

*Merry
Christmas*



*Happy
New Year*



Your club shop

Ideal Christmas present

New range — club navy fleece jackets - £24.99

Full zip & two front pockets

Embroidered - Taunton Deane bowling club

In stock - mens -small, medium, large, xl, 2xl, 3xl

Ladies - 10,12,14,16,18.

New range - Drakes Pride - Astro blue bowls shoes -£55

Budget range of DEK bowls shoes - Ladies & gents from £24.99 to £29.99

Shop open when reception is open or speak to **Adrian Davis**

I feel I need to mention something that I witnessed in my national mixed pairs against C Takle and Chenda at Taunton Deane bowling club on the 25/10/22,

My partner was Lynn Williams who played lead.

She played four unbelievable woods which all four were touchers in one end, Brilliant lead play, something I have never seen before,

Well done Lynn.

Kevin Cottrell



The President's Charity.

From mid-December a quiz sheet "Anything and Everything to do with Christmas" will be available in the club. Quiz lovers and those who have visitors to occupy over the festive season are welcome to take a copy but please make a contribution to our President's Charity in return.

Answers will be published in the January newsletter.

John Bament





Thank you for your support

Your support has made a real difference to those in the
Armed Forces community.

To find out more about how your donation helps,
please visit rbl.org.uk



To Taunton Deane Bowling Club Ltd

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised £357.22





Dan and Mark turned out for St Andrews in the Wessex League on Sunday 6/11/2022. They helped secure a one point victory over Clarrie Dunbar. First time Clarrie had lost in the preliminaries since 2016. Hope TDBC will enter a side next year.



Taunton Deane Winners V Somerset Masons



Mervyn Batten - Taunton Deane specific coaching - Reading the head



TAUNTON DEANE BOWLING CLUB

TAUNTON DEANE			TAUNTON		
	SCORE	ENDS	SCORE		
1				1	
2				2	
3	J HEDGER 12	21	26	B STONE	3
4	S NALBANDIAN 18	21	17	C SIMCOCK	4
5	D ROUTLEY 22	21	15	F HUNT	5
6	T CRACKNEL 15	21		J YOUNG	6
HOME TOTAL	77			AWAY TOTAL	74

Taunton Deane securing a narrow victory over Taunton Vivary - 77 - 74



**Wednesday
December 14th
£18
Served at 13:00**

**Friday
December 16th
£18
Served at 13:15**

Santa's Christmas Delight

A glass of Buck's Fizz on arrival

Main Menu

Succulent Turkey Breast or Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding
Pig's in Blankets, Homemade Cranberry and Apricot Stuffing
Roast Potatoes and Dauphinoise Potatoes
Cauliflower Cheese, Brussel Sprouts, Carrots and Peas, Roast Parsnips

Sweet Dreams

Christmas Pudding and Brandy Sauce or Brandy Cream
Apple and Mincemeat Crumble with Custard or Cream or Eton Mess
Cheese and Biscuits
Tea, Coffee and Mints

Dietary Requirements upon Request



Sapphire

dance/cabaret

Songs from a golden era in popular music

New Years Eve - December 31st

£15

Tickets include food, beef baps, salad & coleslaw,
served during the break - Starts 8pm

£15

TDBC Social & Fund Raising Committee





Happy Christmas from the maintenance team
Who have all wished for more helpers in their stockings this year.



Humour

Music was my First Love...

continued

Fairy Tale of New York'



“It was Christmas Eve babe
In the drunk tank
An old man said to me, won't see another one
And then he sang a song
The Rare Old Mountain Dew
I turned my face away
And dreamed about you”

Who doesn't get moved by the opening lyrics and Shane McGowan's grating tortured vocals. A beautiful haunting melody of both tragedy and celebration at Christmas time, set in New York. I can imagine many never thought the song would do as well as it did. I mean isn't Christmas meant to be all jolly and festive, a time for family, frivolity and celebration. Well, the Pogues turned that sentiment on its head with their raw gut-wrenching ballad of sorrow. And weren't Shane's grimacing facial features a site to behold, a casualty I presumed of his errant alcohol and drug taking ways.

That sad almost menacing smile giving a full view of his battered teeth yet at times a smile both cheeky and irreverent. A fallen angel putting two fingers up to the establishment. “Yes, I'm killing myself and that's my business not yours” you could read inside his mind.

Becoming a heroin addict maybe wasn't a surprise for a boy who started drinking aged five! Yet as is often the case McGowan's a man of amazing talent. This talent was recognised in his adolescence when he was given a literary scholarship and attended Westminster school until he was expelled for drugs.

