

HEPWORTH SOCIAL CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Issue
No 113

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2008

This Newsletter is available on the Internet at
<http://www.johnbeales.co.uk/news.htm>

A little perspective ...

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following....There would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south

8 Africans

52 would be female

48 would be male

70 would be non-white

30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian

30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual

11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all

6 would be from the United States.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education

1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for both acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep...you are richer than 75% of this world.

... a little perspective helps, doesn't it?

Over 60's Christmas Lunch Friday 14th December 2007

The Thirteenth Lunch, (just missed Friday 13th!!) and I held my breath, would anything go wrong? Well of course not. All the volunteers turned up and made sure everything ran smoothly. All guests arrived, and didn't we all look great? Old friends meeting up and chatting away, new friends (and volunteers), we do hope you felt welcome. We certainly enjoyed seeing you all, meeting new Hepworth residents and those who attended for the first time, we hope you will come again. The weather was good, if cold, but there was a lovely warm feeling inside the hall, with hugs and laughter.

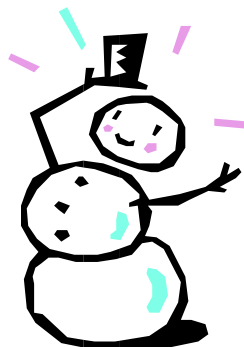
Because of everyone's generosity, we had a massive 81 prizes in the raffle this year. We also had an awful lot of people who had given us 'donation' raffle tickets. It was one of these which was drawn as first prize. The individual tickets for those Hepworth residents attending the lunch were duly drawn and it was lovely to see the £100 go to a lady at the lunch and the second go to one of our volunteer 'helpers'. There were many of these 'donation' tickets drawn and we do truly thank you for these, it certainly helped things go with a 'swing' and added to the excitement.

I hope you all agree it was a smashing day, Carol again did us proud with the meal, the soup being an added extra this year and thanks to John for making the delicious mince pies. My dogs were not too pleased with the left overs, 'cos there was not enough of them!!

A big thank you must go to all who donated in the way of your time, tickets, money, raffle prizes, cheese, biscuits, wine, the marvellous hamper, the volunteers and all who attended. Without you all this lovely annual event would not be possible.

Thank you all

Margaret



Christmas Draw Prize List 2007

1. £100 - Doris Hubbard
2. Giant Hamper - Julie Filby
3. Microwave - Myra Clarke
4. Bathroom Mirror - John Fulton
5. Iron - Peter Rudge
6. 6 piece mug set - C. King
7. Coffee Maker - T. Cort
8. Sandwich toaster - Colin Fulcher
9. 18 piece tumbler set - W. Bloomfield
10. DVD Player - Angela Branfield
11. 2 Slice toaster - Mrs Horne
12. Paper Shredder - Sharon Rees
13. Radio Alarm Clock - Lillian Watling
14. Electric Hand mixer - Smith
15. Travel hairdryer - Helen Gunby
16. Electric can opener - Tony Potter
17. Electric knife - Pete Truman
18. Kitchen Scales - May Truman
19. Personal CD player - Alan Phillips
20. Electric hand blender - Roy Winfield
21. Card making kit - Trevor Stimson
22. Stone painting kit - Emma Hatten
23. Photo frame and album - Fiona Roe
24. Cat calendar and diary - Wendy Markham
25. Wind up lantern - Andrew Mayes
26. Giant Crossword book - Clare Jones Davies
27. Cuddly dog - Joyce Spratt
28. Dove shower treats - Ruffles
29. M&S Royal jelly bath set - Molly Thompson
30. M&S Milk & Honey bath milk - Helen Gunby
31. Designs on Denim - Ward
32. Camomile Incense set - Jenny Lambert
33. Beach set - Chris Anderson
34. Umbrella - Peggy Lee
35. 2 Xmas teddy mugs - Miss Cammell
36. Half bottle Grants whisky - Myra Clarke
37. Lily Picture - Brian Ashford
38. Dolls House books - Brian Fulcher
39. Cuddly teddy - Fiona Hatch
40. Cuddly dog (another) - Joyce Spratt
41. Place mats and coasters - C. King

