



Torrevieja U3A Christmas Supplement 2010



Longfellow

*'I heard the bells on Christmas
Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words
repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to
men!'*

*'I once bought my
kids a set of batteries
for Christmas with a
note on it saying, toys
not
included.'* Bernard
Manning

Santa's Outfit

How do you
know Santa has
to be a man?
No woman is
going to wear the
same outfit year
after year.



Who invented the Christmas Cracker

Christmas Crackers were invented by Thomas Smith in 1846.

During a visit to Paris he came across the bob-bon, a sugar almond wrapped in tissue paper (with a twist either side of the centrally placed sweet). Thomas decided to try selling similarly wrapped sweets in the lead up to Christmas in England. His bon-bons sold well at Christmas but not at other times of the year.

In the early 1850s Thomas came up with the idea of including a motto with the sweet. As many of his bon-bons were bought by men to give to women, many of the mottos were simple love poems.

In about 1860, Thomas added the banger, two strips of chemically impregnated paper that made a loud noise on being pulled apart. It was the 'crackling' sound a log makes when throwing it onto a fire that gave Tom Smith the inspiration for the 'crackle' or 'pop' sound. At first these novelties were called 'cosaques', but they soon became known as 'crackers'.

The paper hat was added to the cracker in the early 1900s and by the end of the 1930s the love poems had been replaced by jokes or limericks.

The Committee sends
Seasons Greetings and
Best Wishes for
A Happy and Prosperous
New Year



A Christmas candle
is a lovely
thing;

It makes no noise
at all,

But softly gives
itself away;

While quite
unselfish, it
grows small.'
Eva K. Logue

Why is Christmas
just like a day
at the office?
You do all the
work and the
fat guy with
the suit gets
all the credit.

*'Santa Claus has the
right idea. Visit
people once a
year.'* Victor
Borge

Good King Wenceslas phoned
Domino's for a pizza.
The salesgirl asked him:
'Do you want your usual?
Deep pan, crisp and even?'

Christmas Presents - Regalos Típicos

Most Spanish people keep their fingers crossed for a Christmas windfall, courtesy of the world-renowned lottery draw, El Gordo, literally The Fat One. This is a long, drawn-out event that unfolds on the morning of December 22nd. Ticket numbers in a giant drum are matched to balls with millionaire prizes in a smaller drum. The ticketing system allows people to buy fractions and subfractions of different numbers, décimos and participaciones, with increasing chances of a share in the winnings.

As the top prizes come out, TV and radio coverage centres on the search for the many winners and for the particular lottery shop where the winning ticket was bought.

'I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph.'
Shirley Temple

The 3 stages of man:

- 1) He believes in Santa Claus.
- 2) He doesn't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) He IS Santa Claus!

Church Notices

For those mothers who have children - and don't know it, we have a crèche downstairs.

*Tonight's Advent sermon: 'What is hell?'
Come early and listen to our carol practice.*

The Vocabulary of Christmas	
Nochebuena	Christmas Eve
!Feliz Navidad!	Happy Christmas
!Felices Fiestas!	Season's Greetings
El muérdago	Mistletoe
Nochevieja	New Year's Eve

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

*I want a new body for Christmas:
one that's not wrinkly and fat.*

*I want a new body for Christmas
not a scarf and a warm, wooly hat.*

*I'm fed up with crow's feet and glasses
and boobs that can land in my lap
and corns on my feet, and disturbed sleep!
and energy easily sapped.*

*I want a new set of choppers
that gleam and sparkle like dew;
I want to be able to digest with ease
onions and fry-ups and stew.
But I am a logical person
and I've had a good crack of the whip
I've loved and been loved, been happier than some
on life's sweet nectar have sipped.*

*On reflection...I think that I'll tear up the list
and write a fresh one anew.
for there's little else I need in this world
as long as I have YOU!*

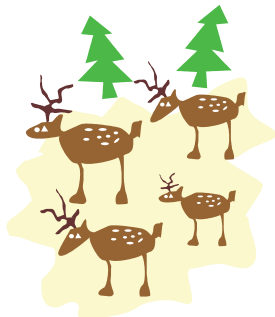
Joy Lennick



Denominations

Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.' What denomination?' asked the clerk. 'Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?' said Maria, 'Well give me 50 Methodist and 50 Church of England ones please.'

Q: How do Snowman travel around?
A: By riding an icicle.



Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall."

~ Larry Wilde, author 'The Merry Book of Christmas'

Q. Where do Snow-women like to dance?

A. At Snowballs.

Q. What happened when Guy ate the Christmas decorations?

A. He went down with tinsel-itis.

Spanish Christmas Customs

Food and Drink - Comidas y Bebidas

The main meal takes place on Christmas Eve, **la Nochebuena**, and consists of a major dish of meat or seafood, such as **cordero**, lamb, **bacalao**, cod, or **marisco**, shellfish, which varies according to the region or the family's preferences.

The 'lucky grapes', **las uvas de la suerte**, are the law on New Year's Eve, **la Nochevieja** - literally 'Old Night'. A tradition introduced in the early 20th century, it's said to bring good luck if at each stroke of the bells at midnight you take one grape and make one wish, **un deseo**, for the New Year, **el Año Nuevo**.

Quirky Customs - Curiosidades

Celebrations stretch from December 22nd, when the big lottery draw takes place, to January 6th, when the presents are unwrapped. Then, between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, there's still time to fit in another celebration. The equivalent of April's Fools Day takes place in Spain on December 28th, **el día de los Santos Inocentes**, Holy Innocents' day.

Nativity scenes with figurines are laid out on a table at home, with no limit to their degree of elaboration. Life-size figures are also on display in public squares and there are silent, living representations in public halls.

Christmas Pudding Charms

Silver Christmas charms bring you good fortune.

Potential choking hazard: do not use with food.



"A little smile, a word of cheer,
A bit of love from someone near,
A little gift from one held dear,
Best wishes for the coming year."
John Greenleaf Whittier