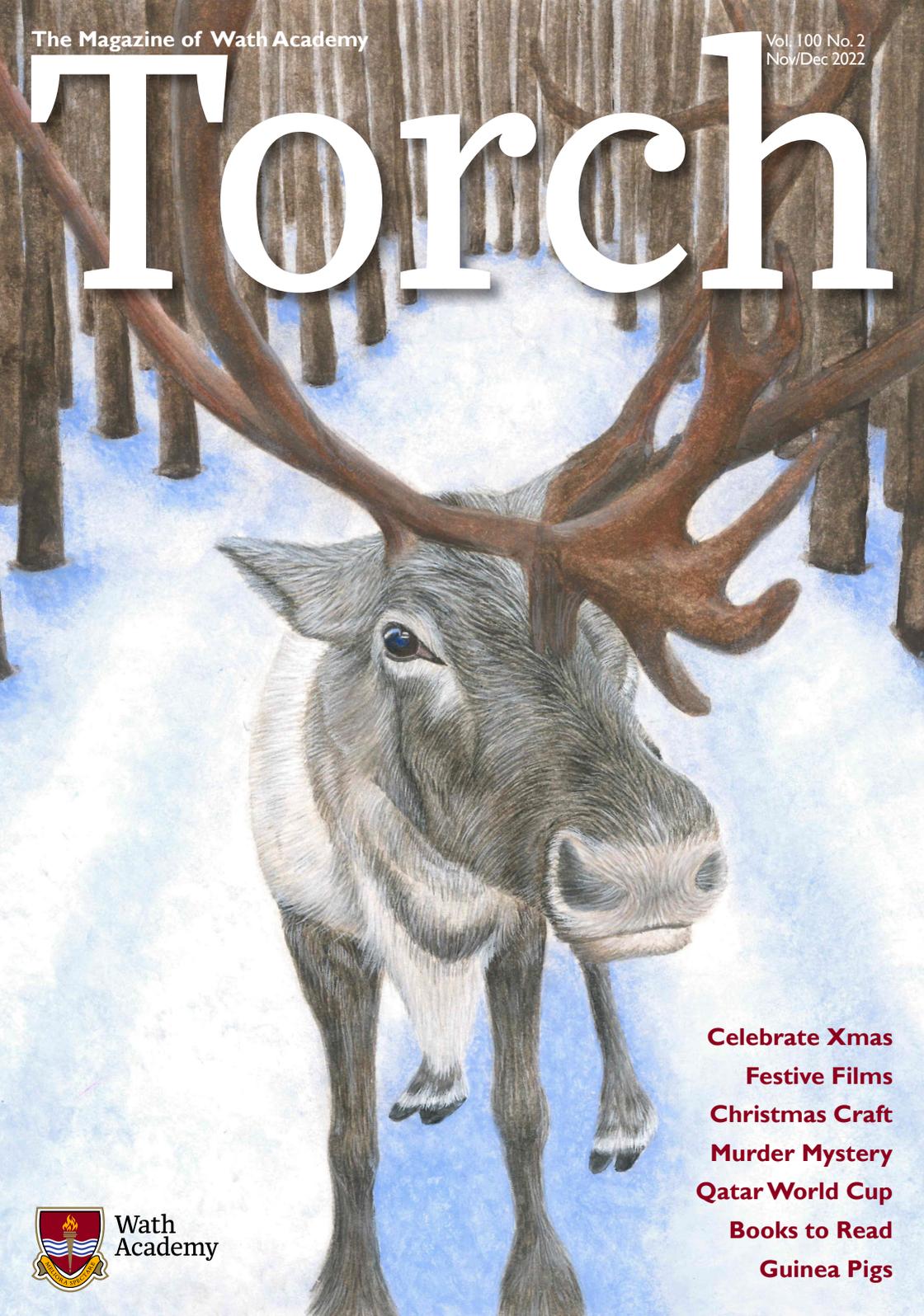


The Magazine of Wath Academy

Vol. 100 No. 2
Nov/Dec 2022

Torch



Celebrate Xmas
Festive Films
Christmas Craft
Murder Mystery
Qatar World Cup
Books to Read
Guinea Pigs



Wath
Academy



Torch

Volume 100 Number 2
November/December 2022

wathacademy.com/torch



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Wath Academy

CONTENTS

- 3 House Update
- 4 Murder Mystery Evening 
- 6 Medical Students
- 7 Wath World War II Student
- 8 From the Archives 
- 9 Qatar and Its Controversial Laws
- 10 Cavey Corner Rodent Show 
- 12 Christmas Is Here!
- 13 Christmas Traditions 
- 14 Make Your Own Sock Snowman
- 15 Classic Christmas Movies 
- 16 Top 5 Christmas Movies
- 18 Top 10 Christmas Songs
- 20 Reading Recommendations 
- 22 Reviews
- 27 Puzzles

Season's Greetings from Torch!



Welcome to this festive edition of *Torch*. Everyone at the magazine wishes you a very Merry Christmas. This issue's amazing cover art is by A Level Art student **Charlie R** in Year 12; it is of a reindeer at Billingley Christmas Tree Farm.

HOUSE UPDATE



To start with, we have to say a big congratulations to all houses for their successful bake sales last half term, raising hundreds of pounds for their chosen charities. The running totals are in the table below – take a look at how much your house has raised so far:

House	Charity	Current Total Raised
Rome	Mind	£110.00
Athens	BARC	£230.90
Carthage	Macmillan	£108.90
Thebes	YoungMinds	£185.00
Troy	Rotherham Hospice	£331.42
Sparta	Cancer Research	£222.40

The next charity event will be a Christmas jumper day on the last day of term. Remember to bring in £1 to donate to your house's charity and wear your festive jumper.



Troy have been on a winning streak, coming in first in nearly all of the weekly quizzes and sixth form challenges over the last half term. Thebes have been very successful in the department challenges, winning the

Maths and Technology challenge with an impressive spaghetti structure!

Our box tasks continue to see a range of entries from every house, and the highest participation of any year so far. Well done to everyone who is taking the time to enter – your beautiful creative work is making the

competition harder each week to judge! The winning entries will be added to the box task display boards around school in the new year, including this beautiful Remembrance design from Ruthie J-S in Athens Year 10.



