



SERIALS



NEWS



Christmas special 2016



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Brenda Troughton FACI, SERIAC Secretary
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Keith Sayers, SERIAC News Editor.
Please note the contact details and deadlines on the left of this page.



A very happy Christmas to you all

It's time to ditch the serious stuff for the moment and get down to having some fun. This is the second in the series of Christmas specials and I hope it gives you a bit of a chuckle. It has to be on line due to the deadlines for printing, the November issue is too early and the January one too late so we have added an extra edition which can be accessed immediately.

Having said all of the above I am going to start with something serious and that is the North v South Competition. After many years of organising the southern section Orpington Video and Film Makers have decided enough is enough and are taking a back seat. That said they are looking for another club to take up the reins but are willing to give any help required to get you started so if you don't want the NVS to fade away then please contact OVFM for details.



North v South 2016

North v South Competition. After many years of organising the southern section Orpington Video and Film Makers have decided enough is enough and are taking a back seat. That said they are looking for another club to take up the reins but are willing to give any help required to get



Sam Brown presents

The NVS is always a resounding success and 2016 was no exception with an estimated audience of around 80 people and the best part of 27 films shown. The John Wright Trophy for the best film came back to the south after several years of going up north with Sutton Coldfield Movie Makers' "Ties that Bind" winning the competition. The last time the south won it was in 2013 with another film by Sutton Coldfield, well done to you, you must have a penchant for the NVS but you are not going to get your hat trick unless someone steps up to the mark.

What has this got to do with Christmas? I hear you say, well Farnborough Village was dressed up in all it's finest Christmas lights to kick off the festive season.

Farnborough Christmas Lights



Keith



As the next SERIAC News does not land on your doormats until January, like last year, we thought it would be good to have another Website Christmas special.

I know that Keith has been busy making it another fun edition, so sit back with a mince pie and a glass of bubbly and enjoy – but don't get crumbs in your keyboard!

The SERIAC Council and I send you all our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

[Click here to see our Christmas message](#)



The prince's Christmas Visit

Prince Charles was on his traditional Christmas visit to an Edinburgh hospital. Towards the end of the visit, he was shown into a ward with a number people with no obvious signs of injury or disease. He goes to greet the first patient and the chap replies: "Fair fa' your honest sonsie face, Great chieftain e' the puddin' race! Aboon them a' ye tak your place, Painch, tripe, or thairm; Weel are ye wordy o' a grace as lang's my arm."

The prince, being somewhat confused goes to the next patient and greets him. The patient replies: "Some hae meat, and canna eat, and some wad eat that want it, but we hae meat and can eat, and sae the Lord be thankit." The third starts rattling off: "Wee sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie, O, what a panic's in thy breastie! Thou need na start awa sae hasty, wi bickering brattle! I wad be laith to rin an chase thee, wi murdering pattle!"

Prince Charles turns to the doctor and asks: "Is this mental ward?" "No" the doctor replies, "It's the Burns unit."



Age plays tricks with the mind

A group of airline pilots all reached the age of forty in the same year so they decided to go out together for Christmas lunch to celebrate. After much research and mulling over menus they settled on the Riverside Hotel at Dorking as it looked a good standard and came Highly recommended.

Ten years later when they reached fifty they thought they would do the same again and once again they decided on the Riverside Hotel at Dorking as they had enjoyed it before and the waitresses were hot.

On reaching sixty they again planned to celebrate with Christmas lunch and again decided on Riverside Hotel at Dorking as the the food was good and it was easy to get to.

When they all became seventy they all agreed to celebrate at the Riverside Hotel at Dorking as staff had looked after them so well in the past and were friendly and helpful.

Ten years on they decided to go back to the Riverside Hotel at Dorking as, at eighty, they needed good disabled access which the restaurant provided.

When they reached the age of ninety they agreed that this could be their last chance to celebrate so they decided to dine at the Riverside Hotel at Dorking because they had never been there before.



A bad dream

Jemima was taking an afternoon nap on Christmas Eve before the festivities. After she woke up, she confided to Max, her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond ring for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?"

"ha, you'll know tonight" answered Max smiling broadly.

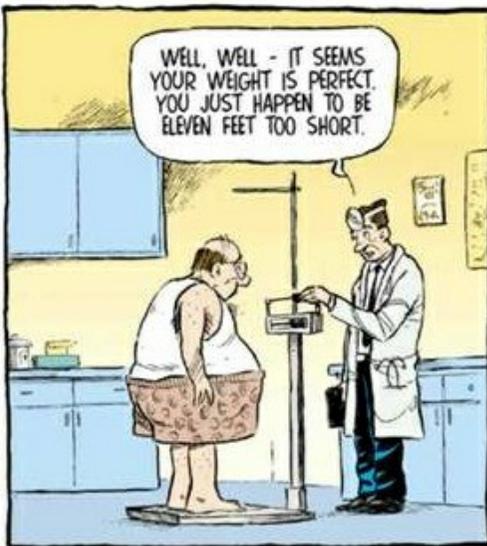
Early on Christmas day, Max approached Jemima and handed her small package. Delighted and excited she opened it quickly. There in her hand rested a book entitled: "the meaning of dreams".

