



Hi All,

We, the Committee, are really pleased that we made the decision to restart the Society meetings in August.

We have had good support throughout this period and we would like to thank all those who have renewed their membership and those, members or not, who have attended meetings.

In these difficult times we appreciate this support and we are now confident that the Redditch History Society will be able to continue providing talks and other activities for those interested in the history of Redditch and the related area in the foreseeable future.

For the December meeting we decided simply to have the presentation 'Redditch in the snow of 1962/63' by yours truly as we decided that, with the current situation, not to have our tea/coffee and mince pies/biscuits.

We had 20 visitors at the meeting, which was an excellent result considering the situation.

You may, or may not, have noticed that I have 'refreshed' the image of the Society in terms of design. I have slowly introduced this format for all our publications. Well, anyway, it keeps me happy!

In this newsletter we have...

- On Page 2 is our programme for 2022. This has a wide range of talks related to Redditch, the surrounding area and beyond. This is an exciting programme and is a mix of talks from members and outside speakers which should encourage many non-members to attend specific talks which interest them.
- On Pages 3 to 6 is a report on my talk 'Redditch in the snow of 1962/63' which I really enjoyed giving and was well received. It is very abbreviated from the talk, and it does not include the colourful animated Christmas characters who invaded the slides, but I hope that you find it interesting.
- On Page 7 and 8, Elizabeth has written an article on 'Christmas Dishes throughout the World'. This is very colourful and is an attractive conclusion to this 'festive' edition of the Newsletter.



Next Newsletter

We do not have a meeting in January and we resume our meetings on February 14th.

However, I will be producing a Newsletter in January.

This will have my usual 'waffle' on Page 1, forthcoming events, including our February meeting, on Page 2, and for the remaining 6 pages I have three articles which will complete our eight page Newsletter.

Thank you for those of you who have produced articles for the Newsletter, I am sure that there are many members and supporters who have interesting stories to tell. Please feel free to contact me as I enjoy turning memories into a printable article. Please note that it doesn't always have to be about the history of Redditch.

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your
Executive Committee - Don, Graham, Tony, Elizabeth, Sue and Dave.**



14 th February	Redditch-Mtwara: History in the Making.	David & Jackie Morgan
14 th March	Parcels & Newspapers by Bus: Midland Red Parcels Express	Alan Godfrey
11 th April	Annual General Meeting + History Films	Society Executive
9 th May	The Sweet Life in Bournville: the Cadbury and Bournville story from 1878.	Bob Booth
13 th June	'The Wad Woman': a lighthearted perspective on the history of education	Pat Witherspoon
11 th July	Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Family and Redditch: 70 years our Queen	Anthony Green
8 th August	The re-creation of the gardens at Hanbury Hall	Neil Cook
12 th September	Mr Mitchell's quite wonderful Wall: The Great Wall of Kidderminster	Michael Loftus
10 th October	From 'Granny Locks' to the 'Royal Oak': a trip through Redditch using old postcards	Chris Jackson
14 th November	The story of the Gatehouse Chapel at Bordesley Abbey	Don Vincent
12 th December	Home Front Christmas	Ron Gallivan

Our meetings take place at the Oasis Christian Centre, 4 Plymouth Road, Redditch, B97 4QB

Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and last for approximately 2 hours, it begins with a presentation, which lasts about one hour, and this is followed by refreshments and society business, event news and project reports.

Non-members are welcome for whom there will be a £3 entrance charge. This is refundable against the membership fee if subsequently joining the society the same day.

if planning to attend a specific event, please check our web site, our Facebook page, or monthly Newsletter for meeting details and any changes.

For further details of the Redditch History Society visit: www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk

E-mail: contact@redditchhistorysociety.org.uk or telephone the secretary at 01527 61434

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December Presentation

Redditch in the 1962/3 Snow - by Anthony Green

The winter of 1962–63, known as the Big Freeze of 1963, was one of the coldest winters on record in the United Kingdom. Temperatures plummeted and lakes and rivers began to freeze over. Only the winters of 1683–84 and 1739–40 were colder. Snow continued to fall in February 1963, and 6 March was the first morning of the year without frost in Britain. Temperatures rose to 17°C and the remaining snow disappeared.

When the snow hit Redditch, I was 20, and at Aston University, and to attend lectures was impossible, so I set out with my brother Vince to record the effect on Redditch at this time. Vince, at that time had a Land Rover, not a yuppie one but a real one, and we drove around the town and took photographs.

We began at the the crossroads which were the centre of the town. I have to say that this is the town I grew up in. Evesham Street was the principle shopping centre for the town and was full of small local shops which served the local community. Although the Kingfisher Centre has its plus points, it has nowhere near the range of shops which we used to have in Evesham Street as you will see over the next few pictures.

