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Dec

New Year's Eve Virtual Party

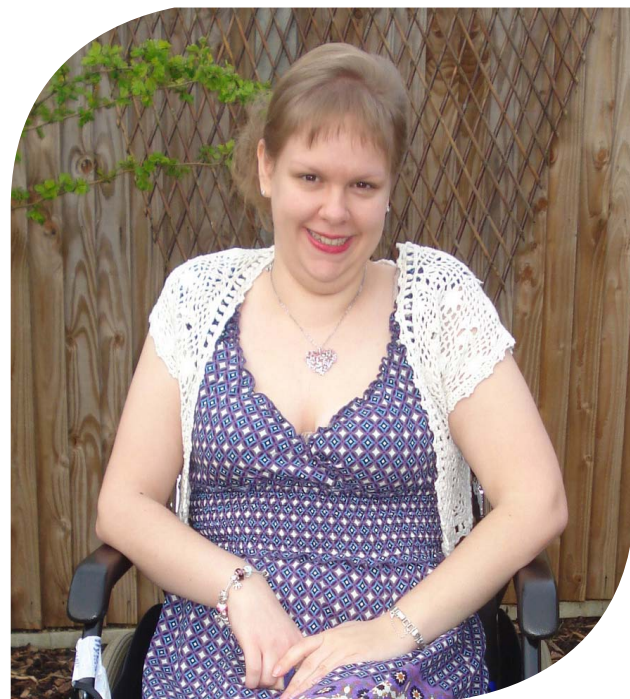
Send the year off in a blaze!

Your Party...

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Your Virtual Adventure starts here...



Hi, come in, come in...

Welcome to the Virtual Adventure! I am so pleased you can join me and the other virtual travellers from around the world. Whether you've never been on a virtual adventure before or you're a seasoned virtual traveller, you are in for a lot of fun.

It can feel a little surreal at times; but just go with it. If you relax and let yourself be whisked away on the journey, then you're going to have a great time and make lots of special memories.

Coming up with the idea...

My very first virtual experience was a party for my 19th birthday. I was bedbound and feeling really low and lonely. I sent out little chocolate teacakes and candles for my friends to light and sing Happy Birthday! I felt surrounded by them, even though they were miles away. It turned what could have been an awful day into one I really enjoyed.

From there I went on to creating Holidays From Home and then Live in Love in Laugh in. The parties have grown so much over the past ten years and now are all singing and dancing - okay more like audio and cool e-magazine; but they have become what I first imagined. I'm so pleased I get to share them with you now.

I've had so much fun with the virtual adventures, parties and vacations, trying new things, seeing new sights and meeting lots of amazing people. I love having something to look forward to, especially when I feel so left out hearing what other people are up to.

I have my own social life for the first time in years and that is so amazing - and exciting!

Okay so let's get down to the juicy details, how does this Virtual Adventure thing work?



Where to start?

First step is to download the complete experience. There's an e-magazine and an mp3 audio.

Can't spend much time on a computer? Me either, so just download them to your electronic device of choice: laptop, smart phone or notebook. Then you can print them off, load them onto your mp3 player, or just browse as and when you are able.

Audio or Magazine?

The mp3 has the virtual experience, recorded in my own dulcet (kind of) tones. You can listen to it while relaxing, either with your eyes shut, to help you imagine it or while looking through the magazine where you'll find accompanying photos. If you find visualising a challenge then this makes it much easier.

The magazine also has the written version along with the photos, as well as the recipes and activities you can do to help bring your virtual adventure to life.

You can do as much or as little as you are able: feel free to customise it to your own needs. Do the things you like the sound of and adapt them to your abilities. You don't have to fit it all into a single day, you can spread it out over days or weeks.

Share your adventures and make new friends...

We have a virtual hang out for all the virtual travellers. You can find us on Facebook Pop in and say hi. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/liveinloveinlaughin>

Introduce yourself, jump into conversations, add comments, share any fun ideas you have had for your virtual adventure that others might enjoy too. Don't feel nervous or shy, it's natural, I get like that too; but everyone is warm and friendly. We are all here to have a fab time and sharing the party with others is a huge part of that!

You can also Tweet, Facebook or Instagram your experiences with [#virtualadventure](#)

If you do, you'll get a 20% discount code off your next virtual adventure, because there's just so many to choose from, who wants to do just one?