42. Lavender gift set basket - Miss Cammell
43. Red carrying trolley - Malcolm Constable
44. Brown vanity bag - Paul Goldsmith
45. Car Organiser - David Cork
46. Crystal fairy - Barbara Kerrison
47. Black and white washbag - Madeline Hunt
48. Neck pillow - Mrs Allum
49. Silver planter toiletries set - Gary Bloomfield
50. Make you own decorations - M. Prentice
51. Water lily candles - Jordan, Our Own
52. Large box coloured pencils - Postman Tony
53. Calculator set - K. Palmer
54. Tool kit - Robin Harvey
55. Craft set - Emma Trainer
56. Kenwood kettle - Hilda Hubbard
57. Snow Globe - MaryAnn
58. Farm coat rack - Paul Goldsmith
59. Bottle of Vodka - George Wyatt
60. Large wine glass - Mr Philpott
61. Candle in holder - Chris Anderson
62. Christmas Crackers - Mrs Walker
63. Harvey's Bristol Cream Gift - Mark Mayes
64. Cherry Brandy - Sally Spink
65. Half bottle whisky - Richard Brooks
66. Memo Pad - Lily Winfield
67. Whisky Grants - Neville Clark
68. Quality Street - Rees Family
69. Bottle of Asti - Gary Potter
70. Gold coloured earrings - Pat Anderson
71. Special Occasions Bag - Ali Bovill
72. Biscuit Assortment - Tracey Ingham
73. Christmas Crackers - Doris Hubbard
74. Bottle of Wine - Ray Denne
75. Bottle of Wine - Mr Fennell
76. Address book and pad - Largent
77. Vodka - Georgina Buckenmyer
78. Cuddly Toy - Lillian Watling
79. Biscuits - Lynn, Church Close
80. Tin of Roses - MayTruman
81. Wine - Brian Hubbard

"Can't Sleep"

Gordon Brown and two friends, a Rabbi and a Hindu holy man, had car trouble in the countryside and asked to spend the night with a farmer.

The farmer said "There might be a problem; you see, I only have room for two to sleep, so one of you must sleep in the barn."

"No problem," chimed the Rabbi, "My people wandered in the desert for forty years, I am humble enough to sleep in the barn for an evening."

With that he departed to the barn and the others bedded down for the night. Moments later a knock was heard at the door; the farmer opened the door. There stood the Rabbi from the barn.

"What's wrong?" asked the farmer.

He replied, "I am grateful to you, but I can't sleep in the barn. There is a pig in the barn and my faith believes that is an unclean animal."

His Hindu friend agrees to swap places with him. But a few minutes later the same scene reoccurs. There is a knock on the door.

"What's wrong, now?" the farmer asks.

The Hindu holy man replies, "I too am grateful for your helping us out but there is a cow in the barn and in my country cows are considered sacred. I can't sleep on holy ground!"

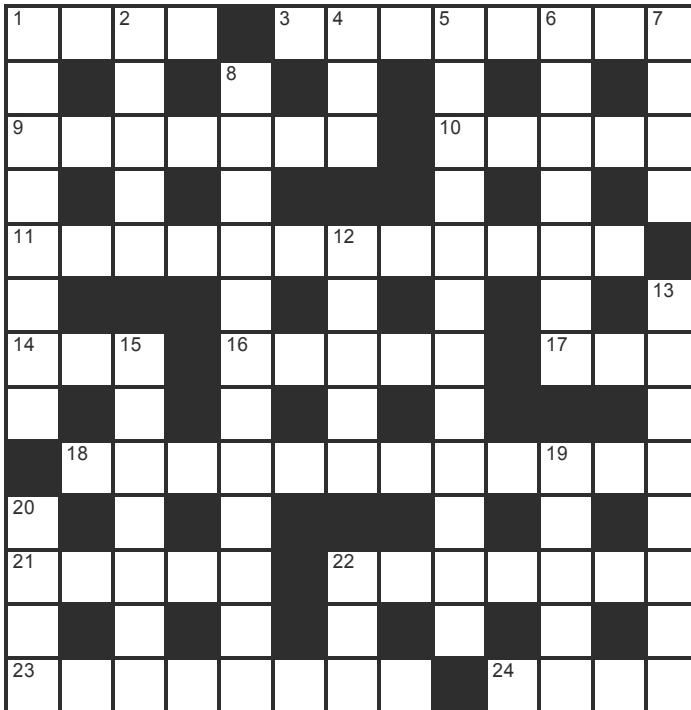
Well, that leaves only Gordon Brown to make the change. He grumbled and complained, but went out to the barn. Moments later there was another knock on the farmers door.

Frustrated and tired, the farmer opens the door, and there stood

The pig and the cow.



