



Coventry and Warwickshire Humanists Newsletter December 2023

Dear Fellow Humanists

I hope that it is not too late to wish you all Glad Tidings for the Festive Season and a Happy Christmas. December has been a very busy month for me, so, please accept my apologies for this shortened version of the Newsletter – and with a different ‘holiday format’. The Newsletter will be back to its usual format in January.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Social Secretary Andrew Ireland for organising the Social Event on Thursday 21st December. This was a great event with the opportunity for some of our members to display their talents. To mention in particular, John Gainer for his piano skills and to Mo Ireland and Audrey Raishbrook for performing ‘We Are a Couple of Swells’. There were also other notable performances from other attendees. Everyone contributed by bringing in different food and drink items. Everyone also joined in with a general sing-song to John’s accompaniment. The evening concluded with a ‘bumper’ 2023 Quiz. (It is amazing what blockages there are to our short-term memories?) Overall, a great evening to get us in the mood for the festive season – thank you Andrew.

Also, to mention that arrangement for our online meeting on Thursday 18th January has changed – please see the details below.

Finally, I would like to wish all our members a very Happy New Year and all Best Wishes for 2024.

Brian Goredema-Braid

Chair of Coventry & Warwickshire Humanists

Future Meetings:

We were scheduled to have our first online meeting through Zoom on Thursday 18th January. However, we have since found out that Humanists UK have already planned a very interesting online event on the same evening. So, after a brief discussion at the Social Event, we agreed to cancel our meeting and to encourage all of our members to join the national event. The details are below:

Thursday 18th January:

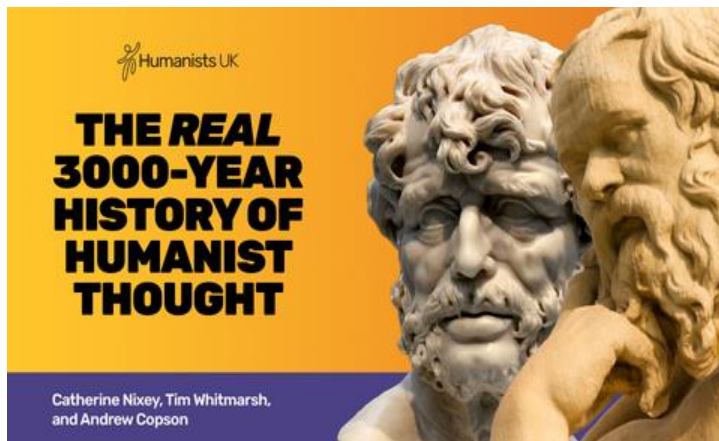
Join *The Darkening Age* author **Catherine Nixey** and historian and AG Leventis Professor of Greek Culture **Tim Whitmarsh** for an exploration of the *real* 3,000-year history of humanism, chaired by Humanists UK Chief Executive **Andrew Copson**.

[The real 3,000-year history of humanist thought](#)

Thursday 18 January, 19:30–21:00

Online

In recent years, there has been a surge of interest in exploring the foundations of the real basis of commonly held human values, and the historical context in which they emerged. To provide a comprehensive perspective on the topic, we have gathered renowned experts to discuss the real history of the values that underpin our society today.



Join us as we welcome Catherine Nixey and Tim Whitmarsh, prominent voices in the field of history and humanism, who will shed light on the rich tapestry of humanist thought throughout history. With their insights and expertise, they will navigate the intricate web of ideas, philosophies, and events that have shaped humanism over the millennia.

Join us on Thursday 18 January and uncover the origins of humanist values that continue to influence society, gain fresh perspectives on the evolution of humanist thought across different cultures and eras, and be part of a thought-provoking dialogue that challenges prevailing narratives and sparks new insights.

We hope you will [join us there](#).

Best wishes,

Humanists UK

BOOK NOW

Thursday 15th February: This will be an online meeting through Zoom. We will send out the Zoom link, ID and password nearer the date. As you may be aware, we chose to have online meetings in the winter months as many members prefer not come out on winter evenings. We will be back with an in-person meeting on **Thursday 21st March 2024 at Waverley Day Centre**. Details to be announced nearer the event.

