



DECEMBER 2020 // ISSUE 1



SILVERWOOD GAZETTE



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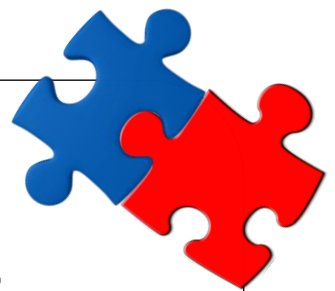


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A Note from the Editors...



Lottie and Indy

Hi, I'm Lottie! I'm a 3rd year student at the University of Nottingham, studying English with Creative Writing. I love writing, and a good cup of tea.

Christmas is one of my favourite times of year.

This is my dog, Indy. Her favourite things include cheese and chasing cats! She also loves a good nap on the sofa.



Lucy and Howie

Hello, I'm Lucy! I'm also in 3rd year at the University of Nottingham and I study English Language and Literature. I really enjoy reading and I love going for walks with my miniature schnauzer, Howie.

I'm looking forward to Christmas because I spend most of my time watching Christmas films.

This is Howie. He enjoys sleeping a lot and barking at other dogs when they walk past the window!



Walks Around the University of Nottingham Campus

We are so lucky that the University of Nottingham has such a beautiful campus. One of my favourite things to do is to go for a walk around the grounds – especially the lake! There is also plenty of wildlife; you can often spot geese, squirrels and rabbits. Here are some photos that I have taken of campus over the last year:



This was taken last winter, when the lake froze over!



This is the Trent Building. It is one of the most famous buildings at the University. I have most of my seminars here!



One of my favourite times of year is Autumn. All of the colours on the trees look so beautiful.



Here is just one of the lovely gardens that you can walk round. In the summer, I like to sit here and read.

Winter in Sherwood Forest

A couple of weeks ago, I visited Sherwood Forest for a walk. It was a very rainy day, but I spent the afternoon there wandering around and watching the birds and squirrels.

When I arrived, I saw the statue of Robin Hood and Little John in front of the visitors' centre.

I followed the Major Oak Trail and came across some dog walkers braving the rain on my way to the big oak tree.



The Major Oak is the main attraction at Sherwood Forest. This giant oak tree is estimated to be between 800 and 1,100 years old and has to be propped up by supports so that the lower branches don't fall off. The tree weighs around 23 tonnes, which is the same as about four adult elephants. The Major Oak is home to many animals. In the past, people have spotted birds, honeybees, butterflies and bats living amongst the branches of the tree.

After I left the Major Oak, I carried on walking to find a bench where I could sit and have some tea that I brought in a flask. The bench had beautiful engravings on it. While I was warmed up by my tea, I watched two squirrels chasing each other up a nearby oak. I could hear the birds tweeting overhead and the air smelled fresh, like it does after a spell of rain. In the winter, because the trees are bare, you can see lots of old birds' nests amongst the branches. It was relaxing to sit and take in the sights and sounds of my surroundings.



It was a very peaceful day in the forest, and I look forward to visiting again, perhaps on a sunnier day! Have you been to Sherwood Forest? If so, what is your favourite memory from the forest?



Wildlife in the Garden

As winter draws closer, you might notice new birds in the garden after the autumn migration. In the winter, you can help birds in the garden by putting out fresh water for the birds to drink and bathe in and providing fatty foods such as fat balls for them to peck at.

Here are 6 birds to look out for in the garden this winter:

Robin



Voted Britain's National Bird. Robins are often a symbol for Christmas and festivities. The Robin is one of the few birds to continue singing throughout the winter months

Chaffinch



Chaffinches are a common sight in British gardens. Male chaffinches have an orange-pink breast and female chaffinches have a brown breast.

Goldfinch



Often seen at seed feeders in the winter. You can tell a goldfinch by the red 'mask' on its face.

Goldcrest



Goldcrests have a distinctive gold stripe on their heads. They can often be seen looking for insects in the branches of conifer trees.

Blue tit



Blue tits favour seeds and fat in the winter months. They feed while hanging upside down.

Long-tailed tit



You can identify these birds by their distinctive tail. Long-tailed tits particularly like fat balls.