Crossword No 114



Across

- 1 Express in words (4)
- 3 Pull out (8)
- 9 45rpm discs (7)
- 10 Declare to be true (5)
- 11 Amazement (12)
- 14 Mischievous fairy (3)
- 16 Acute discomforts (5)
- 17 Perceive by sight (3)
- 18 Cooling appliance (12)
- 21 Edible bulb (5)
- 22 Eaten with tea? (7)
- 23 Record in writing (8)
- 24 Be obedient to (4)

Down

- 1 Came to the top (8)
- 2 Expensive boat (5)
- 4 It is (3)
- 5 A woman headmaster (12)
- 6 Prompts (7)
- 7 Not without (4)
- 8 Parents Mum and Dad (12)
- 12 A swindle (5)
- 13 Not openly (8)
- 15 A physical sensation (7)
- 19 Hand digit (5)
- 20 One more than three (4)
- 22 Hairy-bodied insect (3)

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

The extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council took place on Thursday, 29th November 2007 at the pavilion. The meeting was chaired by Mr Stannard. The matters discussed were:

Parish Estimates 2008-09

It was considered that, if the contribution to the Parish Newsletter were increased, there were sufficient monies available to fund this. It was agreed to request a precept of £4,321.

Mobile Skate Park

Referring to a recent article in the “Bury Free Press” which indicated that, after next year, SEBC might discontinue and sell the mobile skate park, the Clerk will record the Parish Council’s initial interest in buying it should it become available, as this was a requirement highlighted by the Parish Plan.

Sudoku - (solutions on page 20)

				7		4		2
		9			2		8	
			6	3	8		1	7
8	9			1				
		4	2				3	5
	7		4			1		
9		5				7		

9	6				2			
	5	4				7		
			8		1			
8	7						6	5
4					3		1	
						9	3	
7		9						8
	2			4		1		

A Happy Customer

Dear Vanish:

I'm writing to say what an excellent product you have! I've used it all through my married life, as my Mum always told me it was best. Now that I am in my fifties, I find it even better!

In fact, about a month ago, I spilled some red wine on my new white blouse. My inconsiderate and uncaring husband started to lecture me about how clumsy I was, and generally started becoming a pain in the neck. One thing led to another and somehow I ended up with a lot of his blood on my white blouse.

I tried to get the stain out using a bargain detergent, but it just wouldn't come out. After a quick trip to the supermarket, purchased a bottle of Vanish with bleach, and to my surprise and satisfaction, all of the stains came out! In fact, the stains came out so well the detectives who came by yesterday told me that the DNA tests on my blouse were negative, and then my attorney called and said that I would no longer be considered suspect in the disappearance of my husband.

What a relief! Going through menopause is bad enough without being a murder suspect! I thank you, once again, for having such a great product. Well, gotta go. I have to write a letter to the cast iron saucepan people...

January Birthdays

1st Val Barton
14th Craig Pollard
19th Hilda Hubbard
23rd Frank Mellish

February Birthdays

10th Doris Hubbard
14th John Hughes
21st Kate Goldsmith



Information



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Make battery recycling a New Year resolution

Instead of opting for one of the usual new year resolutions, such as keeping fit, how about kick-starting your new year with a pledge to recycle batteries?

According to the British Battery Manufacturers Association, over 200 million batteries are sold during the Christmas period. Sadly, unless they are recycled, they make up part of the 600 million UK batteries that go to landfill sites each year. 10 out of 12 of this year's predicted best selling toys are battery operated. Add to that electronic goods such as remote controls, mobile phones, battery-powered toothbrushes, cameras and games consoles, and the chances are you've already been back to the shops to stock up on more batteries.

Residents in St Edmundsbury can recycle all their used and unwanted batteries through the local kerbside collection, thanks to a trial being run in the borough. A special bag is left with the blue bin. All spent batteries, including AAA and AA, button batteries, size C and D and any laptop and mobile phone batteries, can be collected and put in the bag. On collection day, hang your bag hung on the hook on the bin handle or place it on top. So far over 40 tonnes have been saved from landfill.

For more information about battery recycling call St Edmundsbury Borough Council on 01284 757320, or call the WRAP helpline on 08453 313131 or visit www.recyclenow.org.uk

Answers to Crossword 112

Across: 1 Says, 3 Withdraw, 9 Records, 10 Admit, 11 Astonishment, 14 Elf, 16 Pains, 17 See, 18 Refrigerator, 21 Onion, 22 Biscuit, 23 Register, 24 Obey.

Down: 1 Surfaced, 2 Yacht, 4 Its, 5 Headmistress, 6 Reminds, 7 With, 8 Grandparents, 12 Sting, 13 Secretly, 15 Feeling, 19 Thumb, 20 Four, 22 Bee.

Don't be conned by charity Scrooges

Office of Fair Trading officials have warned the public not to be caught out by bogus charity bag collectors this Christmas period.



The Association of Charity Shops estimates that over £2m in potential donations are lost each year to the 'Scrooge' charity bag collectors.