Let me know how you're getting on by tagging [@clairerwade](#)

Remember...

This is your party - it's all about you having a great time, so do what feels good, adapt it to suit your needs and abilities and most importantly....

Have fun!

Claire x.

L.

New Year's Eve!



You arrive on Vatersay Island in the Scottish Outer Hebrides, on a cold, clear afternoon. You are standing looking out over a curving bay, where the land sweeps down towards the sea. The blue of the sky seems to stretch forever and the sun is out, a pale yellow disc that hangs just above the horizon. It gently warms your skin; but there's a breeze coming off the sea, bringing with it the scent of salt and seaweed. You take in a long, deep breath of the clean, fresh air and feel yourself begin to smile.

Looking down onto the golden beach you see a group of people hauling pieces of wood and old pallets across the sand to a giant heap. It looks like they're building a bonfire. You squint slightly and can make out some familiar figures. One blonde head turns in your direction and waves wildly at you. You realise it's Claire. It looks like she's shouting something to you; but the wind catches her words and tears them away, carrying them out towards the sea.

Seeing your blank strained expression as you try to decipher what she's said, Claire gives up and beckons for you to come down to the beach. You pick a path through the clumps of long, tall grass and make your way down through the sand dunes and out onto the beach. The minute you start to cross the fine, gritty sand, you begin to sink into it and have to battle to keep moving forward, feeling the grains slipping and sliding beneath you; but the sight of the people near the bonfire draws you on.

The closer you get, the firmer the sand becomes and it gets easier to move. You step round piles of dried, crispy seaweed and spot a large piece of driftwood, it looks like it would be perfect for the bonfire, so you pick it up and carry it with you.

Claire leaves the group and comes over to give you a hug. "Hi, I'm so pleased you made it. And you brought wood for the fire, that's fantastic! As you can see we're building a giant bonfire to light when it gets dark! You can put your piece on now, if you want."

You move to the side of the wood pile and up close it's even bigger than you first realised. It's going to be great once it's lit. You wedged your piece of driftwood into a space and step back, hoping it won't fall or worse still make the pile come crashing down; but it's safe, the bonfire remains standing.





"I think that about does it," Claire says, her voice carrying to the rest of the party guests. You all stand back to admire the structure.

"It's tempting to light it now," Claire says; "but it won't be long until it gets dark and then it will look really spectacular.

"Let's all go down and have a walk by the water, if you're brave you can even have a paddle; but in these chilly northern seas, you might not be able to stay in for long!"

You all turn and head towards the roaring crashing of the waves, which grow louder as you get closer. Some people slip off their shoes and leave them in a pile. Claire is among them and you decide to join her; you don't have to paddle after all.

The sand is smooth and gritty; but the closer you get to the water, the wetter and firmer it becomes. You look back and see a crazy pattern of footprints weaving across the darker sand. You can make out the rounded shape of paw prints and the stick like scratches of bird's feet. Somebody must have been walking their dog on the beach and you can see why, the open expanse of sand is very tempting.

The harsh screech of a gull makes you look up and you see one flying above you, heading in towards the shore. Turning back to the water you can see a few white spots of other birds, bobbing up and down on the waves. The water is amazingly calm for this time of year and it's really soothing to watch the rise and fall of the waves as they roll their way in to land.

Some of the guests step into the shallow water and almost as one they all leap back out again, dashing to the safety of the drier sand with squeaks and wails.

"I did warn you it was cold," Claire says with a grin. Everybody is laughing and a few brave souls venture back towards the water, moving gradually into it again, toughing out the icy waves.





"Rather them than me," Claire tells you, "I'm happy to just walk on the cold sand and feel that between my toes. Ooo look, there's a pretty shell." Claire ducks down and picks up a beautiful curved shell and hands it to you.

You feel the cold, slightly damp shell. It's gritty with sand and you brush off the grains, tracing the natural ridges and grooves of what once used to be a creature's home. You search the ground for more natural treasures.

When you look up, you see that the sun is setting and a golden glow falls on the sand. The blue sky is beginning to transform into a wash of beautiful colours, the pinks, peaches and oranges are breathtaking.

The day's warmth is fading with the sun. The paddlers have given up and are now standing shivering.

"You look frozen!" Claire says. "Come on I think it's time we light the bonfire. Give you all a chance to get warm."

