

Emergency Cover over the Holidays

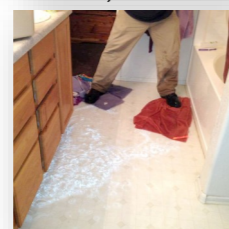
We will be here to take calls on 30 and 31 December. We reopen on Thursday 6 January 2021. In an emergency, call James Frew Ltd (heating/hot water) or City Building (all other repairs). 'Emergency' means risk to health and safety or to prevent serious damage, e.g. burst pipe. Target response time is within 4 hours. Follow up work can be dealt with after 6 January. No heating or hot water is not an emergency but James Frew Ltd. will respond, within reason. If you call before 19.00 they will try to come out. Otherwise, they will come the following day. Staff are on call if you need to speak to us. In an emergency. Hopefully, you won't need us!



Unusual Christmas Quiz



Aw, naw!



1. Do you know how to turn the water off if there is a burst pipe? If not, please find out now.

Ask family or friends or neighbours.

2. Do you have house contents insurance?

If not, please think about it now - **before** anything happens!

Kevin Bridges: The Overdue Catch Up

Need a good laugh to chase away the Covid Blues? Why not enter our competition to win a pair of tickets to see the fabulous Kevin Bridges at the OVO Hydro in 2022? Answer the questions below and email admin@blochairn.org with your answers before 17.00 on Thursday 30 December. Good Luck!

1. Who inspired Kevin to try stand up comedy?
2. Where did Kevin go when he took a break in 2015?
3. Where did Kevin meet his wife, Kerry?
4. What did Kevin study at University?
5. In which prison did Kevin perform for prisoners and prison officers?



LifeLink (www.lifelink.org.uk) (Tel: 552 4434)

Self harming and thoughts of suicide are more common than you think.
You are not alone.
Contact LifeLink. Phone 552 4434



Useful Phone Numbers

Emergencies - Heating/Hot Water (James Frew Ltd)	01294 468 113 or 0870 242 5037
Emergencies - All Other Trades (City Building)	0800 595 595
Blochairn Housing Association (Staff on Call)	07976 569 939
Housing Benefit & Council Tax Revenue Centre	287 5050
Scottish Power	0800 027 0072
Scottish Power Emergencies	0800 092 92 90
Scottish Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Clean Glasgow	0300 343 7027
City Council - Pest Control and Cleansing	287 9700
City Council - Council Tax	0845 600 8040
Police SCOTLAND	101 (or, in an Emergency, dial 999)
CCTV Cameras - StreetWatch	287 9999
Social Work Services Emergencies	0800 811 505
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)	945 6350 or 0800 80 70 60
THISTLE Tenants Risks House Insurance	0345 450 7286



Blochairn Housing Association Newsletter



As we celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth the Committee and Staff of Blochairn Housing Association wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year in 2022

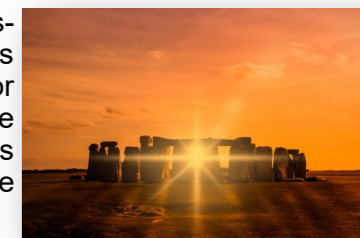
Happy Holiday!



Uncertainty about Covid 19 restrictions meant that, for the second year, we couldn't deliver our traditional small Christmas gift to residents over 60 and under 16 years. Instead, we have deposited £10 into each of their accounts (if we received the Tenant Bonus Scheme questionnaire with bank account details).

Why is Christmas Day on the 25 December?

Christmas is celebrated to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God. The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ. The Mass service is where Christians remember that Jesus died for mankind and then came back to life. Christmas is now celebrated by people around the world, whether they are Christians or not. Family and friends come together and remember the good things they have. Christmas is a time when you give and receive gifts!



No one knows the real birthday of Jesus. No date is given in the Bible. So why do we celebrate it on the 25 December? Early Christians had many arguments about when it should be celebrated. And the birth of Jesus probably didn't happen in the 'year 1' but slightly earlier. The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on 25 December was during the time of Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor. But it was not an official Roman state festival at this time. However, there are many different traditions and theories as to why Christmas is celebrated on 25 December. A very early Christian tradition said that Jesus' mother, Mary, was told on 25 March that she would have a very special baby (the Annunciation). And 9 months after the 25 March is the 25 December!

