

The BOSCO BUCCLE



CHRISTMAS

-HOLIDAYS OVER HISTORY

Of course, Christmas is all about the coming of Christ, with baby Jesus being the centre of our celebrations, it is important to remember Christmas is a holiday that has been celebrated over centuries, providing avenues for variation and change. For example, the Christmas tree can be dated as far back to the 4th century in which Egyptians would fill their homes with green palm rushes to honour the God of the sun, Ra, and his weakness during the winter solstice. But it was Pagans who popularised Christmas trees, with Pagans decorating fir trees with candles and dried fruits to ward off witches and bad spirits. A Pagan Christmas was not too dissimilar from the modern one; just as we gather round the fireplace to watch a Christmas film, the Pagans would light bonfires to fend off the darkness on the darkest day of the year. And when you're tucking into your bird-flu free turkey this year,



consider how our Pagan ancestors would also feast on beef or pork during their midwinter feast too. Pagans can also be credited for kissing under the mistletoe, carolling, wreaths and gift-giving during this holiday time.

However, a large amount of credit must be given to Queen Victoria's cousin/husband, Prince Albert. The idea of an indoor Christmas tree originated in Germany, as did Albert, who introduced the concept of rocking around the Christmas tree. Not long before Victoria's reign, in 1823, children would hope St Nicholas would fill a Christmas stocking just as he did for the three poor sisters who hung their stockings out to dry over their fireplace in the story titled "A Visit from St Nicholas". So, when you're opening your gifts from Father Christmas, remember you have your 5ft tall Queen Victoria and centuries of tradition to thank.

Holly Grammer



THE CHEERIEST CHRISTMAS MOVIE OF ALL TIME



Twinkling lights, cosy evenings and a bank account looking worse for wear, Christmas is finally upon us (if the sub-zero temperatures hadn't clued you in). Subsequently, the annual debate that divides all manner of relationships is lurking around every corner.



Is Die Hard a Christmas movie?

Of course, it is. Shattering glass and German terrorists: what could be more Christmassy? Forget your soggy brussel sprouts, your rubbish stockings and awful carol singing, who needs Christmas spirit when you can watch Bruce Willis lovingly launch Alan Rickman off a tall building? Though one could argue that 'Die Hard' is inevitably shoved into the genre of action, it simultaneously takes its rightful place as a Christmas movie first and foremost. The multitude of Christmas references

(most of which cannot be quoted here) successfully pitch this incredible film as one of the best Christmas movies ever.

It's action, and violent nature even attract the icy hearts of those who 'hate Christmas' and those who refuse to engage in any kind of seasonal fun. Yet its undeniable romantic plot manages to keep the usual demographic of heart-warmed saps interested.

Interestingly, there are a total of four Christmas songs in 'Die Hard,' trumping the meagre two in 'White Christmas' and only just behind the five played in 'Home Alone.'

All evidence considered, it's pretty clear that 'Die Hard' is indeed a Christmas movie, and a brilliant one at that. So, go home, grab some hot chocolate and a blanket, and snuggle up to watch Bruce Willis shirtless and covered in blood for a whole two hours

Aoife Judge

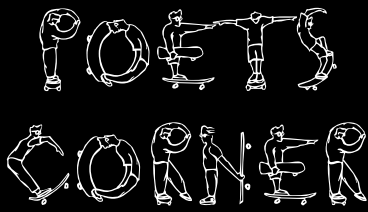
IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR...



We all remember Dr Okon's festive bedtime story and Mr Bruynseels' dulcet tones (toneless warbling) and we all, most importantly, remember the fun had watching all 16 minutes and 24 seconds of our beloved teachers making fools of themselves. As we approach this time of the year, prepare yourselves for the long anticipated 2022 rendition of the historical Salesian staff Christmas video!

Get ready for the wildest ride of Christmas magic from our very own beloved staff; presented unanimously on our very last day of school in 2022! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...

Gio Cruickshank



A Sunday in December is humming to a stray Christmas song from a bruised CD player

and hearing your brother sling bells on an already musical tree and the wire of silver lights

form friendship bracelets

(because nothing is afraid when everything is brighter)

and dusting icing sugar onto the already melting floor elsewhere maybe a bauble bounces,

cruises on a transcendent trajectory where somewhere a story is told year on year

while children sing their presents home, three gifts or maybe more

eyes bulging like the stocking on that fateful morning - but back to now,

and hearing your dad select a different coloured beanie like woollen advent

and the TV winds up excuses to pack in more, more joy

and a Christmas hat sits lazily loafing around on the stairs

everything is booming like a conch shell with sound waves with all that is

good + pure + safe + kind.

Olivia Burgess



MY STRANGE TRADITION

Some like to buy matching pyjama sets, some enjoy a Boxing Day walk, but in the space between Christmas and New Year's Eve, there's only one important event happening in the Burgess household - the airing of the World's Strongest Man. For those unfamiliar with the WSM, allow me to introduce you to the most abnormal and entertaining competition you'll probably ever know about. Every year the top 25 strongmen from around the world compete in a different city, from Kuala Lumpur, to Los Angeles, to the lesser known areas of Botswana; normally, a sweltering climate is supposed to help muscle movement, according to strongmen science. The athletes, after training for many months to achieve this degree of strength, compete in heats, later finals, to establish who is that year's World's Strongest Man. Ordinarily, this show would be a regular competition between men who seem quite intoxicated on testosterone and the sight of themselves in the gym mirror, and quite frankly, very boring. It's the actual challenges and ludicrous amount of kilograms these men manage to lift that maintains the viewing quality right up until the showdown between two at the final. As events go, there's Fingal's

Fingers as the athletes turn over 300kg iron 'fingers' in the fastest time, or the iconic Keg Toss, which involves launching 20kg kegs behind at gradually increasing heights (usually up to 7.5 metres). Yet 5 heats down, and the finals are still the stars of the show. Suddenly, everything becomes that more tense as 10 athletes qualify. We begin to see some crumble under the pressure (be it the actual weights, or patriotism), most get slapped at least once round the face by their tiny, angry coaches, and some of the strangest tasks on this earth emerge. After all, would you ever consider lugging an entire plane across an airfield a standard task? Once the top two are selected, the showdown in Atlas Stones commence, surprisingly one of the more ordinary events of hoisting huge rocks in increment weights onto platforms. It is a true race against the clock, and the winner gets a huge (small in their hands) gold WSM trophy and a well-deserved rest. So if you're intrigued, there's always this spectacle arriving soon over the break, and who knows, you could soon find yourself bench-pressing your Christmas tree.

Olivia Burgess