What Does Christmas Mean for Humanists?

For millennia, human beings have huddled together in the cold winter months to thrive against the darkness by illuminating it with [great festivals](#) of fire, feasts, and family. These ancient celebrations, born from our fundamental human need for warmth and togetherness, have transformed over time into what we now recognise as '[Christmas](#).'



For the majority of people in the UK, it's a time for exchanging gifts, winter walks, food, enjoying light-hearted movies, relishing moments with loved ones, and remembering past Christmases, too. It's a day, and season, set aside for joy. And as humanists, we think this speaks to our timeless human values. So, what do humanists say about Christmas? In our article '*Compassion, community, and Christmas: a humanist perspective*,'

Well-known humanists including Ralf Little, Alice Roberts, and Adam Rutherford share their personal reflections on what Christmas means to them. If you're in the festive spirit and curious about how humanists celebrate Christmas, we invite you to read the article on our website (preferably with a big mug of hot chocolate!)

Wishing you a joyful holiday season, Humanists UK

And, this Christmas Eve Message from Humanists UK Chief Executive:

In the quiet of this night, as we take a breath and a pause, many of us, as I am, are also taking a moment to remember what Christmas is all about...

Ever since our ancestors first brought in green branches to remind themselves of the spring that would come again and lit fires to warm the darkness, this time of year has been a festival in the cold midwinter of our Northern Hemisphere. It's a time when our relationships with those we love are reaffirmed. A time when we reflect on both the joyful and sorrowful moments of the past year, giving them meaning. No time of year better sums up the values and qualities that humanists hold most dear. Call it Yuletide, Solstice, or Christmas: what all these human creations have in common is the precious time to appreciate the one life we have with the people we treasure.

I won't overload you with sugar-coated sentiments about gingerbread, cinnamon, and sparkle, but I do want to wish you a very fulfilling and refreshing time, whatever it is you have planned. I know this has been another difficult year for many, so thank you from all of us at Humanists UK for the support you have given our work. We completely depend on all those who want to see a kinder and more reasonable society. Our many successes would never come about without your support and we would not be as fortified for the coming year as we are without it.

So whatever it is you do have planned, I hope, in the spirit of the season, that you can take a moment to be a friend to yourself as well as to others, embracing the simple joys that this time of year can offer.

With warmest wishes and thanks again,

Andrew Copson

Chief Executive, Humanists UK

Assisted Dying – Esther Rantzen:

In the week before Christmas, the popular TV broadcaster Esther Rantzen caused a stir in the media by stating that she had joined Dignitas and was in support of assisted dying. Below is an article from Guardian journalist Zoe Williams supporting Esther Rantzen's decision.

Bravo, Esther Rantzen, it's only the wimps in Westminster who are too afraid to talk about assisted dying

The campaigner is right to call for reform. It's political cowardice, not public opinion, that stands in the way – Zoe Williams 19th December – The Guardian

Esther Rantzen, deep into treatment for lung cancer that cannot be cured, has made an intervention in the assisted dying debate that is unignorable: she has already joined Dignitas, she says, and "might buzz off to Zurich". Yet she worries that her friends and family would want to be with her, but that could open them up to prosecution. She wants to see a free vote in parliament on assisted dying.



I can't help placing this in the constellation of Rantzen's life's work, a huge number of campaigns spanning decades, always focused on the pragmatic, the uncontroversial: consumer rights; the rights of children not to be abused or neglected; loneliness and elder abuse. She has been an object lesson in not needing to be radical or original in order to make change. Indeed, sometimes just making the common-sense case for justice is enough, so long as you're loud and trenchant.

Assisted dying, though, is so contested that legislators treat it like an electric fence – MPs have been nosing up to it and backing away for decades. Rantzen is telling a story bigger than her own personal circumstance, and she knows it: 84% of Britons now back doctor-assisted dying for terminally ill people. The march of medicine is extending our lifespans, but in doing so it also extends the length of our departure. Do we want to keep surrendering our autonomy to laws that were framed in a different time?