The Winter Solstice is the day where there is the shortest time between the sun rising and the sun setting. It happens on 21 or 22 December in the Northern Hemisphere. Pagans knew that this marked the change of seasons. Days would become lighter and longer and nights would become shorter. To celebrate people had a mid-winter festival to celebrate the sun 'winning' over the darkness of winter. At this time, animals which had been kept for food were also often killed to save having to feed them all through the winter and some drinks which had been brewing since the autumn/harvest would also be ready to drink. So it was a good time to have a celebration with things to eat and drink before the rest of the winter happened. We still have New Year celebrations near this time now!

Continued on page 2, overleaf



Our Facebook page has a mix of serious stuff and humour. Please check it out and 'Follow' us. We have has 915 'Followers'. Can we get to 1000? You can find lots of useful information on our web site at www.blochairn.org. You can also download the Blochairn App



Why is Christmas Day on the 25 December? (continued)

In Scandinavia, and some other parts of northern Europe, the Winter Solstice is known as Yule. In Eastern Europe the mid-winter festival is called Koleda.

In Iranian/Persian culture, the winter solstice is known as 'Yalda Night' or 'Shab-e Chelleh'. It's a time when families and friends come together to eat, drink and recite poetry. Shab-e Chelleh means 'night of forty' as it happens forty nights into winter. The word Yalda means 'birth' and comes from early Christians living in Persia celebrating the birth of Jesus around this time. Eating, fruits, nuts, pomegranates and watermelons are important at Yalda/Chelleh and you can get Yalda cakes which look like watermelons!



The Roman Festival of Saturnalia took place between 17 and 23 December and honoured the Roman god Saturn. The Romans also thought that the Solstice took place on 25 December. It's also thought that in 274AD the Roman emperor Aurelian created 'Dies Natalis Solis Invicti', meaning 'birthday of the unconquered sun', also called 'Sol Invictus' and it was held on 25 December.



Because of the dates, some people say that Christians took over 25 December from these Roman Festivals and/or Yule. Christmas had also been celebrated by the early Church on 6 January, when they also celebrated the Epiphany (which means the revelation that Jesus was God's son) and the Baptism of Jesus. Like 25 December, this was based on a calculation of Jesus's conception. Now Epiphany mainly celebrates the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus.

The Jewish festival of Lights, Hanukkah starts on the eve of the Kislev 25 (the month in the Jewish calendar that occurs at about the same time as December). Hanukkah celebrates when the Jewish people were able to re-dedicate and worship in their Temple, in Jerusalem, following many years of not being allowed to practice their religion. Jesus was a Jew, so this could be another reason that helped the early Church choose 25 December for the date of Christmas!



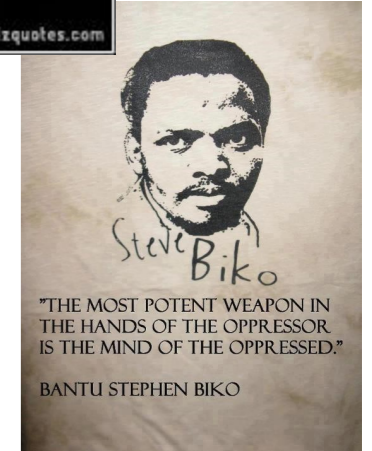
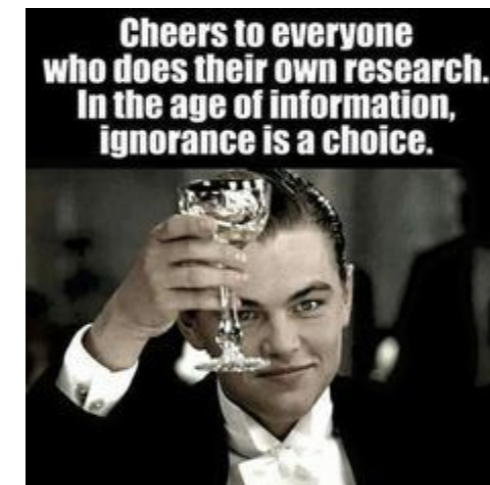
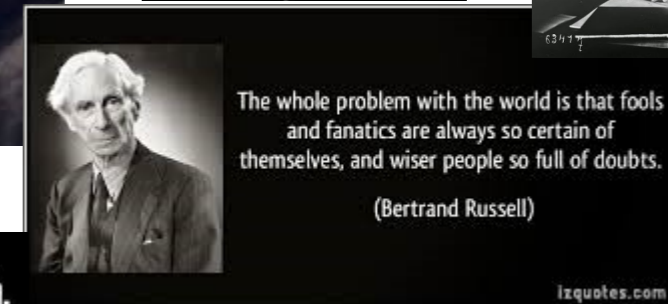
Most of the world uses the 'Gregorian Calendar' implemented by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582AD. Before that the 'Roman' or 'Julian' Calendar was used (named after Julius Caesar). The Gregorian calendar is more accurate than the Roman calendar which had too many days in a year! When the switch was made 10 days were lost, so that the day that followed the 4 October 1582 was 15 October 1582. In the UK the change of calendars was made in 1752. The day after 2 September 1752 was 14 September 1752.