She leads the way back up the beach and you follow behind, stopping occasionally to pick up a shell or a piece of smooth sea glass. When you reach the woodpile, you see that Claire has got a box of matches and as you put your finds in a pile, she strikes the match with a rough scratching noise. The flame hisses into light and Claire quickly cups her hand around the precious flame, shielding it from the sea breeze. She bends and touches the match to a mound of dried grass at the base of the pyre. The grass begins to smoke, sending up the scent of summer into the air.



Everybody watches, breath held, until suddenly the grass bursts into a bright orange light; and with a collective sigh you all breathe out. You can hear a gentle crackling coming from within the wood and the first tell-tale wisps of smoke begin to snake their way up through the bonfire.

Claire brings out rugs and stretches them out onto the ground and everybody finds a space and settles down to watch the fire catch. From your position you can also see down the beach to the sea and you realise that the sky is beginning to darken. It won't be long before night falls.

The crackling has grown louder and tongues of orange and yellow flames are starting to creep up the wood, they flicker and vanish, re-emerging in a new place, before disappearing and returning to their original spot. As the wood heats you can hear a snap and a pop as the sap begins to expand and burn, it's a comforting sound.

The wind carries most of the smoke away; but it leaves a woody, slightly salty smell that lingers in the air.

Claire has got a couple of picnic hampers and is starting to unpack them. She takes out bottles of drink, glasses, plates and cutlery which she arranges on a blanket. Next there are packs of bread rolls, pots of vegetables that look like a rainbow with the flashes of green, red, orange and yellow containing lettuce, peppers, tomatoes and carrots.

From one hamper she removes long, thin forks, as long as your arm! You wonder if you've stumbled into a giant's picnic!







"They're toasting forks," Claire explains. "We're going to be toasting our own dinner. There's something about fire that says 'cook your own food'. We've got sausages, veggie sausages and even whole peppers, courgettes and cubes of halloumi cheese that you can toast."

The food sounds amazing and you watch Claire peel back the lids of the different containers, revealing the food that's waiting to be cooked. You see that everybody else is checking out the pots, obviously considering what they want for dinner. In your head you plan your menu and you can't wait for the fire to be ready for cooking.

While you wait, Claire passes around glasses and then comes round with drinks, you can choose what you fancy, something sweet and sparkling or still and refreshing. There's alcoholic and non-alcoholic options, so you can choose your favourite.

Finally Claire checks on the fire and says "Right it's ready for us to be able to do some cooking. All you have to do is stab your food onto the end of your fork and hold it above the fire. It's best to find a pocket of hot, red embers as this will get the most even heat and won't just cook the outsides. Watch out for spitting fat and flames, and make sure you keep turning your food, so it cooks all the way through. Just have fun!"

You take the long, unwieldy fork and stab it into your first piece of food and then holding it a bit like a fishing rod you sit with it over the fire. You're closer to the heat and can feel it gently warming your own skin. Glancing to either side, you see that everyone is looking a bit pink; but the warmth is welcome after the cold of the sea.

You watch the food, turning it occasionally, making sure that you get a nice, even golden brown, all the way around. The smell coming from the fire is a mixture of wood



smoke and toasting food and it makes your mouth water. You wish it would hurry up and cook, so you could start to eat.

Claire comes across to see how you're doing. "I think that's done," she says. "You can cut it open on a plate to check it's cooked all the way through."

You do as she suggests and the food is hot and steaming inside. "You're all set," Claire says. "Help yourself to any sauces, salads or anything that you fancy."

You willingly fill your plate and then sit back to enjoy your food. It's definitely much darker now, the sun has disappeared below the horizon and the clear blue sky has deepened to a dark midnight blue. There are so many stars out here, away from any light pollution, that it's as if there are more pin pricks of star light than there is darkness in between.

You can cook more food when you're ready, trying as many of the different things as you want. Eventually you put your plate down and sit back, watching the fire burn. You lose all sense of time and place as you stare into the flames and are only brought back when Claire leans over and hands you a piece of paper and a pen.

"I think there's something magical about fire and flames, it makes me want to let go, cast off the past. We're going to make a list of all the things we want to leave behind, anything that no longer serves us. Not resolutions, they always sound like laws or obligations, not fun at all. This is more of a clearing process.

