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**15-16-21-24**  
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 Christy Nixon and Orla Rafter  
**29th November**  
**8-12-18-5**

No Winner - €40 each to:  
 Hilary Tobin, Tilly O'Brien, Ian Gillett,  
 Niamh Cahill

**6th December**  
**13-23-26-27**  
 No Winner - €40 each to:  
 Noel Kerrigan, Ross Phillips, Seanie &  
 Niamh, O'Brien family

**13th December**  
**5-8-17-23**  
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**Next Issue Saturday**  
**23rd January**

Submissions by Wednesday January 20th

Contact: Jim Conroy phone:  
**046 902 5771**  
 email: jimkconroy@hotmail.com

**Sponsorship costs:**  
 To sponsor an issue  
 of the RST: €150.  
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**2015 was a great year for the Tuesday Club**

From small beginnings some years ago, the RST Tuesday Club has flourished during 2015 with seven trips away from base. The numbers attending have increased with more than 50 people participating in three events: The Giant's Causeway, Aras an Uachtaráin and the Christmas lunch in the Knightsbrook Hotel. We also visited the Viking Exhibition at Dublinia, Strokestown House and Longford Cathedral. All were very enjoyable and social occasions. Our last trip was our usual end of year to Maguire's on the Hill of Tara.

The eagerly looked forward to Dublin Bay cruise in August turned out to be the "low-light" of the year. As 35 intrepid passengers embarked on the cruise ship in awful weather conditions, little did we know what was in store during the 1.5 hours bob-along to Howth. We all entered below deck where the hot air and condensation quickly reduced visibility to zero. Then the tummies began to talk and the wise Tuesday club people began to emerge on deck for fresh air, relief and a soaking. At one stage about half an hour from landing, when a recorded message from the tannoy announced, "If you are lucky enough you may see a dolphin on the starboard side!" a voice was heard to declare, "I want to see no effing dolphin, only the pier at Howth." We would like to thank all our Tuesday Club supporters and we look forward to more outings in 2016 including Dáil Éireann. We have an open invitation for more members. If you have any tour suggestions please contact us.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.



**O'Connells pub, Skryne would like to wish all their customers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year**



As part of the 2016 State Commemorative Programme, Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rathfeigh was visited by a member of the Defence Forces for a special ceremony on December 4th. At this ceremony we were formally presented with the National Flag and The 1916 Proclamation. It was a memorable occasion and was enjoyed by pupils, teachers, and parents alike. Photos of this memorable occasion can be viewed on our school website [www.rathfeighns.org](http://www.rathfeighns.org).

L to R Mr. Seamus Tansley (Principal) Sergeant David McCarney and Mrs. Phil Mc Auley (Deputy Principal).



Congratulations to David Carty who received a Hall of Fame Award at the Meath GAA Awards Night recently for his work on the Skryne GAA History - The Blue Kings of Tara. The award was received jointly with Jim Gilligan from Dunshaughlin GFC who also recently published a history of Dunshaughlin GAA - Black and Amber. The award was presented by County Board Chairman, Conor Tormey.



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Susie Togher and John Murphy who got married in San Diego earlier this year

**RST wishes all readers, sponsors, contributors and distributors a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**



From all at  
**A & J PRINT**  
 Tel: 01-8256402

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM 10th MEATH SCOUTS

Our fabulous group have had a very busy couple of months. We had a whole host of activities through all sections since starting back in September. Back in June we said a fond farewell to 3 brilliant Beaver leaders whom together gave over 13 years to the beaver section, huge thanks ladies for your time, energy and enthusiasm which saw the section flourish. As with any voluntary commitment we were hugely fortunate when new people joined and will continue to encourage any of our young members to reach their personal and section achievements.

Some of the activities recently included Backwoods cooking, Halloween fancy dress night, Pioneering skills nights, a trip to ZIPIT, etc. We have been active supporters of the Team Hope shoebox appeal and this year was no different ... 40 boxes of joy gone to less fortunate children, well done everyone. We would like to thank everyone who supported our 12 days ticket draw... sure you might win a prize ... this may be our lucky year! With Christmas very close some festive trips were on the cards. So our beavers went to Slane Castle to visit Santa ... We heard the excitement was hard to amazing and everyone had a great



night...magic! Our cubs had a fantastic night in Magnificent Causey.... and we do mean fantastic, 2 hrs of enthralling wide eyed fun... from the camel to the visit to Santa to the reindeer to that" gorgeous little piglet" ..... You needed to be there for that bit O.M.G.!

