



The Prancing Pony



The Official Newsletter of White Horse Morris

Issue #32

<http://www.whitehorseorris.org.uk/home/4594741622>

17 December 2021



Merry Christmas White Horse

As the Squire imperiously surveyed his troops from the head of the banqueting table at The Bell on Wednesday, before tucking in to his succulent sea bass, he reflected on a good year for White Horse. In this special edition for Christmas, we have an illustrated report of the dance-out earlier this month at Tisbury's "Tiz the Season" street fair. We also have two recipes involving the nation's favourite seasonal vegetable – sprouts. Heather has also described a walk to keep you active and we have Kate to thank for a cracker-full of festive jokes and Bob for a cartoon and some videos from 2005 and 2012. There are also some more pictures from the Christmas Dinner.



'Tiz the Season 2021



Emily was awarded the recently cleaned waistcoat that was brought to the 70th anniversary party. You can see her



The hard practice really paid off when we danced non-stop for over an hour at the Christmas street market in Tisbury. We didn't repeat any dances and there were more that we could have done and that was even with a few people missing.

wearing it in the photo of the band. Although TV's *The Repair Shop* didn't pick up on the top hat we are still planning to have some repairs done to it so that it can be worn out, (in the sense of being on her head outside rather than exhausted).

The crowd responded well and we gained a lot of praise and who knows, maybe even a few recruits! We danced to the White Horse Big Band which had as many as 9 players so made a great backdrop to the wonderful dancing. We also danced The Rose Tree to two fiddles which added a different element to our performance, with Emily and Sam jamming.



Now on to Stourhead on Boxing Day and The Wassail in January 2022.

What do you call a blind reindeer?

No-eye deer.

What do you call a blind reindeer with no legs?

Still no-eye deer.

WHM Christmas Dinner at The Bell

24 people attended and enjoyed an excellent meal together in good spirits, followed by some lusty singing, including John’s now traditional renditions of Shakin’ Stevens’ *Merry Christmas Everyone* and Shane McGowan’s *Fairytale of New York*.



Brussel sprout curry (from Liz Pike)

- 1lb Brussel sprouts quartered
- 1 onion thinly sliced
- ½ tsp whole grain mustard
- 1 tbsp. oil
- 2 tsp desiccated coconut
- 1 tsp turmeric



Fry onions till golden.
 Add turmeric and coconut fry for a few minutes.
 Add sprouts, stir in mustard and fry for a few minutes.
 Add a few tablespoons water and cook gently for 10 minutes

Why did the red-nosed reindeer help the chicken cross the road?

It would have been Rudolph him not to.

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing – it was on the house.

Christmas Dingbats

For those who were at the Christmas Dinner on Wednesday and whose brains are hungry for more Dingbat Quiz clues, here are some more. All are words or phrases with a strong Christmas connection.

1. Shhhhh..... Sir Lancelot	2. Sepottia
3. rhh belongs to me	4. A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
5. Pepper / Spear / Murray? Burgess & MacLean / Mata Hari / 007?	6. taFRANKste

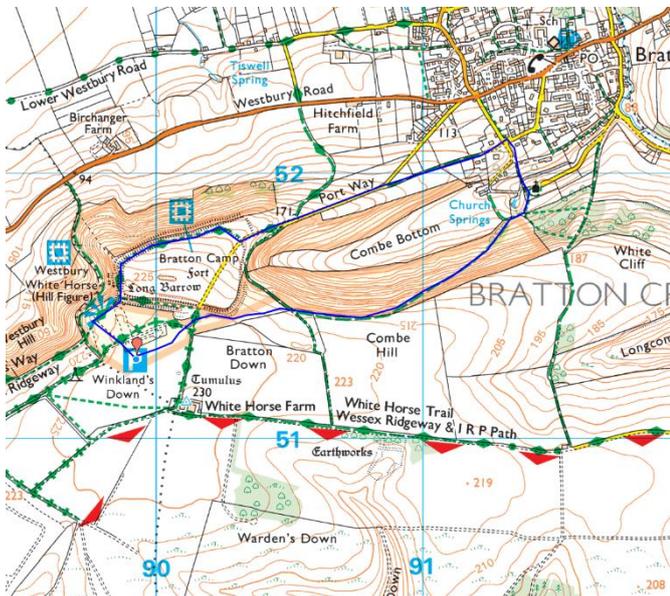
Westbury White Horse Walk (from Heather)

2.5miles

Park in the White Horse car park at the top of the hill.