Thank you also to our amazing staff members who regularly come down to the tennis courts to compete and support their house in the Friday competitions. There were 17 members of staff taking part in the Week 12 ring toss challenge... the highest ever participation in a Friday event! Don't forget, all staff and all year groups are welcome to join us down there at 12:50 pm every Friday. Get involved!

This is how the points currently stand – however, we're only a third of the way through the school year!

House	Points
Troy	53715
Athens	43835
Carthage	34770
Thebes	31310
Sparta	30910
Rome	30075

Let's see if Athens can pull the lead back from Troy, or if Rome can recover from 6th place...

Check back in with the next issue of *Torch* for half term 3's house update.

Miss Gouly • Head of Athens



MURDER MYSTERY SOLVED

Wath Academy's annual murder mystery evening was a great success. Lily H, one of the Year 13s who produced the performance, reveals how this year's Pride and Prejudice theme came about.

Our murder mystery was based around a tragic incident of a pompous, selfish lord who is pressured into a business deal by his reputation-motivated mother. The business deal contained its own scandalous murder between a lower-class family. Little would he expect his victim's daughter to strike back in revenge, resulting in him being brutally murdered at his gala – which turned out to be a scam!

Creating the murder mystery was a challenging yet brilliant opportunity to create a unique performance. Since this

is an annual event, each class is pushed to create a different performance with an engaging storyline, but also make it thrilling for the audience to keep them on their toes. I think it is safe to say we accomplished our aim this year and delivered the performance we'd mapped out from the beginning. However, I'd like to shed some light on the process behind our murder mystery and how that led to our *Pride and Prejudice*-inspired evening.

Since I have now experienced writing a play, I think our group has established it

perhaps isn't the easiest task. In fact, I'd say it's very hard. The start of the process is thinking of a theme or a reason why our audience would all be in the same room, since we had to remember that we, as the actors, had to interact with our audience members. If we weren't successful at this stage, we ran the risk of making the audience feel like they aren't included in the event and making the murder mystery more confusing.

From the beginning, we mind-mapped our ideas, varying greatly. One idea we had was a *Harry Potter* wizard themed idea. This stemmed from us deciding how our victim got murdered, and that someone killed the victim through magic. We decided that wasn't sinister enough and perhaps put the shade on *Harry Potter*, so we started to think about what could be scarier. This inspired us to think about something Halloween themed since the event would be held just before Halloween. That got us wondering if we could transform the main hall into a haunted house, but we needed a reason to interact with/ invite an audience.

Finally, we agreed on the idea of a *Pride and Prejudice*-themed murder mystery. That ticked the boxes of why our audience was there and gave us an exciting idea to create a story line around. Our storyline was based on the lord of the house being murdered by one of our comically named



line-up of characters:

- Lord Richard Git – victim
- Ms Ribble Git – Lord Git's mother
- Lady Penny Pincher/Git – Lord Git's wife
- Christian Cross – the local vicar
- Lotta Soil – partner from an affair on a business trip
- Seymour Soil – the gardener and Lotta and Richard's son
- Ms Terry Solver – the constable
- Kendal Sticke – the daughter of the original factory owner, as well as the entertainer

It was a pleasure to have the brilliant Sixth Form Dance students participate in our show – with their beautifully choreographed ensemble dance to open, to the *Bridgeton*-style cover of 'Bad Guy' by Billie Eilish, as well the duet to a philharmonic orchestra cover of 'Money Money Money', originally written by ABBA, which was accompanied by singer Emily J (who also played our murderer Kendal Sticke).

We, as the writers, felt that it enhanced our performance by uniting our Performing Arts Faculty by having Dance, Drama and Music all in one performance.

Lily H • Year 13



MEDICAL STUDENTS

Wath Academy has been fortunate to have three medical students here for the last few weeks.

Harry, Sam and Abby are third year medical students at the University of Sheffield. They are currently on placement in Wath Academy's Faculty of Science, working with selected classes – including taking part in dissections.

They explained how their love for medicine came from family who have the same natural interest. The enjoyment of puzzles and having to find information out by delving deeper into the logics of something also appealed. The thought of 'everyday is different' also makes the job exciting. It also consists of 'leadership and teamwork' so that everyone is able to have a position in the job and 'diverse' so that everyone is included.

The medical students recognised the school's 'well-behaved' students and believe that the school is 'supportive and everyone plays a role'. They have also expressed how impressed they are with the school's facilities for students such as music equipment and the astroturf.

When asked about university, all three of the medical students emphasised how university is 'fun' and allows you to be 'independent'. You also are able to have your own financial independence which helps you when it comes to accommodation and student fees. Despite it being 'daunting', 'everyone feels the same'



“All three medical students emphasised how university is fun and allows you to be independent.”

and is experiencing the same emotions however there are ‘various things to do’ and ‘many local places to visit’.

As they are studying medicine, Harry, Sam and Abby told *Torch* about their specialities. Harry is interested in ‘surgery and acute medicine’. Sam is intrigued by ‘paediatrics and also being a GP’. Abby is also interested in being a ‘GP and also being an oncologist’.

They ‘highly recommend’ the NHS because you get to ‘meet new people’. There is also more than 350 jobs available across the NHS meaning that there is ‘a job for everyone’. The NHS is ‘diverse’ so everyone you meet is different and makes your day more interesting.

Ruby R • Year 10

Wath World War II Student: Dorothy Margaret Wardell

Dorothy Margaret Wardell was born in Ackworth in 1917. Her parents’ names were Henry Wardell and Dorothy Mildred Wardell.

Wardell attended Wath-upon-Dearne Grammar School and then joined the Royal Navy.

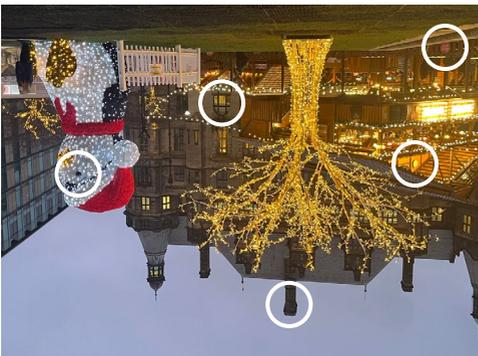
She was stationed on the HMS Daedalus when an accident occurred on 23rd November 1940: a stray anti-aircraft shell crashed through the roof of the dining hall at the hotel they were staying in. It killed 10 people, Wardell included.

