

FYI DOWN YOUR WAY

Poetry Corner

I Could Scream

Watching TV has become annoying
Some programmes only 40 minutes long
Commercials and sponsors cut them short
Those responsible have it all wrong.

An episode showing for just ten minutes
Then BANG! adverts back on our screens
Let's not forget what's coming up next
By now I'm ready to scream!

Sponsors again with their advert
Before the episode is underway
I've forgot what we were watching
Wondering if there's a need to pray!

Informed about the programme we're watching
Do the producers know?
It's being broadcast there and then
Oblivious to what's now on show!

Repetitive selections of clips
Of forthcoming dramas
Brainwashed to total frustration
Must surely harm us.

Don't forget end title tunes
Interrupted after every show
Spoiling the moment with announcements
Can we not be left in peace?
Oh no!

Clifford Chambers

The Coming of Christmas

Autumn now past, Halloween, Guy Fawkes done,
and remembrance memories will for ever last, now starts the advert season,
with Christmas on its way,
days get colder with darker nights, and shops decorated with lights illuminate the way.
Carols can be heard jingling out of shops as the people passing by, with flashing lights that light up the darkened sky.
And carols have to be practised new and old, within the churches with shadows, and muffled up while singing to keep out the cold.
With voices sawing within this ancient place, wafting with the angels in the carving above, which have been carved by

the artist with love,
and guided from the one above.
After practise over to their homes they go, where more preparations for the day, cards, presents and food,
to get one in the festive mood.
When that bright star did shine on high, so long ago let us not be in doubt, what it is all about.
And let us not be beguile but let us remember that blessed child.

Nigel Thorne

Childhood

Want to be a child again?
"Not I!" I hear you say,
Life is fraught with problems,
Every single day.
Got a squint? Then chums will notice,
Not let you forget the fact,
Laugh at you, and whisper loudly,
Stood in closely-guarded pact.
Got a rash? The same applies,
Care not for your hurt in eyes,
Haven't got the sense to know
How wrong they are to treat as foe
Those less fortunate than they,
Cruel mites! At work or play.
Sensitive? Then don't you show it,
Though your "chums" will surely know it,
Hitting, kicking, part of life,
Thumping, scratching, pain is rife.
What a blessing they grow up,
Appreciating life's full cup,
But childhood is the time to learn,
Time to realise and discern
That kindness, loving, brings rewards,
Man's progress always works towards
Improving self, and setting free
Love's wings, to cherish, constantly.
By the time the child has grown,
He will reap what he has sown,
The wise man learns that happiness
Comes from giving, and unselfishness.

Jasmine Grace Geddes

Let it snow at Marsh Mill event

By Julia Bennett

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A sprinkling of snow, some singing and magic reindeer dust made for a wonderful family event at Marsh Mill Christmas Market and Tree Switch-On.

Families gathered at the shopping village off Fleetwood Road North in Thornton for some festive fun last Sunday.

The event featured a visit from Father Christmas, entertainment and a variety of stalls.

Linda Adams, from La Shack, in Marsh Mill Village, said: "Inferno Entertainments were fantastic and their snow machine was fabulous festive fun for both children and adults alike.

"There was a hearty countdown and Father Christmas sprinkled his magic reindeer dust on to the Christmas Tree



Marsh Mill Christmas Market and Tree Switch-On



making the lights turn on.

"With local choirs singing and Christmas market stalls it was once again a wonderful community event.

"Well done to Amanda Stewart from Rustic to Regal for organising this year's Christmas Market.

To everyone who helped

out with the entertainment, security and clearing up afterwards and particularly to all of the families who came along, a huge thank you!

"If you missed seeing Father Christmas, he is here in the La Shack Santa's Grotto in Marsh Mill Square every Saturday and Sunday plus every

day from Monday, December 17.

"From all of the shops, restaurants and businesses here in Marsh Mill Village, Thornton, we wish you a Merry Christmas."

See Facebook.com/lashackgifts for further information.



Contact your community correspondents



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