

THE THURSDAY CLUB NATTER



WHERE ALL THE GOSSIP CAN BE FOUND

EDITION 20

18.12.20

WELCOME

Next edition on 8th January 2021

Here is your last edition before Christmas. As we publish, the decision to allow families to get together over the holiday period has been confirmed. The situation is dumping difficult decisions on delicate deliberations for every family.

Whether you decide to mix or not the aim for our Christmas time should be to put the stress on one side, relax and enjoy whatever scraps of Christmas you are blessed with.

Whatever happens remember the phone is there and the support number will operate every day. The Zoom will open on Tuesday 29th and Thursday 31st at 11.00am just in case anyone fancies a chat.

The support team send you our very best wishes throughout this festive time.

24 hour service

NEED HELP OR ADVICE?

CONTACT PETER

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peter.crathorne@gmail.com

bag o' books.....

There are shopping bags of books that can be delivered to your doorstep. You look through these make your selection and the bag is collected from your doorstep later in the day.

MEETINGS ON ZOOM MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Tuesday Morning 11.00 – 12.00 noon will be a discussion group mainly concerned with current affairs, locally, nationally and internationally.

Participants suggest items for discussion and each item is generally given 20 minutes with the chairman ensuring that all get an opportunity to make a contribution. While this does not suit everyone, those who have joined say they have enjoyed the session.

CHRISTMAS EVE: NO CLUB MEETING

A BUSY TIME FOR EVERYONE

**OFFICE OPEN FOR PHONE CALLS ONLY.
11.00am to 12.30noon.**

As we remain in tier three the Hub will have to remain closed.

This is an unusual Story from the Christmas story composed as a one act television opera called Amahl and the Night visitors by Gian Carlo Menotti

The (Names of the Songs) in the Opera are in Parentheses

The story is set near the city of Bethlehem in the first century just after the birth of Christ. Amahl, a disabled boy who can walk only with a crutch, has a problem with telling tall tales. He is sitting outside playing his shepherd's pipe when his mother calls for him ("Amahl! Amahl!"). After much persuasion, he enters the house but his mother does not believe him when he tells her there is an amazing star "as big as a window" outside over their roof ("O Mother You Should Go Out and See"; "Stop Bothering Me!").

Later that night, Amahl's mother weeps, praying that Amahl not become a beggar ("Don't Cry Mother Dear"). After bedtime ("From Far Away We Come"), there is a knock at the door and the mother tells Amahl to go see who it is ("Amahl ... Yes Mother!"). He is amazed when he sees three splendidly dressed kings (the Magi). At first the mother does not believe Amahl, but when she goes to the door to see for herself, she is stunned. The Three Kings tell the mother and Amahl they are on a long journey to give gifts to a wondrous Child and they would like to rest at their house, to which the mother agrees ("Good Evening!"; "Come In!"), saying that all she can offer is "a cold fireplace and a bed of straw". The mother goes to fetch firewood, and Amahl seizes the opportunity to speak with the kings.

King Balthazar answers Amahl's questions about his life as a king and asks what Amahl does. Amahl responds that he was once a shepherd, but his mother had to sell his sheep. Now, he and his mother will have to go begging. Amahl then talks with King Kaspar, who is childlike, eccentric, and a bit deaf. Kaspar shows Amahl his box of magic stones, beads, and licorice, and offers Amahl some of the candy ("Are You A Real King?"; "This is My Box"). The mother returns ("Amahl, I Told You Not To Be A Nuisance!"). He defends himself, saying "They kept asking me questions," when of course it has in fact been Amahl asking the kings questions. Amahl is told to go fetch the neighbors ("All These Beautiful Things"; "Have You Seen a Child?") so the kings may be fed and entertained properly ("Shepherds! Shepherds!"; "Emily! Emily"; "Olives and Quinces"; "Dance of the Shepherds").

Amahl and the Night Visitors



The above is the painting by Hieronymus Bosch entitled *The Adoration of the Magi*

This presentation is a sincere Christmas gift to our community from the First Presbyterian Church of Southold, Rev. Dr. Peter Kelley, Pastor.

