

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Extra Newsletter December 2020, edited by Graham Marsden and Allan Evison, HMF Secretarial team.

(**Membership Enquiries:** For more information on joining the Fellowship retired and semi-retired men can ring Graham (020 8654 0872) or Allan (020 8402 7416) for a friendly chat, drop us an e-mail to secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org or browse our website at www.hayesmensfellowship.org .



All the Committee send their very best wishes to you and your loved ones for Christmas and the New Year

CORONAVIRUS EXTRA 10

KEEPING IN TOUCH: We continue with this mid-month Extra Newsletter to keep in touch with members of the Fellowship during the continuing covid crisis and we now have arrangements for hand delivery of Newsletters to members without email. Also, Committee members are happy to chat over the phone with any of you who may be feeling isolated at this difficult time. Our numbers are on the Temporary Membership Card included within September's Welcome Back Letter (and two are at the top of this Extra Newsletter!).

We seem to be in one of those situations where you ask, do you want the good news or the bad news?! So the bad news starts with steeply rising case numbers in London (fuelled by a new variant of Covid?) causing a move to tier 3 with more restrictions. Then we have the good news of more relaxed arrangements over Christmas which will mean more households are able to meet indoors in extended "bubbles" from 23 to 27 December – but see later for the cautionary advice that now goes with these freedoms.

However, we end this saga with the really good news that the first doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine were administered a week ago and the total in the first seven days was almost 140,000. As planned, the mass vaccination programme is actually underway with priority given to older members of the population. In addition, there have been successful trials of the vaccine developed by Oxford and Astra/Zeneca



and the Government purchase of the American Moderna vaccine. We encourage you to take the opportunity of the vaccine when it is presented to you. But it will take time to get round to all of us so we must still take current Covid precautions seriously because the virus will not take a Christmas break!

So there really is light at the end of the tunnel!

What is in this Extra Newsletter: Sadly as the days get ever shorter and colder, we still have no missed activities to write about here. So we have a topical Christmas theme here as well as another potential future outing. This month we have:-

- Latest news: the usual round-up of topical items followed by a seasonal message from our President, Rev'd Napo John. (see below);
- Quizzes and puzzles: a Christmas themed selection of challenges to occupy you and keep the grey cells moving. (page 5);
- Christmas around the World: Imagine how Father Christmas feels as he travels from country to country around the World experiencing different customs and foods. (page 9);
- Naval Treasures in Portsmouth – A brief history of the Mary Rose and HMS Victory in Portsmouth. (page 12); and
- Christmas films – maintaining the theme for this month some suggestions for the best Christmas films you might like to look out for. (Page 17).

LATEST NEWS

Programme Update: There is no change on future activities. The start of the new programme we published for January onwards will have to be delayed as we have no indication when the OCS will be available to us for our normal Meetings. We cannot confirm speakers or update the programme until we know when we will have access again. And it is a similar story for Outings, with a number of venues still not willing to host coach parties.

Annual Lunch: The Annual Lunch planned for January cannot go ahead under the current tier system so we plan to reschedule the event for as soon as the New Inn can host us all. To enable us to act quickly when we are able to make a booking with them, the December normal Newsletter included the menu so you could notify David Abberly, our Treasurer, of your choices. If you plan to attend, please pass on your choices so we can speed the process up. Payment will be taken at a later stage when we have a specific date and when you know you will definitely be able to attend.

HMF Subscriptions: There are still a few members who have not paid their subscriptions for 2020/21. Our Treasurer is still keen to collect £10.00 to confirm your continued membership for the year. Whilst his preference is for online payments, he is also happy to accept cheques and cash. If it is more convenient for you, subs could also be dropped off with Colin Vivian (42 Heath Rise, Hayes), Graham Marsden (8 Edgewood Green, Shirley) or Allan Evison (129 Pickhurst Lane, Hayes).

Bromley Homeless Shelter: Our Treasurer reports that he has paid £175 to the Bromley Homeless Shelter. This was the total collected as a result of the retiring collection at our Annual

Service and subsequent contributions. The Shelter said the Fellowship's "on-going support is so incredibly valued" so thank you to all who contributed.

Please support your local Foodbank: Our current tiered restrictions again have an impact on the survival of local businesses and the incomes of some local residents. As an indication of the scale of the problems, Bromley Borough Foodbank report that they have provided food support to over 3700 adults and 2900 children over this year. So as Christmas approaches, please continue to provide what support you can to our local Foodbanks:-

- Bromley Borough Foodbank,
- Hayes Community Foodbank,
- Shrublands Foodbank, and
- For all the Foodbanks, please make sure that food items are non-perishable and well within date.