Wardell was the only female former pupil of the school to die in World War II.

Olek P • Year 7
Jess M • Year 8



Dorothy Margaret Wardell's name on the school's war memorial ('WRNS' means 'Women's Royal Navy Service')



Puzzle Solutions

Spot the Difference
See right

Christmas Past Quiz

1. b) 1843
2. c) Germany (in 1539)
3. c) 1952 ('Here in My Heart' by Al Martino)
4. a) Oliver Cromwell (in 1644)*
5. b) 1995

* It was actually Parliament that banned Christmas, but Cromwell almost certainly supported it

From the Archives



Each edition of *Torch*, we reprint an article from Wath Academy's extensive collection of old school magazines (available online at wathacademy.com/torch). As it's the festive season, here is a seasonal poem from the Christmas 1995 issue of *The Wath Chronicle*.

A Christmas with a Conscience

Christmas is a time with lots of turkey,
Jolly faces, everyone's perky.
Robins sitting on the wall,
Presents coming best of all.
Crackers going bang, bang, bang,
Christmas carols to be sang.
Everyone's happy, all's merry,
Adults wolfing Pie and Sherry.
Wrapping Paper on the floor,
Carol singers at the door.
Gran's got you a brand new jumper,
Your Brother and Sister getting plumper.
No chocolate left to give away,
For a bar you'll have to pay.
Don't stand under Mistletoe,
Refuse a kiss, just say "No!"
Who's come to visit but Auntie Mabel,
Run and hide under the table!
Look she's brought another jumper,
You're going to be sick, about to thump her
She doesn't realise the wool's not in!
That's the first thing for the bin.
With Nans and Aunties full of stout,

Their "aws", no doubt I must get out.
I must admit it was cold out there,
To be honest I felt rather bare.
Really didn't know what. to do,
Mum said "Come in, you'll catch the Flu!"
But, no I went and stayed out there,
Even with the frozen hair.
Built a Snowman 10 feet tall,
Best on the street, it was best of all!
To be honest though it's just a con,
This "Merry Christmas everyone!"
We maybe should just stop and think,
As we sip that Christmas drink,
Those of you that will not share,
The merriment and the Christmas Fayre.
A park bench or some dark, damp floor,
Is all that some will have in store.
So spare a thought for those this year,
As you laugh and sing and cheer.
Merry Christmas.

Katie McSweeney • Year 7 (1995)



Read Old Wath Magazines Online

The school website includes copies of magazines and newspapers from throughout the history of Wath Academy, Wath Comprehensive School, Wath Grammar School and Wath Secondary School. There are over 150 issues available, going all the way back to the 1920s.

Visit today: wathacademy.com/torch

WORLD CUP 2022

Qatar and Its Controversial Laws



Football fan Ruby R explores why hosting the current FIFA World Cup in Qatar has met with so much opposition.

In 2010, Sepp Blatter (former FIFA president) announced that Russia and Qatar would each host the World Cup, with Russia hosting it in 2018 and Qatar in 2022. This caused an uproar in the media with people calling it corrupt and saying other countries should boycott it. Blatter and FIFA had allegations against them of bribery and fraud due to the two countries being awarded the right to host. Since the allegations were made, Sepp Blatter has been banned from FIFA because of corruption.

As the World Cup approaches its conclusion, fans from across the world are worried about safety while being in Qatar. Some fans feel unwelcome because of the laws against homosexuality and women. In Qatar, homosexuality is illegal and same-sex marriage is not recognised by the government. People who are part of the LGBTQ+ community could be issued with a death penalty due to the Shariah law which is where some Muslims follow a strict interpretation of the Qur'an where Allah must approve everything. Harry Kane and Gareth Bale both planned to wear a 'One Love' armband to show support to the community however were told they would face punishment if they did.



FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022

Women also face certain laws as males have guardianship over them because they are influenced by the Wahhabi interpretation of Islam.

Due to Qatar not being prepared to host, they hired migrant workers to build the stadiums that are now being used for the matches. It has been revealed that 6,500 workers have died while building these stadiums because of conditions and safety of workers however others believe that the figure as way higher. Bayern Munich fans showed their anger by holding up a banner that said '15,000 dead for 5,760 minutes of football. Shame on you.' These fans have also been spreading

the word of boycotting Qatar as they disagree with the whole tournament this year. However, some people are expressing that they understand why Qatar is sticking to its way of life because of its religion and how they see it as perfect – but it was promised that 'everyone is welcome in Qatar' when that is not true and won't be for the foreseeable future. Even Sepp Blatter agrees that 'Qatar is a mistake'.

Ruby R • Year 10

CAVEY CORNER RODENT SHOW

Isobel G (Year 10) takes her guinea pig to the Cavy Corner Rodent Show.

On Sunday 6th November, Armthorpe Community Centre held a fun show to enter your furry friends. All rodents were welcome, but the most common pets were guinea pigs, bunnies, and hamsters. I decided to bring her guinea pig, Jay, and my sister brought hers, Moxie.

There was only a £1 entry fee that went towards the rescue centre that aims to help and care for guinea pigs and bunnies in need.

On display, there was a wide range of supplies and treats for every type of animal there. I bought Jay a plaid, fleecy sleeping bag and Moxie a spotty turquoise one. Their nails needed a trim but they often

struggle and try to escape when people try to cut them. However, our worries were washed away because animal nail trims were available to those who made a donation at any price. The lady who trimmed their nails was very caring and clearly had a love for animals as she complimented Jay's fur and called him adorable.

As we arrived, we were able to enter our piggies into an array of various categories available within the show. The categories consisted of 'beautiful bunnies', 'cute and cuddly', 'gorgeous guinea pigs', 'cutest couple', 'fastest eater', 'pet the judge would most like to take home' and many more. I decided to enter Jay in 'cute and cuddly', 'gorgeous guinea pigs' and 'fastest eater' since he is constantly wolfing down his food. We entered Moxie into 'cute and cuddly', 'gorgeous guinea pigs' and 'pet the judges were most likely to take home'.