Written and released in 1987 'Fairytale of New York' performed by the Pogues has reached the Top 20 on eighteen separate occasions and has been voted on ITV as the Nation's Favourite Christmas Song.

Sadly the song also turned into a fitting epitaph for the female vocalist Kirsty MacColl who duetted on the track with Shane. Kirsty (many may also remember her success with 'There's a boy lives down the chip shop swears he's Elvis') died in Dec 2018 after being hit by a speedboat on holiday in Mexico.

Shane still survives....the Pogues sacked him in 1991 and disbanded in '96. They have reunited on various occasions since, the last time being 2014.

No doubt this festive season the airwaves will once again give plenty of time to the Pogues and we will sing along with those magic vocals of Shane and Kirsty.

‘The boys of the NYPD choir
Still singing Galway Bay
And the bells are ringing out
For Christmas day’.

Happy Christmas - Mark X

Click the link below to view or sing along with the Pogues

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9jbdgZidu8>



Music was my First Love... continued

What’s the best selling Xmas album of all time?

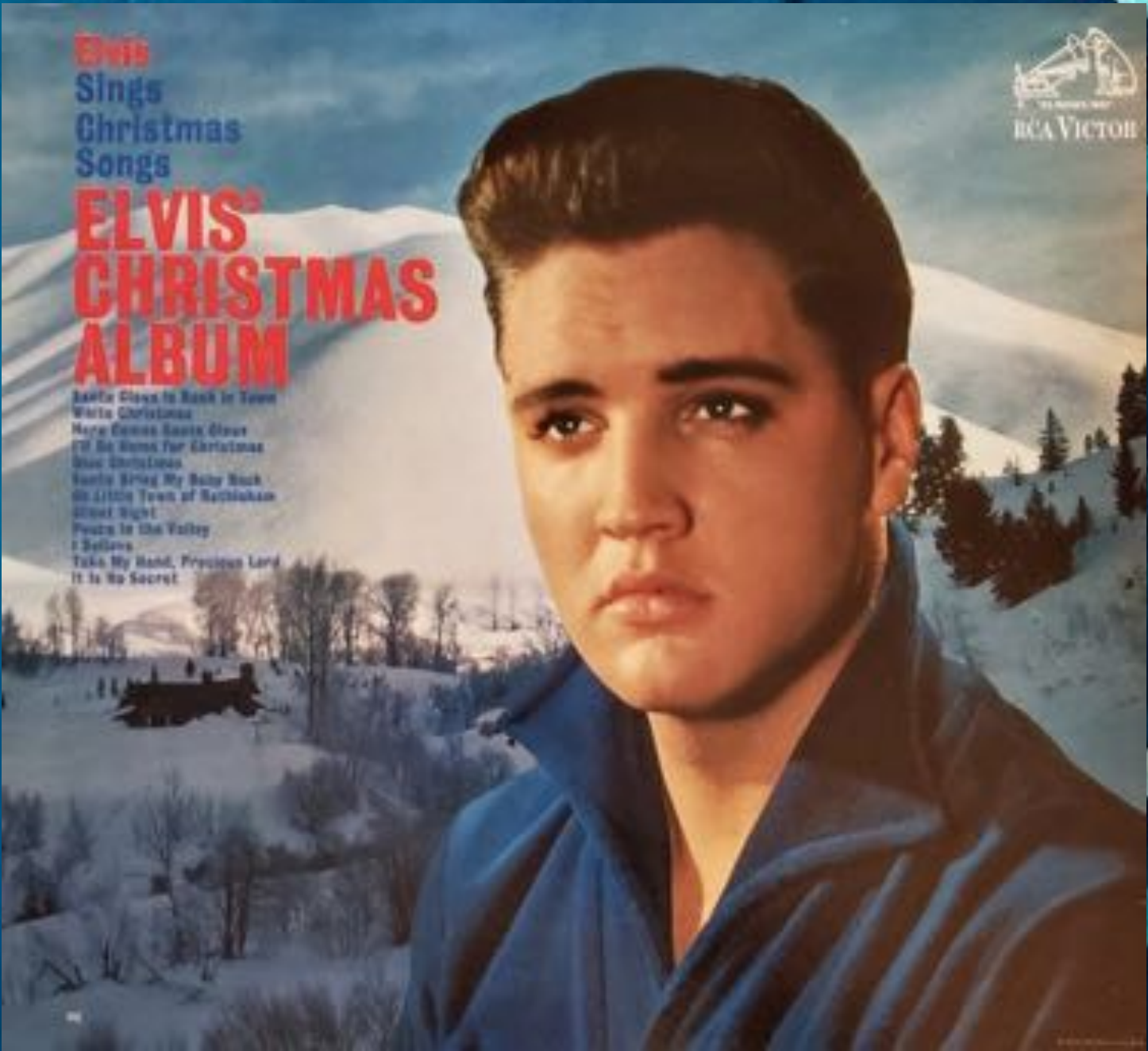
There could be many contenders. Nat King Cole, Michael Buble, Maria Carey, Frank Sinatra, Cliff, Bing, Wham, the list goes on and on. How do you start measuring sales? First release, re-release, world-wide, UK only?

