



Clogher Road's Winter Tales



The life of a Christmas Decoration

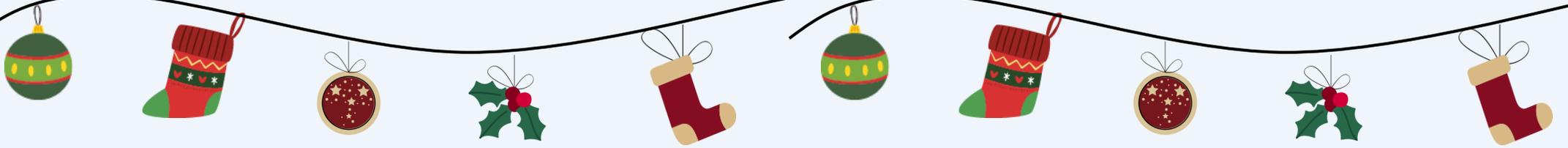
“Ouch!” Someone grabs the container, I’m in along with all the other decorations. “Watch it!” someone says, as we bump into each other which we are being carried down from the attic. It’s must be Christmas time. The container we are in is

placed down and the lid is taken off. One by one we are taken out of the box and placed on the Christmas tree.. There are some new decorations this year.....CRASH.....”no” one of the decorations shouts. They have fallen and broken. Unfortunately this isn't the first time we lost a decoration. Sometimes they break or they are thrown away because they are too old but eventually we all go, I guess we are like humans in that way.



Anyway, once all the decorations are on the tree it and it’s nice and finished, the people step back and admire us. Some of us get moved around a bit and the rest are left where they are. I’s so happy to be out in the light and warmth of the house but once Christmas has passed, a week or two later, my friends and I are put back in the container and back up into the cold, dark attic until next year. This is all we get; a couple of weeks in the entire year. Just a few weeks because to them we are just Christmas decorations. We spend a few weeks a year in the warmth and light and the rest in the cold dark attic. This is the life of a Christmas decoration!!

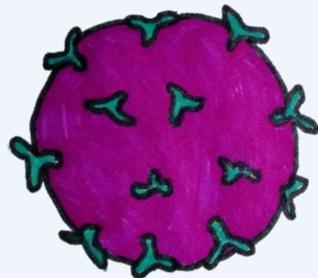
By Lia Molley



A Week before Christmas

A week before Christmas a monster struck Crumlin, Dublin. His name was Covid19!! He said he was going to ruin Christmas, take all the kids presents, shut all the shops and put everyone into something called “lockdown”. Santa was having none of it. “ We just got a report from the news, Covid19 is shutting most of the shops in Crumlin” one of the elves reported. Santa, in the North Pole, asked one of his elves who was up top of his list that year, Joe Paris, to get lots and lots of sand sanitizer and the sleigh.

Two hours later Santa and Joe were up over Crumlin. They saw it, Covid19, a purple blob with lots of spots on it. Santa said to Joe “In 5 seconds, pull the lever”, Joe said ok!! 1, 2, 3, 4 , 5.....the hatch opened. “Splash”. It was all the handsanitiser, it had fallen all over the Covid19 and melted it. Santa and Joe landed the Sleigh to see if the monster was dead. Everyone cheered, Christmas was back on. Kids had presents and the shops were back open. And that is the story about the week before Christmas.



By Derek Barrett

The colourful bombing X-mas

One upon a time, there was a very happy kid on Christmas day. The reason he was so happy was because he wanted to open his presents!! When he went downstairs, he realised that there were no presents underneath the Christmas tree, this was because Santa Claus didn't deliver presents, what he did deliver was confetti bombs disguised as presents for the whole world.

Let me tell you why! A few years ago Santa was very tired of delivering presents. He was also very mad and upset that there was a lot of kids on the naughty list and so few on the nice list and the world was very mean to him saying he didn't exist, that he was fat etc. So he decided to do something about it! Something mean but not too mean.

“Aha” Santa said, “I got it”. He decided to make confetti bomb presents! He made a plan and started to work on it but after a few tried he kept on failing. After a few years had passed he got it. The worked like this. When a kid opens the present a string attached to the lid will activate the generator which will then shoot coloured paper and powder.

When the happy kid opened the present it did just that, it shot coloured paper and powder. The kid was confused and upset because his parents were mad at him for making a mess and it wasn't a present but instead a colourful bomb!!

By Rafael Costa





A computerized christmas!

Three days before Christmas. It was the 22nd of December and all was well. The elves were preparing all the deliveries looking swell.....This is the story of the two elves Wayne and Tiny. They have the most important job of all.....delivering the presents of course. Who do you think does it, Santa?? Pfft. No, he just checks all the houses for any threats. With their gear, equipment they must deliver presents without being caught.