Other names for Santa Claus

While it is true that the name Santa Claus was an American invention sometime before 1870, the original name for the figure associated with the mid-winter festival was Saint Nicholas, or St. Nick. Other languages have variations or translations of Saint Nicolas, for example, Père Noël, Papa Noel, Babbo Natale, Papai Noel, Father Christmas, and Kris Kringle.

Holiday disappointments

I went to the Canary Islands for Christmas this year, didn't see one canary. Going to the Virgin Islands next year, can't wait. Ed Byrne.



Last minute anxiety

Christine and Bob were out Christmas shopping. Time was getting short and they still had quite a bit to do when Christine noticed that Bob was nowhere to be seen. Starting to get anxious she reached for her phone and called him. When Bob answered she said "where are you, I was getting worried". "Well" said Bob "you remember a few years ago when we were shopping we came across that little jewellers and a ring in the window caught your eye, you fell in love with it, we couldn't afford it at the time but we said one day we would come back for it" "oh yes" said Christine with tears welling up in her eyes "I remember it" "well" said Bob "I'm in the pub next door"

Trust him?

On the Sunday before Christmas the Reverend was walking down the high street on his way to see a parishioner. However, he wanted to post a parcel urgently so he asked a young boy where he could find the post office. When the boy had directed him, Reverend Graham thanked him and said, 'If you'll come to the Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven.'

The boy replied, 'I think I'll give your sermon a miss. If you don't even know your way to the post office, how will you lead me to heaven?'

A thoughtful Scottish husband

Did you hear about the thoughtful Scotsman who was heading out to the pub? He turned to his wee wife before leaving and said, 'Jackie - put your hat and coat on lassie.'

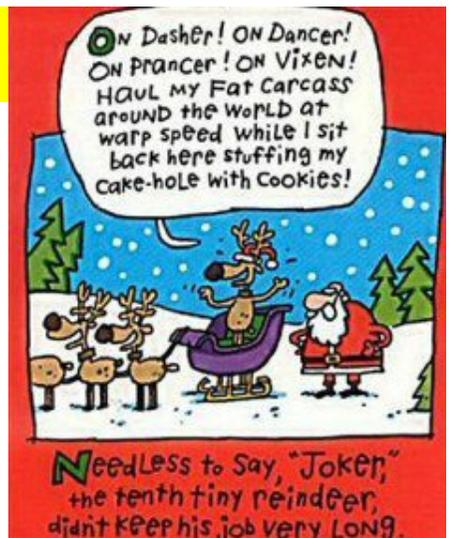
She replied, 'Awe lain that's nice - are you taking me to the pub with you?'

'Nah, just switching the central heating off while I'm oot.'

Santa Claus Conundrum

The 3 stages of man:

- 1) He believes in Santa Claus.
- 2) He doesn't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) He IS Santa Claus!



Dieting - New Year Resolutions

2013: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds.

2014: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.

2015: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.

2016: I will work out 3 days a week.

2017: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.



Christmas ice skating at Brighton's Royal Pavillion

Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer

A Russian couple were strolling down the street in Moscow, when the husband felt a drop hit his nose. "I think it's starting to rain", he said to his wife.

"I don't think so, it felt more like snow to me", she replied.

"No, I'm sure it was just rain", he said. Well, as these things go, they were about to have a major argument about whether it was raining or snowing. Just then they saw a minor communist party official walking toward them. "Let's not fight about it", the man said, "let's ask Comrade Rudolf whether it's officially raining or snowing".

As the official approached, the husband stopped him and asked, "Tell us, Comrade Rudolf, is it officially raining or snowing?"

"It's raining, of course", he answered and walked on. But the woman insisted: "I know that felt like snow!" To which the man quietly replied: "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"

Father Christmas calls

Alex was five; all his Christmas presents were always signed, "from Father Christmas".

A little while after Alex had opened all his presents on Christmas morning, we became aware that he was looking quite down in the mouth for no obvious reason.

"What's the matter, Al?" I asked.

"Ummmm", replied Alex slowly, "I really hoped that you and Mummy would give me something for Christmas".