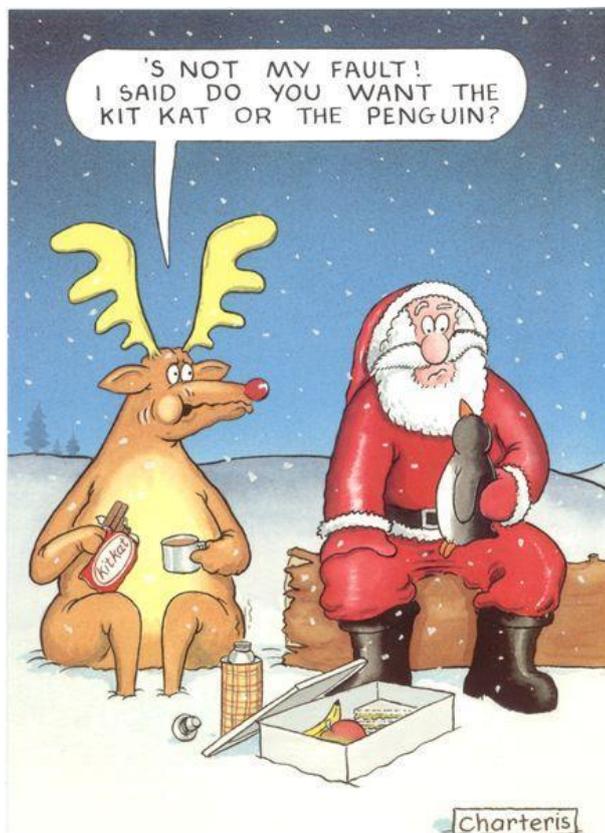
1. Take the path from the car park across the access road and out to the White Horse and follow the path around to the right along the top of the escarpment.
2. At a fork take the righthand path and emerge onto a lane and follow this down for about 600m.
3. Take the bridle path on the right and follow joining a metalled road.
4. At a four way crossroads cross straight across and take the footpath to the right, just past the righthand road, which eventually descends, via steps, to a stream at the bottom and then up to the church.
5. Bear to the right on the path around the outside of the churchyard and turn right when you meet a cross path soon after.
6. Follow this path along, through a gate and up the slope of the downs. At the top keep straight on, over a stile and along a path through a field.
7. This will take you back to the car park at the top of the White Horse.

Answers at the end of page 4.



Did you hear about the man who stole an advent calendar?
He got 25 days.

The Christmas jumper my kids gave me last year kept picking up static electricity.
I took it back and exchanged it for another one – free of charge.



I got a universal remote control for Christmas.
This changes everything.

I bought my son a fridge for Christmas.
I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsilitis.

White Horse Collecting Box goes Contactless

Following overwhelming support at the AGM for the suggestion that we should get a card reader to enable members of the public who come out to watch our performances without any cash still to donate, we now have a gadget to enable card payments. John Wippell recalled a similar suggestion at a previous AGM some decades ago when Bill Bush made the radical proposal that the side should consider getting an orange bucket.



A new collecting box has also been built to accommodate the new card reader and a mobile phone as well as a slot to collect old fashioned coinage and folding money (much preferred by the Treasurer).



Meanwhile the old collecting box has been given a makeover with a new lid with sleek, "modern" slot and a lick of paint and is also ready for service again.



The new box, with phone and card reader primed and ready, was given its first outing at Tisbury, but the good people of that village – at least those that wanted to give - all seemed to have cash and so the card reader is still waiting for its first action. Who will be the first White Horse collector to be able to utter the phrase "Yes, we take card payments" or "American Express? That will do nicely" ?

What's a reindeer's favourite singer?
Beyonsleigh.

Wife: I regret getting you that blender for Christmas.
Me: (sipping toast) Why?

Some videos from vesteryear, from Bob Hill

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VuHpyBWTPQz68fAC6> - WHMM Pre-Christmas Practice 2005

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/m76LvsVZVD1frdri7> - Beltane dancing with flames on the Winter Solstice at The Bell 2012

I got a Christmas card full of rice in the post today.
I think it was from my Uncle Ben.