Attracted by the rising prices paid for second hand clothes, bogus charity bag collectors, many with links to the Baltic States, have increased in number and are even prepared to steal donations left out for genuine charities.

Clothes Aid collects doorstep donations for children's hospitals across the UK. Alarmed at the increased activity by bogus collectors, Clothes Aid has employed a team of motorbike 'angels' to patrol and protect collection areas and report thefts to police.

Christine Wade, Assistant Chief Executive from the Office of Fair Trading said: "It is deplorable that some people actively cheat genuine charities out of significant sources of revenue. We want people to be confident that they can give to charities but they should be careful to avoid unscrupulous individuals and companies looking to exploit their goodwill."

Bogus collectors often give the misleading impression in their leaflets that the collections are on behalf of charity, but hidden in the small print it becomes clear that donations are being collected for commercial purposes.

If you have doubts that the bag collections in your area are actually going to charity, you can contact the Charity Commission helpline on 0870 333 0123. They will check whether or not the collection is on behalf of a registered charity.

To be 100% certain, give directly to your local charity shop, or at the very least look out for a charity registration number on the printed hand-outs. Many bona fide collections now carry the Association of Charity Shops Code of Charity Retailing logo.

Contact your local police team to report concerns or evidence of theft of donations to genuine charities.

Purse Theft reduction initiative

A new purse theft awareness initiative is to be trailed over the next 6 months at Sainsbury's in Bury St. Edmunds. The Management at Sainsbury's are assisting the Police in making shoppers aware that they should at all times keep an eye on their handbags, wallets and purses.

This little ID size card can be obtained from the Customer Service desk by signing for it. It will then be placed inside your purse or wallet for the period that you are in the shop. Once you've paid for your shopping you will be reminded at the till that you should sign your card back at the Customer Service Desk.

This card is fitted with a magnetic strip, which will activate the alarm at any of the exit points.

Denny Bros Ltd who owns the Promaxx Desktop Products supports this awareness initiative. Denny Bros Ltd printed the cards free of charge for the trail period of this initiative.

The Bury St Edmunds Police Crime Prevention Unit part funded this initiative with Denny Bros Ltd.

PCSO Andre de Jongh, who came up with this idea, hope that purely by asking for such a card will make the shopper think twice about where and how they secure their handbags, cards and money. He says, " This card is not a replacement for common sense. Your handbag should always be kept securely zipped up and preferably over your shoulder, tucked under you arm. Purse and handbag snatchers are very innovative and it is not uncommon for you to assist an unknown person with an item from the top shelf just to turn around and notice that you handbag is gone!"

FAIL TO STOP ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION BURY ST EDMUNDS

Suffolk Police are appealing for witnesses after a serious injury fail to stop road traffic collision in Bury St Edmunds, Wed. 19th Dec.

Police were called at around 6.30pm to reports that a female pedestrian, crossing Out Northgate near the junction with Station

Hill, had been struck by a vehicle which failed to stop, driving off towards the Mildenhall estate.

The woman, who is local and in her 80s, was taken to the West Suffolk Hospital where she remains in a critical condition this morning. She was with a friend who was extremely shaken but unhurt.

Police are urgently trying to trace the driver of the vehicle, which is described as a small van which may be dark in colour.

Calls should be made to the Bury Roads Policing Unit on 01473 613500 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

CHRISTMAS DRINK-DRIVE CAMPAIGN - UPDATE

More than 60 drivers have tested positive for drink-driving since Suffolk Constabulary started its Christmas drink-drive campaign.

Figures for the first half of the campaign (from December 1-16 inclusive) show that officers across the county conducted 1727 breath tests. Of these tests, 67 were positive.

Inspector Trevor Sharman, of Suffolk Constabulary's roads policing unit, said:

“As in previous years, the figures show that there is a minority of drivers who continue to ignore the law – and drive their cars after drinking.

“They also show that we have conducted more than 1700 breath tests in the first couple of weeks of December, underlining our determination to stamp out drink-driving.

“Those motorists who drink and drive in the county should reflect on this figure – and come to the sensible conclusion that drinking and driving is not worth the risk.”



Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe



God Didn't Make Perfect Mothers!

"May I go now?" the almost completed, eager mother asked.

"Not yet. There are essential parts and finishing touches to be added," her Maker replied.

"I look pretty good to me," she said, peering into the crystal pool at her feet.

"True, you're looking better all the time. But bear with me."

"What does a mother have to do, God, besides wash, feed, and clothe little bodies?"

God only smiled and continued working.

"What are you doing now?" the curious mother-to-be questioned.

