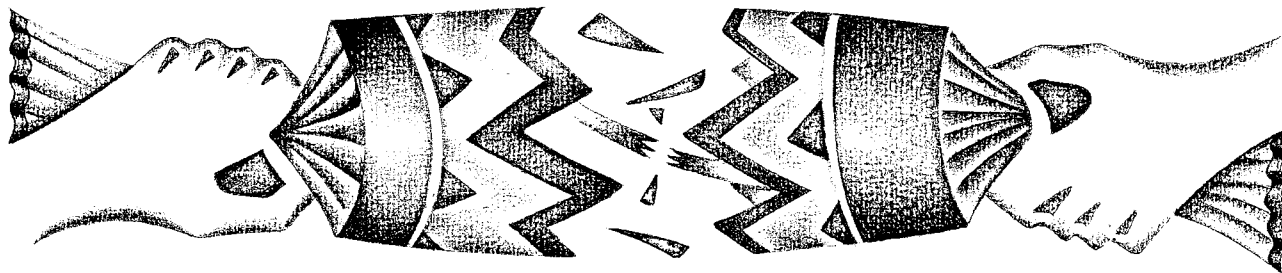


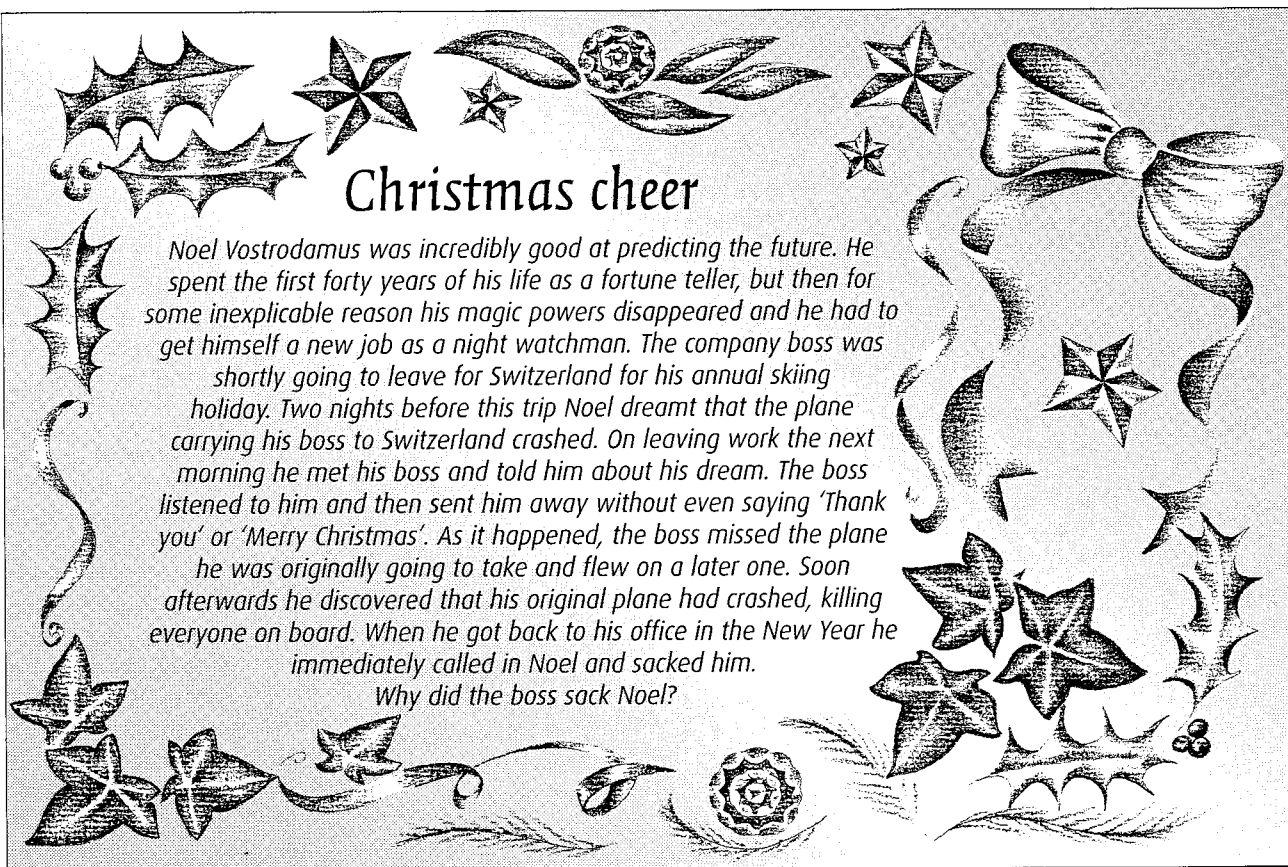
3 Christmas crackers



British people have fun pulling crackers over Christmas lunch or dinner. The crackers explode when you pull them and inside you find a silly party hat, a useless gadget (such as keyrings, plastic earrings) and a joke or a riddle. Here are four riddles for you to solve:

- 1 Which is the one and only word spelt incorrectly in this sentence?
- 2 The more you take away from it, the larger it becomes; the more you add to it, the smaller it becomes. What is it?
- 3 What is it that was given to you, belongs to you exclusively, and yet is used more by your friends than by yourself?
- 4 What is it that no one wishes to have, yet no one wishes to lose?

4



Christmas cheer

Noel Vostrodamus was incredibly good at predicting the future. He spent the first forty years of his life as a fortune teller, but then for some inexplicable reason his magic powers disappeared and he had to get himself a new job as a night watchman. The company boss was shortly going to leave for Switzerland for his annual skiing holiday. Two nights before this trip Noel dreamt that the plane carrying his boss to Switzerland crashed. On leaving work the next morning he met his boss and told him about his dream. The boss listened to him and then sent him away without even saying 'Thank you' or 'Merry Christmas'. As it happened, the boss missed the plane he was originally going to take and flew on a later one. Soon afterwards he discovered that his original plane had crashed, killing everyone on board. When he got back to his office in the New Year he immediately called in Noel and sacked him.

Why did the boss sack Noel?

5 Christmas pudding

Before the metric system was introduced, parents used to put silver sixpences into the Christmas pudding, which lucky members of the family would find (if they didn't swallow them!). Place ten coins as shown. Then turn the pyramid upside down by moving three coins, one at a time.