To round off this section, we bring you a seasonal message from our President, Rev'd Napo John; God's grace and mercy be with you. One of the most extraordinary year in human history is coming to its close. When will life return to normal in the year 2021 is anyone's guess. I would be amazed to hear if someone of you told me that 'the year 2020 was not exceptional'. The people who have seen the wars tell me that it was easier in those days for a number of reasons: You knew the enemy. You could see the enemy planes coming and could hide away. Once all clear siren was heard life could return back to some normalities. But not so with the Covid 19. Yet we can thank God for the positive news we are getting. The lockdown is over (fair enough we are still in tier 2 but the end of the lockdown does give a sense of positivity). We are also told that the rules will be relaxed for five days around Christmas. And as I write the news are the MHRA has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and will be rolled out next week. I guess very soon other companies' vaccines will get a go ahead too. As I sit in my office and ponder it all sounds incredibly good!

I guess the temptation for some of us would be now to start taking things little too easy. But let us not forget that the virus is still with us and is going to be with us perhaps for the good part of the year 2021. My day begins and ends with, praying for all of you that may God look after you and keep you safe. And I know I am not alone, there are others in our community who pray for the well being of our community every day. However, prayers shouldn't mean that we don't play our part in keeping ourselves well and healthy. In fact if we are not careful in the face of dangers we disobey God's word. Please continue to look after yourselves and as HMF's president if I can do anything for you, kindly let me know.

So, in spite of the positive news the days are still dark and, even when we have some freedom, restrictions are going to be with us for months. As a Parish Priest what Good News can I bring to you? Well, I have the same Good News for us that an angel had for an isolated group of Shepherds who watched their flock by night on the hills of Judea (Middle East) two thousand plus years ago. The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord...' (Luke 2:10-11). Christmas is the celebration of the coming of this Saviour, who we know as Jesus Christ. He was in fact given two names, 'Jesus', meaning Saviour and Emmanuel, meaning 'God with us'. May you know his presence with you on this side of the year and on the other side of the year

2020 too. He did promise 'I am with you always'! I pray the year 2021 may bring many joys in your lives. Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

An unexpectedly early visitor!



Santa and his reindeer visit the Hall Grange Care Home in Shirley – 9 December 2020

We conclude this section with the story of the couple who marry and become Mr and Mrs White Christmas!

Kieran and Tilly, both 20, got married in a Covid-secure ceremony with just a handful of guests at the Roman Baths in Bath. Rather than Tilly (whose maiden name was Christmas) taking Kieran's name, White, they decided they should combine them. She said: 'We didn't actually twig what our last names would be when we got together until a friend shared a photo of us with the hashtag #WhiteChristmas'. 'I wanted to keep the surname Christmas for a few reasons – I've always loved having it as a last name throughout my life and I really love Christmas time as well. 'It just so happens that the man I've married has the perfect surname to go with it.'

The Government has resisted the temptation to change the relaxed rules for Christmas – to the delight of many families - but urges us to “maintain extreme caution” and “do as little as possible” to limit the spread of the virus. We need to take heed of this advice as we await our turn for the vaccine.

Quizzes and Puzzles

There is a seasonal and an HMF theme to the quizzes and puzzles this month.

Remember - contributions for this Section will be gratefully received! This month we have to thank Allan Evison for his HMF themed quiz.



Brainteaser

We start with a selection of short brainteasers to get the “little grey cells” ticking over!

1. I am heavy and hard to pick up, but backwards I am not. What am I?
2. Turn me on my side and I am everything. Cut me in half and I am nothing. What am I?
3. How can $8 + 8 = 4$?
4. You are in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove, and a gas lamp. You only have one match, so what do you light first?
5. You are escaping a labyrinth, and there are three exits. Exit A leads to an Inferno. Exit B leads to an Assassin. Exit C leads to a Lion that has not eaten for three months. Which Exit do you pick?

And we have a numerical brainteaser too!

6. What numbers are needed in the white spaces to make these sums work?

Hint? – not just whole numbers?

<input type="text"/>	+	<input type="text"/>	=	8
	+			
<input type="text"/>	+	<input type="text"/>	=	6
=		=		
13		8		

Good luck!!

See Page 18 for the solution

Quizzes

We challenge you this month with the HMF quiz and then move on to a bumper Festive Quiz. Enjoy!

Good luck



One way and another this has been quite a year! So we are indebted to Allan Evison for a Quiz that covers the Highs and the Lows of 2020 for the Fellowship.

	HMF 2020 Quiz	Answer?
1.	Why was a second attempt at a Walk around Ightham Mote necessary in January?	
2.	Who was characterised as “villain or victim” by the end of February’s Talk?	
3.	What was the last event we were able to hold at the OCS before lockdown started in March?	
4.	The guest speaker for that event talked about what?	
5.	Between March and April there was the launch of what on-line?	
6.	During May, June and July events were being cancelled or postponed. What title did our monthly Newsletters now bear to indicate the unprecedented situation?	
7.	Which regular event, usually in July, was never able to take place during 2020 despite repeated alternative plans?	
8.	What, unusually, appeared in August and September?	
9.	Since March there had been no events until which month?	
10.	What was that first event?	
11.	Followed three weeks later by what?	
12.	How many members were involved in that?	