Two days before the busiest time of year, well for the elves anyway. They spend the day training for their deliveries. This is where the real stories begins. It's the 23rd of December. Wayne and Tiny are called to Santa Clauses office. They are notified that the secret servers in the houses all over the world have crashed. It will be impossible to go into the houses without being noticed. They are told they can go back to their normal delivery jobs once they help Santa fix this HUGE issue. They are told not to say a word about the situation. They walk out of Santa's bright, jolly Christmas themed office. As the usually hyper Tiny stands still in shock, the usually quiet Wayne rambles and paces around. The radio starts buzzing, "Wayne, come in Wayne". It's Santa. "No pressure on you both but one hundred percent.....yes I said 100% of all servers are down all over the world....Santa over". Wayne put down his receiver. He was not happy with his assigned duty. He says "This is what happens when the machines makes the toys and

your boss is too old for his normal job. Wayne and Tony head to the Teach Specialist office. They are told that she will be able to handle it. They enter her dark, gloomy office. They see a very sleep deprived lady. "Hey M-GEE" Tiny says, "Hey M-GEE". She takes a sip of her coffee then grumble. Without any further delay they say what they need to say. Her skin turns from flushed red to full pale. "A WHAT!!" she exclaims. She runs a few scans. She reads the results aloud. She says someone downloaded a Christmas card and the files was a trojan called ID10Terror Virus. "Ha" Tiny says "That spells IDIOT". M-GEE looks at Tiny with a blank face. "As I was saying" M-GEE shouts "the IP address the Trojan was sent from is192.158.***. It's in Ireland, I have the address here". "Wait, Ireland, very strange an unexpected" Tiny said. M-GEE explained what they were going to have to do. Step 1: She would make the antivirus chip. Step 2: They will borrow Santa's emergency only Sleigh, it can go up to 600km/hr. They would be there in literally no time at all. Step 3: Hope they don't get caught!!!.

They get ready for their journey. M-GEE takes the keys for the emergency sleigh and off they go through the morning sky. They travel at an astonishing speed so they can't be seen. And in no time they are already at their destination. They put on their gear and rush into the house. They jump down the chimney are and are greeted with a nicely lit and decorated room. They checked all the rooms in the brightly lit house. In the last room that



with a nicely lit and decorated room. They checked all the rooms in the brightly lit house. In the last room that Tiny checked there was a girl, sitting in front of a screen that said “finish uploading in 24 minutes”. Tiny read the screen as the girl looked behind her and noticed him standing there. She tried to scream but her mouth was soon covered by his sooty hands. Tiny called over M-GEE and Wayne. They asked her why would she do this. She stated her name was Nora Windsley And why?? Nora said “I always give my best effort to get on the good list but it never works”. All she wanted to do was hack the database to get on the good list. They tell her that Christmas will be ruined if we don't remove the Trojan so she cancels the upload and apologises. They plug in the flashdrive with the antivirus and the Trojan data is wiped and all was back to normal. They snuck back into the sleigh and announced the news to Santa and he was delighted. They rode Santa's engine powered sleigh back to the head quarters. There they were congratulated. They all had saved Christmas for all the people on earth.



Epilogue: Wayne, Tiny and M-GEE were all given raises and promotions. Despite all the trouble Nora was put on the good list. Most importantly Wayne and Tiny got to resume their normal duties.

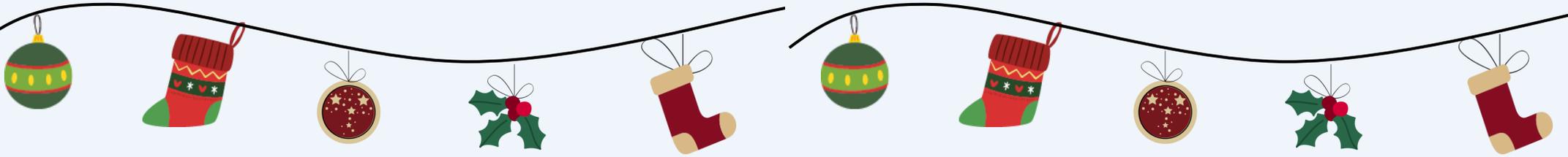
The Great Caroling Disaster

Once in a small village lived a spoiled selfish king. He over taxed everything, he was mean and cruel. One day, a week before Christmas, the King was in his castle. “All the people in the village are happy and joyful, I hate it!”. You see the king was always kind of a loner, even the servants hated him. “What should I do?” he thought “I know, I'll cancel the Christmas caroling, that will show them! Then they will all be miserable, ha, ha, ha”.

