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| Christmas 2015 Issue 3 |
| WRITTEN BY THE HYNDLAND EZINE SENIOR EDITING TEAM |
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IT’S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS…

HYNDLAND TAB

**CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST UPON US…**

… (eleven sleeps to go…eleven sleeps ‘till Santa!) and it isn’t just the plethora of festive themed Christmas jumpers and the week long countdown to the end of another year at Hyndland Secondary that gives us on the Senior editing team the seasonal feels, oh no, we have a wide variety of Christmas articles for your merry and bright delight ranging from a formula for finding the infamous perfect Christmas gift to a review of Hyndland’s annual Christmas concert.

#### MEET THE SENIOR EDITING TEAM

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It’s hard not to avoid the usual nostalgic feeling that often comes hand in hand with the ending of another year, especially as a Sixth Year experiencing Hyndland’s traditional festivities for the last time. Thinking back on the year, it would be wrong of me not to say that so much has changed. We have said goodbye to beloved teachers, greeted new ones, both passed and failed exams, completed and procrastinated on Personal Statements and life altering decisions we wish we had more time to make.

 If I had any more words, this year’s recap could go on and on and on, so without further ado, please venture forth into the Hyndland Tab’s Christmas Issue.

And from all of us on the Senior Editing Team, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**EDITOR RACHEL MAINS**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Music Recommendations

*By Anna Shankie*

KURT VILE – ‘B’LIEVE I’M GOING DOWN’

INDIE FOLK/ ROCK

Kurt Vile’s new album, released in September, is his sixth album. Vile includes rhythms much like that of Neil Young’s ‘Harvest’ album, which are strong and defiant, and compliment both his lyrics and vocals incredibly. When I first listened to this album, a particular song grabbed my attention – ‘Pretty Pimping’. Its catchy but effective chord progression is extremely clever. The opening line of ‘I woke up this morning, didn’t recognise the stranger in the mirror’ is unoriginal, but he develops this line throughout the song and discusses himself in the third person.

It is fair to say that Kurt Vile’s style is reasonably unique and requires some getting used to, but once into his meditative flow of brilliant lyrics, I can guarantee you’ll be a fan.

JUSTIN BEIBER – ‘PURPOSE’

POP

Firstly, I have to admit that I was not a big fan of Beiber’s preceding music but his new album shows musical maturity and in some songs, innovative ideas. His song that features on this new album, ‘Love Yourself’, is simple but extremely effective. Co-written by Ed Sheeran, it has a singer-songwriter quality to it – this suits Beiber’s voice really well – and I think it is the strongest track on the album. Beiber recently announced his 2016 UK tour, and he is playing Glasgow’s Hydro! Tickets would be the perfect Christmas present!

GREAT CHRISTMAS SONGS

‘Do They Know It’s Christmas?’ – Band Aid

‘Mistletoe’ – Justin Beiber

‘Happy Xmas (War Is Over) – John Lennon/ Yoko Ono

‘Mistletoe and Wine’ – Cliff Richard

‘Merry Xmas Everybody’ – Slade

‘Last Christmas’ – Wham!

‘All I Want For Christmas Is You’ – Mariah Carey

By Emma Quinn

The annual Hyndland Christmas Concert is an age old tradition, an opportunity for musicians from across the school (and some old alumni who just can't stay away) to dust off the school tie and showcase their musical talent at the hottest gig venue, Hyndland Parish Church. This year saw a happy increase in the amount of performances, a credit to Hyndland's music department, and was kept running smoothly by the "MC" Mr Gordon and his glamorous assistants Malcolm and Drew.

As with every year, there were performers all bringing something different to the table, but this year in particular saw a host of unique and remarkable musical performances. It all kicked off with a striking rendition of The Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby" performed solely string instruments. This was followed by a considerable amount of woodwind groups, including the exotically named "Eastern Winds" and - brace yourselves - the first bass clarinet solo in Hyndland Christmas Concert history, executed beautifully by Becky Marsden. The new addition of the Jazz Ensemble held the audience rapt, while older groups such as the Junior and Senior Wind Band and the choir once again failed to disappoint. The evening was topped off with the Senior Wind Band's most loved number, Sleigh Ride, which can only mean one thing - Christmas is here.

