MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY SUTTON COLDFIELD & DISTRICT

Multiple Sclerosis Society

November 2010

Charity No. 207495

MiScellany



Wishing Everyone A Happy Christmas and a Better New Year

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A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS
FROM THE COMMITTEE



If you have any comments about this or any other publication of MiScellany or wish to put in articles or items please do not hesitate to contact the following;
Dave Bull on 0121 351 4909 e-mail davebull48@btinternet.com

Remember this is your magazine, let me know what you want in it, if you don't tell me I can't put it in.

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HOMEPAGE

Happy Birthday to you

Lisa	Yates	9th Nov
Kathleen	Packington	10th Nov
Gaynor	Andrews	12th Nov
Josephine	Watts	15th Dec
Susan	Foster	20th Dec
Julia	Duncan	21st Dec
Ruth	Wootton	22nd Dec
Carole	Fisher	1st Jan
Viv	Barnes	9th Jan
Pauline	Commander	14th Jan
Chris	Lynam	15th Jan
John	Inman	24th Jan
Kathleen	Barker	29th Jan
Kelli	Morriss	30th Jan
Barbara	Wallin	10th Feb
Christina	Dunlop	12th Feb
Jayne	Gough	27th Feb
Susan	Keeling	28thFeb



(If we have missed your birthday or if these entries are incorrect please let us know!)

(If you would rather we did not mention your birthday please let us know!)

(Unless you tell us not to mention your birthday we will assume that you are happy for us to mention it!)

Easy Christmas Trivia Quiz

1. What Christmas Ballet is the most famous of all?
☐ Rudolph's Surprise
☐ The Nutcracker
☐ Mr. and Mrs. Claus
☐ Frosty Goes to New York

2. Where was Mommy kissing Santa Claus?
☐ On the Corner
☐ In the Bedroom
☐ Under the Mistletoe
☐ In a Dark Alley

3. Who wrote the song "Here Comes Santa Claus"?
☐ Michael Jackson
☐ Gene Autry
☐ Persy Douglas
☐ Leroy Jones

4. What does Alvin want for Christmas?
☐ An iPod
☐ A Bottle of Rum
☐ A Hula Hoop
☐ A New Car

5. What should little children leave out for Santa on Christmas Eve?
☐ Biscuits and Milk
☐ A Bottle of Wine
☐ Chewing Gum
☐ Chedder Cheese

6. What is Frosty the Snowman's nose made of?
☐ A Carrot
☐ A Potato
☐ A Button
☐ A Rock

☐ 7. Who is Ebenezer?
☐ The Milk Man
☐ The Prime Minster
☐ The Scrooge
☐ Mrs. Claus's Secret Friend

8. What color is the Grinch?
☐ Green
☐ Blue
☐ White
☐ Black

9. Which reindeer's name starts with a "B"?
☐ Bart
☐ Burt
☐ Bodog
☐ Blitzen

10. Which reindeer does not belong below?
☐ Dancer
☐ Comet
☐ Roger
☐ Dasher

Answers: Will be in next Issue of MiScellany (I can be bribed)

Gingered Brandy Snaps



MAKES 36

vegetable oil, for greasing
115 g/4 oz unsalted butter
140 g/5 oz golden syrup
115 g/4 oz Demerara sugar
115 g/4 oz plain flour
2 tsp ground ginger
600 ml/1 pint stiffly whipped double cream, to serve

Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/Gas Mark 3. Brush a non-stick baking sheet with oil. Place the butter, syrup and sugar in a saucepan and set over a low heat, stirring occasionally, until melted and combined. Remove the saucepan from the heat and leave to cool slightly. Sift the flour and ground ginger together into the butter mixture and beat until smooth. Spoon 2 teaspoons of the mixture on to the baking sheet, spacing them well apart. Bake for 8 minutes until pale golden brown. Keep the remaining mixture warm. Meanwhile, oil the handle of a wooden spoon.

Remove the baking sheet from the oven and leave to stand for 1 minute so that the brandy snaps firm up slightly. Remove 1 with a palette knife and immediately curl it around the handle of the wooden spoon. Once set, carefully slide it off the handle and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with the other brandy snap. Bake the remaining mixture and shape in the same way, using a cool baking sheet each time. Do not be tempted to cook more, or the rounds will set before you have time to shape them. When all the brandy snaps are cool, store in an airtight container.

To serve, spoon the whipped cream into a piping bag fitted with a star nozzle. Fill the brandy snaps with cream from both ends.

COOK'S NOTE

The unfilled brandy snaps will keep for at least a week in an airtight container. Do not fill them with cream until you are almost ready to serve, or they will become soggy and collapse as guests try to eat them.