"Tightening your anger valve. If this doesn't work, everyone is in trouble."

She watched as He reached for the container marked patience.

"And what do I need patience for?" she asked as He poured in quite a supply.

"After a week you will know, my child."

"And whatever could that be?"

"This is your bypass mechanism. It enables a mother to operate efficiently for long periods of time without compliments from her children."

"I'm sure I won't need that."

"I'm sure you will."

Then God reached for a bundle labelled insulation against loud noises.

"You can skip that," she told him. "I don't mind a little noise."

"That's nice," He said.

Seeing all the energy He was preparing to give her, she shifted uneasily from one foot to the other. "I wouldn't need all that energy in a million years."

"Little you know. You will use all of this and be begging for more before long."

"I didn't know there was so much involved in being a mother."

You're not just putting me on, are you?"

"No, little mother."

With much apprehension, "Are you sure I can handle the job?"

"Quite sure...with help. I'm always available when you need me."

"I'm glad to know that. What could I possibly need all these for?"

"A certain amount of pain, so that you will be fully equipped to sympathize with and minister to the needs of your children when they feel pain; tears, so that you will be able to cry with them when they are hurt; and laughter to blend with theirs for happy times."

The mother-in-waiting fidgeted while God attached yes and no buttons.

"Wouldn't it be nicer just to say yes to my children all the time?"

"Definitely not. Good mothers need to say no--and often. Say it with kindness and they will respect you for it."

"Have you equipped me with this thing called kindness, Lord?"

"I have indeed."

"And what about respect? Do I have to respect my children?"

"Absolutely."

The anxious mother tried to be patient as God installed a question answerer, advice giver, get along without sleep, and a pretender not to notice.

"I know I wouldn't use one of those!" she said, as God came toward her with a let-go lever.

"Sure you will, though it's hard. This is a vital piece of equipment. Until this little lever is released, your children will not have room to grow properly, make their own decisions, or develop their own personalities."

"I guess that is important."

God stood back a few steps to appraise His work, then reached for a coat of love and wrapped it around her. "Wear this at all times, and you'll be a good mother."

"Am I ready now, God, to get on with the mothering bit?"

"You can go now," God said gently. "You're not perfect, but you will do."



Hello Pip here,

This is my 'Dogs Diary for December',

I'm starting my page early this year 'cos I've already started to get excited for Christmas. It's now 11th December and things are starting to rev up here. All excitement for Friday 14th, (Over 60's Lunch). There are things flying about everywhere and people keep putting envelopes through our letterbox. It's really annoying for us dogs cos we can't get at them. We've got what they call a 'child gate'. Marg says its to keep us away from the letterbox. I say it's to keep us safe from any children who might wander in.

Now there's wrapping paper (Billy and Molly's department) Billy tears it up and Moll helps - Marg says its better than having a 'shredder'. I say 'simple is as simple does', honestly - I don't think the pair of them have a brain between them. Billy's a whiz at finding pens and pencils though, he wanders around with them in his mouth looking as if he's intelligent, but I know he can't write yet (he'll be three next year - his birthday is on 1st April - what a fool!!) Molly has a stick she walks round with, don't know what she intends to do with it, she won't throw it for us to catch and sometimes has a job walking through small spaces with it in her mouth. She got it stuck between the legs of a chair the other day and was there for ages before she realised she had a 'reverse' gear! - See what I have to put up with?

Poor Abbi's had a bad back and this cold weather doesn't help. She really shouts at us if we go near her. Although she's the same age as me she's a bit 'delicate' as she likes to think. Delicate, my foot, get her in a bad mood and she's round like a whirlwind until she realises someone is watching and then we get the 'limp' again. Missi is getting a bit old and just likes the quiet life, but she can get very feisty when roused, I don't think any of us would like to argue with her.

Marg and John I know are worried about the choice of wine this year for the lunch, they keep tasting it - just to make sure it's suitable - Yeah Ok any excuse eh?? Look out - here comes another delivery.!!

There have been loads - and I do mean LOADS of raffle prizes donated this year. Do you think they might have a Doggie Raffle

next year when people give us doggy goodies, I think it's a good idea isn't it? I've asked Marg to make sure she appeals for some 'doggie bags' from this year's Christmas Lunch. Let me know if she didn't ask you won't you?

Hang on, what's this – Molly's found the sellotape, she's got a piece in her mouth, she's running around and it's getting stuck to the table legs, chair legs, my legs, Billy's legs – Oh no – Look out - it's a leg waxing session!! – She's been watching Trinny and Suzannah!!. Billy's been watching 'Shrek' and it scared him – he thought he was looking in the mirror, hee hee hee. I know that Missi did watch 'Scruffs' this year. She watches it every year but never agrees with the judges. Abbi watches it but only for the latest hair styles, and I just watch it to make sure that there's no-one more handsome than me.