Recently we had a very nice surprise when we had Scouting Irelands newly elected Christy McCann pay us a visit. Christy was very impressed by the welcome party who greeted him upon arrival and he spoke with considerable appreciation for what our young people have accomplished both personally and within community itself. He also presented personal achievements awards to members of the group. On the night we also had the fundraising co coordinator Peter from CF Irl with us to receive a cheque for over €600 part of the proceeds from a group fundraiser earlier in

the year... well done guys. We really appreciated the entire mum's and dad's sharing the celebration and hope you enjoyed the cuppa and chat afterwards.

We do however need someone within the Group. Our only female scout leader stepped away from the Scout section recently and we really miss her. As a

result we have no female leader in her place. In order to plan and run a programme both weekly and when going on trips eg hikes etc and to maintain interest within the youth members a female scout leader is required to be a consistent integral person within the section. If you have or know someone who has an interest in supporting/joining this section do drop in on Tuesday evenings Lastly to all the Leaders past and present, Parents and everyone who supported 10th Meath during the past year a massive tumultuous **THANK YOU** on behalf of each and every child in Skryne Scouts. What you give is truly appreciated and will never be taken for granted. Merry Christmas and every good wish to all for 2016.

*10th Meath Skryne Leaders.*

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

As we approach Christmas, we wish to remind everyone to be extra vigilant/aware in relation to Crime Prevention. One in three burglaries happen when doors and windows are left open or unlocked. This can happen even when you are at home. So don't give thieves a chance to steal what belongs to you. When leaving home get into the habit of allowing extra time to check all doors windows and ensure that you **Lock the Burglars out.**

- Lock your windows and doors.
- Use a timer for lights to imply that someone is at home.
- Leave a light and a radio on when you go out.
- Don't leave valuables on show or visible through a window. Be especially careful with Christmas presents, (do not leave them in the boot of the car)
- If you have an alarm turn it on when you leave, even if it is only for a few minutes. Also make sure to turn on the alarm at night. **Even if you are at home.**
- Don't let cold callers into your home. Mark and photograph your valuables and keep your records in a safe place.

If you see something/someone suspicious, (Getting the reg no of any vehicle involved is a huge help!), please ring it in to **Ashbourne Gardai at 018010600.**

If you are heading away on holidays, make sure that someone takes in the post (don't let it build up) and if possible open the curtains during the day. Also we would ask that you check in on elderly/vulnerable neighbours, Christmas can be a lonely time for some.

Dunshaughlin Gardai would like to wish everyone a Happy and peaceful Christmas

*Derek Halligan, Community Garda, Dunshaughlin.*

## TARA AC

Congratulations to the adult members of Tara AC who competed in a run/cycle event held on 28/11/15 at the RST centre. Also to the adult beginners group trained by Dave Conway who completed their first 5k run the same day. Both groups raised a total of €270 a for G.R.O.W. [this is a mental health illness charity and all money raised will stay in the local area] both groups and trainers ended their night at our Christmas party in foxes bar

Well done to all our juvenile athletes who had a great year with cross country and track events. Thanks to all who supported Tara AC over the year, have a happy Christmas and we will see you back on the track in the new year for more fun and games.



## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks to all who donated to our recent church gate collection in Skryne and Rathfeigh. €1592.54 was the total and is much appreciated.

*Jim Duignan*

### SKRYNE BINGO

The organisers of Skryne Bingo wish all our patrons a happy Christmas and prosperous 2016. We thank you for your support through the year. We thank those who give up their time to run the weekly bingo. Perhaps you have not attended our bingo. As well as meeting friends you can also win money. Over €1,100 in prizes paid out in prizes every night. Looking forward to seeing you any Wednesday night. Bingo starts at 8.30pm sharp. Best of luck at our bingo in 2016.

### RST ON-LINE

Laura Browne who did a great job in setting up the RST Community Centre website has created a section for the RST newsletter.