The main North South route was the A441 and this ran through the centre of the town. From East to West was the route from the towns of Bromsgrove and Kidderminster and onwards to Warwick and Leamington. Close by the crossroads was Church Green, which had been an integral part of the area since the 12th Century.

It was very difficult to bypass the town centre and almost all traffic had to pass through the town centre.

The view of the crossroads clearly shows that the majority of traffic moves on the North - South route – A441. This carried all the traffic travelling N-S through the town and, even in the 1960s it was reaching the limit of its capabilities. There was far less traffic moving along the route from the East to the West.



Vince's Land Rover parked in Watery Lane during our tour.



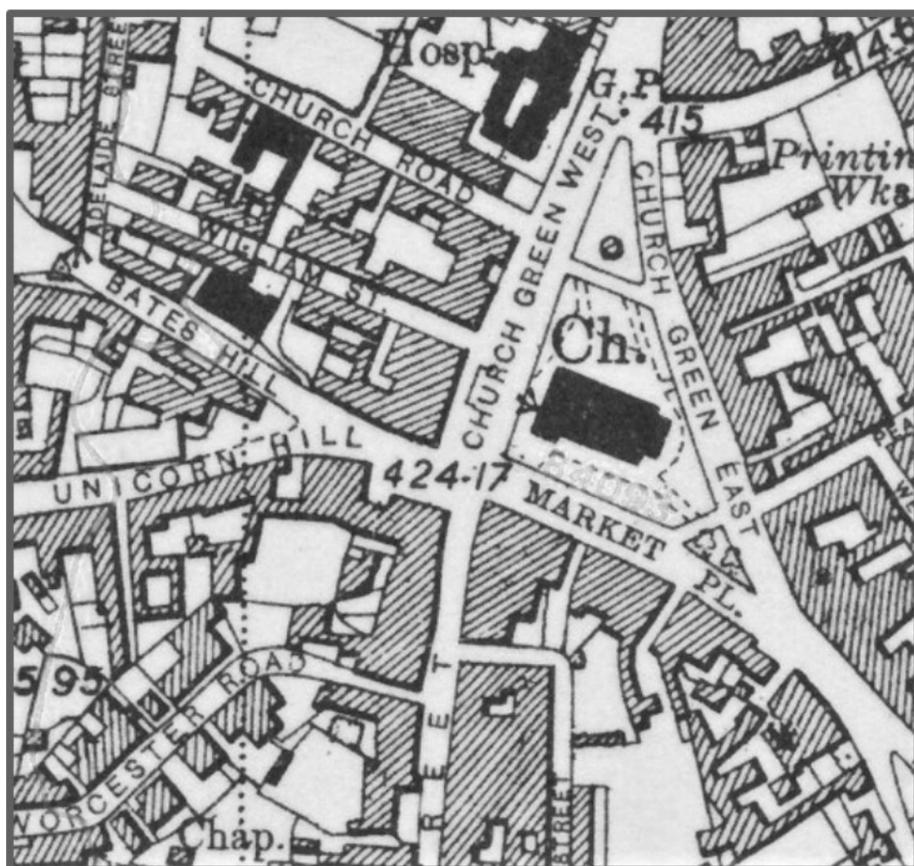
Looking North down Evesham Street at the crossroads



