

The College Voice

Christmas 2014



The Ladies' College
Guernsey

In association with



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Light It Up!

By Lucy Mancini

This festive season our small island really has gone all out on the lights front. All over the island people have celebrated the christmas spirit with bulbs galore, from glowing nativity scenes, to huge twinkling christmas trees!



The Perfect Gift

By Lucy Mancini

We all know of the stress that accompanies this magical time of year - finding the perfect present. Whether it's for your mum, best friend or other half, everyone wants to see the people they love happy come Christmas morning.

The best presents are thoughtful and come from the heart. Homemade gifts are a perfect way to show people you care. Take a look at College Chef to make adorable reindeer cupcakes or the BBC Food website for other festive food present ideas. Handmade cards and decorations can be equally caring, especially for parents and grandparents as they really will appreciate it!

This year we should try and spread the joy a little bit further. According to the Daily Mail, the average consumer spent £445 on Christmas day in 2012. People feel pressured to buy presents resulting in buying gifts that people either do not actually like or need. Instead of splashing out on that jumper that might not fit your friend or that toy that your nephew doesn't need, give to people who are truly in need.

Save the Children are a wonderful charity who have an online shop where you can purchase charity gifts

for your friends and family. You could give a pair of shoes to a child so that they are able to go to school and get their education, give a family a sapling so they are able to grow their own fruit or even provide a camel library for children in Ethiopia so they have the opportunity to borrow books regularly. The UK government have even intro-

duced a new scheme called UK Aid that doubles your donation!

You definitely don't need to bust the bank to have the perfect Christmas. These days we become too focused on presents that we forget what makes Christmas truly special - spending time with the people we love.



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It's a Quirky Christmas

By Eva James

Christmas comes but once a year and everybody has their own special festive rituals. As Britons we have traditions ourselves. For instance, when making the christmas pudding the mix must be stirred in a clockwise direction before it's cooked, making a wish as it's done. However some christmas traditions from other countries seem a lot more bizarre.

In the Swedish town of Gavle a giant yule goat has been placed in the middle of the town square every year since 1966. However, nearly every year arsonist have managed to burn the massive straw monument down and this has even become a tradition in itself!



The yule goat from Sweden.

Are you used to getting out your assorted christmas baubles, brightly coloured tinsel or homemade decorations when decorating your tree? Well in Ukraine families adorn their trees with fake spiders and spiders webs. The myth behind this unusual tradition is that there was as poor

widow living with her children. One year they managed to scrape enough money together to buy a tree but had no decorations to garnish it with but when the children woke up on christmas morning spiders had spun webs and the tree was covered in gold and silver.



A Ukrainian christmas tree covered in beautiful spiders webs.

The inhabitants of both Portugal and Finland take time to remember their loved ones. In Portugal a traditional morning feast takes place called Consoda when families set up place mats for the souls of their late loved ones. Finnish families light candles at the graveside of their loved ones at Christmas, creating beautiful scenes at graveyards across Finland.

Perhaps one of the most bizarre traditions takes place in Catalonia. Hidden at the back of their nativity scenes, Catalonians include a small figure of a defecating man, the Caganer. The Caganer has featured in

Catalonian nativity scenes since the 18th century. The figurine is meant to symbolise fertility and good fortune and has been the most popular character in the whole nativity scene since the Baroque period.



The Caganer, a traditional figure featured in Catalonian nativity scenes.

Czech women predict whether they will be married within the year by throwing a shoe over their shoulder. If the shoe lands with its heel towards them then they will remain single for the next year. However quirky this tradition is, it may not always bring joy and happiness.

We should cherish our traditions and take time this year to appreciate time with friends and family. Taking inspiration from other cultures, maybe you could start up your own personal quirky tradition! Wishing you all a very memorable christmas.

Christmas Film Reviews

By Alice Sarre

Elf (PG) – *Elf* is an all-time Christmas classic. From when it burst onto our screens in 2003, *Elf* has been a much loved must for Christmas. When a man raised as an elf in the North Pole wreaks havoc due to his size, he is sent to the real world to try and make it on his own. With the hilariously funny Will Ferrell how could this film do anything but have you in fits this Christmas!