Anyway back to Christmas – I've bought presents, I know Marg, John and Cyril have bought presents. Billy and Molly have already left 'presents' outside on the gravel or lawn (didn't they know they were supposed to be wrapped? What do they think we hang on OUR Christmas Tree??) They've chewed up all the paper anyway – hang on Moll's trying to stick it back together with that bit of sellotape she's dragging around with her.....

Well it's Friday evening now and Marg and John have been gadding out and about at the Christmas Lunch all day. They're back now and I can smell something in the bag they're carrying – Yup, this it, it's the 'Doggy Bag', they did remember us. I heard John say to Marg, 'Make sure you don't put any sprouts in their dinner' Too late, she'd already done it. We had little sausages, (I can't say 'chipolata'!!) there was some turkey and roast potatoes, peas, carrots, gravy and of course, the sprouts, it was great - except there wasn't enough, so can you all please leave us a bit more next year!!!. We were a bit disappointed that we didn't have any Christmas pud but I expect John ate all that – he likes his Christmas pud. Anyway, we were all lying about later in the evening when John suddenly said 'What's that smell?' You've guessed, one of us had done 'stinkies'. We all pointed our paws at Molly being the newest one to blame. Me and my 'pack' then had a game seeing who could do the best 'stinkies'. We were all giggling so much we were banished to the conservatory with the outside door left open until we'd calmed down and the sprouts had run their course.

Its Tuesday night now and the carol singers have just been around. Trouble was, Abbi thought she was part of the choir. Don't know whether any of you have heard Abbi sing (apologies to our next door neighbours), but a voice she hasn't got – it's more of a howl like woo hoo hoo, wah hoo hoo, aah hoo, hoo, etc. etc (she thinks she a 'Slice Girl'). She can 'throw' her voice a long way (wish she'd throw it away altogether, and I'm not alone in this opinion). She's a real Diva and unfortunately likes to 'rehearse' a lot, trouble is, if we tell her off, we get the 'limp' and bad back scenario all over again. Missie's got 'selective deafness' – years of living with Abbi I expect (they lived together for around 5 years before they were 're-housed' here). I think Billy 'the kid' is tone deaf anyway – have you heard him – don't think his voice has broken yet (again, apologies to neighbours) but it sounds like a 'cracked' record (remember those?) – he tries to make it sound as though he's got a deep voice, but believe me you can't make that sound when you've had the 'snip' – this I know from personal experience – that's why you never hear me sing – I just bark - did this to the bin men this morning and they drove off very fast as usual, I'm really scary when I bark. Good job they can't see me 'cos I've not got many teeth left.

Wednesday now and Marg was up at the crack of dawn this morning hoovering – Christmas cleaning I think she called it. She does it that early 'cos when she's got the hoover going Billy and Abbi try and attack it. Mind you if you look at Billy's nose, it looks as if its been stuck up the hoover pipe, it's that big. I think if he painted it red and wore a set of antlers he'd look like Rudolf - no, don't even think about it, he's stupid enough to try it!! He pinched one of Marg's gloves today and was running around the house with it. He's a brave lad, I'll say that for him, I wouldn't have done that 'cos when Marg gets angry – be afraid – be very afraid!!!

Weekend now and final Christmas trimmings going up. Billy's got his head buried in the 'tinsel' sack, Abbi's trying to admire her reflection in the shiny baubles, Missy's keeping her head down and well out of the way. Moll's still got pieces of sellotape stuck to her legs – she was going to do the leg wax but is too scared to pull it off!! - I'd pull it off for her if I had any teeth to get hold of it!! We're trying to decorate Cyril's walking frame so we can 'grip, hang and dangle' from it, but he won't keep it still for long enough – he keeps shaking it at us for some untold reason, wonder if that's some sort of geriatric Christmas dance, Billy's trying to copy him but keeps falling over –

I've told him not to lift both legs on the same side at the same time, but it just won't sink in – Silly Billy – been sniffing the wine corks I expect!.

Christmas is nearly here and there are lots of interesting parcels around. Marg's been working nights and we are supposed to be tippy toeing around so as not to wake her. Christmas morning now and we've opened our presents from Donna's cats, yum – Begging Strips – our favourite! There is loads and loads of paper to play with. Marg and John have lots of chocolates – we're not allowed them – doesn't look as if they are either judging by the amount of wrapping around it. Marg gets really wound up about this muttering things like – 'how do they expect us to unwrap that'. Give it to Billy and Moll, they'll soon tear that off for you. Marg's got some new pens (Billy's chewed all the old ones!) and takes care to put them out of his reach. There's a new clock which makes a noise which makes Molly bark – that's hidden in the cupboard. Cyril's also got sweeties but somehow I don't think he'll be sharing them.