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After the neighbors have left and the kings are resting, the mother attempts to steal for her son some of the kings' gold that was meant for the Christ Child ("All That Gold"). She is thwarted by the kings' page ("Thief! Thief!"). When Amahl wakes to find the page grabbing his mother, he attacks him ("Don't You Dare!"). Seeing Amahl's defense of his mother and understanding the motives for the attempted theft, King Melchior says she may keep the gold as the Holy Child will not need earthly wealth to build his kingdom ("Oh, Woman, You Can Keep That Gold"). The mother says she has waited all her life for such a king and asks the kings to take back the gold. She wishes to send a gift but has nothing to send. Amahl, too, has nothing to give the Child except his crutch ("Oh, No, Wait"). When he offers it to the kings, his leg is miraculously healed ("I Walk, Mother"). With permission from his mother, he leaves with the kings to see the Child and give his crutch in thanks for being healed.

If you get a chance to see this on video or read the book it is a delight.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH SCHEME



OUR VERY OWN CHRISTMAS
ANGELS WILL BE OUT ON
CHRISTMAS DAY DELIVERING A
HOT LUNCH TO THOSE WHO NEED
IT IN HENLEY AND THE
SURROUNDING DISTRICT.

This scheme has been adapted to meet the times. The costs are being met from charitable donations. If you would like to contribute a small amount towards the cost then get in touch with Peter or make a bank transfer:

Sort Code 20 48 08. Acc no 13645835 mark
Xmas please



No Nativity this year because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban. The shepherds have been furloughed. The Inn keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings. Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen. As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test. 😂😂



shared by silversurfers.com

News from Rachel:

Much the same as last week Rachel's progress to better health has been very slow. We send her our very wishes and hope you improves to enjoy her Christmas time. She sends her best wishes to everyone.

Thanks to Penny for this section



Just a picture to make your mouth water.....

The twelve alternative days of Christmas....

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me,
"I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard
as we tucked into our turkey; a most delicious bird.

On the third day we entertained the people from next door.
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay; poor gran is looking old.
We finished off the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snow flakes flurried.
But we were nice and warm inside, for we had turkey curried.

On the sixth day, I must admit the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered; we ate turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince;
when he sat down at table and was offered turkey mince.

Day eight and nerves were getting frayed, the dog had run for shelter.
I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day, our cat left home. By lunchtime Dad was blotto.
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By day ten the booze had gone, except our home made brew.
And if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting.
The mince pies were as hard as rock; the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day, my true love had a smile upon his lips.
The guests had gone, the turkey too. We dined on fish and chips.

ANON

Tradition of the Christmas Cracker

Crackers are typically pulled at the Christmas dinner table or at parties. In one version of the cracker tradition, the person with the larger portion of cracker empties the contents from the tube and keeps them. In another, each person has their own cracker and keeps its contents regardless of whose end they were in. Typically these contents are a coloured paper hat, a small [toy](#), a small [plastic](#) model or other trinket, and a [motto](#), a [joke](#), a [riddle](#) or piece of trivia on a small strip of [paper](#).^[3] The paper hats, with the appearance of crowns, are usually worn when eating [Christmas dinner](#). The tradition of wearing festive hats is believed to date back to Roman times and the [Saturnalia](#) celebrations, which also involved decorative headgear.^[1]

Christmas crackers are also associated with [Knut's parties](#), held in Sweden at the end of the Christmas season.

Most Cracker contain the most 'cringe making' jokes which when imbibed with Christmas wine seem funny at the time. Have an alcoholic squint at these:

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday?
Freeze a jolly good fellow.

What is Claustrophobia?
Fear of Santa Claus.

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Party?
He had no body to go with.

What athlete is warmest in winter?
A long jumper.

I'm a Spy. So, why are you dressed as a Shepherd..??? I'm a Shepherd Spy.