See page 18 for the answers.

Hint: The answers to some of these questions in the Bumper Christmas Quiz below are in the articles later in this Newsletter.

Have fun!



	Bumper Christmas Quiz	Answer
1.	In the Dr Who Christmas special in 2017, which actress made her first official appearance as the 13th Doctor?	
2.	Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first?	

3.	Who is generally recognised as writing the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (also known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas")?	
4.	Snowflakes are often portrayed as being 6 sided but studies suggest that less than what percentage of snowflakes exhibit the ideal six-fold symmetric shape? a) 0.1% b) 1% c) 10%	
5.	Which 2003 Richard Curtis film has become an absolute Christmas fixture?	
6.	A Bellini is flavoured with which fruit?	
7.	Which naval sea battle was a mopping up operation after Trafalgar?	
8.	From the Morecambe and Wise Christmas Special of 1971 can you complete this quote - 'No. I'm playing all the *right* notes. But' ...?	
9.	In 'The Gingerbread Man' fairytale, who or what devours the gingerbread man in the end?	
10.	What are the pre-Christmas processions in Mexico called?	
11.	What stick would you put into a mulled wine?	
12.	In the 1947 version of Miracle on 34th Street, who plays the little girl Susan Walker?	
13.	Popular in the UK, this Christmas drink is made from apple cider, oranges, lemons, cinnamon, cloves, allspice and nutmeg is known as what?	
14.	Who wrote the Band Aid song 'Do They Know It's Christmas'?	
15.	The Australian external territory of Christmas Island is in which ocean?	
16.	Port, a favourite Christmas drink, can sometimes form a crust which takes its name from the wing of which insect?	
17.	Modern Christmas trees originated in the 16th century in an area now known as which country?	
18.	In the novel 'A Christmas Carol', which is the first ghost to visit Scrooge?	
19.	The Christmas film 'Miracle on 34th Street' is set in which city?	
20.	'Driving Home for Christmas', was written during a car journey back to which town?	
21.	In the Christmas song 'Let it Snow' what has happened to the lights?	

22.	Which takeaway food is so popular in Japan at Christmas that it often has to be ordered weeks in advance? a) Pizza b) Big Mac c) KFC	
23.	In the film Scrooged starring Bill Murray, which actress plays the Ghost of Christmas Present?	
24.	Which Christmas hit for Harry Belafonte in 1956 is now widely performed as a Christmas Carol?	
25.	The Mary Rose and the Victory are predominantly of which type of wood?	
26.	Port, the Portuguese fortified wine, often drunk at Christmas, is produced exclusively in which valley in northern Portugal?	
27.	Which famous scientist who developed the three laws of motion, was born on Christmas day 1642?	
28.	What type or style of warship was the Mary Rose?	
29.	Which wordless children's picture book by Raymond Briggs was first published in 1978?	
30.	In Matthew's version of the birth of Christ in the bible he mentions the arrival of the Magi. Who or what are the Magi?	
31.	Which country would you be in if you were served Christmas damper, in a wreath or star shape, served with butter, jam, honey or golden syrup?	
32.	NERF balls and guns are amongst the most popular toys for boys. What does the acronym NERF stand for?	
33.	Pepparkakor are very similar to gingerbread cookies but much thinner, hard and very crisp and are found everywhere over Christmas in which Scandinavian country?	
34.	Which country swapped sides of the International Date Line just after Christmas in 2011?	
35.	La Noche Buena refers to which time over the Christmas period in Spain?	
36.	How many Drummers Drummed?	

See Page 18 for the answers



Christmas around the World by Graham Marsden

As Father Christmas travels around the world delivering presents and spreading joy he encounters lots of different traditions. Here we explore just a few of those, focussing on some of the more interesting and amusing. We will go through in the order which Father Christmas encounters them. And did you know that his travels are tracked by radar? Check here <https://www.noradsanta.org/> - the US/Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) has been tracking his progress for 60 years!

Samoa (GMT+13)

Christmas in Samoa can begin months in advance to build up to the annual event called “13 Days to Christmas”. These 13 days are filled with choirs singing Christmas carols and dramas being performed in the local villages. The Christmas season is all about family. Christmas day begins with church and a remembrance of the miracle of Christ’s birth. After church families will open presents, eat food, and play game such as kilikiti or volleyball. They might eat delicacies like sweet coconut buns and have Christmas trees made out of banana palm fronds.

Actually, this is a bit of a cheat really as the time difference really means that they should be on the other side of the International Date Line. And so it was that just before midnight on 29 December 2011, Samoans celebrated the historic moment of hopping to the other side of the International Date Line. As the clock struck midnight, the



Palm frond Christmas trees in Samoa

people of Samoa, leaped ahead to Saturday, 31 December 2011 — skipping Friday entirely. The decision was an economic one, to bring them more into line with their trading partners in the Asia-Pacific Region, particularly New Zealand and Australia.

