vocational, educational and social activities.

The Clubhouse guarantees four main rights:

- **Right to a place to come**
- **Right to meaningful work**
- **Right to meaningful relationships**
- **Right to a place to return**



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