During the first category, we had to bring our rodents to a row of tables aligned in a square so the judges could fairly assess and pet the competition. We had to place our piggies in an individual crate and the judges came around to pet and look at all the rodents. Jay adored the attention from the judges, but Moxie was not so keen. Jay and



Isobel's guinea pig, Jay

Moxie didn't win a prize in the 'cute and cuddly' category but we were optimistic for the other categories.

For 'gorgeous guinea pigs', there were over 30 guinea pigs in all shapes and sizes that were all prepared for the show. Their fur was beautifully combed, their eyes sparkled with excitement and their claws were trimmed to perfection. The judges came around and interacted with each guinea pig. One of the judges stopped at Jay, who was wrapped up in his sleeping bag, and stroked him on the head whilst telling me her own guinea pig looks like Jay. Jay was very relaxed and seemed to like all the praise he was receiving. Moxie, on the other hand, was slightly anxious and did not seem like it as much as Jay.

Eventually, the judges returned to their seats to announce the winner. However, there was also an extra rosette being handed out and the certificate stated it was a special prize. The judges announced that Jay had won and they handed me a beautiful, blue rosette along with a certificate. I was truly ecstatic and so proud Jay had managed to win a rosette against 30 other piggies. First, second and third was announced and then we returned to our seats for the next category.

After a few more categories, it was Moxie's time to shine in the 'pet the judges would most like to take home'. However, he didn't win any prizes unfortunately.

Finally, Jay was ready to compete in the 'fastest eater' competition. Once I put him in a crate, we were handed a fairly sized piece of rocket for the rodents to eat as quick as they could. Jay was already standing eagerly on his back legs ready to snatch the food from my hand; on the count on three I handed Jay the piece of



Abi's guinea pig, Moxie

rocket maniacally. The woman judging had her eyes on a huge bunny that wasn't eating the rocket but as soon as she noticed that Jay had finished his piece she grabbed the second-place cup. Whatever creature had eaten the piece faster than Jay must've been starving because Jay is known as the 'undefeatable eating machine'. Despite this, I was delighted that Jay had managed to come in the top 3. We were handed a certificate, along with a blue, yellow, and orange rosette. As a prize, Jay was handed a prize of some treats for a later date. Moxie was a little disappointed that he didn't win but Jay wasn't reluctant to share his prize.

The Cavy Corner was such a wonderful place for friendly competition and making friends. It was such a welcoming atmosphere, and I would love to go again next year.

Isobel G • Year 10



Christmas Is Here!

Dylan H gives his recommendations for Christmas.

The most popular time of year is upon us! People have already bought presents and may have their decorations up. So why don't you sit back and relax? Hot chocolates in hand, let's talk all about the best time of 2022. You will all know of the history of Christmas, at very least briefly. So, let's speak about the trends around this wonderful time:

The Best Gifts

Trends show that good gifts this year are fidget toys and quality of life gadgets/equipment, although there are some outliers, such as many LED items for your room. Also, as always, there is an abundance of games and gaming merchandise for all the gamers.

For example, the brand-new open world game *Sonic Frontiers*, created by the famous gaming company Sega, is now for sale. Also, for the reading lovers, I recommend *The Last Immortals*. This is a horror/action-adventure style book. I won't spoil too much, but if you read in your spare time, it's worth the money and the time to read.

The Trends

We at *Torch* looked at the popular streaming service Netflix and have

compiled some of the best Christmas movies for this holiday season. Some of the best rom-coms this year are *A Christmas Prince*, *A Wish for Christmas* and *Christmas Wonderland*, to name a few. For family movies, there is a wide selection including *Arthur Christmas*, *Christmas Chronicles 1* and *2*, *Nativity! 1, 2* and *3*, *Home Alone 1* and *2* and so many other movies vying for your attention this Christmas season.

Events

Events in this area include illuminations at Yorkshire Wildlife Park, the Christmas fair in Wath-upon-Deerne's town centre, the Christmas market in multiple areas including York, Manchester and Leeds and many more!

The Best Reads

We at *Torch* researched some great reads this holiday season and found some books such as *Afterlife* by Stephanie Hudson, *Stealing Snow* by Danielle Paige, *A Very Merry Murder Club* edited by Stephen Patel and Robin Stevens and *Hercule Poirot's Christmas* by Agatha Christie.

And with that, we've discussed everything from books and movies to gifts and gadgets. So, after this kind of long journey, Merry Christmas!

Dylan H • Year 9





Christmas Traditions

We look at where some famous Christmas traditions came from.

Christmas is a time filled with traditions. Here are some classic festive traditions and where they come from.

The Nativity

Christmas celebrations started when Jesus was born. Shortly after, people such as kings came with gifts for him. He was laid in a manger in a stable where Mary gave birth because there was no room in the hotel. This baby was a blessing from God because before Mary gave birth she was visited by an angel called Gabriel who gave her the news.

Christmas Trees

Christmas trees originated in Germany. People brought decorated trees into their houses and then hung them upside down in their living room. This first came around in the 16th century but was a firmly established tradition by the 19th century.

Carols

Christmas carolling was originally in Latin. People pass them down from generations and they also sung them when Jesus was born when they came to visit him. Every Christmas eve carolling is when people especially in groups go round the streets singing Christmas carols to people to spread Christmas cheer.



A Christmas tree from 1850 (Image: Godey's Lady's Book, out of copyright)

Christmas Day

On 25th December, people celebrate by getting with their friends and family and opening presents and doing general festive things. Later in the day they celebrate by eating Christmas dinner which is usually a better version of a Sunday dinner. Christmas crackers include jokes and party hats and other fun things that are really not useful.



Make Your Own Sock Snowman



Here are some instructions on how to make a sock snowman for Christmas. You could gift it, use it for display or do whatever you want with it.

Things You Will Need

- An old white sock
- Some rice
- Rubber bands
- Pens
- Buttons/googly eyes (if you want)
- An old coloured sock
- Felt/ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue (if you are using buttons/googly eyes)



Step 1
Pour rice in to the sock to around half way. Add a rubber band, nice and tight.