Many Orthodox and Coptic Churches still use the Julian Calendar and so celebrate Christmas on the 7 January, which is when 25 December would have been on the Julian calendar. And the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates it on the 6 January! In some part of the UK, 6 January is still called 'Old Christmas'. Some people didn't want to use the new calendar as they thought it 'cheated' them out of 11 days!

Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, so the early Christians thought that this was the right time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. They also took over some of the customs from the Winter Solstice and gave them Christian meanings, like Holly, Mistletoe and even Christmas Carols! St Augustine was the person who probably started the widespread celebration of Christmas in large parts of England by introducing Christianity to the regions run by the Anglo-Saxons in the 6th century. Other Celtic parts of Britain were already Christian but there aren't many documents about if or how they celebrated the birth of Jesus. St Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory the Great, so western countries celebrate Christmas on the 25 December. Then people from Britain and Western Europe took Christmas on the 25 December all over the world!



Inspiration



Christmas Quiz Answers

1. It's a Wonderful Life
2. Only Fools and Horses
3. Buddy
4. Chicago
5. Sir Isaac Newton
6. Bing Crosby
7. Black
8. Rudolph has a glowing red nose
9. Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Prancer, Vixen, Dancer, and Donner
10. St. Nicholas
11. Indian ocean
12. Germany
13. To entertain kids in long church services
14. Sagittarius
15. Treat Every Day like Christmas
16. Trump
17. Los Angeles
18. Narnia
19. 1994
20. 364
21. Michael Buble
22. Bohemian Rhapsody
23. Four
24. The Simpsons
25. Norway



Movie Quiz

[illegible]

Tenant Bonus Scheme: Christmas Bonus 2021



- In 2004, we introduced a monthly Prize Draw, with 2 x £50 prizes for tenants who are keeping to their tenancy agreement. Prize Daw winners collect their prize at Committee meetings and make the draw for the next month. During lockdown we met through Zoom so we used a computerised draw.

Thank you to every one of you, young and old, who help us to make Blochairn a place where people are happy to live in and are proud to say they come from.

Christmas Quiz

- 1) In which Christmas film would you hear: 'Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings.'?
- 2) On Christmas Day 2003, the final Christmas special of which show was aired, called "Sleepless in Peckham"?
- 3) What is the name of Will Ferrell's character in Elf?
- 4) In which city's suburbs do the McCallister family live in Home Alone?
- 5) Which famous scientist was born on 25 December?
- 6) Which Christmas song is the highest-selling single of all time?
- 7) What is the colour of Santa's belt?
- 8) What is different about Rudolf compared to the other reindeer?
- 9) Name all the other eight reindeer of Santa Claus
- 10) Who is the character of Santa based on?
- 11) In which ocean is Christmas island situated?
- 12) Where did candy canes originate from?
- 13) Why were candy canes invented?
- 14) If you were born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign?
- 15) In Will Ferrell's Elf, what's the first rule in the Code of The Elves?
- 16) Which famous US political figure and celebrity makes a cameo in Home Alone 2?
- 17) Die Hard takes place on Christmas Eve - but in which city?
- 18) In which children's classic is it 'always winter but never Christmas'?
- 19) What year was Mariah Carey's iconic Christmas hit All I Want for Christmas released?
- 20) How many gifts were given in The Twelve Days of Christmas Christmas carol?
- 21) Who is widely considered the King of Christmas?
- 22) Which pop song has been in the Christmas Singles Chart at No.1 twice?
- 23) How many siblings does Kevin have in Home Alone?