Town Centre Crossroads



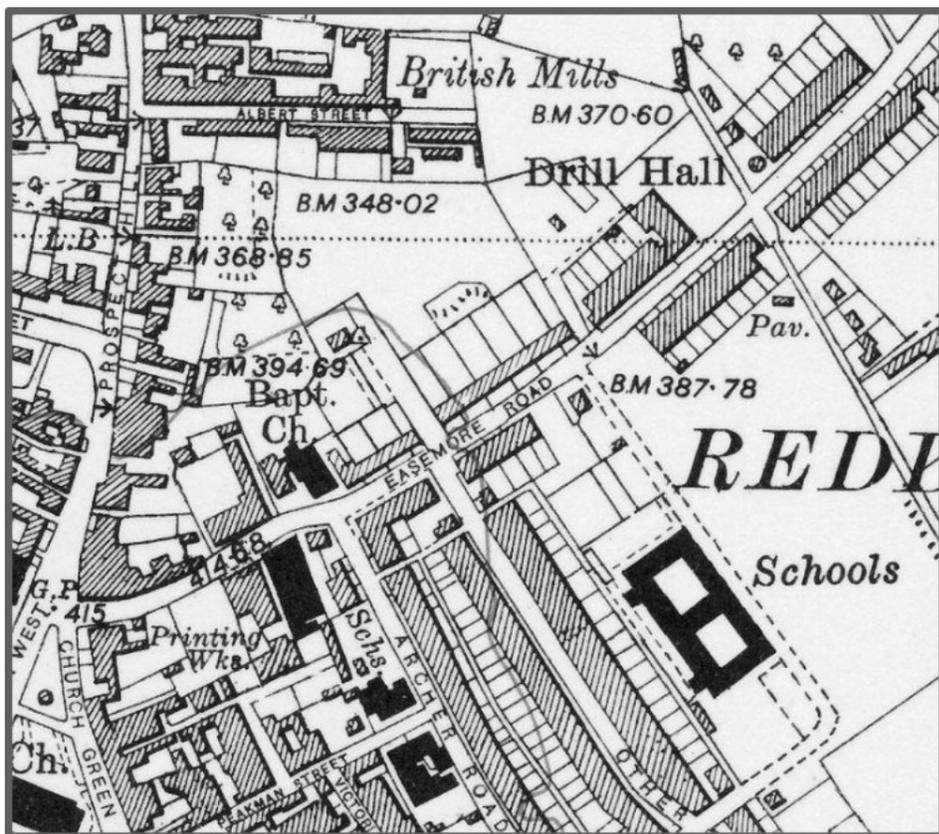
Evesham Street looking South



Redditch in the 1962/3 Snow by Anthony Green - 2

This is how Church Road appeared at this time. On the left we have the Post Office, followed by the Police Station and the Law Courts. The only time I have ever required to do jury service it was at these courts. Fortunately, everyone pleaded guilty! On the right-hand side, we had Redditch Library and Reading Room, the Gaumont Cinema, one of our 3 cinemas and the Midland Red bus station. Facing the end of Church Road was a right-hand turn which went onto an open area which led into Hemmings Entry and Melen Street. Adelaide Street which was a very steep road which came up from Bates Hill was actually behind the large house at the end of Church Road.

Alcester Street began at the end of Church Green, where Market Place and Church Green East met, had a very wide section divided by a narrow island area, and it then split with Red Lion Street going right and Alcester Street continuing down to the left. In Red Lion Street there was a right turn into the Bus Station and, in the initial area between Queen Street and Alcester Street there was a car park. This became an additional market area on Saturdays.



In 1962, Easemore Road ran down to the Abbeydale Estate but did not cross the River Arrow. Abbeydale Estate had been recently visited by Princess Margaret in October 1962 for an official opening.

The photograph of the beginning of Easemore Road shows that roadworks are not a modern phenomenon!

On the left is the Conservative Club (now the Masonic Hall) and, further down, the Baptist Chapel.

On the right is the old technical college which was built around 1900. It lasted around 100 years, until it was demolished and replaced by the College Sports Centre. Sadly they did not keep the attractive entrance. Looking at the road, it looks as though only one or two vehicles have risked going down. This is probably because, they knew that if they went down they wouldn't be able to get back up.



Church Road



Alcester Street at Red Lion Street Junction



Easemore Road



Easemore Road looking past Other Street Junction

Redditch in the 1962/3 Snow - by Anthony Green - 3

Just past the old technical college on the right was Archer Road. In the 1962 photograph there are houses on the right followed by the recently built technical college.

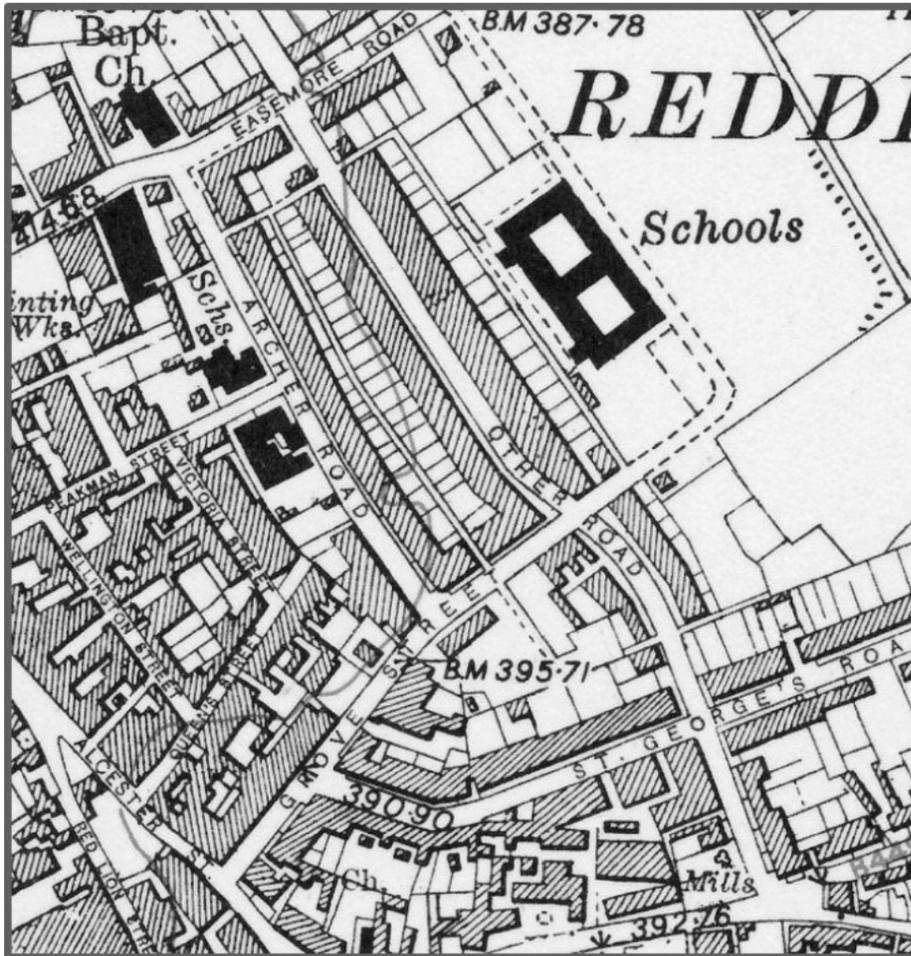
On the left is very much the housing that we see today, but without a continuous run of parked cars.