In the village, everyone was getting ready for Christmas. You see Christmas was everyone's favourite time of year and when news got out that the king banned the caroling everyone was really mad and sad.

In this village lived girl called Lisa. She lived with her Dad. You see her mum has died giving birth to her and she always thought it was her fault. Her Dad work in a pub called the Village Inn so that meant early morning shifts and late ones too! Lisa leaned to make her own way to and from school every day. When Lisa learned about the caroling being cancelled she was outraged because her mother apparently loved it. She thought “If I could convince the king to bring it back Dad might forgive me for what happened!?”.

One Christmas eve Lisa marched towards the front gate. The soldier in front of the gate let her pass. She walked passed the servant cleaning up, he didn't say anything either. She burst into the throne room and found the king sitting on his throne. “Why did you cancel the caroling, the people love it



they look forwards to it. What type of king does that?”. These words shook the king to his core. “The reason I did is because everyone thinks I’m a bad king. I have been ruling for 19 years now and since then none has asked me to do anything. Even my guards and servants hate me!!” Now Lisa understood why no one had said anything. They all hated him. “Well, you know if you bring back the caroling people might like you” The king pondered this. The said “Ok, the caroling is back on!”. “Yes, Yes, YES!!!” Shouted Lisa as she hugged the king.

An hour later all the villagers gathered around the fountain in the courtyard with the king on the balcony. “Silence” said the king, and everyone fell quiet. “I have decided the caroling will commence!”. The crowd went wild with excitement. The king started to sing “Silent night, holy night, all is calm....”. Everyone else joined in. Lisa looked around to try and find her dad. “Dad” Shouted Lisa and ran up and hugged him. “ Are you proud of me, do you forgive me?”. He dad replied “ I am always proud of you, why would I need to forgive you?”. “Because I’m the reason mum died” Lisa replied. “Lisa, you don’t really think that? I loved you and never blamed you for what happened!” her dad insisted. They hugged and kissed. “Holy infant so tender and bright....” The music carried up and through the night and all was well on Christmas eve.

By Evie Barwise

Christmas Eve

One X-mas eve night my Mam and Uncle, aged 9 and 7, got ready for Santa.

They had their baths, new PJs on, left out a carrot and milk for Santa and Rudolf. They went to bed early, their older brother John was minding them but they couldn't sleep with the excitement and started to mess. Their brother came up the stairs and told them to stop messing or Santa wouldn't bring them any toys.

After a while they fell asleep. When they woke a few hours later and ran down stairs, they opened the porch door , where the small Christmas tree was, the big one was in the sitting room. Now when they opened the door there were no presents for either of them. So they sat down on the stairs killing each other and crying over who kept who awake the night before.

After a long while they decided they wanted to get a drink so they opened the sitting room door. Just as they walked in they saw to their amazement all their presents. Paul had asked for a big snooker table and boxing gloves. My mam asked for a dolls pram and games. Because Santa couldn't fit them in the porch, he had put them in the sitting room. They picked up their toys and ran upstairs and jumped on their parent's bed with happiness. They realized that they weren't on the naughty list.

Every year after they went to bed early and were asleep withing 5 minutes.