Step 4
Cut off the end of a coloured sock and use it to make a hat.



Step 2
Repeat that step and then tie it off at the top of the sock.



Step 5
Get some coloured ribbon and tie it round the middle like a scarf.



Step 3
Draw/glue a face on to the top ball of the sock (where you tied it off).



Finished!
And there you have your little snowman friend!

Sophie D • Year 7



Classic Christmas Movies

Abi G recommends three Christmas films.

It's almost Christmas and the anticipation for special day is in the air. It is the best time of year to enjoy your favourite Christmas films so put your fluffy socks, turn on the fire and don't forget a warm mug of hot chocolate! These are my recommendations for 2022.

Nativity!

Most of you probably know the Christmas family classic, *Nativity!* The story follows a class and their teacher Paul Maddens. Paul is a huge Scrooge and dislikes Christmas after his girlfriend left him in the holiday season years ago. Despite his anti-Christmas attitude, he and his class are assigned the task of creating and performing the school's Christmas play. However, the new assistant teacher is a fun-loving enthusiast could potentially cause some problems along the way. I give this film from my childhood a solid 8 /10.

The Muppet Christmas Carol

This film is a depiction of *A Christmas Carol*, but all the roles are played by Muppets. Well, everyone but Scrooge. He is a bitter and uncharitable man who is cold to everyone he meets. Even his most loyal worker is deprived of food and coal. One Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by his old work partners Marley and Marley. They warn him of events to come and that he will be visited by three spirits over the



Image: Freepik

next three nights in hopes to change his bitter ways. I personally loved the Muppets version and it will always be my favourite. 10/10, no negotiation.

Princess Switch

The 2018 movie *The Princess Switch* is a fictional story about Stacy, a New York baker, and her work partner Kevin. They are given an opportunity to be on a baking show. They fly out to the fictional country of Belgravia and have some unexpected encounters when Stacey runs into a girl who looks exactly like her! There is unexpected romance and lots of plot twists, the story is very engaging and fun. However, this film is targeted more towards children and that's why I have lowered to score to a 6/10. Despite this, I still enjoyed it.

Abi G • Year 10



Top 5 Movies to Watch This Christmas

Ti-Oluwani tells us why these are the films to see this Christmas.

Let's be honest: there's no perfect Christmas without a perfect Christmas movie, and thankfully, we live in a day and age where there is a wide variety to choose from. And if you were lucky enough to come across this page, well welcome, because today I am going to be counting down the top 5 movies to watch this Christmas.

5) *Scrooge: A Christmas Carol*



With every new year comes a new *Christmas Carol* and this year is no exception. This is an animated take on the classic Dickens' novel *A Christmas Carol*. To start off

with, the visuals of this movie are amazing. It looks stylized and is very accurate to its source material. In fact, I think this is the most book-accurate adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* we have ever had and yes, it's even better than the 2009 Jim Carrey take on the novel. It also doesn't fall in the trap of modern animated movies being loaded with celebrities and end up having terrible voice acting.

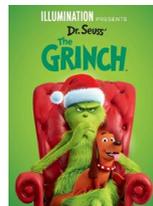
4) *Spirited*

What happens when you insert Ryan Reynolds (*Deadpool*) and Will Ferrell (*Elf*)

into the much beloved Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*? Well you get *Spirited*, a musical comedy with the main character being the Ghost of Christmas Present (Will Ferrell) and his yearly pursuit to pick a Scrooge and make him right his wrongs. Except this time, he picks an unredeemable Scrooge. Sounds interesting? Well, it even gets more interesting when you find out it's a musical with the songwriters also being the ones who wrote for 2016's *La La Land*. If you found the songs in that movie interesting, then you are in for a treat. And Ryan Reynolds is just Ryan Reynolds in this movie – no seriously, he never disappoints with his hysterical humour. You need to see it yourself!



3) *The Grinch*



Ah, yes, Illumination's take on Dr Seuss's version of Ebenezer Scrooge. There have been lots of arguments about if it's better than Jim Carrey's version but I think this surpasses that in every

way. Jim Carrey's Grinch literally looks like it was covered in yak hair, which was



died green, and sewn onto a spandex suit... because that's exactly what it is. Illumination doesn't exactly have the best record in terms of making actually good and emotionally investing films but I think this one was a step in the right direction. Similar to *A Christmas Carol*, this movie takes us on a journey through the Grinch's heart-warming transformation. Visually, I think it's pleasing to the eyes and definitely worth a watch.

2) *Arthur Christmas*

This movie is an underrated classic. It didn't do too well at the box office, making only \$140 million against a budget of \$100 million.



Honestly it didn't deserve this flop and it's only now that people are starting to appreciate it. Its humour is so British that it's enough to turn coffee into tea. Its animation is way ahead of its time. And the main protagonist is so lovable and relatable. It's your typical Santa origin story but the movie does it in such a way that one never really gets bored. Don't let me get started with Bill Nighy's Grand Santa; every line he delivered was just perfectly timed humour.

1) *Klaus*



I don't even know where to start with this one. From its visually spectacular traditional 2D animation, to its extremely uproarious humour, to its outstanding and moving

plot and storyline, I honestly could keep going on and on. Okay, let me start with the basics first. The voice acting is first class. JK Simmons, who you might know

as J Jonah Johnson from the Spider-Man franchise, voices Klaus in this one and his performance is just mwah! **chef's kiss**. Now to the actual story. It's actually a bit complicated because two storylines seem to be happening at once, the first being the classic Santa Klaus origin story and the other being a *Romeo and Juliet*-style family feud. But I think the movie shines the most when these storylines finally come together and everything makes sense in its climax. Speaking of climax, the movie's third act is one of its main strong points. It doesn't fall in the trap of one of those movies with the first two acts being watchable and then the climax just spoiling the entire thing. In short, the first half was funny, the second half was heart-warming and everything was simply beautiful!

Ti-Oluwani F • Year 10

Honourable Mentions

Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special

What happens when you make Marvel's *Guardians of the Galaxy* a Christmas special? Well, you get Kevin Bacon. No literally, he's in this movie. This is one of the last times we would see the Guardians together before *Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 3* so get the most out of it.