True story - Rudolf loses his sparkle

After complaints from shoppers, a plastic reindeer in a South African shopping mall lost the shiny golden Christmas tree baubles hanging between its hind legs.
(From the Daily Telegraph)

Sleighs: Some interesting facts

When Catherine the Great* travelled from St. Petersburg to Moscow for her coronation ceremony, the court followed in fourteen large sleighs and nearly 200 smaller ones. The grandest sleigh in the entourage was a miniature palace on runners; in addition to a bedroom, it contained an area in which to entertain and a small library.

*Catherine II, known as Catherine the Great of Russia (1729-1796) was Russian Czarina 1762-1796.

Dear Santa

French police have had their wish granted after writing to Father Christmas to ask for new police cars. Police in Marignane, near Marseille told Santa 'even your sleigh is faster' after being told there was not enough money in the coffers to replace their ageing cars. The letter, addressed to Father Christmas and written on official police note paper, read, 'Dear Santa, our cars can't handle the job any more. If you think we are exaggerating, you can try out the cars yourself. Even your sleigh is better than one of them.'

Local authorities have now put up the cash to buy new cars for police after seeing the letter published in the Christmas stories section of a local paper.

Santa banned from markets In Austria & Germany

The move in Vienna has been followed by Christmas markets across Austria and Germany where St Nicholas is the traditional bearer of Christmas gifts. Bettina Schade, from the Frankfurter Nicholas Initiative in Germany commented, 'We object to the material things, the hectic rush to buy gifts, and the ubiquity of the bearded man in the red suit that are taking away from the core meaning of Christmas.'

A Vienna city hall spokesman added that Santa Claus is an English language creation, people who want to see him should go to America where I am sure Coca Cola will be happy to oblige. 'The Christian origins of Christmas, like the birth of Jesus, have receded into the background. It's becoming more and more a festival that is reduced to simply worldly gifts and commerce.'



Santa's woes

Santa finds himself in considerable trouble. Due to the increasing number of presents he gives away his business has gone bust and he has serious financial concerns. He's so desperate that he decides to ask God for help. He goes into the temple and begins to pray: "Oh God, please help me, I've lost my business and if I don't get some money, I'm going to lose my house as well, please let me win the lotto."

Lotto night arrives and somebody else wins it.

Santa goes back to the temple, "God, please let me win the lotto, I've lost my business, my house and I'm going to lose my car as well".

Lotto night comes and Santa still has no luck!! Back to the temple he goes.

"God, why have you forsaken me? I've lost my business, my house, my car and my wife and children are starving. I don't often ask you for help and I have always been a good servant to you. Why won't you just let me win the lotto this one time so I can get my life back in order?"

Suddenly there is a blinding flash of light as the sky parts open and Santa is confronted by the voice of the Lord, "SANTA, YOU HAVE TO BUY THE TICKET FIRST."

A New Year prayer for the elderly

God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,
The good fortune to run into the ones that I do,
And the eyesight to tell the difference.

A New Year prayer for one and all

Dear Lord

So far this year I've done well.

I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

With bells on

You will have heard the expression: "We'll be there with bells on," but do you know the origins of the saying? Apparently, years ago, once snow had a good covering on the ground, people used horse drawn sleds and sleighs. The rural roads were unadopted and the runners of these vehicles left ruts to be followed in the deep snow cover and in the mud. Many folk walked to their destinations and used the ruts as "the path of least" resistance to follow.

In the winter months, these pedestrians were bundled up from head to toe against the cold, it was impossible for them to hear a sleigh coming until it was on top of them. The snow cushioned the hoof beats and made the runners almost silent. Drivers and riders in these open vehicles got the full brunt of the wind and cold in their faces, making visibility dicey at best; nonexistent in the dark. Consequently, the foot traveller was at great risk of mortal injury.

Bells, handmade, by local blacksmiths, were attached to the harnesses and leather trappings so the walkers hear them coming and could quickly "get out of their rut", before being run over.

Since each bell was slightly different in shape and size, it had its own sound. Putting a set together meant that each person's horse harness had its own distinctive sound and rhythm with the horses movements. People would know long before seeing them, who was coming down the lane.

Inhabitants living in roadside homes could tell who was passing and in what direction they were going without looking. They also knew when there was a stranger in the vicinity or someone was using new harnesses. If company was coming, people might say: "We'll be there with bells on", so you knew, even in the dark, when they were coming down the lane and could meet them at the door with a smile, a hug and a warm drink.

A New Year's wish

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living.

Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck - the bartender was almost crushed to death.