Medium Difficulty Christmas Trivia Quiz

1. **Which of these companies was the first to use Santa Clause in an advertisement?**
☐ Pepsi
☐ Coca-Cola
☐ 7-Up
☐ Fanta

2. **Which president was the first to decorate the White House Christmas tree?**
☐ Franklin Pierce
☐ Benjamin Franklin
☐ George Washington
☐ Abraham Lincoln

3. **Which country did the gingerbread house come from?**
☐ Austria
☐ Switzerland
☐ Germany
☐ United States

4. **What kind of Christmas does Elvis Presley sing about?**
☐ White
☐ Red
☐ Blue
☐ Snowy

5. **In what year was "A Christmas Carol", by Charles Dickens, published?**
☐ 1765
☐ 1843
☐ 1860
☐ 1906

6. **What is the name of the Grinch's dog in the movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"?**
☐ Pete
☐ Sam
☐ Ruth
☐ Max

7. **Where was "A Christmas Carol" written?**
☐ Australia
☐ United States
☐ Germany
☐ United Kingdom

8. **Which reindeer helps Rudolph fly at the reindeer games?**
☐ Donner
☐ Clarice
☐ Dancer
☐ Blitzen

9. **Which reindeer is Rudolph's dad?**
☐ Dancer
☐ Dixon
☐ Donner
☐ Blitzen

10. **Which Christmas movie has been played more than any other?**
☐ A Christmas Story
☐ Home Alone
☐ Frosty the Snowman
☐ It's a Wonderful Life

Answers: Will be in next Issue of MiScellany (I can be bribed)

This green cocktail called the Grinch has none of the nasty elements of Dr. Seuss's classic holiday character. On the contrary, it's reminiscent of the changed Grinch with the sweetest flavours; melon-flavoured Midori and lemon juice. It's all sweetened even further with a little simple syrup. Add a maraschino cherry for the garnish for color and to represent the changed heart of the green man.

The Grinch



Prep Time: 2 minutes
Total Time: 2 minutes
Yield: 1 Drink
Ingredients:
2 oz Midori
1/2 oz lemon juice
1 tsp simple syrup
maraschino cherry for garnish
Preparation:

Pour the ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice.
Shake well.
Strain into a chilled cocktail glass.
Garnish with a maraschino cherry.

This recipe makes 27 individual drinks when served in white wine glasses making it a perfect holiday party punch. As with any drink that is flamed, caution should be taken when making English Christmas Punch and igniting the ladle filled with rum.

English Christmas Punch



Ingredients:
750 mL bottle dark rum
750 mL bottle dry red wine
3 cups strong tea
1 lb superfine sugar
juice of 1 large orange
juice of 1 lemon
Preparation:

1. Heat, but do not allow to boil, the wine, tea, lemon and orange juices in a saucepan or chafing dish.
2. Pour the heated mix into a heat proof punch bowl.
3. Place as much sugar as possible into a large ladle and any excess sugar into the punch bowl.
4. Saturate the sugar in the ladle with rum.
5. Ignite the rum and sugar in the ladle and pour it while still aflame into the punch.
6. Stir well and extinguish the flames.

Pour the remainder of the rum into the punch

Difficult Christmas Trivia Quiz

1. What Christmas plant is "Viscum" used to label:
☐ Mistletoe
☐ Holly
☐ Ivy
☐ Sage

2. The name of Scrooge's dead business partner:
☐ James Willcot
☐ John Mantis
☐ Jacob Marely
☐ Jimmy Booth

3. Which author made the remark "I gave them for Dinner a Piece of roast Beef and plumb Puddings – and after dinner half a Pint of strong Beer apiece. ":
☐ Philip Larkin
☐ James Woodforde
☐ Samuel Johnson
☐ Evelyn Waugh

4. Who tried to steal Christmas from the "Who's of Whoville" in the 1966 cartoon based on the Dr. Seuss Story?:
☐ The Grinch
☐ The Snowman
☐ Hattie Jacques
☐ Ian Holm

5. What was the film called in which Peter Auty sang Walking in the Air?:
☐ The Grinch
☐ The Snowman
☐ Hattie Jacques
☐ Ian Holm

6. What Christmas food is made from "marsh-whorts":
☐ Stuffing
☐ Sweet Potatoes
☐ Marshmellows
☐ Cranberry sauce

7. Which ocean is Christmas Island in:
☐ Pacific Ocean
☐ Atlantic Ocean
☐ Indian Ocean
☐ Arctic Ocean

8. Who wrote the poem, "The Cultivation of Christmas Trees":
☐ Paul Thereaux
☐ Walt Whitman
☐ James Joyce
☐ T S Eliot

9. Which continent is the turkey from:
☐ South America
☐ North America
☐ Europe
☐ Australia

10. In which author's novel is it "always winter but never Christmas":
☐ C S Lewis
☐ John Masefield
☐ Jacob Marley
☐ Sherlock Homes

Answers: Will be in next Issue of MiScellany (I can be bribed)

A Microsoft Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, except Papa's mouse.
The computer was humming, the icons were hopping,
As Papa did last minute Internet shopping.

The stockings were hung by the modem with care
In hope that St. Nicholas would bring new software.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of computer games danced in their heads.