Australia (Sydney GMT+11)

Christmas in Australia seems very odd – far too hot and rather low key by comparison with what we are used to. There is a lack of festive cheer in the shops as Christmas approaches and the open air “Carol” concerts held in many cities tend to focus on pop music rather than traditional carols. But in a more traditional vein I have been to church nativities where the three wise men have arrived on real camels – you don’t see that too often in Hayes!



Santa sandman on the beach

For many a trip to the beach is an essential at Christmas to cool off in the heat. And the temperature means that many people now have a cold Christmas dinner, or a barbecue with seafood such as prawns and lobsters along with the

'traditional English' food. Though for so many Australians, English food is not their tradition anyway.

Japan (Tokyo GMT+9)

In Japan, Christmas is known as a time to spread happiness rather than a religious celebration and there is no official bank holiday. Christmas Eve is often celebrated more than Christmas Day. Christmas Eve is thought of as a romantic day, in which couples spend time together and exchange presents. In many ways it resembles Valentine's Day celebrations in the UK. But Christian traditions have been known to be a bit confused in the far east with one department store featuring an effigy of Father Christmas nailed to a wooden cross!

The food associated with Christmas is certainly different. Fried chicken is often eaten on Christmas day so it is the busiest time of year for restaurants such as KFC with people placing their orders well in advance! There is also Christmas cake, but not as we know it, usually a sponge cake decorated with strawberries and whipped cream.

Ethiopia (Addis Ababa GMT+3)

Ethiopia celebrates Christmas on 7 January, not 25 December. The Ethiopian Calendar has different months - and Christmas is on the 29th of Tahsas. The calendar the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church uses originally came from the one used by the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church. The Christmas celebration in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is called Ganna or Genna and most Christians in the country go to Church on Christmas Day. It is also a local tradition that one of the Wise Men who visited Jesus came from Ethiopia.



Ethiopians in their Netela

For Ganna, people get dressed in white with most people wearing a traditional garment called a Netela. It is a thin white cotton piece of cloth with brightly coloured stripes across the ends which is worn like a shawl or toga. If you live in a big town or city you might wear western clothes. Traditional Christmas foods in Ethiopia include “wat” which is a thick and spicy stew that contains meat, vegetables and sometimes eggs. Wat is eaten on a plate of 'injera' - a pale spongy flat bread. Pieces of the injera are used as an edible spoon to scoop up the wat.

Serbia (GMT+1)

In Serbia, the main Church is the Orthodox Church and they still use the old Julian Calendar, which means that Christmas Eve is on 6th January and Christmas Day is on the 7th January! At Christmas



Serbian Cesnica bread

a special kind of bread is eaten. Called “cesnica”, it is round in shape and each member of the family gets a piece. There is a coin hidden in it and whoever gets the coin will be particularly fortunate in the next year! Like a coin in our Christmas Pudding?

Other popular Christmas dishes include pecenica (roast pork), sarma (cabbage stuffed with rice and ground meat) and lots of cakes! Again on the theme of luck, the first person to enter a house on Christmas Day is called a položajnik and it's thought to bring good luck. The

položajnik is often pre-arranged, but if the family don't have a good year, they don't ask the same person back! This sounds rather like the tradition we have of “first footing” at New Year.

During the time when Serbia was under communist control, the communist government didn't like St. Nicholas or Santa Claus, so they had their own version called Grandfather Frost (Deda Mraz) or Christmas Brother (Božić Bata), who came on New Year's Eve. They have been quickly forgotten!

Ghana (GMT)

People in Ghana celebrate Christmas from the 20 December to the first week in January with lots of different activities. Over 66 languages are spoken in Ghana and all these language groups have their own traditions and customs!

Christmas Eve night is the time when the celebrations really start with Church services that have drumming and dancing. Children often put on a Nativity Play or other drama. Then choirs come out to sing and people come out in front of the priests to dance. Songs are mostly sung in the languages that the people understand best. Sometimes these services and dancing go on all night long!

On Christmas Day the Churches are very full. People come out dressed in their colourful traditional clothes. After the Church service on Christmas morning, people quickly go back to their houses to start giving and receiving gifts. Traditional food includes stew or okra soup, porridge and meats, rice and a yam paste called 'fufu'.

Chile (GMT-3)

Chile is a long country that at Christmas time is hot in the North but still pretty chilly in the extreme South at Cape Horn on Tierra del Fuego.

Christmas Eve is the most important day over Christmas. Families and friends gather together for a big meal in the evening, eaten about 9pm or 10pm. Many people like to have 'asado' (barbecue) and chicken, turkey and pork. The Chilean Christmas Cake is 'Pan de Pascua' which is quite like Panettone. A popular Christmas drink is 'Cola de Mono' (or monkey's tail) which is made from coffee, milk, liquor, cinnamon and sugar. After the meal, some people like to go to a church service. At midnight everyone opens their presents! Children sometimes go round to each others' houses with their new toys - even in the middle of the night! In Chile, Santa is called 'Viejito Pascuero' (Old Man Christmas) or sometimes 'Papa Noel' (Father Christmas).