"There's a few things I'd like to get rid of forever, my illness, all my tiredness; but it's a fire not a magic lamp, so I'm realistic; but there are a few things I'd like to send away. Like my frustration and impatience, that doesn't help me at all, so I'm going to write that on my list.

"How about you? What do you want to write down and burn in the fire? You can put anything you want, big or small, it's up to you."

You take the pen and poise it over the paper. What should you write? You don't want to feel sad or get lost in the past; but there might be a couple of things you want to let go of, emotions that make life harder or thought patterns that you know are destructive. You don't need to solve them today, just write them down and let the fire deal with them for you.

A quiet hush has fallen around the fire and you occasionally glance up to see what everyone else is doing. Some people are scribbling furiously, while others look pensive. Some stare at their sheet of paper while others gaze off into the distance lost in thought.

When people finish they fold up their piece of paper and you do the same when you're ready. Claire is the first to stand and move closer to the fire. She closes her eyes for a second and then throws the folded paper onto the flames. In seconds it's gone and she steps back smiling.

"Your turn," she says to you and you step forward. The folded paper feels big and heavy in your hand and for some reason you feel slightly reluctant at throwing it into the fire; but you've held it long enough and you throw open your hand, flinging your list into the heart of the orange glow.





For a moment you see the white paper settle in the fire and then the flames engulf it, burning it up into a pile of white ash which crumbles and falls into the depths of the fire.

You let out a long, deep breath that you didn't even realise you were holding and you feel lighter, as if a weight has been lifted from you. You wriggle your shoulders and a big grin spreads across your face. This feels good! You sit back down next to Claire and watch as everyone else takes their turn, each letting go of the things they no longer want. The transformation on their faces is amazing; everyone looks beautiful, radiant and so much happier.

When the final paper is burnt there's a light, almost giddy atmosphere and people are laughing and smiling at each other. Someone takes out a guitar and begins to strum a few chords. It's a song you recognise and so does everybody else, because they all begin to sing along. The words carry loud and clear, out into the dark night.

It's the perfect way to spend the evening and you look around you at the happy, smiling faces. This is the best kind of beach party.

Many songs later, Claire looks at her watch. "Come on everyone, it's nearly midnight! We need to get ready to welcome in the New Year!" She gets up and gestures for you to do the same. Then she sets off towards a cottage that sits just above the beach. It's the small white, thatched cottage you passed on your way here and you wonder what's going to happen now.





You all head inside the small, open plan cottage. Everybody crowds in, there's not much space; but people make themselves comfortable, squeezing onto sofas and chairs, huddling around the fire burning in the hearth. It's a very welcome sight after leaving the bonfire behind.

"There are just a few minutes to midnight," Claire tells you as she passes out glasses to the other guests.

Coming to you she says "I'd like you to help me with something. Can you stand by the back door and at the first strike of midnight you have to open, then close and lock it? I'll be waiting by the front door and on the last strike of midnight I will open the front door. It means we can let the old year out and the new year in!"

It sounds like fun and so you take your position at the back door, you check the key is in the lock and give it a practise twist, just to make sure it works okay. You glance to the loudly ticking clock that sits above the fireplace and see there's just thirty seconds to midnight.

"Ready?" Claire asks you, from the other end of the cottage. You nod. Then everyone begins to count down the final seconds to midnight.

"Ten...Nine...Eight...Seven...Six...Five...Four...Three...Two...One!"

At the fist ringing chime of the clock you turn the handle and push the back door open, feeling a rush of cold air flood over you. You instantly pull it shut again and turn the key, hearing the lock click shut with a decisive clunk.





"Happy New Year!" people are calling, hugging each other, while one person is saying "White rabbits, white rabbits, white rabbits."

Beneath it all you can still hear the resonate sound of the clock. You realise you've lost count of the chimes, was that nine or ten? Fortunately Claire has kept track and on the last echoing chime, she turns the key and throws open the door. She looks at you and smiles. "Happy New Year! I hope it will be your best yet."



New Year's Eve around the world



New Year's Eve by any other name.

New Year's Eve is known by many different names around the world, including:

- Hogmanay (Scotland)
- Calennig (Wales)
- Silvester (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine)
- Réveillon (France and Brazil)
- Old Year's Night (Caribbean and Iceland)
- Ano Novo (Brazil, Portugal)
- Año Nuevo (Latin America)
- Nochevieja (Spain)
- Cap d'Any (Catalan Countries)
- Oud en Nieuw (Netherlands, Belgium, Suriname, Netherlands Antilles)
- Nyårsafton (Sweden)
- Uusivuosi, (Finland)

Traditions & Customs

Scotland - New Year in Scotland traditionally lasts for a day or more, with parties through the night.