PageMaker for Billy, and Quicken for Dan,
And Carmen Sandiego for Pamela Ann.
The letters to Santa had been sent out by Mom,
To santaclaus@toyshop.northpole.com -

Which has now been re-routed to Washington State
Because Santa's workshop has been bought by Bill Gates.
All the elves and reindeer have had to skedaddle
To flashy new quarters in suburban Seattle.

After centuries of a life that was simple and spare,
St. Nicholas is suddenly a new billionaire,
With a shiny red Porsche in the place of his sleigh,
And a house on Lake Washington that's just down the way

From where Bill has his mansion. The old fellow preens
In black Gucci boots and red Calvin Klein jeans.
The elves have stock options and desks with a view,
Where they write computer code for Johnny and Sue.

No more dolls or toy soldiers or little toy drums (ahem - pardon me)
No more dolls or tin soldiers or little toy drums
Will be under the tree, only compact disk ROMS
With the Microsoft label. So spin up your drive,
From now on Christmas runs only on Windows7.

More rapid than eagles the competitors came,
And Bill whistled, and shouted, and called them by name.
"Now, ADOBE! Now, CLARIS! Now, INTUIT! too,
Now, APPLE! and NETSCAPE! you are all of you through,

It is Microsoft's SANTA that the kids can't resist,
It's the ultimate software with a traditional twist -
Recommended by no less than the jolly old elf,
And on the package, a picture of Santa himself.

Get 'em young, keep 'em long, is Microsoft's scheme,
And a merger with Santa is a marketer's dream.
To the top of the NASDAQ! to the top of the Dow!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away - wow!"

And Mama in her 'kerchief and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
The whir and the hum of our satellite platter,

As it turned toward that new Christmas star in the sky,
The SANTALITE owned by the Microsoft guy.
As I sprang from my bed and was turning around,
My computer turned on with a Jingle-Bells sound.

And there on the screen was a smiling Bill Gates
Next to jolly old Santa, two arm-in-arm mates.
And I heard them exclaim in voice so bright,
Have a Microsoft Christmas, and to all a good night.

TAI CHI STYLE EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MS

Saturday 30 October
12.15 - 1.15
The Priory Rooms, Bull St., B4 6AF
Organised by a qualified physiotherapist
£ 1.00 per session
Tai Chi style exercise improves your ability to relax, and reduces your levels of stress.
Sessions will continue on 27 November and on 29 January.
Transport may be available: phone Chris on 07900-152-666.
There may be a few parking places at £ 3.00
DO JOIN US !!! DO JOIN US !!!
general enquiries: 01564-773-025
birmingham@mssociety.org.uk

Cruising from Kings Bromley Marina to London and back again.

A talk by Jayne Robinson on the delights of Cruising (on the canal that is) with various pictures showing their adventures on board travelling in "No Direction".



5th January at Westfield Court

Diary Dates

November

3rd November — Action For Birds – John Glews (Westfield Court)
8th November — Physio and Beautician
22nd November — Physio

December

1st December — XMAS quiz by Stan (Westfield Court)
6th December — Physio and Beautician
13th December — Christmas Buffet & Tombola at Clifton Road

Contributions of sweet items will be gratefully accepted (bring on 13th)
Tombola prizes needed please (let us have these in advance)

Branch closed for Christmas
Last Day 13-12-2010 re-open 10-01-2011 (Monday)

January

5th January — Cruising a talk (with pictures-hopefully) by Jayne (Westfield Court)
10th January — Physio and Beautician
24th January — Physio

Jane the beautician will be at Clifton Road between 10:45 & 12:00
depending on demand for her services,

Monday 8th November
Monday 6th December
Monday 10th January
Monday 7th February
Monday 7th March



The Physio's will be at Clifton Road from 13:00 to 14:00

Monday 8th November
Monday 22nd November
Monday 6th December
Monday 10th January
Monday 24th January
Monday 14th February
Monday 28th February
Monday 14th March
Monday 28th March



MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY SUTTON COLDFIELD & DISTRICT BRANCH

MONTHLY MEETINGS
1st Wednesday of every month at 7.30 p.m.
Westfield Court Hotel
Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield

ADVICE & INFORMATION CENTRE
Monday and Friday 10.30am 'til 2.00pm
Clifton Road Youth Centre
Clifton Road
Sutton Coldfield B73 6EB
0121 354 8593
email :- *mssutton@talktalk.net*

Website : - www.mssociety.org.uk /branches/ west_midlands / sutton_coldfield

SUPPORT TEAM : 0121 241 9300
Email: - *suttonmsinfo@btinternet.com*

Committee 2010-2011
Chair Paul Dunstan 0121 686 6476
Secretary Pauline Commander 0121 382 1385
Treasurer Jayne Robinson 07958739046

Caravan– For Bookings and further information please contact Teresa Jennings ONLY, on 0121 350 9936