Robin Robin

This 30-min Christmas special is made by British owned studio Aardman Animation. You may know them for Wallace and Gromit and honestly this one doesn't feel any different. From its Christmassy setting, its amazing stop motion animation and its delightful storyline, this one is an all rounder.



Top 10 Christmas Songs

Ruby R counts down the best festive hits.

10) 'Sleigh Ride' – The Ronettes

The song most recognised from the supermarket adverts, 'Sleigh Ride' is one I could not leave off this list as I feel everyone should take a chance to listen. It's another one for you to play when you want to have a Christmas dance with family, friends or even with just your pets.

9) 'Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!' – Frank Sinatra

One of the many Christmas songs being rerecorded by other artists, this song by

Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne is probably most linked to the Frank Sinatra version. It is a famous song for a good reason... like most of Sinatra's music, this song has good rhythm, and his vocals matched this seasonal genre to make an amazing and unforgettable hit.

8) 'Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer' – Elmo and Patsy

Though the title may seem a bit dark, once you have given this song a good listen, I guarantee it will give you a good laugh.



Image: Nubia Navarro/Pexels



It can lighten up a room, with many who know it wanting to sing along and spread some Christmas cheer and make some memorable December nights.

7) 'Fairytale of New York' – The Pogues

A perfect song for the end of the night after a long party and day of festivities, 'Fairytale of New York' is one of the older but most memorable songs, which you probably know if you have ever been to a grandparent's around Christmas.

6) 'Jingle Bell Rock' – Bobby Helms

A good song for a Christmas dance and, no, not just for the *Mean Girls*. 'Jingle Bell Rock' is one of the more upbeat options and a throwback to all of our primary school Christmas discos. I know a lot of good Christmases where this was in my top 10s, and I have a feeling it wasn't just mine. A great song which hasn't many negative emotions and isn't about love, it's just a fun and enjoyable song.

5) 'Merry Xmas Everybody' – Slade

Most parents will love this song and those who listened to '70s music will definitely find that this is their favourite song to listen to at Christmas. Happy, jolly and most certainly a crowd-pleaser, we all jump up with joy whenever this song comes on the radio.

4) 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday' – Wizzard

A song which has great meaning and is definitely relatable, 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday' is a hit that has been loved since 1973. Despite not being the most talked about, I can guarantee you would have heard this one and remember it so very well.

3) 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' – Band Aid

A classic we all know and love, 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' will be at the top of all our Christmas playlists (or CDs, if that's what you prefer). We love that people come together and have so much fun for such a magical season, but that's one of the best parts about Christmas.

2) 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' – Mariah Carey

Newer than most on the list, Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' is always on our Christmas playlists. Whether it's the rhythm or the joy, it's a must for our yearly traditions.

1) 'Last Christmas' – Wham

One of the most known Christmas songs of all time, 'Last Christmas' is a favourite for many. It has a cheery tune and a heartfelt story, which gives many nostalgia back to the 90s. What a time!

Ruby R • Year 10

(A different Ruby R in Year 10 to the one writing elsewhere in this issue!)

Inside Was You

There was a planet, and inside,
the planet were countries, and
inside the countries were cities,
and inside the cities were towns,
and inside the towns were houses,
and inside the houses were people,
and inside the people was you.
Next to a blazing fire with your family.
Enjoying every moment of Christmas.

Noah B-G • Year 7

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

These Year 7 students have book recommendations! All featured books are available in the school library.

Timmy Failure: We Meet Again by Stephan Pastis



This graphic novel, the third in the series by Stephan Pastis, is about an amateur detective.

IT'S FUN READING TIMMY'S ADVENTURES WHILE TRYING TO SOLVE CRIMES AND GETTING HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE ALL THE TIME.

6 Feet Deep by Rose Impey

The mother of a teenage boy chooses to bury herself alive to break into the record books.



IT IS AN INTERESTING BOOK AND FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF A TEENAGER. IT SHOWS YOU ALL THE EMOTIONS YOU MIGHT FEEL. THE BOOK IS FUNNY IN PLACES AS YOU MEET THE CHARACTER'S STRANGE FAMILY.

The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask by Akira Himekawa



This is the third book in the series of graphic novels based on the long-running videogame series.

THIS IS A GOOD BOOK, FULL OF ADVENTURE. IT IS ABOUT A SMALL BOY WHO GOES ON A JOURNEY TO BECOME A GREAT WARRIOR. I LOVE THE ZELDA VIDEO GAMES. THE BOOK FOLLOWS THE SAME STORYLINE.

Double Cross by Malorie Blackman



Double Cross is the fourth novel in the award-winning *Noughts & Crosses* sequence. Following in her parents' footsteps, Callie Rose fights for equality between races and the kind of society she believes in.

I LOVED THE FIRST THREE BOOKS IN THE SERIES. IT'S STRANGE BECAUSE THEY'RE SET IN AN ALTERNATE REALITY WHERE RACISM IS REVERSED. NOUGHTS ARE TRYING TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE.

F2 Football Academy: Take Your Game to the Next Level by The F2

The second skill book written by two football freestylers known as F2, Billy Wingrove and Jeremy Lynch – the world's biggest football social media stars.



THIS BOOK IS BY THE FAMOUS YOUTUBERS F2. I LOVE FOOTBALL AND THIS BOOK IS PERFECT FOR FOOTBALL LOVERS. IN IT CONTAINS FOOTBALL SKILLS STEP-BY-STEP. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU WATCH THEM ON YOUTUBE BEFORE YOU BUY THIS BOOK.

Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo

This is a story about a friendship between three girls, beginning with Raymie Clarke, whose father has recently left home.

I LIKE THAT THIS IS ABOUT THREE GIRLS, TOLD FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF RAYMIE. THE GIRL TRIES TO PROVE HERSELF FOR OTHER PEOPLE. RAYMIE, FINDS THAT SHE IS ABLE TO STAND ON HER OWN AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND BECOMES STRONGER AND MORE CERTAIN OF WHO SHE IS.