Christmas Day is a more relaxed day which is spent with family and friends. If you live in the North near the coast, many people will go to the beach.

Mexico (Mexico City GMT-6)

In Mexico, Christmas is celebrated in a big way going from 12 December to 6 January. Up to Christmas Eve, children often perform "Posada" processions celebrating the part of the Christmas story where Joseph and Mary looked for somewhere to stay.

Christmas Eve is known as "Noche Buena" and is a family day. People often take part in the final Posada and then in the evening have the main Christmas meal. Popular dishes for the main Christmas meal include Pozole (a thick soup made with hominy, chicken or pork and chilies with is topped with greens), tamales, bacalao (salt cod), romeritos (a green vegetable that's cooked in a mole sauce with potatoes and shrimps). For dessert bunuelos are very popular, they are fried pastries sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon or a hot sugar syrup.



A Mexican Posada

To drink there might be Ponche (a warm Christmas punch made with fruit) and Rompope (a drink like egg nog which often has rum added to it!). At midnight, many people go to a Midnight Mass service, known as the "Misa de Gallo" (which means Mass of the Rooster as people are up early like Roosters!). Then there are lots of fireworks to celebrate Christmas Day.

In some states in Mexico children expect presents on 24 December but in the south that happens on 6 January at Epiphany, which is known as "el Dia de los Reyes". Those presents might also be brought by "El Niñito Dios" (Baby Jesus) & Santo Clós (Santa Claus)

This is just a tiny snapshot of the different Christmas traditions around the world and Fellowship members may well know of or have experience of many others. It is interesting that Christmas has become "an event" in many countries that do not have Christian traditions – but there it tends to be a holiday or eating experience. Mind you, it is also that for us too!

Naval Treasures in Portsmouth by Graham Marsden

Portsmouth is steeped in Naval history. Its naval base is the oldest in the Royal Navy, and it has been an important part of the Senior Service's history as well as the defence of the British Isles for centuries. At one time it was the largest industrial site in the world. It is home to one of the oldest drydocks in the world. The former Block Mills are of international significance, having been the first factory in the world to employ steam-powered machine tools for mass production.

Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard showcases that naval history and includes some real naval treasures including the Mary Rose and Nelson's Victory which are covered here.

Mary Rose

The Mary Rose was part of the English Tudor navy of King Henry VIII and involved in a number of campaigns over its 33 year operational life. Constructed in a carack style it has a distinct profile with high "castles" fore and aft. It was one of the earliest examples of a purpose built warship with around 80 guns, a displacement of 500 tons (more in later years) and a complement of around 400 men.

Construction

Construction began in 1510 in Portsmouth and was a huge undertaking requiring vast quantities of high-quality material. In the case of building a state-of-the-art warship, these materials were primarily oak. The total amount of timber needed for the construction has been estimated at around 600 trees, mostly large oaks, representing about 16 hectares (40 acres) of woodland.

The ship was launched in Portsmouth in July 1511. She was then towed to the Naval Dockyards in London to be fitted with rigging and decking, and supplied with armaments. Other than the structural details needed to sail, stock and arm the Mary Rose, she was also equipped with flags, banners and streamers (extremely elongated flags that were flown from the top of the masts) that were either painted or gilded. She was finally completed in 1512.

Role

The Mary Rose was one of the largest ships in the English navy through more than three decades of intermittent war against France, Scotland, and Brittany. As one of the earliest examples of a purpose-built sailing warship, she was armed with new types of heavy guns that could fire through the recently invented gun-ports. She was substantially rebuilt in 1536 and was also one of the earliest ships that could fire a broadside, although the line of battle tactics had not yet been developed. She saw her last action in 1545 when she led the attack on the galleys of a French invasion fleet, but sank in the Solent, in the straits north of the Isle of Wight.

Discovery and conservation

The wreck of the Mary Rose was discovered in 1971 and finally raised in October 1982 by the Mary Rose Trust in one of the most complex and expensive maritime salvage projects in history. The surviving section of the ship and thousands of recovered artefacts are of great value as a Tudor-era time capsule. The excavation and raising of the Mary Rose was a milestone in the field of maritime archaeology, comparable in complexity and cost to the raising of the 17th-century Swedish warship Vasa in 1961. The Mary Rose site is designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973.



The Mary Rose as depicted in the Anthony Roll.
By Own scan. Photo by Gerry Bye. Original by Anthony Anthony. - Anthony Roll as reproduced in *The Anthony Roll of Henry VIII's Navy: Pepys Library 2991 and British Library Additional MS 22047 With Related Documents* ISBN 0-7546-0094-7, p. 42., Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7400880>



Bronze Demi Cannon
Culverins – public domain

The finds include weapons, sailing equipment, naval supplies, and a wide array of objects used by the crew. Many of the artefacts are unique to the Mary Rose and have provided insights into topics ranging from naval warfare to the history of musical instruments. The remains of the hull have been on display at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard since the mid-1980s while undergoing restoration.