The latest issue can be seen on [www.rstskryne.ie](http://www.rstskryne.ie). She has also set up a section for archived newsletters. Over the coming months we will add every RST since the first issue in June 1997

**Dancing in RST Centre** on Friday nights at 8pm. Jive, Salsa, Cha Cha, from 8th January. All welcome - partner not required. Contact Susan McAuley

### Dog Walkers

A reminder to dog walkers using footpath between Swans and Ross Cross to please clean up after their pet so other users may enjoy this great amenity. It is a busy route for joggers, walkers and school children. Also if dog owners on this route would kindly restrain dogs behind closed gates it would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

*Regular jogger*

## WORK OFF THE MINCE PIES!

- With our new **CEILÍ DANCING CLASS** in the RST Centre
- Starting on Thursday 14th Jan from 8 – 9.30 pm
- Cost: €5 per class
- Everyone is welcome
- Bookings/Enquiries to: Catherine Murray - 087-672 1844 or Susan/RST 087 – 130 6985

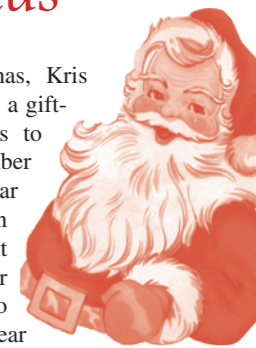
- **Meath Fitness PILATES**

- Army Pilates Instructor Karen Robinson
- Beginners (gentle) from Tuesday 12th January 7 – 8pm
- Advanced from Tuesday 12th January 8 – 9 pm
- Cost: € 60 for 6-week course
- Early booking is essential to secure a place, please contact James Gibbons on 085 – 868 6670 or email: [info@meathfitness.com](mailto:info@meathfitness.com)

Please note that our Website is: [rstskryne.ie](http://rstskryne.ie) – we should have the new schedule posted very shortly. If you are interested in holding classes, please contact Susan on 087-130 6985, everything will be considered!

## The Origin of Santa Claus

Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Santy, Jolly Old Elf, Santa Klaus or simply Santa, is a gift-giving figure in various cultures who distributes presents to children and adults, traditionally during the night of December 24, Christmas Eve, while everyone is sleeping. The popular American form Santa Claus originated as a mispronunciation of Dutch Sinterklaas, which is a contracted form of Sint Nicolaas (Saint Nicholas). On Christmas Eve of 1822, another New Yorker, Clement Clarke Moore, wrote down and read to his children a series of verses; his poem was published a year later as "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" (more commonly known today by its opening line, "Twas the night before Christmas . . ."). Moore gave St. Nick eight reindeer (and named them all), and he devised the now-familiar entrance by chimney. Moore's Nicholas was still a small figure, however - the poem describes a "miniature sleigh" with a "little old driver."



Meanwhile, in parts of Europe such as Germany, Nicholas the gift-giver had been superseded by a representation of the infant Jesus (the Christ child, or "Christkindlein"). The Christkindlein accompanied Nicholas-like figures with other names (such as "Père Noël" in France), or he travelled with a dwarf-like helper (known in some places as "Pelznickel," or Nicholas with furs). Belsnickle (as Pelznickel was known in the German-American dialect of Pennsylvania) was represented by adults who dressed in furry disguises (including false whiskers), visited while children were still awake, and put on a scary performance. Gifts found by children the next morning were credited to Christkindlein, who had come while everyone was asleep. Over time, the non-visible Christkindlein (whose name mutated into "Kriss Kringle") was overshadowed by the visible Belsnickle, and both of them became confused with St. Nicholas and the emerging figure of Santa Claus.

The modern Santa Claus derived from these two images: St. Nicholas the elf-like gift bringer described by Moore, and a friendlier "Kriss Kringle" amalgam of the Christkindlein and Pelznickel figures. The man-sized version of Santa became the dominant image around 1841, when a Philadelphia merchant named J.W. Parkinson hired a man to dress in "Criscringle" clothing and climb the chimney outside his shop.

### CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 1. Stocking. 5. Reindeer. 6. Cracker. 8. Holly. 9. Elves. 10. Advent. Down: 2. Turkey. 3. Gingerbread. 4. Decorations. 6. Chimney. 7. Carols

### PICTURE CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 2. Snowman. 3. Mitten. 6. Reindeer. 7. Tree. 8. Gift. 9. Holly. Down: 1. Santa 2. Stocking. 4. Wreath. 5. Bells

## SKRYNE CYCLE CLUB



Club Training – will continue through the winter as follows:

- Wednesday from **Rear Arch Bar Dunshaughlin** at 7.30. Lights and Hi-Viz essential.
- Sunday 9.00 from **Swans car park**.
- Christmas Cycle on Sunday 27th December 2015 at 10 am followed by Coffee and mince pies in Maguire's on the Hill of Tara. Choice of a 30km or 50 km route. All welcome. Wrap up warm.

Contact **James Brady 085- 7106524**  
or **Pat McGovern 087-2586315**

## SKRYNE U13s WIN DIVISION 2 SHIELD FINAL

The Skryne Ladies U13 Gaelic Football Team were crowned Division 2 Shield Champions on Saturday 7th of November, beating Donoghmore/Ashbourne in the final 4-10 to 1-1 in Dunganny. An evenly balanced first half, with excellent football from both teams ended with a narrow 2 point lead for Skryne. Sides would have been level but for a brilliant reaction save from Hannah Dardis, deflecting a close range shot over for a point.

But the second half was a different story. Skryne started strong and quickly registered an early goal and point to extend the lead. The girls drove on from here, creating and taking a number of scoring chances. Meanwhile the defence stood firm and held the opposition scoreless for the entire half. This victory was cheered on by a large group of travelling supporters from the parish, many of whom accompanied the girls back to an end of season party in the RST Community Centre later that afternoon.

This trophy adds to the very satisfying collection the ladies teams have secured this year, with U12, U15 and U16 victories also this season. 25 girls have played for the U13 panel this autumn and it is thanks to the girls, their parents and the club coaches' commitment that the club continues to grow. Fantastic group of girls, who train and play with great enthusiasm and a positive attitude. They are a credit to themselves, their families and the club.

Skryne U13 Team/Coaches/Fans:

**Back Row:** Brendan Canavan, Declan Smyth, Mick O'Dowd, Ollie McLaughlin. **Middle Row:** Chloe Bisset, Ellen Ryan, Gwen Carpenter, Katie Manning, Aisling O'Brien, Eabha McLaughlin, Hannah Dardis (captain), Naoise Smyth, Caragh Conway, Naoise Canavan, Amy O'Dowd, Nicola Dowdall, Morgan Swan. **Front Row:** Ava Purcell, Gareth Fox, Roisin McManus, Niall Smyth, Lisa Browne, Ellie Murphy, Ciara Smyth, Niamh Cahill, Katie Cullen, Amelia Cuniam-Murphy, Samantha Clarke, Steffi Finegan, Sophie Ryan, Rachel O'Dowd.



## SKRYNE G.F.C. AGM

Skryne GFC AGM took place yesterday evening in the RST Centre following mass for our deceased members. Following the passing of the late great Micheal O' Brien, another club legend David Carty was elected as a Club President.

The following officers were elected to the Executive Committee for 2016.  
Chairperson .....Eamon Giles  
Vice-Chairperson .....Senan Mc Grath  
Secretary .....Norbert Coyle  
Assistant Secretary .....Sinead Rooney  
Treasurer .....Michael Mulvany  
Assistant Treasurer .....Ross Phillips  
Club PRO .....Rowan Dardis  
Insurance Officer.....Dan O' Leary  
County Board Delegate .....Oliver Harrington  
Irish Language/Culture Officer.....Joseph O' Brien  
Safety Officer .....Kevin O' Rourke  
Schools Liaison Officer .....Eddie Mc Cormack

Coaching Officer – To be filled at a later date  
Players Representative – To be filled at a later date  
Committee Members: Maureen O' Kane, Dolores Tobin, Nigel Fox and Nicky Hamill.

**The Club passed votes of sympathy with the following on their recent bereavements:** The Whyte family on the death of Frank; O'Donnell family on the death of Martina's sister, Catherine Rattigan and the Nugent family on the death of Brian; Joe O'Brien, on the death of his mother; Claire Mullins on the death of her sister.

