

NEWS

Barnsley & District Branch

**December
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Find us online...

Barnsley Branch WEB:
barnsleyparkinsons.org.uk

EMAIL:
info@barnsleyparkinsons.org.uk

CHRISTMAS EDITION



Chair's Chatter

In the last Newsletter I gave a sad litany of all the activities we were having to cancel because of the impending lockdown. Since then not a lot has changed in that we are currently in a second lockdown. But at least on this occasion there is a glimmer of light in the dawning of 2021. I have just completed a ZOOM committee meeting and we are planning for a resumption of something like normal activities after Easter.

As I write the Prime Minister is wrestling with the problem of how we are to be allowed some relief over Christmas. One hopes he will take a charitable view and allow some mingling with loved ones and friends over the festive season. Obviously, whatever he decides, I can't see our usual Christmas party meeting the criteria but the committee is not prepared to see the occasion pass without any recognition. It has been decided to provide each member with a small token to indicate that your support and generosity during the past year has not been forgotten.

In the meantime, the counselling service provided by Barnsley Hospice and the respite care provided by Crossroads Care will continue (referrals for counselling from the Parkinson's nurse and for respite from either the nurse or the free, confidential helpline).

May I wish you and all your family a very happy and peaceful Christmas and the hope for better times in 2021.

Keep safe,

Philip

If Covid doesn't get you, watch out for the mask!

On a recent visit to a local garden centre, I saw an attractive face mask with pink flowers that I thought looked more attractive than the standard blue utilitarian one that I had been wearing. On the back of the wrapper was this advice.

Carry this product, please divide the opposite side, do not wear back, anti-external will stick dust powder, direct contact between mouth and nose will be detrimental to health. Wash the poison once a day, wash it with warm water first, then hot and hot to dry.

Well, it made me smile, but I'm still wondering if it's safe to wear the mask.

Susan

Scientists have now confirmed that women who have put on weight during lockdown are likely to live longer than the men who mention it.

Health & Safety Gone Mad

We've all laughed at the advice on some packets that tell us that things will be very hot when we take them out of the oven but this one had me scratching my head. A label on a pack of brown onions advised me to 'Wash before use'. What! When? Before I take the skin off and throw it away or when I've chopped up the onion to use in a stew or a stir-fry. Someone hasn't thought that one out!

The Bathtub Test

During a visit to the doctor, I asked, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in a care home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill a bathtub with water, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person and ask them to empty the bathtub."

"Oh I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or teacup."

"No," he replied, "a normal person would pull the plug out. Do you want a bed near the window?"

You have been warned!!

Count Your Blessings!

Two years ago on Christmas Eve, our son had arrived and we were sitting having a drink and catching up on our news. My husband went into the study to fetch a book and almost immediately there was an enormous crash. We leapt up in alarm expecting to find him stretched out on the floor but instead, he was standing looking bemusedly at the window, which had just broken. A bird was the most likely culprit, so we trooped outside to find the body but it must have been a strong bird as it had disappeared. I swept up the glass and wondered what to do next.

Then we remembered that emergency cover that we had been 'wasting' money on for years. Within an hour a chap had turned up, taped up the remaining shards of glass, measured up and told us someone would be in touch to replace the pane in the New Year.

So next time you are grumbling about wasting money on emergencies that never happen, remember that if the unexpected happens at 4 o'clock on Christmas Eve, you will be very grateful for it. We certainly were.

Covid Christmas

There will be no Nativity this year because:

The Three Wise men face a travel ban.

The shepherds have been furloughed.

The innkeeper has had to shut.

Santa won't be able to work as he would break the rule of 6 with Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

And as for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test.

Christmas Quiz

1. What is the birth sign of people born on Christmas Day?
2. Who banned Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660?
3. Which of the Wise Men was said to have brought the gift of gold for baby Jesus?
4. In Charles Dickens' novel 'A Christmas Carol', who was Scrooge's dead business partner?
5. In the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', my true love brought me nine what?
6. What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
7. From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?
8. What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?
9. Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is the territory of which country?
10. Who wrote the story "The Snowman" on which the TV film was based?

(Answers on Page 4)



At Home in Yorkshire



This was circulating on the Internet at the start of the first lockdown, so you might have seen it before.

God was seen in Yorkshire. When asked why this was, he replied, 'I'm working from home'.

Another on a similar theme is from a few years ago.

An American tourist was visiting a church in Lancashire and was surprised to see a golden telephone with a sign saying that it cost £10,000 to use. When he asked what it was for, the vicar told him it was a direct line to God. On his travels round Lancashire, he saw several more similar telephones, all with the same price tag. However, when he moved on to Yorkshire, he saw that the golden telephone only cost 50p. Again, he enquired why and was told, 'Oh, it's a local call from here'.

This one is very old. It was one of my father's favourites.

Mary and Joe had just got engaged and went into a jeweller's shop to buy a ring.

Salesman: 18 carat I suppose.

Joe: No, I'm chewing baccy if it's owt to do wi' thee.

Apologies to anyone not native-born