England - In the UK, people watch the countdown of Big Ben. They listen for the striking of the bells, to announce the start of the New Year. It's accompanied by spectacular fireworks.

Spain - The Spanish eat twelve grapes at midnight, one for each month of the coming year, to ensure each is a sweet and happy one.

The Netherlands - The Dutch burn old Christmas trees on a bonfire. The fire burns away the old and welcomes in the new.





The Philippines - In the Philippines they believe round things are lucky and wear clothes with polka dots on them.

Puerto Rico - In Puerto Rico, they throw buckets of water out of the window to "clean" the old year out. They also clean their homes and decorate them, as it symbolises the "cleaning" of the spirit.

Japan - The new year is one of the most important holidays in Japan, known as Oshogatsu. It has been celebrated on 1st January since 1873 and is a symbol of renewal. In December, the Japanese have Bonenkai or "forget-the-year parties" to say goodbye to the problems and worries of the past twelve months and prepare for a new year and a new beginning. Arguments, misunderstandings and grudges are forgiven. Houses are cleaned to remove the past year. At midnight on 31st December, Buddhist temples strike their gongs 108 times, to expel 108 types of human weakness.

South America - Inhabitants of cities like Sao Paulo and La Paz wear brightly coloured underpants on New Year's Eve. Those who wear red, are hoping for love in the new year. Those who chose to wear yellow, are wishing for money.

Denmark - The Danish leap off chairs at midnight, hoping to ban all bad spirits from the new year. They also throw dishes on their friends doorsteps. It is a good sign to find your door heaped with a pile of broken dishes. Old plates and dishes are saved during the year to throw at the homes of friends. Lots of broken dishes are a symbol that you have many friends.

Fireworks - New Year's Eve is often celebrated with versions of different fire related activities, mainly fireworks displays. In the past it was believed that the noise and fire were thought to dispel evil spirits and bring good luck. See pictures of some of the best fireworks displays from around the world here ... <http://matadornetwork.com/nights/photoessay-new-years-fireworks-around-theworld-2/>

Some more specialised fire festivals include the Allendale Tar Barrel Festival in Northumberland where whisky barrels filled with burning tar are balanced on people's heads and the Stonehaven Fireball Festival near Aberdeen, where they whirl 16-pound balls of flames in the air!

Things to do at the strike of midnight

- At the first strike of midnight people open, then close and lock the back door of their house and on the last strike of midnight they open the front door, this allows the old year out and the new year in.
- 'White rabbits, white rabbits, white rabbits,' is often the first thing people say at the start of a new month, to bring good luck. In Yorkshire, England, people say 'Black rabbits, black rabbits, black rabbits' in the last few seconds of the old year, before repeating white rabbits three times at the start of the New Year.
- People raise a glass and make a toast to the New Year.

'Happy New Year, may it bring you peace and happiness.'





How to say...

"Happy New Year" in different languages from around the World

- Czech Stastny Novy Rok
- Danish Godt Nytt År
- Dutch Gelukkig nieuwjaar
- Esperanto Bonan Novjaron
- Finnish Onnellista uutta vuotta
- French Bonne année
- German Ein glückliches neues Jahr
- Greek Eutychismenos o kainourgios chronos
- Hawaiian Hauoli Makahiki hou
- Hebrew Shana Tova
- Italian Felice Anno Nuovo or Buon anno
- Japanese Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu
- Latin Felix sit annus novus
- Norwegian Godt Nytt År
- Polish Szczesliwego Nowego Roku
- Spanish Feliz año nuevo
- Swedish Gott Nytt År
- Welsh Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

For more languages visit www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0923039.html



New Year's Day Traditions



Why is New Year's Day on 1st January?

1st January became recognised as the first day of the year in 46 BCE by the Roman emperor Julius Caesar. Caesar chose the month of January as the start of the year, because it was named after the Roman god Janus, who was the god of doors and gates. Janus had two faces, one looking forward and one back and Caesar thought it would be the appropriate "door" to the year, as Janus looked forward to the new year and back to the old one. Even though Pope Gregory XIII introduced his new Gregorian calendar in 1582, they still kept 1st January as the start of the new year.

