



THE COLUMNS



HSD's Newsletter: Issue 73

by pupils; for pupils

HSD Multicultural week has been a fantastic success! Inclusive cricket games, Bollywood dancing with Junior Years, and the main event in Baxter at lunch today, have been an amazing opportunity for pupils to join together and celebrate their cultures, as well as each other's. Countries from every continent were represented - other than Antarctica, of course! The pride pupils and staff felt when sharing their culture with others was demonstrative of the success of the event. I am incredibly proud of all those who were confident enough to stand up and share their heritage with others, and to all those who have taken part in learning about their peers and colleagues. Hopefully there will be many more Multicultural Days to come!

Editor-in-Chief, Sahar Jafferbhoy



thursday morning :)

HSD Celebrates the Festive Season!

Caroline & Georgia (F4) took part in the santa dash!



mince pies in homec!



L2R decorated their christmas tree :)

margaret harris has been all decorated!!



@ HSD 5TH - 22ND OF DECEMBER

SOCIAL BITE **Festival of Kindness**

WHEN KINDNESS IS SHARED, IT GROWS!

Your kindness is needed now more than ever!

"The cost-of-living crisis is affecting us all, but for homeless and vulnerable people, the impact is devastating. Millions of people will be forced to choose between 'heating' and 'eating' this winter.

The economic challenges and inflation facing the country mean that homeless people face a desperate winter. The rise in interest rates means that more people are at risk of homelessness now than ever before.

Social Bite needs your help to create a movement of kindness to spread festive goodwill to people who are homeless and vulnerable this Christmas - in Scotland and all over the UK."

For more information email:
sarobinson@highschoolofdundee.org.uk | charities@highschoolofdundee.org.uk

Interact is raising money for charity



*senior prefects have spent time
decorating the SY christmas tree :)*



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
THURSDAY 22ND OF DECEMBER

OUR TREE OF KINDNESS
PLACE A GIFT UNDER THE
TREE FOR SOMEONE TO OPEN
ON CHRISTMAS DAY
Main School, Margaret Harris & Nursery

SOCIAL BITE **Festival of Kindness**
@ HSD 5TH - 22ND OF DECEMBER

OUR POST-BOX OF KINDNESS
WRITE A LETTER OF KINDNESS
FOR SOMEONE TO READ ON
CHRISTMAS EVE
Main School Foyer

For more information email:
aaron@highschoolofdundee.org.uk | charities@highschoolofdundee.org.uk



L1's tree is all decorated!



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Izzy Clark

Christmas is the biggest holiday in the modern world. The average American spends over \$800 on presents every year, and the average Brit spends £500 or more on just those gifts. In the UK, ten million turkeys are cooked and eaten, as well as 750 million sprouts and 175 million mince pies. 227 thousand miles of wrapping paper is used, and over 150 million cards are sent and delivered. All of this is big business - Christmas is the most profitable holiday in the world, and the sole purpose for several industries, such as advent calendars, Christmas puddings, Christmas trees, and the aforementioned Christmas cards. In fact, Christmas is one of several holidays deemed as "Hallmark Holidays" - named after the US card and gift retailer, and indicating a celebration primarily centred around spending and giving. But under all this capitalist chaos, Christmas celebrations stem from rich cultural traditions from across the world and throughout history.

The most financially-profitable part of Christmas, gift-giving, has its roots in the ancient Roman festival of the Saturnalia. Celebrated between December 17 and 23, the Saturnalia was in honour of Saturn, the most important of the Roman gods. On December 19, gifts were exchanged amongst families and friends, as well as short poems comparable to a modern Christmas card. In fact, many modern Christmas traditions come from the Saturnalia, including King's Cake, popular in Western Europe, which involves the baking of small tokens into a special cake. The person who gets a certain item is declared the "Lord of Misrule".

Another Roman tradition carried into the modern day is the lighting of Advent candles. Because Christmas is originally a Christian festival, many Christmas traditions come from Christianity. Many festivities celebrated in schools, such as Nativity scenes, Christingles and Advent wreathes, come from early Christian traditions around the time of the Romans.

Much of what we now commonly envision about Christmas comes from long after the Romans and the early days of Christianity. Christmas trees originated during the Renaissance in Estonia, Germany and Latvia, and they reached France and the rest of the Western world soon after. 80% of Christmas trees are fake, and it's actually more eco-friendly to use a real one, especially if you replant it after the festive season! Christmas trees were introduced to Britain by Queen Charlotte, the German wife of King George III, but gained mainstream popularity thanks to Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband.