Unsurprisingly, a great night was had by all, the sheer amount of varying talent Hyndland houses was staggering and all the young people involved should be extremely proud of themselves. A special thanks must be given to all the music department and technical crew who have been working hard to make the concert run without a hitch - here's to another great concert next year.

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### *SHHHH!*

THE RECIPE FOR THE PERFECT PRESENT

By Joel Meekinson

It’s Christmas. Once again festive spirit is on the rampage, Secret Santas are well under way, and presents for friends and the family are being bought. I always like to bag a bargain. I just find it is the best feeling when you have just got something you love or know someone who will. And as an added bonus you got it for a great price.

 There are always problems with giving and receiving presents from people who you don't really know very well, and the worst reaction that a present could have is that they take offence from it. It would then have the opposite effect making them less full of festive spirit and more just annoyed. A classic case of this is with an ‘Exercise CD’. Maybe they are kindly just appealing to your taste in pass times and thought you may have fun with it. There is a number of people however who receive gifts that regardless of it perhaps being sent with the intention of making a sly reference to what the sender thinks is an imperfection.

### CULTURE CORNER

TOP FVE THINGS TO DO IN GLASGOW THIS CHRISTMAS

*By Lillie Gillespie*

Now that it’s December, it’s finally time to start the Christmas celebrations and surprisingly, there’s no better place to do it than in Glasgow.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a panto. The Webster’s Theatres production of ‘A Belter of a Cinderella Story’ appeals to all ages. A Glaswegian twist to the typical ‘Cinderella’ story, it’s definitely worth visit.

The Christmas Markets are a great place to get into the festive spirit. Be it in Glasgow or Edinburgh, they are great places to stock up on presents.

Talking of presents, the Trade School offer a Christmas present making course, “Unscrooged at Christmas”. Perfect if you want to give your family and friends something more personal.

Obviously, you have to take a trip to George Square!

The GFT are screening loads of great Christmas movies this year. From ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ to ‘Elf’ they'll likely be something you love. Netflix is also great for festive movies!

 In the case of my auntie, she was given (I’m sure with good intentions) a copy of ‘Meditation - Breathing and Posture’, printed at the top was ‘Calm and Centre your Mind’. It was sent by another relative who we don't really know that well, and who my auntie clearly wasn't close to. She opened it, turning to me she said in a cutting tone ‘Do I not seem calm to you, I think my mind is perfectly Centred’. In the season of goodwill people who send a gift don't usually attempt to make a point, despite this people can take offence.

 Even though they have this feeling they then go on to eat Christmas dinner - and if it’s anything like my Christmas dinner then you take in one week’s worth of food - and are left feeling like you could pop along with the champagne for New Year.

 After taking offence, most then testify that they are going to take up something like exercise or Yoga (in my auntie’s case), in the form of a new year’s resolution. This is another annual event in my family and probably many others, starting a new year’s resolution and give up within two or three weeks. The dedication to what is meant to be a simple way to improve isn't there and we actually think it’s funny to just give up and laugh.

 Another problem with buying presents is you completely judging your audience wrong. This can be frustrating to anyone who solely wanted a good present but soon becomes the new owner of a set of sized crochet needles. Is this a blessing in disguise? These kind of presents can also take the form of clothes - another pitfall. You will all have the memory of touching a present when it is soft in the crunchy wrapping paper, must be clothes. Then the wait while you unwrap to see if you have been given a really nice, trendy present. But thinking about my family, you could have just as easily been gifted a hideous poncho with luminous spots.

 Finally, the most important thing in a present and at Christmas is that you are having fun, and close to the ones you love. They mean the most to you and even though

****You might get some real disaster presents. They meant well, and that just shows how great they are. They just can’t be replaced.

# THAT TIME AGAIN

*By Meghan Taylor*

Yes it is that time again: the decorations are up, the carols are being sung, it‘s Michael Buble’s time to come out of retirement and the snow is falling…well…not in Scotland but I assume other places get snow. Christmas is a notoriously busy time with so much to do and get organised – the shopping, events etc. However do you ever find yourself too caught up in Christmas to actually enjoy Christmas itself?