Festive poems

The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Help Wanted

Santa needs new reindeer.
The first bunch has grown old.
Dasher has arthritis;
Comet hates the cold.
Prancer's sick of staring
at Dancer's big behind.
Cupid married Blitzen
and Donner lost his mind.
Dancer's mad at Vixen
for stepping on his toes.
Vixen's being thrown out—
she laughed at Rudolph's nose.
If you are a reindeer
we hope you will apply.
There is just one tricky part:
You must know how to fly.
- Timothy Tocher

Christmas Carols



Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, oh, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth



FESTIVE FACTS:

Humphrey Bogart was born on Christmas Day, 1899. Bogart starred in the film Casablanca in 1942.

Another famous Christmas birthday is comedian Kenny Everett, born 25th December 1944.

12 Days of Christmas

Can you remember which order these presents were given in the song?

gold rings	geese a-laying	pipers piping
maids a-milking	drummers drumming	ladies dancing
French hens	calling birds	a partridge in a pear tree
lords a-leaping	turtle doves	swans a-swimming

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: two...

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: three...

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: four...

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: five...

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: six...

Answers on page 13

gold rings	geese a-laying	pipers piping
maids a-milking	drummers drumming	ladies dancing
French hens	calling birds	a partridge in a pear tree
lords a-leaping	turtle doves	swans a-swimming

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: seven...

On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: eight...

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: nine...

On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: ten...

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: eleven...

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: twelve...

Answers on page 13

Festive activities

What activities do you enjoy doing at Christmas? Do you have any family traditions?

“Each year, I make a wreath with my mum that we hang on the front door” - Lucy

“I love to bake at Christmas time, and I make a Yule log every year” - Lottie

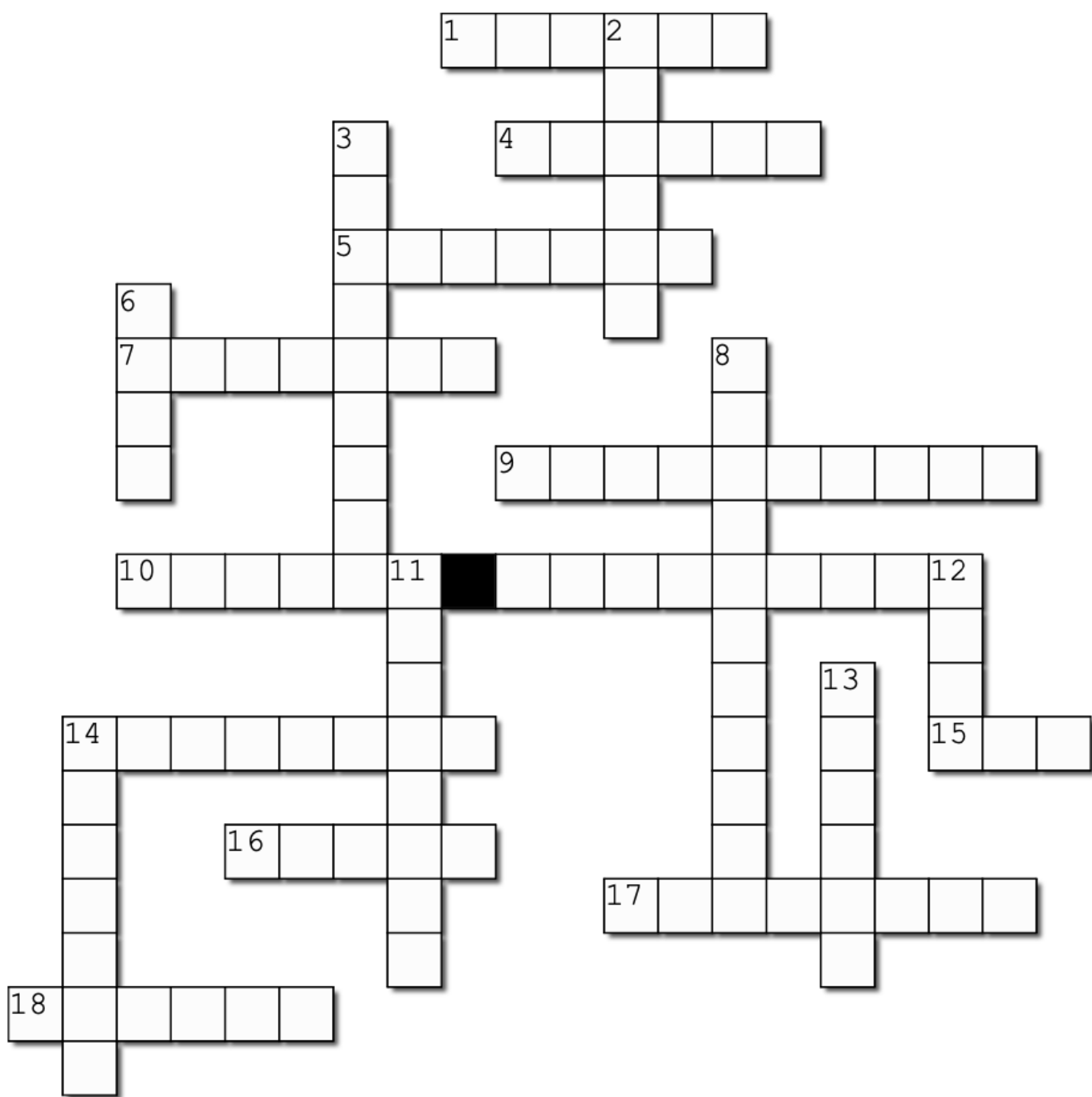
Mae from a local school wanted to send Christmas wishes to everyone at Silverwood. Here is a lovely Christmas picture that Mae drew for the magazine...





CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- 1. Someone with a corn cob pipe, a button nose and eyes made of coal
- 4. You might hang this decoration on your front door
- 5. The grumpy main character in A Christmas Carol
- 7. Father Christmas's red-nosed companion
- 9. A traditional festive ballet
- 10. He brings presents to children on Christmas Eve
- 14. Something you hang on the fireplace and fill with presents
- 15. The colour of Father Christmas's suit
- 16. Residents of the North Pole
- 17. You might leave these under the Christmas tree
- 18. Festive songs traditionally sung at church services

Down

- 2. Father Christmas's vehicle of choice
- 3. You might have a kiss under this at Christmas
- 6. Something which you might decorate with lights and tinsel
- 8. An orange decorated with a red ribbon, sweets and a candle
- 11. They pull _____ Father Christmas's magical vehicle
- 12. You place it on top of the Christmas tree
- 13. The centrepiece at Christmas dinner
- 14. You build him out of snow

Answers on page 14

Winter Wordsearch



S	O	T	R	S	L	N	E	M	I	H	H	E	S
N	B	L	O	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	O	N	R
O	R	O	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	A	B
W	O	D	T	L	B	S	N	S	S	A	N	T	A
B	C	L	E	T	B	C	L	O	V	C	O	L	D
A	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	S	D	E	L	E	A
L	O	I	O	F	C	D	O	B	L	U	D	P	C
L	R	S	I	N	B	W	D	L	E	R	U	E	E
A	D	A	A	A	C	H	R	D	O	U	E	O	R
M	V	E	C	I	E	F	R	S	T	O	O	B	L
R	A	R	G	L	O	V	E	S	L	S	D	L	O
T	H	C	R	A	S	S	B	W	I	N	T	E	R
I	L	I	C	F	B	C	L	O	D	H	D	I	L
W	S	L	E	D	W	V	A	H	F	R	A	C	S

- ICE
- WINTER
- SANTA
- CHRISTMAS
- BOOTS
- SWEATER
- SCARF
- SNOWBALL
- COLD
- RUDOLPH
- GLOVES
- SLED

Answers on page 15

Answers...

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

A partridge in a pear tree

On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: two...

Turtle doves

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: three...

French hens

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: four...

Calling birds

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: five...

Gold rings

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: six...

Geese a-laying

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: seven...

Swans a-swimming

On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: eight...

Maids a-milking

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: nine...

Ladies dancing

On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: ten...

Lords a-leaping

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: eleven...

Pipers piping

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: twelve...