The most variable element of Christmas is the Christmas dinner itself, which varies across the world. In India, for example, a country without a majority Christian population, people enjoy curry dishes and plum cake. People in Japan, amusingly, often favour KFC on Christmas day, thanks to an advertising campaign in the 1970s. British Christmas dinners often centre around turkey, a tradition originating in the 16th century, where the rich would eat goose and other fowls. Many more festivals beyond Christmas are celebrated at the end of December, yet it seems to only be Christmas that people focus on. Hindus celebrate Pancha Ganapati, Jews celebrate Hannukah, people in Iran and Afghanistan celebrate Yalda, the Zuri and Hopi people of America celebrate Soyal, Chinese people celebrate Dongzhi, African-Americans celebrate Kwanzaa, yet shops aren't putting up displays months in advance, ads aren't running, and all-consuming, soul-sucking capitalist selfishness doesn't permeate what's supposed to be a time of celebration and festivity. The end of the year marks a time of change and opportunity for growth - maybe it's time for companies to change, and either not just focus on one holiday, or stop covering up genuine culture with a gloss of corporate greed.

BIFA Winners

India Simpson



This Saturday (4th December) the BIFA (British Independent Film Awards) were held. Hosted by Ben Bailey Smith, the awards were announced and handed out. It also featured a red carpet where the stars showed off their fashion sense and had their photographs taken and an exclusive after-party. The Scottish film 'Aftersun' directed by Charlotte Wells, had been nominated for a huge sixteen categories and won seven of them. The opening words of the host captured this: "Welcome to the 2022

Aftersun Awards" a round of laughter accompanied this, then, "sixteen nominations?

There're only 19 awards!" 'Aftersun' won the awards for Best British Independent Film, Directing, Screenplay, and the Douglas Hickok Award for best debut director alongside their craft awards. 'The Worst Person in the World' won the award for the best international film.

'Nothing Compares', a documentary about Sinead O'Conner, won the best documentary and debut director. 'Blue Jean' won four awards, including the best lead performance for Rosy McEwen. 'Winners', 'Living', 'The

Wonder', 'Blue Jean' and 'The Silent Twins' were also praised by the awards. The jury was made up of many acclaimed people in the film industry, including Hayley Atwell, Jenna Coleman, Daniel Kaguya, Kosar Ali, Ray Panthaki, Joanna Scanlan and Kiell Smith-Bynoe. An overall successful set of awards for the 25th BIFA.



Finish These Xmas Jingles

Maisey Lafollette



- 1- Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, ...
- 2- Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la la la la....
- 3- Said the night wind to the little lamb...
- 4- Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad...
- 5- Frosty the Snowman, was a jolly happy soul...
- 6- Grandma got run over by a reindeer, Walking home from our house Christmas Eve...



- 7- You're a mean one...
- 8- Here comes Santa Claus, Here comes Santa Claus...
- 9- It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...
- 10- Dashing through the snow...
- 11- Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful, and since we've no place to go...
- 12- You know Dasher, and Dancer, and Prancer, and Vixen, Comet, and Cupid and Donner, and Blitzen...
- 13- I'm dreaming of a White Christmas, just like the ones I used to know...
- 14- On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me...
- 15- Silent night, holy night...
- 16- Mele Kalikimaka is the thing to say...
- 17- I want a hippopotamus for Christmas...
- 18- All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, my two front teeth, see my two front teeth...
- 19- Last Christmas I gave you my heart, but the very next day you gave it away...
- 20- I don't want a lot for Christmas, there is just one thing I need...



Answers: 1- The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. 2- 'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la. 3- Do you see what I see? 4- Prospero año y Felicidad 5- With a corn cob pipe and a button nose, and two eyes made of coal. 6- You can say there's no such thing as Santa, but as for me and Grandpa, we believe. 7- Mr. Grinch. 8- Right down Santa Claus Lane. 9- Everywhere you go. 10- On a horse open sleigh 11- Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow! 12- But do you recall the most famous reindeer of all. 13- Where the treetops glisten and children listen, to hear sleigh bells in the snow. 14- A Partridge in a Pear Tree. 15- All is calm, all is bright. 16- On a bright Hawaiian Christmas Day. 17- Only a hippopotamus will do. 18- Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth, then I could wish you, "Merry Christmas." 19- This year, to save me from tears, I'll give it to someone special. 20- All I want for Christmas is you.