## TARA FUEL MERCHANTS

Good Quality Grade A Columbian Coal  
Excellent Heat  
Seasoned Logs, Small and Large  
Kindling (Starter Sticks)

€4.50 Briquettes

€19 Coal

€3 Kindling

€4 Seasoned Logs, Small

€6 Seasoned Logs, Large

### DEALS

- 1 x Coal, 1 x Logs, 1 x Kindling €25
- 6 x Coal, 2 x Large Logs, 2 x Kindling €120
- 5 x Briquettes €20

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## GAA PRESIDENT VISITS SKRYNE

GAA President, Aogan O' Fearghail, paid his first visit to the club on Tuesday night, 1st December, 2015. The occasion was the launching of the club's 5 Year Development Plan. The President was greeted by a Guard of Honour of underage boys and girls kitted out in their club colours of blue and white as he arrived with Chairman, Eamon Giles, and Secretary, Norbert Coyle. The President was introduced to the committee members of the club and the Ladies club. Present also were All-Ireland medal winners David Carty, Paddy Mulvaney, Colm O'Rourke, John McDermott, Trevor Giles. Unavoidably absent was Liam Hayes. Mick O'Dowd, Meath manager, took time out to be there for his club also. It was heartening to see so many former club officials present.

The club was joined on the occasion by Co. Board Chairman, Conor Tormey, Secretary Francis Flynn, Mairead Delaney, Development Officers Jim Mullery and Jason Plunkett, Martin O'Halloran, PRO, John Kavanagh, Minor Board Chairman. After the club chairman gave details of the club's plans for the future, President O'Fearghail spoke at length on many aspects of the GAA and it's role in the community and

the importance of the local club. All present were impressed by his warmth and friendliness. For his part the President was struck by the reception he received from young and old alike. Blue and white were the colours on view as both Skryne & Cavan claimed them. President O'Fearghail was presented with a beautiful cake in blue and white design with Skryne crest by Margaret Hayes to cut for those present.

The President obliged by standing in for many photographs. The club is grateful to all who provided food and who served on the night. David Carty presented the President with a copy of his history of Skryne, Blue Kings of Tara. It was truly a night to remember.



The President with Officers and Committee of Skryne GFC



The President with former All Ireland medal winners from left: Colm O'Rourke, Trevor Giles, Paddy Mulvany and David Carty



2015 has been a year of great celebrations in the Effie & Ita Swan household with it being the golden year of their wedding anniversary and they both celebrated special birthdays ending in zero. We wish them both many more years of health happiness and celebrations together and didn't they make a handsome couple on their wedding day!

Get into the Spirit of Christmas

**RATHFEIGH CHOIR**  
invite you to their Annual

**CAROL SERVICE**

RATHFEIGH CHURCH  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
7.00PM - 8.00PM

All Welcome  
ADMISSION IS FREE

**CONDOLENCES**

Sympathy is extended to the following:  
Christy, Jack & Jude Keogh, on the death of their brother.  
The Whyte family on the death of Frank.  
Martina O'Donnell on the death of her sister.  
Catherine Rattigan, on the death of her uncle.  
Joe O'Brien, on the death of his mother.  
The Geary family on the death of Dermot.  
Claire Mullins on the death of her sister.

## UNDER 13 CHAMPIONS

What a game from both Skryne and Summerhill in the Div 2 U13's final in Dunganny. The final was to be for the 5th December and both clubs agreed to play it on the Friday 27th. It was a game made of two teams that were totally focussed on playing football at the highest level. Skryne U13s were unbeaten and hoped to keep a clean sweep. Some fantastic play by the Skryne lads who scored points from every angle and defended really well. Skryne were five points behind when Alex Grendon scored a goal. With the game now in extra time of normal time Referee blew the whistle with Skryne only two points behind at half time.

**Half Score: Skryne 2-05 Summerhill 3-04**  
Skryne regrouped for the second half and again went on the attack. The pace of the game picked up and the players were getting used to the Astro pitch in Dunganny. Skryne kept Summerhill at bay from the goals while at the opposite end showed some great skill in point kicking and scoring goals. With any Skryne team they never give up and this team is no different with this U13's team who play to the bitter end. Well done to the Players and Management and enjoy the break. The team will go on to Play Div 1 in the U14's next year and are well capable of winning at the top level. Alex Grendon who was captain thanked the management for all their hard work and time and also complimented the Summerhill

team on the tough game. Credit must go to both teams who showed that the future of Meath football looks promising. Alex Grendon lifted the cup to the joy of the players as the celebrations began.