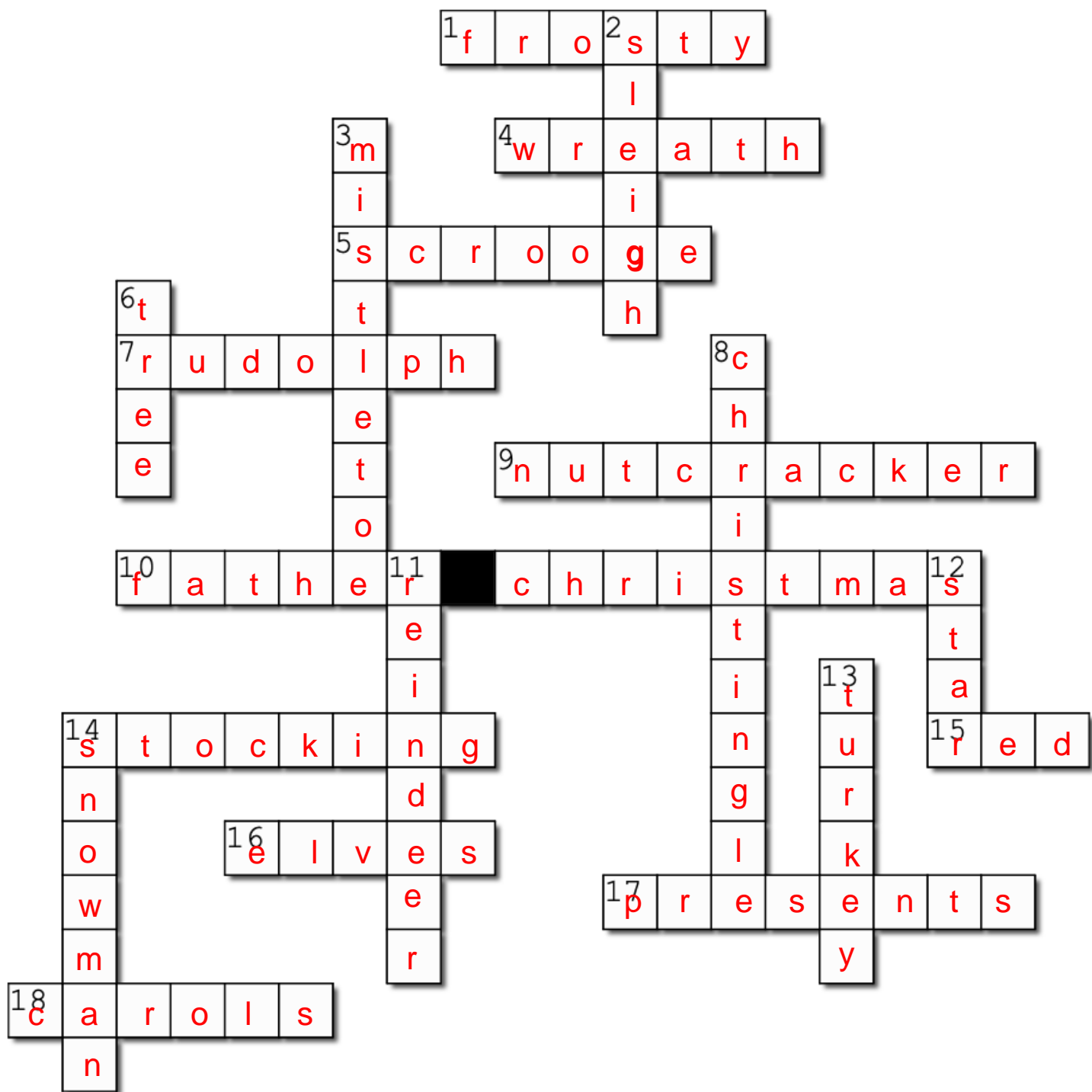
Drummers drumming



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



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W	O	D	T	L	B	S	N	S	S	A	N	T	A
B	C	L	E	T	B	C	L	O	V	C	O	L	D
A	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	S	D	E	L	E	A
L	O	I	O	F	C	D	O	B	L	U	D	P	C
L	R	S	I	N	B	W	D	L	E	R	U	E	E
A	D	A	A	A	C	H	R	D	O	U	E	O	R
M	V	E	C	I	E	F	R	S	T	O	O	B	L
R	A	R	G	L	O	V	E	S	L	S	D	L	O
T	H	C	R	A	S	S	B	W	I	N	T	E	R
I	L	I	C	F	B	C	L	O	D	H	D	I	L
W	S	L	E	D	W	V	A	H	F	R	A	C	S

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