Diana Rigg's daughter, Rachel Stirling, described in heart-breaking detail the last few months of Rigg's life: "It's gone on too long – push me over the edge," her mother asked. The request was of course impossible, but it shouldn't have been. "End of life is not for wimps," Stirling wrote. But, forgive the bluntness, the legislation surrounding it was framed by wimps: people to whom mortality itself is so horrific that it can only be placed in the lap of the gods. While I understand that tendency exists, I cannot accept that Rantzen or Rigg, or any of us, should have to capitulate to it.

My dad had the fastest death imaginable (by me); we barely had time to get used to him not being able to finish the crossword before he was there, at home, surrounded by family, dying the dream. My mum is having the slowest death imaginable (by me): emphysema or, to describe it more accurately, drowning in air, that has gone on for more than a decade. Neither of them needed or need a change in the law – my mum, if she wanted, could take her own life without assistance. At least, I assume so – she fixed her own boiler.

The point is, death is an extremely bespoke experience, in which the cause, the progression, the pain, the personality, the life force, all interact in ways that are completely idiosyncratic. The idea that anyone could draw a set of rules around it, beyond "respect this person's wishes, dignity and comfort, at this fundamental, frontier point in their life", is completely fanciful to me.

I hear the catastrophist arguments – that family members may hurry a terminal patient along, for their own ends – and I find it unconscionable that we would ever build our norms and customs around them. Are we seriously happy consigning real people to extra months or more of pain to thwart some fantasy gothic villains who want to get their hands on the family silver? Religious arguments, meanwhile, really have to be restricted to the holders of faith: the majority of Britons have no religion.

Over the summer, the House of Commons conducted an investigation into assisted dying, in which it was told that 540 British people had gone to Dignitas since it opened in 1998. The number wasn't huge, which is thought to reflect the cost and the taboo of the Zurich clinic, but it was telling: the majority of people going to Dignitas are from countries where there are laws against assisted dying – Germany, France, the UK (Germany overhauled its law in 2020, France is in the process of doing so). People who are given the choice of where and when to die do not go to Switzerland, they die at home.

Giving evidence to the Commons investigation, one Dignitas employee described how medics tended to be in favour of assisted dying, but stayed quiet about it, "for fear of repercussions". This code of silence is steadily breaking down: after surveying their members, the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons have all dropped their opposition to assisted dying, and adopted a position of neutrality.

Sarah Wootton, the chief executive of Dignity in Dying, hopes 2024 will be a tipping point, as legislation in Scotland, Jersey and the Isle of Man offers a realistic prospect that some Britons will have the right to die by 2025. There is no shortage of appetite for change, but the block, as Rantzen correctly identifies, is parliament. She is right to push for a free vote; she is right to speak openly about her experience, her wishes. Yet the real tragedy of this question is that it is left to people who are dying to spend their final months as their own beseeching advocates.

I will attempt to expand upon the debate on assisted dying in the January Newsletter. I welcome any contributions from members on this very important issue.

Film Preview:

A selection of films being released over the next few weeks

Ferrari: A bio-pic of the legendary car manufacturer Enzo Ferrari. Set in 1957, and Ferrari is in financial and marital difficulties as he prepares for the cross-country open-road Mille Miglia race. Starring Adam Driver and Penelope Cruz

One Life: The inspirational story of Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton and the ambitious Kindertransport Project saving over 600 children from the horrors of the Nazi invasion of Prague. Starring the exceptional Sir Anthony Hopkins and Helen Bonham Carter

Tish: An exceptional film-documentary of Tish Murtha who used her camera to expose social inequality in industrial communities in northern England. Only at WAC and MAC

Femme: A drag performer is attacked by a gang of young men. He forms a relationship with the gang's leader. Starring George MacKay and Nathan Stewart-Jarrett. Mainly at WAC and MAC

Tchaikovsky's Wife: Made in Russia, the tumultuous relationship between the great Russian composer and his wife. Starring Odin Lund Biron and Alyina Mikhailova.