Sports Washing

Ruby McIntee



The Qatari world cup poses an interesting problem, is it right to support a corrupt regime and watch a world cup in stadiums that were built on the backs of migrant worker life's? Reports have put Qatar's abuse of migrant labourers and awful labour laws on display, with reports claiming over 6500 migrant workers have died while constructing the stadiums for the 2022 World Cup. Additionally, it has highlighted the systematic oppression of women and members of the LGBTQ+ within Qatar. The tactic of using sports events to cover up corrupt regimes is not limited to Qatar however, with historical events like the 1936 Olympics in Berlin (hosted by the nazi party) or the more recent World Cup hosted by Russia being interesting examples. Covering inherent structural flaws within a nation by wow-ing the globe with pretty stadiums and stellar opening ceremonies is not new, much like our willingness to repeat the age-old mantra 'separate sports and politics'.

It's practically impossible to do when countries that oppress minorities are handed these large events, which strengthen their political regimes in both economic and social terms. They are inevitably interlinked ideas, in the same way, that art and politics are linked. Whether we realise it or not, participating in sports or even just watching can be a political act.



Christmas Cracker Jokes

Maisey Lafollette



What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?

Freeze a jolly good fellow

What does Miley Cyrus have at Christmas? *Twanky*

What do vampires's sing at New Year's Eve?

Auld Fang Syne

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A Holly Davidson

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?

The elf-abet

What do you call an old snowman?

Water

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? *Tinselitis*

What athlete is warmest in winter?

A long jumper

Who's Rudolph's favourite pop star?

Beyon-sleigh.



Be a Giver this Christmas

Jack Mitchell

It's been a hard year for us all. I appreciate this is never a good sentence to start with but I feel it is necessary. It is also true. Perhaps more so in the wider community. Nearly all have been knocked off track by rising inflation but not salaries. First time home-buyers are having to yet again postpone their purchases and people are having to go without luxuries. These people, however unfortunate they may feel, can afford basic necessities and have money to spare. This main proportion of the population is not who I am writing for. They are the large proportion of people who were living in hardship before the cost of living crisis.

In April, it was estimated that 6.8 million working adults either halved the amount they ate at mealtimes or skipped them altogether due to financial difficulties. A further 2.4 million people did not eat at all for at least a day. For many pupils, parents and staff reading The Columns this is almost unimaginable. You may think a food bank could end their problems but ever since the start of COVID, food banks have been inundated with families crying out for help which many can not support due to the sheer lack of resources. When you are next at a supermarket, I want you to think of families with children who are dreaming of food, not presents, this Christmas. Perhaps an extra packet of pasta or tin of beans; it doesn't have to be expensive. Although, most food banks will only accept tinned or packed food that can be preserved (so not fresh) and also try to donate food that will not cost a lot of money to heat. An extra two pounds to your weekly shop could make the world of difference.

Yet there are a frightening number of people who can not even afford that. We all have felt rather cold recently due to the near-freezing temperatures. But we all go home and can sort that out with ease. However, it is not so simple when you have no choice but to stay outside for the night. Hundreds of thousands face this situation. They also can not afford food and just like other impoverished families, a few pounds can save lives.

Charities like the Salvation Army or Shelter Scotland, which offer temporary accommodation, food and warmth, are fantastic means by which to donate. Next time you buy a Christmas gift, wonder if it is really necessary and if your money could be used in a much more beneficial way. Please, give a little extra this Christmas that you deserve.



My Bollywood Dancing



Mrs Watson's Christmas Jokes

Part 2 :)

What do you get when you cross a snowman
with a vampire?

A meltdown

What do you call a snowman in August?

A puddle

What do reindeer eat for breakfast?

Deerios

What would a reindeer do if it lost its tail?

Go to a re-tail shop for a new one

Do reindeer go to school?

No, they are elf-taught

If baseball players get athlete's foot, what do
reindeer get?

Mistle-toes

Why are reindeer so cold at Christmas?

Because it's in Decembrrrrr

How did the Elf on the Shelf feel when he
couldn't get the chocolate from the advent
calendar?

Foiled

EDITOR'S NOTE

Sahar Jafferbhoy

The first snow of Winter has definitely marked the lead up to the festive season! Christmas trees are decorated, lights are strung up, and present shopping is in full swing. Hopefully we will see lots of you at the upcoming HSD Christmas events, such as the Caird Hall Winter Concert, Carol Service, and Christmas Parties!

Have a fab weekend!

THE COLUMNS TEAM