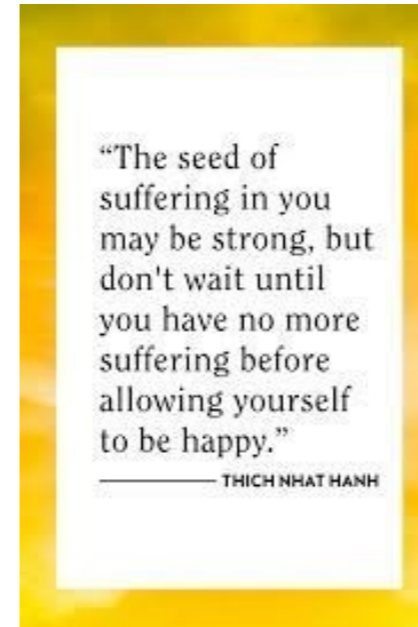


No Words Needed



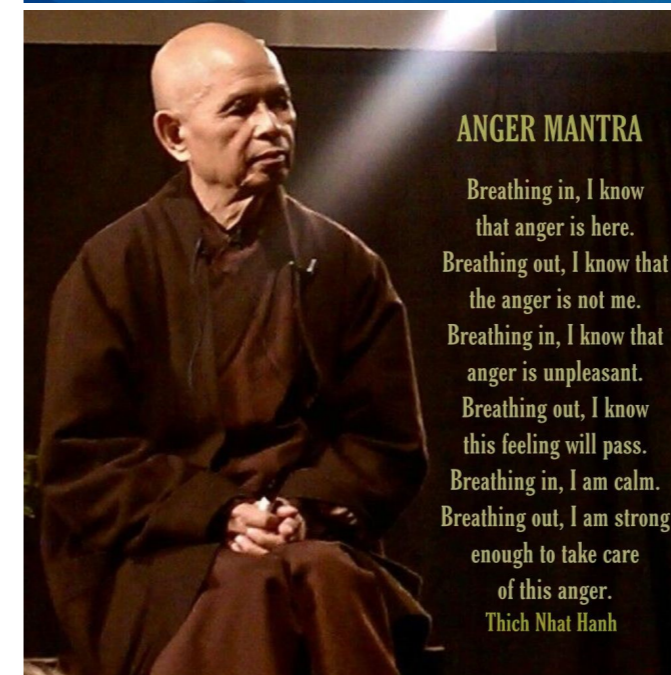
Thích Nhất Hạnh

Thích Nhất Hạnh, born 11 October 1926, is a Vietnamese Thiền Buddhist monk, peace activist, and founder of the Plum Village Tradition, historically recognized as the main inspiration for engaged Buddhism. He spent most of his later life at the Plum Village Monastery in southwest France, travelling internationally to give retreats and talks. He coined the term "Engaged Buddhism" in his book *Vietnam: Lotus in a Sea of Fire*. After a 39-year exile, he was permitted to visit Vietnam in 2005. In November 2018, he returned to Vietnam to spend his remaining days at his "root temple", Từ Hiếu Temple, near Huế. Nhất Hạnh is active in the peace movement, promoting nonviolent solutions to conflict and raising awareness of the interconnectedness of all elements in nature. He is the founder of the largest monastic order in the West. He also refrains from consuming animal products, as a means of nonviolence toward animals.



"When you plant lettuce, if it does not grow well, you don't blame the lettuce. You look for reasons it is not doing well. It may need fertilizer, or more water, or less sun. You never blame the lettuce. Yet if we have problems with our friends or family, we blame the other person. But if we know how to take care of them, they will grow well, like the lettuce. Blaming has no positive effect at all, nor does trying to persuade using reason and argument. That is my experience. No blame, no reasoning, no argument, just understanding. If you understand, and you show that you understand, you can love, and the situation will change"

- Thich Nhat Hanh



In order to rally people, governments need enemies. They want us to be afraid, to hate, so we will rally behind them. And if they do not have a real enemy, they will invent one in order to mobilize us.