An extensive collection of well-preserved artefacts is on display at the Mary Rose Museum, built to display the remains of the ship and its artefacts. This takes you through:-

- **Tudor history** – looking at seapower in Tudor times and what life would have been like on the Mary Rose – including a “virtual” exploration of the main deck;
- **Raising the Mary Rose** – covering the painstaking excavation of the Mary Rose from the sea bed and the delicate operation to lift it free;
- **Conservation of the Mary Rose** – looking back to the initial period in the Museum when the remains of the ship were continually sprayed with water to stop it decomposing, but then eventually switched off; and
- **Collections** – variously skeletons of the crew and the weapons and other items salvaged from the wreck.

HMS Victory

HMS Victory is a 104-gun first-rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy, ordered in 1758, laid down in 1759 and launched in 1765. She is best known for her role as Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar in October 1805. It was one of 10 “first rate” ships to be constructed at that time with 104 guns, a displacement of 3,500 tons and a complement of 850 men. Remarkably, she is the world's oldest naval ship still in commission, with 242 years' service as of 2020 – though no longer seaworthy!

Construction

In December 1758, Pitt the Elder, as head of the British government, placed an order for the building of 12 ships, including a first-rate ship that would become Victory. The outline plans were based on HMS Royal George which had been launched at Woolwich Dockyard in 1756 and was designed to carry at least 100 guns. The keel was laid in July 1759. At the time, there were some doubts whether this was a suitable name since the previous Victory had been lost with all on board in 1744.

It took a team of 150 workmen to construct the Victory's frame. As an indication of the scale of the ship, construction required around 6,000 trees (10 times the figure for the Mary Rose), of which 90% were oak. Once the ship's frame had been built, it was normal to leave it for several months to allow the wood to dry out or "season". The end of the Seven Years' War meant that Victory remained in this condition for nearly three years, which it is believed helped her subsequent longevity.



Remains of the Mary Rose undergoing conservation
By Geni - photo by user:geni, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=80305862>



HMS Victory - Unknown author
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsc.08801>, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=691870>

On the day of eventual launch, the "foreman afloat" for the event, suddenly realised that the ship might not fit through the dock gates. Measurements at first light confirmed his fears: the gates were at least 9½ inches too narrow. With the assistance of every available shipwright, enough wood was hewed away from the gates for the ship to pass safely through. However, the launch itself revealed significant problems in the ship's design, including a distinct list to starboard and a tendency to sit heavily in the water such that her lower deck gunports were only 4 ft 6 in above the waterline. The first of these problems was rectified after launch by increasing the ship's ballast to settle her upright on the keel. The second problem, regarding the siting of the lower gunports, could not be rectified. Instead it was noted in Victory's sailing instructions that these gunports would have to remain closed and unusable in rough weather. This had potential to limit Victory's firepower, though in practice none of her subsequent actions would be fought in rough seas.

In later years, Victory's hull was sheathed with 3,923 sheets of copper below the waterline to protect it against shipworm

Delayed commissioning

Because there was no immediate use for her, after fitting out and sea trials, she was moored in the River Medway. She remained there until France joined the American War of Independence in 1778. Victory was now placed in active service as part of a general mobilisation against the French threat. This included arming her with over 100 smooth bore, cast iron cannon on the three gun decks and the upper decks.

Active service

Although best known as Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar, HMS Victory had a distinguished naval career.

After France's entry into the American War of Independence there were a number of skirmishes with the Royal Navy. HMS Victory served as Keppel's flagship against a French fleet 100 miles off Ushant (a small French island close to Brest) in 1778 during the American Revolutionary war. This was an indecisive battle with no losses on either side.

When Spain also entered the American War of Independence in 1779, one of its principal objectives was the capture of Gibraltar from Great Britain. Shortly after war was declared, the forces of Spain and France began the Great Siege of Gibraltar, blockading land access to the peninsula and adding a somewhat porous naval blockade. HMS Victory was Howe's flagship when leading one of the resupply missions to Gibraltar and the subsequent battle of Cape Spartel in 1782. The resupply was successful and the subsequent battle on the return journey was indecisive.

She was Jervis's flagship in one of the opening battles in the Anglo-Spanish War (part of the French Revolutionary Wars) at Cape St Vincent off the Southern Coast of Portugal in 1797. This was a decisive battle with a British fleet of 15 vessels defeating a larger Spanish fleet of 27, and capturing 4 of their ships. One of the heroes of the day was a certain Commodore Horatio Nelson, commander of HMS Captain on this occasion. His ship was to the rear of the British line and he took the decision to cut through the Spanish line which caused some confusion and delayed them enabling more British ships to re-engage with the enemy. The crew of the Captain, a third rate ship of the line, managed to capture two larger Spanish vessels. Nelson's manoeuvre disobeyed an instruction from Jervis and, had it not been successful, could have seen him court marshalled. In practice it was a huge success and led to him being knighted as a member of the Order of the Bath.