Priscila: Directed by Sofia Coppola, an exploration of the teenage wife of Elvis Presley. A study of a young woman who was living in the public eye before she had experienced the world. Starring Cailee Spaeny and Jacob Elordi

Poor Things: This film has received some glowing reviews. A science fantasy black comedy based on the novel by Alasdair Gray. Starring Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo and Willem Dafoe. A young Victorian woman crudely resurrected by a scientist following her suicide, runs off with a debauched lawyer to embark on an odyssey of self-discovery and sexual liberation.

The Holdovers: An American Christmas comedy-drama film starring Paul Giamatti, Da'Vine Joy Randolph and Dominic Sessa. Set in 1970, it follows a bad-tempered history teacher at a New England boarding school who is forced to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go on Christmas break.

Still on the Circuit:

Napoleon: A spectacle filled epic that details the chequered rise and fall of the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte and his relentless journey to power through the prism of his addictive, volatile relationship with his wife, Josephine. Directed by Ridley Scott, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Vanessa Kirby. Be prepared for inaccuracies and assumptions! Two and a half hours long! In most cinemas

Maestro: Bradley Cooper directs and stars in this bio-pic of the composer Leonard Bernstein famous for West Side Story and being the first American conductor to receive international acclaim. Carey Mulligan brings strength and grace to her role as Montealegre. Made with the cooperation of the couple's three children, Maestro is a glorious symphony of life and art

May December: Twenty years after their notorious tabloid romance gripped the nation, a married couple buckles under pressure when an actress arrives to do research for a film about their past.

Saltburn: A young man who struggles to fit in at Oxford University finds himself drawn into the world of a charming and aristocratic student, who invites him to Saltburn, his eccentric family's sprawling estate, for a summer never to be forgotten. Starring Barry Keoghan and Jacob Elordi

Eileen: In the 1960s New England, Eileen Dunlop is working at a prison when a captivating, glamorous counsellor arrives and helps her access new facets of her personality but may be drawing her into something more dangerous. Starring Thomasin McKenzie and Anne Hathaway

The Peasants: A Polish adult animated historical drama film adapted from Władysław Reymont's Nobel Prize-winning novel. Starring Kamila Urzędowska, and Robert Gulaczyk,

Fallen Leaves: A Finnish-German tragi-comedy-drama. A single woman who works in a supermarket, stocking the shelves. One night she accidentally meets the equally lonely worker and alcoholic. Against all odds and misunderstandings, they try to build a relationship.

sing-song version

Film to Watch Out for This Week - Nomadland:

Saturday 6th January – 22.00 on BBC4

IF YOU ARE GOING TO WATCH ONE MOVIE THIS WEEK – WATCH THIS ONE!!

This film won Oscars in 2020 for Best Film, Best Director, Chloe Zhao and Best Actor Frances McDormand. The unfortunate aspect of this film is that it was premiered in 2020 during lockdown

and never achieved the cinema showings that it truly deserved. Frances McDormand herself says, that it is important to see this film in the cinema on the big screen. The views of the Mid-West of the USA are stunning and you get the full view of the space in untamed America. The film is contemporary about many middle-class people who because of the recession have lost their jobs and consequently their homes too. They resort to buying a van or camper-van and roaming the USA looking for temporary work – mainly at Amazon warehouses at Christmas. What is extraordinary is the warmth and support within this transient community of displaced Nomads. Through the ‘grapevine’ they plan to meet up at a specific areas in the Mid-West where they help and support each other. Everything from advice, to repairing their vehicles and seeking health care. The other extraordinary feature is that apart from McDormand and David Strathairn, (who has a low-key romantic liaison with McDormand), everyone else in the film is a Nomad! Real people in real situations telling their real stories and what they have lost.

Preview of TV Programmes and Films: There are some excellent classic Oscar winning films on over the New Year period – much better than most of those shown over the Christmas period!

Sunday 31st December:

14.20 – BBC1: Saving Mr Banks – The story of PL Travers who wrote Mary Poppins visits Walt Disney in Los Angeles to critically oversee the making of her story into a film. Starring Emma Thompson and Tom Hanks

20.30 – ITV1: No Time to Die – The last James Bond film starring Daniel Craig made in 2020. You know what you are going to get!