THIS BOOK WAS ABOUT NICKY TELLING YOU HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN DIARY. IT MADE ME FEEL GOOD BECAUSE I KNOW HOW TO ORGANISE AND MAKE MY OWN DIARY LIKE HERS. I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO MY FRIENDS BECAUSE THEY HAVE ENJOYED THE SERIES TOO.

Dork Diaries: How to Dork Your Diary by Rachel Renée Russell

Part of the *New York Times* best-selling series *Dork Diaries*. It's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* for girls!

Miss Majer • Key Stage 3 English Coordinator

REVIEWS



Doors (Roblox)

Doors is a creepy game where you go through a haunted mansion and avoid entities (monsters) called Rush, Ambush, Halt and Screecher.

You have to hide in wardrobes and under beds to avoid Rush and Ambush. At Level 40, you have to run down the halls to escape seek and at Levels 50 and 100, you have to get past a figure.

When the lights flicker and you hear a noise coming to you, it is either Rush or Ambush. Rush only comes past you once. When this happens, hide under a bed. Ambush sounds different and appears further into the game. He comes multiple times. When you can, get out and get back in the wardrobe because you can only stay in for a limited amount of time. Screechers only are in dark rooms. If you hear a

'ppppssttt' behind you, look round and stare at the Screecher until it disappears.

I think *Doors* is a good game. It has mild jump scares and some cartoon-style monsters, but it is not violent. There is no blood whatsoever. It has a good soundtrack. If you have Roblox, I recommend that you play it.

Oliver K • Year 7



Matilda the Musical (in cinemas now)

I consider myself to be somewhat of a *Matilda* aficionado, having read Roald Dahl's book and watched the original film more times than you can count, and even watching the musical live. So, when the opportunity arose to see *Matilda the Musical* in the cinema, I took it. The new film is a remake of the classic, telling the story of a young genius whose powers go beyond just solving impossible maths questions and reading *Pride and Prejudice* aged 4. But it has a modern twist. Besides the inclusion of songs and dances, the main difference is that we see two narratives running parallel to one another – the original story, and one Matilda has made up and is telling to the bookshop owner – but these collide towards the end in ways you may not expect.

This film journeyed me through every emotion: laughing, crying, and boredom. I had already decided that I would not like this film before I even set foot in the cinema. I knew that, in my eyes, it could never measure up to the original *Matilda* and its significance within my childhood, but I hoped to be pleasantly surprised by this updated version. Unfortunately, I was right to set my expectations low. While the film did have some good elements, in my (admittedly biased) opinion, it was nowhere near on-par with the classic.

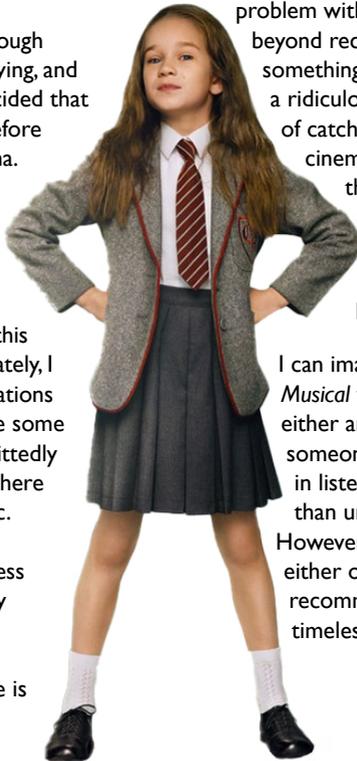
Alisha Weir, the young actress playing Matilda, is extremely talented and her acting and singing are impressive, particularly for her age. She is

a natural musical theatre performer and I hope to see her in more roles in the future! Famous actress Emma Thompson gives a stellar performance as Miss Trunchbull, and all of the other performers do a great job too.

My main issue arises with the omission of key elements of the original film. I have never been a fan of remakes because of the common decision to get rid of parts of the storyline, and this one was no different. The musical numbers dominate the film and, while I have no objection to this, they should not be used to replace important scenes. Where was the scene of Matilda in Miss Trunchbull's house? Where was the famous 'difficulty' spelling scene? Where was Matilda's red bow? I also have a major problem with altering scenes almost beyond recognition, turning them from something completely believable into a ridiculous display with the sole aim of catching the attention of fed-up cinema-goers. One example of this is Matilda's school being metamorphosed into a fair at the end. And why was there a giraffe in the playground?

I can imagine that *Matilda the Musical* would be a good film for either an easily-impressed child or someone that is only interested in listening to the songs rather than understanding the narrative. However, if you do not fit into either of these categories, I would recommend just watching the timeless original instead.

Abi M • Year 13



Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (in cinemas now; coming soon to Disney+)

The sequel to *Black Panther* (2018) contains many familiar faces, including the characters of Shuri, M’baku and Okoye, yet includes new antagonists while exploring a range of new narrative threads. Similar to *Black Panther*, *Wakanda Forever* fits within the action genre providing a multitude of heroic and action-packed events, while the characters face a plethora of personal losses, defeats and injuries along the way, adding to the emotional struggle. Ideas surrounding love, loss and conflict are also all faced within the film (all conventions of your typical Marvel movie).

Unlike the first film, however, this film lacks the presence of T’Challa, aka the Black Panther, after the loss of Chadwick Boseman (the actor who played him), as Marvel decided to write out his character by having his character die with him. As a fan of the franchise, I see this as a perfect way to continue his legacy without completely recasting his role, as this would feel insensitive and unnatural, due to how noticeable and important he is, to both the film and the franchise. Yet the film does make many references to him and his character with small details that many new fans may not pick up on, yet those who do they can agree that are extremely authentic and honorable – either being embedded within the film, the opening sequence or the credits. Furthermore, the ways in which his characters roles within the film have been replaced could not have

been done better; these additions to the narrative are both adorable and immaculate for the future.

The other actors were phenomenal, both in performance and appearance, playing their characters amazingly, evoking emotion from even the most stone-cold-hearted people (Angela Basset and Letitia Wright in particular). Marvel could not have cast the characters any better had they tried, as the actors all fit their characters perfectly.

The film will leave emotionally- sensitive viewers distraught with the overall depressive tone of the film. Besides the depression this film may leave you with, it is a fantastic watch and is 100% worth the emotional damage.