**Final Score: Skryne 4-10 Summerhill 4-06**  
Skryne team: Alex Curran, Sam Hawes, Gary Brown, Kristoffer Kinsella, David Rathbourne, Billy Reilly, Shane Smyth, Alex Grendon (Captain) Killian Cahill, Niall Moreland, Oisín Keogh, Sean Keogh, Niall Finnerty, John Finnerty, Kian Reddy, Paddy Wright, Scott Armstrong, Mossy O'Brien, Jack Swan.



Let the celebrations begin!!

**BURKE'S FARM**

**CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS:**  
Sunday 20th .....9am to 2pm  
Monday 21st.....10am to 3pm  
Tuesday 22nd.....10am to 3pm  
Wednesday 23rd .....10am to 3pm  
Thursday 24th .....10am to 4pm

You can call **087 9532656**  
or **086 1262351** outside above hours  
**Why not come to Burkes Farm and get some different ideas for Christmas! Try our Christmas Pudding Logs/Mince Pie Logs - Deserts - Cakes**  
**Lots of flavours to choose from**

M E R R Y  
C H R I S T M A S

## Children's Corner

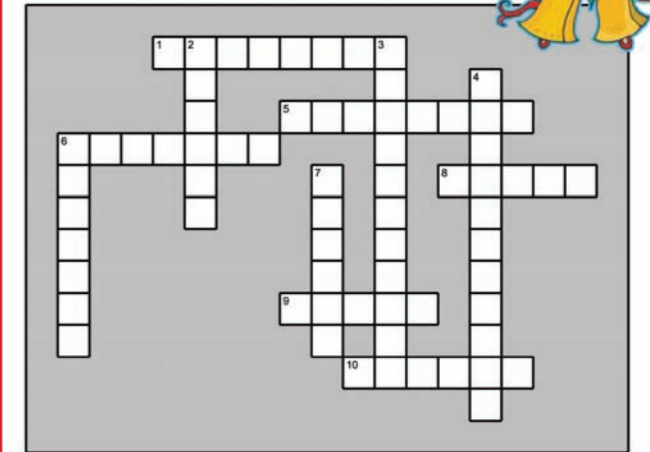
**Christmas Crossword**

**Across:** 2. 3. 6.   
8. 9. 7.

**Down:** 1. 2. 4. 5.

Answers elsewhere in newsletter

## Christmas Crossword



- Across**
- Hang it up on Christmas Eve
  - They're covered in fur and pull the sleigh
  - Pull with a bang to get the hat and toy inside
  - It's green and spiky with red berries
  - Little helpers
  - Open this calendar one day at a time!
- Down**
- If you eat too much you'll be stuffed like the bird
  - Christmas cookie made into houses or men?
  - Put these on the tree before the lights
  - When Santa comes down this watch out for the soot!
  - Silent Night and the Holly and the Ivy

### CHRISTMAS RIDDLES

- Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? **A: Frostbite.**  
Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? **A: Snowflakes.**  
Q: What do you get if you cross mistletoe and a duck? **A: A Christmas Quacker.**  
Q: What do you call Santa when he stops moving? **A: Santa Pause!**  
Q: How do you scare a snowman? **A: You get a hairdryer!**  
Q: What do you call a snowman in the summer? **A: A puddle!**

## Christmas

stocking Father Christmas snowman present

gingerbread reindeer tree cake decorations

t	k	z	h	i	j	l	u	k	t	e	e	s	z	x	n	q	p
v	o	s	a	m	t	s	i	r	h	c	r	e	h	t	a	f	x
q	d	j	w	x	k	s	p	r	o	z	k	e	e	d	m	d	n
e	q	o	d	d	q	r	s	v	w	t	q	b	v	a	e	z	z
q	d	f	s	k	e	n	v	g	r	y	m	g	t	e	z	p	w
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s	r	r	g	b	a	w	d	e	c	o	r	a	t	i	o	n	s
x	j	p	i	n	t	g	j	z	i	d	c	l	x	e	j	d	b
e	b	d	v	h	t	y	w	v	f	i	n	g	k	a	k	a	v
u	q	t	o	q	k	q	e	w	f	b	f	a	i	a	x	j	b
z	q	y	a	q	x	c	y	f	p	k	c	m	i	q	n	l	