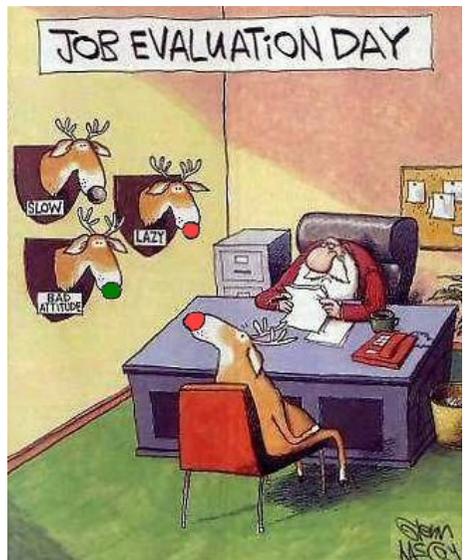


Artist, Harwinder Singh Gill, displays a special new year message he carved into the tips of coloured pencils in Amritsar, India.



That Was a Tough Year but I've made it so far!

Not everyone is as lucky as I am.....



Christmas one liners

I went to a posh Christmas party where everyone was drinking and knitting. I got Pimm's and needles.
The turkey challenged me to a fight. he threw down the giblet.
My Christmas decorations are inflatable I'm forever blowing baubles.
I tell my Christmas guests I've got a sponge front door. Hey, don't knock it.
I saw a coconut flavoured biscuit playing football on Boxing Day. it was a Wayne Macarooney.
One of Santa's elves invented Tipp-Ex. correct me if I'm wrong.
I was going to write my will after Christmas, but then I thought life's too short.
I got a horse for Christmas and I called him Treacle, he's got golden stirrups.
At Christmas my mum tried roll reversal, she put ham on the outside.
After Christmas I'm not going back to work in the coal mine It's beneath me.
I went on a Christmas holiday with my horse It was self Canterng.
I got a text from heaven wishing me a happy Christmas. It was a Godsend.
I spent Christmas sitting on a large book. it was my annual holiday.
To kick start my New Year, I took an IQ test and the results were negative.
The trouble with jogging your Christmas dinner down is that the ice falls out of your glass.
When I thought about the evils of drinking in the New Year I gave up thinking.
Definition of a hangover: Wrath of Grapes.



Lecture tour with a difference

On New Year's Eve, Daniel was in no shape to drive, so he sensibly left his van in the car park and walked home. As he was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman. "What are you doing out here at four o'clock in the morning?" asked the police officer. "I'm on my way to a lecture," answered Daniel. "And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?" enquired the constable sarcastically. "My wife", slurred Daniel grimly.



Notice board from Orpington Video & Film Makers Viewfinder magazine. Thanks to editor Mike Shaw for the use of this image.

Real-life Santa Claus problem

Santa Claus received a parking ticket from a Brooklyn jobsworth.

A New York parking official has penalised Santa Claus for a parking offence while delivering his presents to needy children. Father Christmas, aka Chip Cafiero, a retired schoolteacher, received the \$115 USD ticket in Brooklyn. Apparently he shouted to the official, 'Ho! Ho! Ho!' but he was completely ignored.

Santa claims that his horse-drawn carriage and a SUV carrying the toys was not causing an obstruction. No comment could be raised from the police but a local politician has said the parking ticket is 'ridiculous.'

On hearing the news that that the D.A. is called Mary Christmas, we have taken the odds of 6:4 that Santa beats the rap.

Dear Santa....

An honest politician, a kind lawyer, and Santa Claus were walking down the street and they saw a £20 note. Which one picked it up?

Santa! The other two don't exist!

Politician in action

A Senator in the USA was once asked about his attitude toward whisky.

“If you mean the demon drink that poisons the mind, pollutes the body, desecrates family life, and inflames sinners, then I'm against it. But if you mean the elixir of a New Year toast, the shield against winter chill, the taxable potion that puts needed funds into public coffers to comfort little crippled children, then I'm for it. This is my position, and I will not compromise”.

Santa breakdown



It just goes “jingle, jingle then stops



WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH...
THE TOUGH EAT HAGGIS



Club's Christmas parties

Circle Eight

Christmas Dinner at the Country Club, Guildford - December 22nd

East Sussex Movie Makers

Christmas Social - December 21st

Haywards Heath Movie Makers

Christmas Party & Prize Giving (Age UK Hall)

Orpington Video & Film Makers

Christmas Social - Dec 20th

Shooters Hill Camcorder Club

Christmas Nosh & Natter - December 16th

Spring Park Film Makers

Christmas lunch at the Railway Hotel,
West Wickham - December 15th



What a shame I only have a picture of one club's Christmas party. Why not send me yours to use next year, the deadline for the Christmas edition is flexible but even if it is too late I can use this year's pictures next year. All our members would love to see what you get up to when the inhibitions are gone. *Keith*