By Paul O' Grady

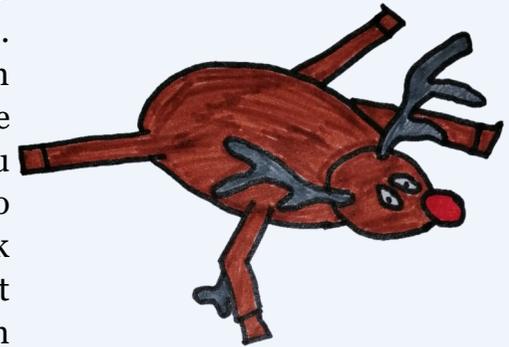


Christmas is in danger

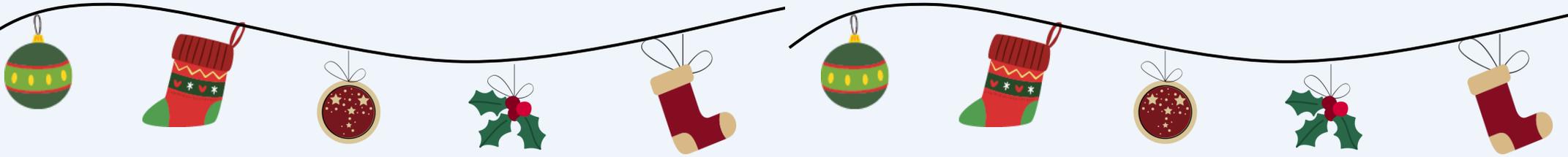
Once upon a time on the 18th of December, Santa was getting his Sleigh ready to go but then Santa heard a big bang and Rudolf had fallen. He's broken his leg. So Santa brought him to Ireland to the vet on Crumlin road at 3.00am, he saw a few kids are their names were Luke, Max, Owen and Shabir. Santa went to hide behind a wall but they were all going that way and they saw him. He tried to run but they all caught him. Luke was the first one to stop him. Like tackled him to the ground and the others caught up and shined a flashlight on him and said "Santa!". Santa replied "What are you boys doing here so late!?". Max said "We were just going for a walk and a kickabout!". Santa then got called by the vet. He got told that Rudolf had a broken leg and Santa cried out, without Rudolf there would be no Christmas. The lads immediately said they would help!!

Luke went to get a coat to keep Rudolf warm. He asked Santa what else he needed. He asked for carrots so Like and Owen went to get some carrots. Santa told Max to look after Santa for a while. He went to check on the sleigh that was grounded and all the other reindeers who were all lined up and lying down. Meanwhile Luke and Owen were in Tesco's and they can only afford 7 carrots. They cut through a field and see some carrots growing so the pick them up and they are glowing. "These carrots aren't regular carrots, they are peculiar carrots. Maybe they are gone off." The boys said. They kept them anyway. Then they started running back to the vet. Rudolf's leg is all bandaged up. Owen and Luke say "Where is Santa??" Max replies "He's gone to check on the other reindeers!"

It is now the next day and they had put Santa in Bridefield park. Owen said "This is the worst place we could put him". "Oh well" Luke replied. They all headed to school then to do their exams. They had Maths and English that day. The exams were hard. After the exams Luke said "Here boys, come on, we need to go back to Santa". They quickly went to see Santa and the reindeers. They were all ok. So Luke, Owen and Shabir said to Santa "We are going to the shops, do you want anything". They went to Dunne's and got a liter of milk and some mince pies. They sat with Santa and watched him drink the milk and eat the mince pies. They had 7 carrots to feed the reindeers, that was all they could afford. They gave Rudolf the peculiar carrot they had found. Once he'd finished the carrot he suddenly got up and started shaking his leg. It was a miracle. He was standing. Santa wondered what possibly could have done this. The boys just looked confused. Rudolf's leg was healed. It was healed. They decided to move them then in case anyone saw them. They took them to Clogher Road Community College. They hid them in their year head and tutors classrooms, Ms. Curran and Ms Switzer. Santa rested on Ms Currans desk and the reindeer were in Ms. Switzer's room. They kept feeding him the magic carrots until Christmas Eve. He looked fully fit. Santa offered all the boys a go of his Sleigh before they left at midnight to deliver the toys. Rudolf was back on his feet and off the ground!



By Luke Gannon



The night before Christmas

It's the 24th of December and every family is looking forward to Christmas day. Except for one family, who already seem to have everything. This family is called the Stevens. The Stevens live in Clontarf, in a big fancy mansion, which stands out from all the other houses in the town. The Stevens have one child named Mark.

Mark is spoiled rotten, a brat, who thinks the world should revolve around him. Mark has everything a young boy could wish for. The Stevens decided to spend Christmas in Cork for some family bonding time, this means Mark can't bring any of his toys with him. Mark then breaks down crying, begging his Mum and Dad to let him bring his toys, but they say "No!"

As the Stevens pull up to their 5 star hotel they feel awfully hungry. So they begin to walk towards a restaurant. As they get closer, they see it's an Indian style restaurant. Mark hates Indian. He screams and cries, kicking and flailing his arms as he is carried into the restaurant by his Dad. Suddenly Mark makes a run for it. Mark's Dad chases him around the town until he has fully lost Mark. In a panic, Mark runs to a family that is doing their Christmas shopping and asks for help.

As Mark is talking to the family he notices that the kids aren't as well dressed as him and they seem to be holding *cheap* toys. Mark asks "Why do you wear cheap clothes and play with cheap toys?". "We don't have a choice between fancy clothing or cheap clothing, this is what we can afford at the moment.

"Not everyone can afford nice things at Christmas time like you, Mark. But anyway, we don't care about fancy things. We only care about our family!". Mark is shocked and apologises to the family. Now Mark realizes that family is more important than fancy things!!

By Jake McCabe Cusack

Happy Christmas to all!!! Thanks to the student's for all their entries, Avril for reading them all and TY Maple for the great artwork!