Many people complain that, as you get older, Christmas loses its appeal. Why is this? The answer is surprisingly simple: it’s because the older you get the more you are aware of the responsibilities that come along with the holiday. You might think it is all carols and candlelight but no. First of all there’s the pressure of buying gifts or Secret Santa’s. Now, don’t get me wrong, I love giving people presents and I love choosing out presents that I think others will like – to me it’s more exciting than receiving presents. However, when you are low on money you find that, unfortunately, Poundland is your new best friend. Following on from that there’s all the sudden pressure of seeing all your family members or taking time to decorate the house or wrap aforementioned presents. The point is you’re busy.

Also, something a lot of students have to deal with: exams or prelims! If you are a student and you have exams or prelims immediately after the Christmas break then just go to your room and cry now because there’s no Christmas holiday for you. Sorry. But seriously: how to make it feel more like Christmas? Stop worrying about Christmas.

Sure you may need to get presents or see family but take time to enjoy the lights, the Christmas shows, the carollers. Take time to appreciate those around you and be with your loved ones. Remember that those around you love you regardless and Christmas is all about being together. They are not going to unfriend you should your present not be up to their standards. Just breathe, stop making lists of what you need to achieve before Christmas, actually let yourself enjoy what is happening around you and keep making your wishes for the perfect holiday time. Unless it’s snow. No amount of wishing gets you snow. Sorry.

### BOOK REVIEW

### *BOOK OF THE MONTH: ‘FRIEND OR FOE’*

**ELLIOT LITTLEFIELD:**

I never really liked reading as a kid. I was more of a video gamer.

But when I started to read Michael Morpurgo, I couldn’t get my head out of them. My favourite of his is probably ‘Friend or Foe’.

‘Friend or Foe’ is a great book to read if you love war time books. It is set in the countryside during World War II. The main characters are called Tucky and David, (David being more of the main character in my eyes). It is filled with funny, sad, intense and questionable moments throughout the whole book.

When I was reading the book, I felt as if I was in the countryside with David and Tucky on their adventure. It was very detailed.

However, I felt Morpurgo could have added more to the book as the ending is rather abrupt. I think Morpurgo should have written another adventure for Tucky and David to go on.

In conclusion, I would highly recommend ‘Friend or Foe’ to any war time lover, or to anyone who is finding it hard to get into reading. It certainly helped me. It is a great novel written by a fantastic author.

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**CREATIVE WRITING**

A LETTER FOR CHRISTMAS

*By Niamh McDade*

*“But what’s even more mysterious, more fun, are mystery letter left for someone intentionally for someone specific.”*

Dearest Gwen,

 I’m sorry it took so long to write this letter, my mind has been a jumble of all sorts of madness in this past month, and to touch pen to paper was something I wasn’t quite ready to do yet. If I’m completely honest, I don’t know if I’m entirely ready to do so now, either. But alas, here I am, writing you back.



 I try not to think of this time last year, and yet when your letter arrived on the first Monday of November, the envelope festooned in festive drawings and stickers, I couldn’t help but to linger in the memory of last year’s Christmas. Do you remember the poetry book you made me? I still have it somewhere, hid among several other paper documents you have delivered to me. I haven’t looked at it in a while, and yet I remember the words contained between the breast and the skins were mostly happy and light, however occasionally contrived or clichéd.

 I haven’t bought any Christmas gifts yet – much like last year, I think I will spent the 23rd wading through last minute shoppers, just like me, searching for generic presents for family members. I remember one particular late evening, leafing through a day old newspaper, when you came crashing through the front door, windswept and rosy cheeked, a whole slew of Christmas just-bought presents tumbling into the hallway. We were never particularly organised, and

we were always, always late for something.

 How is it where you are? The city is lit-up here, like one big Christmas tree, its rare not to see the twinkle of Christmas lights at least once on every street. It’s perpetually windy and it rains a lot; the umbrella-snatching type of weather. However, I wouldn’t really say that’s a bad thing; I love winter and I love the dark mornings. I’m currently slouched in an armchair, eating spaghetti, watching people hurry past the window with their hooded heads ducked down.

 I hope you’re having a Merry Christmas. I hope there’s joy where you are. And above all, I hope you’ve quit the cigarettes.

Yours,

Becca.

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