Google and Wiki are good reference places and there seems no disagreement.

Elvis’s Christmas Album released in 1957 has gone on to sell 17 million copies. ‘Blue Christmas’ one of the songs is one of the most played tracks every year.

Elvis’s was not just the King of ‘rock n roll’ he was the King of Christmas too.

Mark





THE DARK ORIGINS OF CHRISTMAS

From ancient times, the season that we now know as Christmas was a midwinter celebration called The Winter Solstice, or Yule. A pagan festival, The Winter Solstice was a time to celebrate the fact that the worst of winter was over, and the people could look forward to longer days with more sunlight in the near future. Ultimately, everyone was celebrating the fact that they were the ones to have survived another winter.

In Scandinavia, the Norse celebrated Yule (or Yuletide) from December 21st right through to until January, burning fires and feasting for a full 12 days (though nowadays we tend to celebrate all December!) Yet the holiday took a more fearful turn in Germany, where many people believed that the pagan god Odin would observe his people from the sky during the winter solstice, deciding who would survive the winter, and who would not...almost as if he was making a list, and checking it twice?

In warmer regions such as Rome, the people celebrated Saturnalia during December in honour of Saturn, the god of agriculture, once again to celebrate the end of the worst of the winter. It was a time when the social order was turned on its head, slaves and peasants ruled the city and celebrated with plentiful food and drink, the first instance of the winter solstice as a charitable season.

When Christianity was still a new religion, nobody even thought to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Only in the fourth century did Pope Julius choose to celebrate the occasion on December 25th, conveniently timed to overshadow and absorb the traditions of Yule and Saturnalia. A bloody battle between pagan holidays and Christian rule ensued, and by the middle ages, Christmas had almost completely replaced the ancient pagan holidays.

With Christmas came the legend of St Nicholas. The legend varies from culture to culture, but they all agree that he was a benevolent man, a protector of children celebrated for his charitable nature. In Scandinavian culture, the same figure appears as Sinterklaas who eventually made his way to America by the end of the 18th century as Santa Claus, a magical being who flew from house to house delivering presents to deserving children...but what happened to the not-so-deserving?

Every protagonist has an antagonist, and just as the Christian God finds his counterpart in the Devil, Santa wasn't the only creature visiting houses during the Winter Solstice. In Belgium, the Netherlands and Austro-



Bavarian cultures, misbehaving children could expect a visit from the terrifying Krampus, a half-goat, half-demon that at best would leave a lump of coal, and at worst would kidnap the child, never to be seen again...

If any naughty children thought they would get away with a couple of weeks of good behaviour before Christmas, they'd be in for a shock, Krampus wouldn't wait until Christmas Day to punish the unworthy. Krampusnacht continues to be celebrated across many European regions on 5th December. Combining both Christian traditions with pagan roots, Krampusnacht sees parades offerings of Krampuslauf (schnapps) and the exchanging of Krampuskarten (greeting cards depicting the terrifying Krampus).

Americans didn't truly embrace Christmas until the 19th century, and it didn't have the smoothest start. Christmas had become a time for the poor and unemployed to riot in huge gangs. In a tradition inspired by the earlier celebration of Halloween, Americans demanded fine food and drink from the upper classes and caused trouble if their demands weren't met. Deciding that the violence must end, communities were urged to gather together, rich or poor, to celebrate the closing of the year in the same way that Christmas was celebrated elsewhere.

Back in England, the Christmas tradition was also changing. Previously a time of hedonism and a huge festive celebration, the holiday was turning into a more peaceful and family-oriented time. In 1843, Charles Dickens wrote the tale A Christmas Carol which spread a message of charity and kindness which resonated with both English and American societies.

As Christmas became even more popular in America, it was reinvented as the perfect family holiday. Old customs lifted straight from the pagan days such as decorating trees, sending cards to family and friends and exchanging gifts became an essential part of the Christmas tradition. Eventually, this commercialised reinvention became the accepted celebration of Christmas all over the world.

Since then, Christmas celebrations haven't changed much, but some of our favourite hedonistic elements of the ancient Winter Solstice traditions have crept back in: eating, drinking & being merry!

Steve Browning - News Editor