Now Christmas Dinner – smells delicious, wonder if we'll have doggy bags. We're not allowed near the table when the 'grown ups' are eating. BUT, we can all sit on the sofa looking pitiful (well Abbi can't – she's a bit on the 'bonny' side). We all droop our ears and our heads and look sorrowfully on – well I'm trying to look sorrowful, I think the others have fallen asleep, Missi's snoring now, but she's a game dog – she's still sitting upright! Hang on – Moll's gone asleep and has perched herself on top of a cushion, trying to look awake, I swear she's going to fall off in a minute. Billy's positioned himself so he's propping her up, what a sweetie (Yuuukk). I KNOW Abbi's got her eyes closed but you can't see because of her fringe but she's wavering, I hope something happens soon before we're all asleep and that's before we've eaten anything!!.

Here we go, ready – dishes are being scraped, bits are being chopped up (I do hope we're allowed more sprouts!!!). We're ALL awake now, jostling for the best position, eyeing up which plate is going to end up with the most food on. Moll's doing her cute circus dog act, balancing on back legs looking a bit like a meerkat. Billy's sticking his nose in (well he'd have a job not to wouldn't he??) Missie's just patiently waiting and Abbi's doing a quick 'stamping of the paws' around the area, just so she won't be missed. Five plates are put on the floor and are gobbled up as quick as a flash. I don't of

course, I like to savour mine (just to annoy the others who haven't got anything left!!) All gone!! Now a quick dash back to the sofa to see who gets the best position. John and Marg are busy washing up - we did offer to lick the plates clean but were turned down, maybe next time they'll have learnt their lesson and let us do the washing up so they'll get the sofa!!

Boxing day and leftovers. Personally I wouldn't mind 'leftovers' every day but there's never much left here!! We've all been out jogging – I don't usually go but someone had to lead 'the pack' Marg and John only have two legs after all and to be perfectly honest are not too quick on their feet (this is why we can usually run rings round them).

We're looking forward to New Year when we're going to have visitors to help see the New Year in. I think Marg has ideas about some 'games' involving tennis balls, we'll just have to see if we can help and join in!! Abbi joined in with the singing last year so I really do think that the balls are a better idea!!

Hope you all had a great Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Love from Pip and his 'Pack'

Sudoku Solutions (from page 8)

3	8	1	9	7	5	4	6	2
7	6	9	1	4	2	5	8	3
4	5	2	6	3	8	9	1	7
5	2	7	3	8	4	6	9	1
8	9	3	5	1	6	2	7	4
6	1	4	2	9	7	8	3	5
1	4	6	7	5	9	3	2	8
2	7	8	4	6	3	1	5	9
9	3	5	8	2	1	7	4	6

9	6	8	4	7	2	3	5	1
1	5	4	6	3	9	7	8	2
2	3	7	8	5	1	6	4	9
8	7	3	1	9	4	2	6	5
4	9	2	5	6	3	8	1	7
5	1	6	2	8	7	4	9	3
6	8	1	7	2	5	9	3	4
7	4	9	3	1	6	5	2	8
3	2	5	9	4	8	1	7	6

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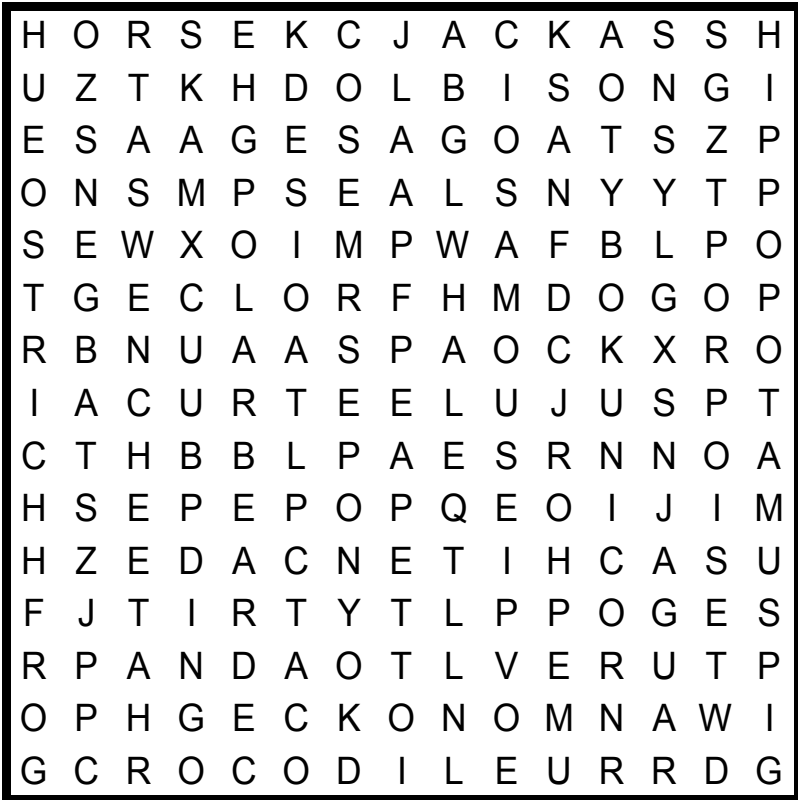
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Animal Wordsearch