New Year's Day Traditions & Customs

First Footing

On New Year's Day across the UK, especially in Scotland, people still take part in First Footing. The first foot or person to enter your house / cross the threshold on 1st January is said to bring all the luck, good or bad, for the year ahead. Tradition states that they have to be male, tall, dark and preferably handsome. They cannot be doctors, ministers or grave-diggers! Families used to wait at home, behind their doors, until this person arrived. The visitor had to bring with them four gifts: a piece of coal, some bread, some money and some greenery, all symbols of good luck.

- The coal was to make sure that the house would always be warm.
- The bread to make sure there was enough food to eat.
- The money symbolised having enough money.
- The greenery represented a long life.

The visitor would take a pan of dust or ashes out of the house with him, signifying the



departure of the old year. Being a First Footer has its benefits, as the man can claim a kiss from every lady in the house!

The First Foot used to be a chance caller; but now people ensure their luck. Often a friend or family member will go outside before midnight and then come back in to perform the ceremony.

Calennig

In Wales, people traditionally give each other a gift, a Calennig, which is an apple with three twig legs, studded with dried fruit, cloves and a spray of evergreen stuck in the top. It is a symbol of luck for the following year and is placed on a window sill or shelf to bring luck to the house. Calennig translates as "the first day of the month", coming from the Latin word calends (also where the English word "Calendar" comes from).

Festival of St. Basil

In Greece, New Year's day is also the Festival of St. Basil in the Greek Orthodox Church. A traditional food to serve is Vassilopitta, or St Basil's cake. A silver or gold coin is baked inside the cake and whoever finds it (hopefully without breaking a tooth) will be lucky during the coming year.

Hoppin' John

In Southern America they eat a dish called Hoppin' John— which is black eyed peas and ham hocks. An old saying goes, "Eat peas on New Year's day to have plenty of everything the rest of the year."

Resolutions

Many people take the chance to look back at the previous year and plan for the year ahead. They often make resolutions of what they are going to do differently. This is a custom which is believed to date back to the Babylonians. Samuel Pepys, the English writer, recorded his New Year's Resolution on December 31, 1661. "I have newly taken a solemn oath about abstaining from plays and wine, which I am resolved to keep according to the letter of the oath which I keep by me." Are you going to be making any resolutions this year? Some of the most traditional ones are giving up things like cigarettes, alcohol or chocolate, normally after the excess of Christmas. Many people don't stick to their resolutions for more than a few days or weeks. Will you?

Full Circle

With the old year completing a cycle or "coming full circle", many believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck. The Dutch eat donuts on New Year's Day to bring good fortune. Sounds like a good idea!

Otoshidamas

In Japan, New Year's day is a day of joy and no work is to be done. Children receive otoshidamas, small gifts with money inside. If you send a New Year's card postmarked by a certain date, the Japanese post office guarantees delivery on 1st January.



Auld Lang Syne



The History of Auld Lang Syne

In English speaking countries, people often sing Auld Lang Syne at midnight on New Year's Eve. Auld Lang Syne is an old Scottish song that was first written down in the 1700's. Robert Burns (1759-96), a famous Scottish author and poet, transcribed the lyrics and his version received the most attention, so the song is attributed to him.

Auld Lang Syne means Old Long Ago or Times Gone By and is a song about friendship. When singing it at midnight, people gather in a circle, cross their arms and hold hands with the person on either side of them.

The lyrics 'We'll take a Cup of Kindness yet' refers to a drink shared by men and women to symbolise friendship, something which happens a lot on New Year's Eve!

You can hear the tune here.... www.carols.org.uk/auld_lang_syne_song.htm

You can get the sheet music here ...

<http://musiced.about.com/od/freestuff/a/auldlangsyne.htm>



The Lyrics

English Translation

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days o' lang syne!

Chorus:

For auld lang syne, my dear

For auld lang syne,

We'll take a cup o' kindness yet

For auld lang syne!

We twa hae run about the braes,

And pu'd the gowans fine,

But we've wander'd mony a weary foot

Sin' auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidl't in the burn

Frae morning sun till dine,

But seas between us braid hae roar'd

Sin' auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere,

And gie's a hand o' thine,

And we'll tak a right guid willie-waught

For auld lang syne!