Home Alone (PG) – *Home Alone* is the Christmas Comedy that everyone loves. Following Macaulay Culkin as main character Kevin McCallister, we see him struggle with being left home alone as a brave eight year old who must defend his home from the worst and most stupid burglars known to man. This film will have you welling up in joy as we celebrate in our protagonist's defeat of the bad guys and see that adults can be outwitted by children this Christmas

The Snowman (U) – With a rating of 4.6/5 on Amazon it can be said without doubt that *The Snowman* is one of the best Christmas films ever made. An emotional story about the relationship between a boy and his snowman, this film, based on the children's picture book of the same name, leaves a Christmassy aftermath in its wake. And one cannot forget the famous theme tune 'Walking in the Air' that has become a Christmas favourite. A classic that everyone should endeavour to see,

The Snowman is definitely one for Christmas 2014.

The Polar Express (U) – Christmas would not be complete without a viewing of this brilliant film by Robert Zemeckis. A touching tale

that teaches children not about the value of presents and decorations, although these do feature, but about the values of faith, trust and belief. *The Polar Express* is a film that cannot be missed.

Love Actually (15) – What would Christmas be without *Love Actually*? This film intertwines eight different couples so that they all come together in the end through the power of love. With a rating of 8/10 on IMDB, this film is a brilliant choice if you want a classic story of love, romance and happy endings this Christmas.



Christmas College Chef



Reindeer Christmas Cupcakes:

These cute, festive cupcakes will make anyone smile this merry season. Make them as a gift, for a party or simply with your friends and family at home. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

- 125g/4½oz butter, softened
- 175g/6oz caster sugar
- 2 free-range eggs
- 200g/7oz self raising flour
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder
- 100ml/3½fl oz milk
- 100g/3½oz dark 70% cocoa solids chocolate, melted
- 2 tbsp Irish cream liqueur (optional)

For the chocolate icing:

- 50g dark chocolate, chopped
- 3 tbsp double cream

To decorate:

- giant chocolate buttons
- crisp-coated chocolates (such as Smarties or M&Ms)
- mini pretzels
- black writing icing
- mini marshmallows, sliced

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3. Line a 12-hole muffin tray with paper cases.
2. Beat the butter and sugar together until light and creamy. Gradually beat in the eggs until well combined. Sift in the flour and cocoa powder and mix until combined. Fold in the milk, melted chocolate and Irish cream liqueur, if using.
3. Spoon the mixture into the muffin cases and bake for 20-25 minutes, or until well risen and lightly firm to the touch. Remove the cakes from the tin and set aside to cool on a cooling rack.
4. For the icing, heat the chocolate and cream in a saucepan over a low heat until the chocolate has melted. Whisk the mixture until smooth and set aside to cool slightly.
5. To decorate the cupcakes, spread the icing over the top of the cupcakes. Spoon the remaining icing into an icing bag fitted with a small nozzle.
6. Press a chocolate button onto the cake as a nose, then stick a crisp-coated chocolate on top using a little icing. Stick on

Agony Aunt

Dear Agony Aunt, marshmallows as the eyes, and use the black I understand everything we like learn stick in maths pretzels to the work is always completed on time and I get good marks for it! But when it comes to the day of the test I forget everything and panic! How can I prevent losing all the information I have worked so hard to learn for the test?

From A Worried Remove

To A Worried Remove,

I used to have the exact same problem when I was in Remove! I would study really hard and know all of the content, but as soon as the paper was presented in front of me I'd freeze! It is a common problem for students caused by becoming too nervous and anxious over a test. But all is not lost! Be confident with the knowledge that you are indeed prepared for the exam and remember that if you study, you can't lose the information, you can only lose your confidence. Say this out loud over and over again until you strongly believe it! Take deep breaths and go for it, all you can do is your best! I recommend calling a friend who does well on tests for a study session and tips, which is a fun and effective method of revision!

Good luck!

Agony Aunt

Puzzle Page!



**Pet of the
month**

Nia Cuddihee's dog, Baxter, getting into the festive spirit!

Quote of the month:

“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.” ~ Charles Dickens, Ebenezer Scrooge, A Christmas Carol

Festive Jokes!

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

Claustrophobic.

Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

Because he had low elf esteem.

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Ice Crispies.

An honest politician, a kind lawyer and Santa Claus were talking when they all noticed a \$5 bill on the floor.

Who picked it up?

Santa of course, the other two don't exist!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy!



Be careful because our Head Girl has a Santa hat on!



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