40 animals to find - see how many you can get before you have to look at the list on page 23



What am I?

They call me a man, but I'll never have a wife.
I was given a body, but not given life.
They made me a mouth, but didn't give me breath.
Water gives me life and sun brings me death...

Answer on page 23

Extracts from Pet Diaries

A Dog's Diary

- 8:00 Am - Oh Boy! Dog Food! My Favourite!
- 9:30 Am - Oh Boy! A Car Ride! My Favourite!
- 9:40 Am - Oh Boy! A Walk! My Favourite!
- 10:30 Am - Oh Boy! A Car Ride! My Favourite!
- 11:30 Am - Oh Boy! Dog Food! My Favourite!
- 12:00 Pm - Oh Boy! The Kids! My Favourite!
- 1:00 Pm - Oh Boy! The Yard! My Favourite!
- 4:00 Pm - Oh Boy! The Kids! My Favourite!
- 5:00 Pm - Oh Boy! Dog Food! My Favourite!
- 5:30 Pm - Oh Boy! Mum! My Favourite!
- 6:00 Pm - Oh Boy! Playing Ball! My Favourite!
- 6:30 Pm - Oh Boy! Sleeping In My Peoples Bed! My Favourite!

A Cat's Diary

Day 183 - My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from ruining the occasional piece of furniture.

Tomorrow I may eat another house plant. Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded, must try this at the top of the stairs. In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favourite chair; must try this on their bed.

Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body, in an attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of, and to try to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was. Hmmm, not working according to plan.

There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices. I was placed in solitary throughout the event. However, I could hear the noise and smell of their food. More importantly I overheard that my confinement was due to MY power of "allergies." Must learn what this is and how to use it to my advantage. I am convinced the other

captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit. The budgie on the other hand has got to be an informant, and speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move.

Due to his current placement in the metal room, his safety is assured. But I can wait. It is only a matter of time.

The Budgie's Diary

I wish that damn cat would stop looking at me and licking his lips, it creeps me out. As for that damn dog - is there not anything that makes that 4 legged creature unhappy - whatever he's on I want some.

I do feel sorry for the fish - he's captured like me, though at least he doesn't jump back and forward on 2 fake branches all day every day. Though I am lucky to have a friend in here with me - though he only talks when I do and copies every move of mine - strange I know but at least he's company.

The Goldfish's Diary

Where am I again?



Animal Wordsearch Word List

Bats	Emu	Jaguar	Pony
Bison	Fox	Koala	Porpoise
Cat	Frog	Lions	Rat
Cheetah	Gecko	Moose	Seals
Colt	Gnu	Mouse	Sheep
Crocodile	Goats	Ostrich	Snake
Dingo	Hippopotamus	Otter	Tapir
Dog	Horse	Panda	Unicorn
Dolphin	Ibex	Pig	Whale
Elephant	Jackass	Polar bear	Zebra

Crosswords, Sudoku and Wordsearch now available online at
<http://www.johnbeales.co.uk/xwords.htm>

What am I? I am a Snowman

And Finally A Few Thoughts For 2008...

Life is sexually transmitted.

Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.

Some people are like a spring Slinky... not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you shove them down the stairs.

Health freaks are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospital dying of nothing.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Why does a slight tax increase cost you 50 quid and a substantial tax cut saves you 50p?

In the 60s, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

Most men would respect a woman's mind more if it bounced gently as she walked.

We know exactly where any untaxed car is located among the millions of cars in Britain.....but we haven't got a clue as to where thousands of illegal immigrants and terrorists are located.

Maybe we should put the DVLA in charge of immigration.....



Please could you let me have letters or articles for the February edition of The Newsletter by the 20th of January - Many thanks

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