22.50 - BBC4: The Producers - Classic Mel Brooks comedy starring Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder. A struggling producer is now making a living by conning old ladies out of their savings. Then his accountant mentions a sure-fire way of making some quick cash by putting on a guaranteed Broadway flop. Probably Mel Brooks funniest ever film!

23.30 – BBC2: Jools Holland’s Annual Hootenanny – If you are not going out to celebrate NYE – then going to bed with Jools is as good as it gets. The usual galaxy of music celebrities entertains.

00.20 – BBC4: And Now for Something Completely Different - A film anthology of choice sketches from the celebrated television comedy series *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*,

00.40 – BBC1: Elton John at Glastonbury 2023 – A recording of the super-star’s performance at Glastonbury. Possibly his last ever performance in the UK?

Monday 1st January:

10.15 – BBC2: New Year’s Day Concert from Vienna 2024 - A great way to welcome in the New Year with a selection of Viennese Straus waltzes. **(Repeated at 19.00 on BBC4)**

12.45 – BBC2: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid – One of the finest Western’s ever made. The performance of Paul Newman and Robert Redford literally bounce off each other

14.30 – BBC2: The Magnificent Seven – And another great Western based upon the Japanese film ‘The Seven Samurai’. An all-star cast including Yul Brynner and Steve McQueen. (Apparently the young McQueen made several attempts to upstage Brynner – just watch the ride to the cemetery!)

14.20 – BBC1: Moana – A great animated cartoon with social and humanist message

17.20 – Channel 4: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade – You know what you are going to get! Starring Harrison Ford with Sean Connery playing Indi’s dad

17.20 – Channel 5: My Fair Lady – A great musical starring Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn

17.55 – BBC1: The Witches - Fantasy comedy starring Anne Hathaway and Octavia Spencer. Living with his grandma, young orphan Charlie is almost ensnared by a witch. To protect him, Grandma takes Charlie to stay at a seaside hotel, unaware that a witch’s convention is also booked in, and the Grand High Witch herself is in attendance. **(Repeated at 19.00 on Thursday on BBC4)**

20.00 – BBC1: Attenborough and the Giant Sea Monster - The discovery of a lifetime - the skull of a pliosaur, one of the most ferocious Jurassic predators ever known. This marine reptile ruled the seas 150 million years ago. An incredible 12 metres long and boasted phenomenal strength.

21.00 – ITV1: Mr Bates and the Post Office – Based on a true story. A new computer system Horizon is installed in post offices across the country. Mysterious financial losses start to appear in village post office tills. When the sub-postmasters seek help, the Post Office insists that each of them is the only one having problems. Fact-based drama series, starring Toby Jones

22.00 – BBC2: Bonnie and Clyde – one of the iconic crime films of the 1960's based upon reality and starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway

22.15 – ITV1: Gladiator – An Oscar winning performance from Russell Crowe as the former Roman general now seeking to reclaim his status in the gladiatorial ring. Also includes a very young Joaquin Phoenix emperor. (He is currently playing Napoleon – does he always play emperor's?)

23.50 – BBC2: In the Heat of the Night – Another Oscar winning film on the racial tensions with a crime investigation in the deep south of the USA. Oscar winning performances from Sydney Poitier and Rod Steiger. "They call me Mt Tibbs!"

Tuesday 2nd January:

21.00 – ITV1: Mr Bates and the Post Office – Episode 2 of this series based on reality

22.00 – BBC3: The Martian – Sci-Fi drama based on the novel by Andy Weir, starring Matt Damon. A manned mission to Mars is hit by a ferocious storm. The astronaut is left behind when his fellow crew members make their escape. He must find a way to survive long enough to be rescued.