The Battle of Cape Saint Vincent 1797
Painted by Richard Brydges Beechey, 1881 – Public domain

Returning from this last campaign, the Victory was found to have significant weaknesses in her stern timbers. Considered unfit for active service she was used a hospital ship for wounded French and Spanish prisoners of war. However, the loss of other ships led the Admiralty to embark on an extensive refurbishment of the Victory which brought her back into active service in 1803.

Nelson and Trafalgar

The Battle of Trafalgar was the culmination of a long campaign during much of 1805 which took place over thousands of miles of ocean from the Mediterranean to the West Indies. There was a complex series of fleet manoeuvres carried out by the combined French and Spanish fleets intended to force a passage through the English Channel, and so achieve a successful invasion of the United Kingdom. Needless to say, there was an opposing series of moves by the Royal Navy to prevent an invasion. The most significant engagement was the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October, where the combined fleet was decisively defeated. This was closely followed by a final mopping up action at the Battle of Cape Ortegal on 4 November which secured the supremacy of the Royal Navy at sea.

The combined French and Spanish fleets were blockaded in Cadiz when Nelson took over command. While waiting for them to move out, Nelson devised a plan of attack that anticipated the allied fleet would form up in a traditional line of battle. He decided to split his fleet into squadrons rather than forming it into a long line parallel to the enemy. These squadrons would then cut through the enemy's line in a number of places, allowing a free for all battle to develop in which the British ships could overwhelm and destroy parts of their opponents' formation, before the unengaged enemy ships could come to their aid. The combined fleet had 70 ships as opposed to Nelson's 57, so the planned tactics were intended to tip the balance in the Royal Navy's favour.

On 20 October the combined fleet was spotted leaving harbour by patrolling British frigates, and Nelson was informed that they appeared to be headed to the west. Nelson led his column of ships into battle aboard HMS Victory, and succeeded in cutting the line and causing the mayhem he desired. After several hours of fighting 17 French and Spanish ships had been captured and another destroyed, without the loss of a single British ship. However, there were casualties with Nelson was among the 449 British dead, having been mortally wounded by a French sharpshooter during the battle. Nine of the prizes were later scuttled or sunk in a storm that blew up the following day. The British fleet and the surviving captured French ships put into Gibraltar over the next few days.

Though the combined fleet had been decisively crushed at Trafalgar, the final action of the campaign was fought nearly a fortnight later. Four French ships had escaped Trafalgar and headed north, hoping to reach Rochefort. En route they sighted the 36-gun frigate HMS Phoenix near Cape Ortegal. They gave chase, but the Phoenix lured them towards a squadron of five ships under Captain Sir Richard Strachan. Strachan led his ships in pursuit, coming in range and opening the attack. Using his frigates to wear down the enemy while avoiding their broadsides, Strachan used his larger ships to attack the enemy's rear and centre. He was eventually able to surround the French ships, and after four hours of close fighting all of the French ships were forced to surrender.

Later Years

After 1824, she was relegated to the role of harbour ship. And in 1831 the Admiralty issued orders for Victory to be broken up. A public outcry against the destruction of so famous a ship led to the order being held in abeyance and Victory was left, largely forgotten, at a Portsmouth mooring. In



The Battle of Trafalgar by J W M Turner –
Courtesy of the National Maritime Museum Greenwich
<https://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/12057.html>

1922, she was in such a poor state that she was moved to a dry dock at Portsmouth and preserved as a museum ship.

Over the last 10 years she has undergone extensive refurbishment work. Ownership has also changed with a transfer from the Ministry of Defence to the dedicated HMS Victory Preservation Trust, established as part of the National Museum of the Royal Navy on in March 2012.

She has been the flagship of the First Sea Lord since October 2012 and is the world's oldest naval ship still in commission, with 242 years' service as of 2020.



HMS Victory

- Own work By Jaguar, CC BY-SA 4.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=62662767>

A future Outing?!

This all looks like a future outing in the making!

We look forward to repeating this again soon!!!



Walk – October 2020 Hayes to Shirley – St John’s Churchyard, West Wickham

Things to entertain and enthuse you over Christmas

Christmas is a time when the TV Channels dust off their Christmas Classic films – there are certainly plenty of them! – and many of us have the time to watch them. Some like, “The Snowman” with a young Aled Jones’s wonderful voice, appear every year on our TVs. There is even a specific Sony Christmas Channel – Freeview Channel 50 if you cannot get enough of Christmas elsewhere.