As Marvel films go, the 2 hour 41 minute run time is somewhat

typical and expected, yet for those new to the Marvel Cinematic Universe this may come as a shock. However, I can guarantee that it is worth the time spent watching. Those new to the franchise may also forget to stay for the end-credit scene, yet I assure you it is worth the extra 15 minutes watching through all the credits. The end credit scene was shocking to say the least, but in my opinion the greatest way to carry on T’Challa’s legacy: an excellent way to pay homage to late, Chadwick Boseman and the perfect ending to Phase 4 of the MCU.



Wednesday (Netflix)

Netflix's new comedy horror show *Wednesday*, directed by Tim Burton, is the latest entry to *The Addams Family* franchise, most famous for the popular family film of 1991. Whilst the *Wednesday* series steers towards more of a teen show, the creators have done an impressive job of continuing the legacy of the Addamses – the bizarre and macabre family that morbid teenager Wednesday is a member of.

Whilst some doubted the series would encapsulate the humour, darkness and wittiness of the 1990s film, *Wednesday* does a phenomenal job of creating its own name for itself whilst also giving an honorary nod to the '90s gothic comedy. Wednesday Addams, played in the 1990s by Christina Ricci, became an iconic character when the film was released, creating high expectations for the new Wednesday, Jenna Ortega. Fortunately, her performance is spectacular and she is authentic in her recreation of the character, Ortega's constant dead pan look gives the character an eerie persona whilst also making some scenes even more humorous.

The story line, focused on Wednesday starting at new school Nevermore Academy, is full of twists and turns that grip viewers right from the start. The series seems to have everything to please all audiences. With themes of horror, mystery, romance and comedy, it's something anyone could enjoy. We are introduced to newer versions of the characters in the family such as Wednesday's cold mother, Morticia,

and her hilarious father, Gomez Addams. The two actors give a fun new feel to the classic characters, the show also giving us flashbacks from Morticia and Gomez's time at Nevermore Academy, with their troublesome activities later coming back to help Wednesday solve the main mystery of the series. Christina Ricci also appears in the series playing the deceiving character Miss Thornhill, Wednesday's teacher and 'dorm mom'. Ricci gives an outstanding performance and shocks viewers with a plot twist in the last episode of the series.

Wednesday has surpassed many viewers' expectations with its witty humour and the suspense in every one of the eight episodes. With each episode being 45 minutes long, the series is a quick watch. However, with the show's popularity rising, many viewers are hoping for a season two as soon as possible. Whether you are a huge fan of the classic *The Addams Family* or have never seen it before, I assure you either way you will most likely enjoy the *Wednesday* series.

Macy J • Year 13

The Cruel Prince by Holly Black

The Cruel Prince is a young adult fantasy novel, and an enticing first book in Holly Black's *The Folk of the Air* series. It follows Jude, a human girl, who attempts to navigate the wonderful yet dangerous world of Faerie. The story is written in first person, from Jude's perspective, and features themes including politics, family drama, trust and betrayal, magic, coming of age, and romance.

The story begins with Jude and her twin sister Taryn aged seven, when they experience the tragedy of their parents' murder. They, along with their step-sister Vivienne, are then brought to Faerieland by Madoc – the killer of their parents and their captor. Now, 10 years later, the twins have adapted to their life in Faerie, though it can be difficult being different. Being human in a place where their kind are looked down upon and seen as merely servants is not easy. But that isn't all: to truly survive Jude needs power, and what she really wants is to become a knight for one of the royals, but one royal in particular – cruel Prince Cardan – has made it his mission to get in her way.

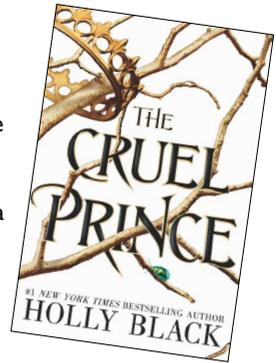
For the most part, I enjoyed this book. The world building was as imaginative as *Harry Potter* and as easy to understand as a children's book. From fairies to goblins to imps – this story has it all. I also liked that there was a map at the start, which remains a reference point throughout Jude's journey and helps readers to visualise the fantasy world. It was also interesting how Black described the co-existence of the human world and the Faerie world of Elfame. The politics of Faerieland play a big part in the narrative and, although this is not one of my favourite themes, Black executed it well – I actually got quite invested in this aspect

of the book towards the end. There were also hints of romance but, prior to what I assumed going into the story, this is not a key concept.

Jude's character is a typical strong female main character, who, despite her bravery and self-confidence, still makes her fair share of mistakes. This helped me to sympathise with Jude, making her just that much more likeable. On the whole, many of the characters were appealing despite their many flaws, and we see lots of character development throughout the book. Cardan, the male main character, is easy to dislike at first – and I definitely did – as he bullies Jude and her sister, but as more is revealed about his life as a prince, we begin to understand why he acts the way he does.

The one main issue I had with *The Cruel Prince* was that, although the narrative was gripping at the end, nothing much happened for the first 150 pages. Don't get me wrong: it is important to introduce the story and the characters but it felt excessive and honestly got a little boring at one point. But, don't worry, the pace picks up and it makes for a fascinating ending which both answered my questions and left me with even more.

Even though this book was not a genre I would usually pick up from the shelf, I couldn't put it down once I had, and, overall, I thoroughly enjoyed it. Can't wait to read the rest of the series! ★★★★★



Abi M • Year 13

PUZZLES

Solutions on
page 7

Spot the Difference at Sheffield Christmas Markets

Sixth former Abi M visited Sheffield Christmas markets and took this snap. Can you spot the **five** differences between the two photos?



Image: Abi M • Year 13

Christmas Past Quiz

- When was the first Christmas card sent?
 - 1654
 - 1843
 - 1920
- Which country was first to decorate Christmas trees?
 - Poland
 - Norway
 - Germany
- What year was the first Christmas number 1?
 - 1945
 - 1964
 - 1952
- Which leader cancelled Christmas?
 - Oliver Cromwell
 - Edward III
 - Winston Churchill
- What year was the Coca-Cola truck advert first shown?
 - 1967
 - 1995
 - 2001

Amber W • Year 9

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