What is Santa's favourite kind of pizza?
One that's deep-pan, crisp and even.

Burnt Brussels Sprouts with Cream Cheese and Ginger Dressing (from Mike and Val Perry)

Serves 4-6

- 50g fresh ginger
- 280g cream cheese
- 1 small garlic clove, crushed
- Finely grated zest of 1 lime plus 2 tsp lime juice
- 1 tbsp wine vinegar
- 2 ½ tbsp cooking oil
- Salt and black pepper
- 750g sprouts cut in half lengthways
- ½ tsp pink peppercorns. Crushed with your fingers
- ½ tsp toasted sesame seeds



Make dressing:

Peel and grate ginger on coarse grater then push through a fine-mesh sieve into a medium bowl (you should get 1 ½ tbsp ginger juice). Add cream cheese, garlic, lime juice, vinegar, 2 tbsp of cooking oil, 3 tbsp water, pinch of salt and whisk until thick.

Put a large non-stick frying pan for which you have a lid on a high heat. Once very hot add sprouts, cut side down. Don't overlap them – cook in batches if necessary. Cover and cook for 4 minutes until blackened and then tip into a bowl.

Once all of the sprouts are charred mix then with the other ½ tbsp, a pinch of salt and a good grind of pepper. Spread some of the dressing on a platter and arrange the sprouts burnt side up on top. Dot the rest of the dressing over the sprouts, sprinkle with lime zest, pink peppercorns and sesame seeds and serve.

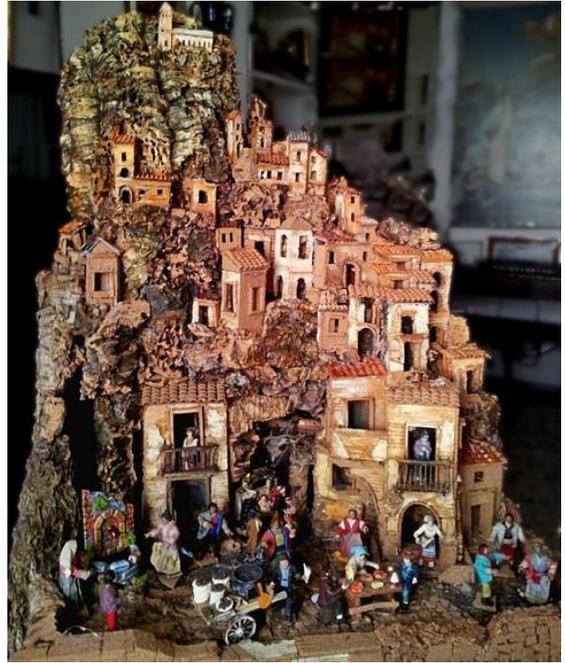
Why did Santa have to go to the hospital?
Because of his poor elf.

The only Christmas present that I got this year was a deck of sticky playing cards.
I find that very hard to deal with.

What could you call an elf who has just won the lottery?
Welfy.

Mike's Neapolitan Crib

Even as a non-religious family we used make a crib (presepe) in Gosport and Southampton. It's a tradition that continues today. There is a whole section devoted to them in one of the museums in Napoli and some are huge. There is even one with a figure playing a serpent.



Every family has their nativity scene that they decorate themselves, and which is extended each year with several figurines, lights, small fountains or animals. In the historic centre of Napoli, the street of the nativity scene builders, Via San Gregorio Armeno, is especially busy at this time of year. You can find many craftspeople who offer nativity scenes and figurines in all variations. In addition to the figurines of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, you can get detailed copies of all household objects, gastronomic delights, exotic animals and sometimes even caricatured politicians to extend your nativity scene.

Why was the snowman embarrassed when he was spotted rummaging through a bag of carrots?
He was caught picking his nose.

I have this incredible ability to predict what's inside a wrapped present.
It's a gift.

Dingbat Answers

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|----------------------------------|
| 6. Frankincense (Frank in sense) |
| 5. Mince Pies (Mints Spies) |
| 4. Noël (No I) |
| 3. Myrrh |
| 2. Poinsettia (Po in Setta) |
| 1. Silent Night |



Final words

From the Belarusian judge
“з Калядамі”

... and from the Polish judge
“Wesołych Świąt”

from the South Australian judge,

..... and Merry Christmas from the PP editorial board.