Here we suggest just ten of the films you may want to look out for:



- **The Santa Clause (1994)** – When Scott Calvin accidentally kills Santa Claus he is expected to take his place. He refuses at first but then he physically morphs into Santa in front of his disbelieving ex-wife. A trip to the North Pole follows.
- **Miracle on 34th Street (1947 and 1994)** - The ultimate in cuddly Christmas afternoon film, in which Kris Kringle, who must prove he is in fact Santa Claus – not least to a young girl who has lost the true meaning of Christmas. Your choice of 1947 original, with Natalie Wood, or the 1994 remake, with Dickie Attenborough.
- **It’s a Wonderful Life (1946)** - Tinged with magical passages, buckets of good will and an alternate plotline with the disturbing kick of a “Black Mirror” episode, this tribute to the efforts of a small-town do-gooder cements the idea of Christmas as a time for giving.
- **Elf (2003)** - This comedy is about a guileless giant elf searching for his father in New York, but the film is not just about humour. There is an abundance of heart and soul in the way the story cherishes holiday cheer; this is one modern Christmas film that is genuinely sweet.
- **White Christmas (1954)** - Christmas may have been white, but this time Irving Berlin’s musical was in Technicolor. Inspired by “Holiday Inn” this follow-up could not be more Christmassy. Snow, shows and romance all added up to a massive festive box office hit.
- **Meet Me in St Louis (1944)** - This warm and charming film is responsible for one of the best Christmas songs ever made: “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”.
- **The Polar Express (2004)** - On Christmas Eve, a young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express, while learning about friendship, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas. Includes reindeer, elves and LOTS of snow.
- **A Christmas Carol (1938)** - This early version of Charles Dickens’s much-told story remains one of the finest, with Reginald Owen as Ebenezer Scrooge and Gene Lockhart as Bob Cratchit. There’s something oddly comforting about watching snow fall in black and white.
- **The Snowman (1982)** - Raymond Briggs’s book comes to life every year on TV. This animated film tells of a boy whose snowman magically becomes real – but not forever. Add the haunting song “Walking In The Air” and you have a true Christmas classic.
- **Love Actually (2003)** – Richard Curtis’s film seems to be an absolute Christmas fixture! Wickedly funny, especially Bill Nighy’s turn as an ageing rock legend. Emma Thompson and Alan Rickman’s marriage-on-the-rocks plot will leave you in bits. But of course heart-warming too.

Enjoy your Christmas film viewing!

Our list of Internet based opportunities and things to do around the house has now been moved to the “About us” page of the HMF Website (<http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org/page1.html>) under the heading “Things to do from home”.

Quiz Answers

Answers to the Brain Teasers

1. A ton is pretty heavy, but if you spell the word "ton" backwards you get N-O-T, 2. The number 8. The number 8 looks like an infinity symbol if it's turned sideways. Cut in half, the digit looks like two zeros, 3. Thinking in terms of time, 8 AM plus 8 hours equals 4 PM, 4. The match, 5. Exit C. If the lion has not eaten for three months, it definitely starved to death. 6. See below

3.5	+	4.5	=	8
+		+		
9.5	+	3.5	=	6
=		=		
13		8		

Answers to the HMF 2020 Quiz

1. **First cancelled in November 2019 for “lack of walkers”** but in January in better weather 8 walkers participated, although still muddy underfoot. 2. **Bomber Harris**. 3. **President’s Afternoon**. 4. **Inns of Hayes**. 5. **“Coronavirus Extra” newsletters** in the middle of each month, with 18 pages or so to entertain, inform and uplift during the lockdown. 6. **Coronavirus Special**. 7. **The Annual General Meeting**. 8. **HMF Newsletters exceptionally published** for the first time in these two months of our history to keep you up to date. 9. **October**. 10. **Annual Service**, attended by 21 members and heavily subject to covid-safe restrictions, but at least, as we reported, “it was a start”. 11. Local **Walk** from Hayes to Shirley, avoiding car use and following Ramblers’ Association advice. See photographic evidence on Page 17. 12. **11 walkers plus 5** joining them for the pub lunch, quite a turnout, demonstrating an appetite to meet up in person! Great hope for our HMF future....

Answers to the Bumper Christmas Quiz

1. Jodie Whittaker, 2. Blitzen (Blitzer), 3. Clement C. Moore, 4. a) 0.1%, 5. Love Actually, 6. Peach, 7. Battle of Cape Ortegale, 8. 'not *necessarily* in the right order.', 9. A Fox, 10. Posada, 11. Cinnamon, 12. Natalie Wood, 13. Wassail, 14. Bob Geldof and Midge Ure, 15. Indian Ocean, 16. Bee (Beeswing), 17. Germany, 18. Jacob Marley, 19. New York, 20. Middlesbrough, 21. They've been 'turned down low', 22. c) KFC, 23. Carol Kane, 24. Mary's Boy Child, 25. Oak, 26. Douro Valley, 27. Sir Isaac Newton, 28. Carack with a distinct profile with high "castles" fore and aft, 29. The Snowman, 30. The three wise men/kings, 31. Australia, 32. Non-Expanding Recreational Foam – if you have not played with a NERF gun you have missed a real treat!, 33. Sweden, 34. Samoa, 35. Christmas Eve, 36. 12

And finally another reminder to stay healthy in body, mind and spirit until we can all meet again in the normal way.