Answers to last week's puzzles

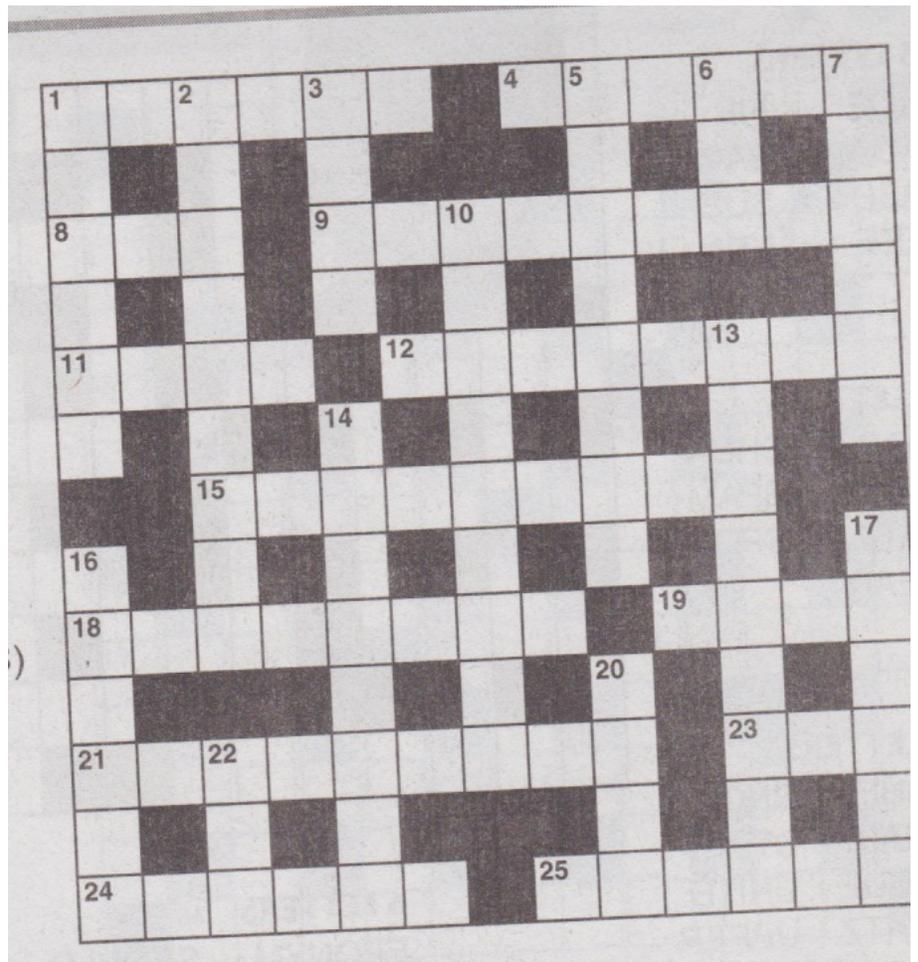
64

7	1	9	2	4	6	8	3	5
5	2	6	7	3	8	1	9	4
4	8	3	1	5	9	2	6	7
2	9	1	5	7	3	6	4	8
8	5	7	4	6	2	9	1	3
6	3	4	8	9	1	7	5	2
9	7	8	3	1	4	5	2	6
1	4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9
3	6	5	9	2	7	4	8	1

65

	B	A	C	K	P	E	D	A	L	S	
	D	I		U	T	T				C	
S	N	O	R	T		R	E	T	O	U	C
I	P	C	O		I	B				I	
K	E	T	C	H	U	P		C	U	B	A
H			E		E						
			C	A	N	V	A	S	S	E	D
			U		N	O					D
H	Y	M	N	S		U	N	A	W	A	R
A	B	L		N		N		L		M	
M	A	R	T	I	N	I		D	E	L	H
S		I	N	O		S		E			
	A	T	G	U	N	P	O	I	N	T	

For DVDs Check the list in previous editions and book by phoning Peter. We have about 50 in stock



ACROSS

- 1 Mean (6)
- 4 Caught (6)
- 8 Floor washer (3)
- 9 Narrated (9)
- 11 Brewing dregs (4)
- 12 For less than the full period (4-4)
- 15 Reddish-coloured sedimentary rock (9)
- 18 Sixth sense (8)
- 19 Alternative name for gumbo (4)
- 21 Punctuation mark comprising a dot and a comma (9)
- 23 Attempt (3)
- 24 Burped (a baby) (6)
- 25 Countess of _____, Prince Edward's wife (6)

DOWN

- 1 Not difficult (6)
- 2 Influences favourably (9)
- 3 Skirt panel (4)
- 5 Algebraic expression (8)
- 6 Shabby articles (3)
- 7 Ploys (6)
- 10 Traditional and long-established in form or style (9)
- 13 Boots with blades (3,6)
- 14 Put a ring round (8)
- 16 Bladed power-tool (6)
- 17 Voice box (6)
- 20 Formerly (4)
- 22 Chap, fellow (3)