22.10 – BBC4: For a Few Dollars More – The second of the Clint Eastwood spaghetti Western's. It never fails

22.40 – BBC1: Rain Man - Oscar-winning drama starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise. A hustler is charged with looking after his autistic older brother. **(Repeated at 23.20 on Thursday on BBC4)**

22.45 – ITV1: Speed - Action thriller starring Keanu Reeves, Dennis Hopper and Sandra Bullock. A demented extortionist's plan to collect a huge ransom by planting a bomb in an LA skyscraper is thwarted by the reckless bravery of SWAT daredevil

Wednesday 3rd January:

21.00 – ITV1: Mr Bates and the Post Office – The 3rd episode of the drama series

22. 40 – ITV1: The Silence of the Lambs - Classic psychological thriller starring Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins.

00.05- BBC1: Florence Foster Jenkins - Comedy drama based on a true story, starring Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant and Simon Helberg. New York heiress and socialite Florence Foster Jenkins dreams of one day becoming a great opera singer and performing at Carnegie Hall. Unfortunately, she cannot sing a note. (The play of this film is being performed at The Bear Pit in Stratford in 2024)

Thursday 4th January:

21.00 – ITV1: Mr Bates and the Post Office – The final episode of the drama series

21.00 – BBC4: The Graduate – Another great Oscar winning film and Oscar performances from a young Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft

22.40 – BBC1: The Good Liar - Drama starring Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen. Ageing London con artist feigns injury to convince a wealthy widow to let him stay at her home. After a good start, the plot turns in itself. Worth watching for the performances from Helen Mirren and Ian McKellan

Friday 5th January:

21.30 – Channel 4: Sarah Millican: Bobby Dazzler - A stand-up special with the great female comedian

22.40 – BBC1: The Graham Norton Show – Dominic West and Rosamund Pike are the guests

23.05 – BBC2: The Others - Period horror thriller starring Nicole Kidman. In a remote mansion on the Island of Jersey at the end of the World War 2, a woman is praying for news of her husband, who has been declared missing in action.

00.00 – BBC1: Last Night - Comedy drama starring Mindy Kaling and Emma Thompson. Late-night talk-show host is warned that she risks losing her job due to steadily declining ratings.

Saturday 6th January:

19.45 – BBC4: Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull - You know what you are getting with this one!

22.00 – BBC4: Nomadland –Following the death of her husband and the loss of her job, the 60 something woman sells her belongings and buys a van, which she uses to travel the States while working odd jobs. Along the way, she meets a number of fellow travellers and starts to embrace America's "nomad" communities. Starring Frances McDormand

00.10 – BBC4: The Untouchables - Oscar-winning crime drama starring Kevin Costner, Sean Connery, Andy Garcia and Robert De Niro. Federal agent Eliot Ness leads a tough team of investigators in a dangerous mission to end Al Capone's violent reign of terror in Prohibition-era Chicago.

01.10 – BBC2: The Truth - A French movie star who has published her memoirs is reunited with her family. The reunion quickly turns into a bitter confrontation, as truths are told and resentments come to the surface. Drama, starring Catherine Deneuve, Juliette Binoche and Ethan Hawke

A Few Funnies to Amuse:

A definition of pigs in blankets
Relatives sleeping in the spare room

A Jehovah's Witness knocked on my door last night. I invited him in. I sat him down and made him a cup of tea. I then said, 'Right, what do you want to talk about?'
He said, 'God knows!! I have never got this far before'

I was at the supermarket with my wife, and totally out of the blue she said, 'What a lazy, selfish slob you are!'
I was so surprised that I nearly fell out of the trolley!

I was so drunk last night. When I got to the bottom of the stairs, I got undressed. I took off my shoes, trousers, top and underwear and quietly crept upstairs.
It was only when I got to the top of the stairs that I realised I was still on the bus!

I accidentally drank a bottle of invisible ink – Now I am in hospital waiting to be seen

Once we were so poor, we used a calendar as toilet paper
Fortunately, those days are behind me now

A cement mixer collided with a prison van on the M6
Motorists are advised to be on the lookout for 16 hardened criminals

I telephoned a French company to order an axe
It is really difficult to have a French axe sent?

There was a fire at IKEA today
We all assembled in the car park

Cartoons and Pictures:



QUIZ'S

Although we had a great time at the Social Event on 21st December, I was aware that quite a few members were unable to attend because of illnesses and infections. I have decided to reprint the two quizzes on the night as well as a 'Christmassy' themed quiz.