And surely ye'll be your pint' stoup,

And surely I'll be mine!

And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet

For auld lang syne!

Modern English Translation

Times Gone By

Should old acquaintances be forgotten,
And never brought to mind?

Should old acquaintances be forgotten,
And days of long ago!

Chorus:

For times gone by, my dear

For times gone by,

We will take a cup of kindness yet

For times gone by.

We two have run about the hillsides

And pulled the daisies fine,

But we have wandered many a weary foot

For times gone by.

We two have paddled (waded) in the stream

From noon until dinner time,

But seas between us broad have roared

Since times gone by.

And there is a hand, my trusty friend,

And give us a hand of yours,

And we will take a goodwill drink (of ale)

For times gone by!

And surely you will pay for your pint,

And surely I will pay for mine!

And we will take a cup of kindness yet

For times gone by!



Entertainment!

Explore Vatersay Beach

Information - <http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/outer-hebrides/vatersay.shtml>

Photos - <http://bit.ly/UWEcRG>

Google Maps - <http://bit.ly/ZpiOet>

Music

We need some acoustic guitar to listen to on the beach,, so check out our themed playlist via Spotify - a free programme that you can download. Listen to the specially designed playlist for the party. <http://open.spotify.com/album/3xuYS5mEVIOSpzvK19jC4x>

Movies

- *New Year's Eve*
- *After the Thin Man*
- *Terror Train - Horror!*
- *New Years Evil - Horror*
- *Poseidon Adventure*
- *About A Boy*
- *The Holiday*
- *Assault on Precinct 13*
- *The Gold Rush - Charlie Chaplin*
- *Bridget Jones Diary*
- *Sex & The City The Movie*
- *Trading Places*
- *Money Train*
- *Oceane's 11 (1960)*
- *Radio Days*
- *Strange Days*
- *Sunset Boulevard*
- *200 cigarettes*
- *Entrapment*
- *The Apartment*
- *Four Rooms*



Happy Jar!



Elizabeth Gilbert of "Eat, Pray, Love" fame has a brilliant idea for keeping an empty jar and then whenever something good happens, or you feel happy, you can write the memory on a piece of paper and then fold it up and put it in the jar. At the end of the year, or once it's full, you can open the jar and look through the memories.

Make your own!


I love the idea and I'm going to do one for the New Year. You can decorate your jar in any way you feel - use stickers, glitter, glass pens, ribbons, paper or material - let your creativity go wild. Then post a picture in the Facebook group.

What to put in?

Happiness can come from anything, at anytime and often from the most unexpected places - a card from a friend, wildlife in the garden, the first daffodils in spring. You don't have to climb mountains or conquer the world to find moments of happiness. So have fun collecting your moments and then reliving them next New Year's Eve.



More fun awaits you with new adventures...



83

Tropical Beach Day

Fun on the beach, collecting shells and relaxing...







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Your Day...

- TROPICAL BEACH DAY 2
- ICE LOLLY RECIPES 10
- BEACH IN YOUR ROOM 13
- FUN THINGS TO DO 14



86

Swimming with Dolphins


Share the sea and play with these amazing creatures...



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Your Holiday...


- SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS 2
- DOLPHIN FACTS 12
- FISH IN POOL 13
- FUN THINGS TO DO 14



84

Hawaiian Luau


Get your Hula on...



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Your Party...


- HAWAIIAN LUAU 2
- SPEAKING HAWAIIAN 10
- COCKTAIL DRINKS 13
- MAKE A LEI 14
- FUN THINGS TO DO 10



82

Snorkelling


Dive the depths and explore a coral reef...



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Your Day...





- SNORKELLING 2
- FRUIT PUNCH RECIPES 10
- FUN THINGS TO DO 10



87

Pirate Adventure

Search for buried treasure on a deserted island...

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Your Party...

- PIRATE ADVENTURE 2
- HABITACK RECIPES 10
- SEA SHAKERS 10
- FUN THINGS TO DO 10
- TALK LIKE A PIRATE 10



85

Fairy Tale Castle Party in your Pad

Once upon a time...



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Your Party...

- HOBOT 10
- FAIRY TALE CASTLE ADVENTURE 10
- LEARNING TO DANCE 10
- PUMPKIN SOUP 10
- CHOCOLATE TOFFEE 10
- FAIRY CAKES 10
- ENTERTAINMENT 10

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