Even if you did the quiz at the Social Event – have a go - it is amazing what can remember!

Please send in your answers before 18th January to receive a prize. I am sure that I can trust Humanists not to refer to Google for their answers?

1)	2023 was the Chinese Year of which animal? Pig, Dragon, Rabbit, or Snake	
2)	Which country won the 2023 Eurovision Song Concert? Where was the competition held? Who was the winning artiste? (3 answers)	
3)	Which UK City is the Capital of Culture for 2023?	
4)	What is the title of the book by Prince Harry that was released in January 2023?	
5)	Which local MP and former Chancellor of Exchequer was dismissed in January as Chair of the Conservative Party because of a serious breach of his tax affairs?	
6)	Which MP has held 3 Government Ministries in the last 12 months? – The departments were Transport, Energy and Defence	
7)	Who is the MSP who replaced Nicola Sturgeon as leader of the SNP?	
8)	What is the title of the book by former MP Nadine Dorries which reputedly told the apparent "true" story of Boris Johnson's decline as Prime Minister?	
9)	Tennis - Who won the men's Champion title at Wimbledon? Tennis - Who won the women's Champion title at Wimbledon? (2 answers)	
10)	Sir Bobby Charlton died in October – He was a member of the 1966 World Cup winning team. Now that Bobby Charlton has died who is the only remaining member of the 1966 World Cup winning team who is still alive? Martin Peters, Geoff Hurst, George Cohen or Alan Ball	
11)	Who is the 2023 Snooker World Champion and what is his nationality?	
12)	Which nation won the 2023 Rugby World Cup? Who were the losing finalists? (2 answers)	
13)	Which 2 films broke all records for cinema attendance in July? (2 answers)	
14)	Which film won the 2023 Best Picture Oscar?	
15)	Who won the 2023 Oscar for Best Male Actor? Who won 2023 Oscar for best Female Actor Oscar? (2 answers)	
16)	All the talk and the noise was about Nigel Farage, but who won 2023 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here'?	
17)	Which police drama series won the National TV Award for Best Returning Drama Series? Its leading actress also won the Drama Performance Award and Special Recognition Award? (2 answers)	
18)	Which artiste headlined Glastonbury in 2023?	
19)	The Beatles topped the charts in November with which song? How many number 1's has the Beatles had? 12, 16, 18 or 22? (2 answers)	
20)	Which book won the 2023 Booker Prize, and who was its author? (2 answers)	
21)	Which legendary country singer celebrated his 90 th birthday with a 2-day musical concert?	

CRYPTIC CONFECTIONARY!!

See if you can identify the confectionary in these cryptic definitions?

- 1) High Class Thoroughfare _____
- 2) Dark Occult _____
- 3) Clever Folk _____
- 4) Feline Equipment _____
- 5) 100% Au _____
- 6) Arrange Marriage Partners _____
- 7) Talk Quietly _____
- 8) Spin Around _____
- 9) Musical Bard _____
- 10) Big Cats Pub _____

YO HO HO IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!

1	Which word associated with Christmas stems from the Greek word for a circle dance?	
2	Good King Wenceslas is often sung at Christmas. In which country was Wenceslas the king?	
3	What Christmas tradition was started by the very busy Sir Henry Cole in 1843?	
4	On the Elvis Presley song 'Blue Christmas' which other 3 colours are mentioned in the lyrics?	
5	In the famous Christmas song, the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' – how many ladies are dancing?	
6	In the popular Christmas song, 'Fairytale of New York' by the recently deceased Shane McGowan & Kirsty MacColl, which choir are singing 'Galway Bay'?	
7	Where was St Nicholas reputedly born?	
8	In the novel 'A Christmas Carol' – who was the third ghost to visit Scrooge?	
9	"Good King Wenceslas last looked out on the Feast of Stephen" – when is St Stephen's Day?	
10	Santa Claus has 9 reindeers – Everyone knows Rudolph, but can you name the other 8?	