At the frontage of the college were several statues. These seem to have been scrapped off when the college building was replaced.

The buildings on the right before and after the 1962 college building were later demolished. The ones further down the road became the college car park.



Archer Road



Looking up Other Road towards Easemore Road

A little further down on the right is Other (pronounced owther) Road, which was named after a son of the Earl of Plymouth.

The road was about 0.5 km (0.3 miles) long running from Easemore Road to Ipsley Street, crossing Grove Street and St Georges Road along the way.

The housing is typical of those which were being built close to the town centre at that time.

They were rows of terraced houses, built by speculative builders or, sometimes, by factory owners, to house the workers needed by the factories in the town.

One thing we forget in Redditch is how hilly it is. The view looking towards Ipsley Street. The central portion, where it crosses St Georges Road is now a large island at the beginning of the 'ring way'. These days these views would have a continuous row of cars parked down both sides of the road.

This final view is looking down Ipsley Street towards the Kings Arms. At the Kings Arms it split into Beoley Road to the left and Holloway Lane to the right. On the left is Washford Mills and to the right is part of Terry's Springs.



Looking down Other Road towards Ipsley Street



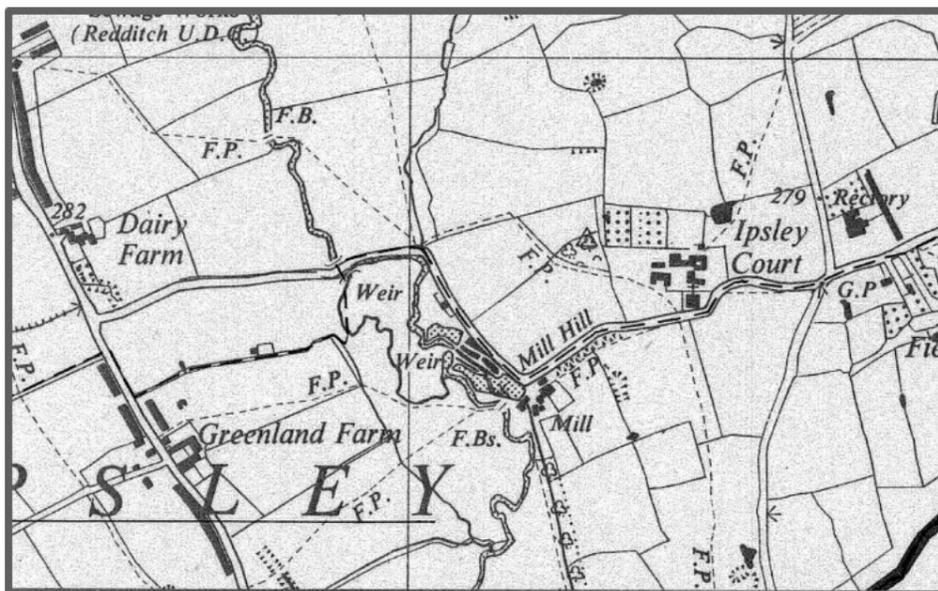
Looking down Ipsley Street towards Holloway Lane

Redditch in the 1962/3 Snow - by Anthony Green - 4

Before the new road system created by the New Town Development, Bromsgrove Road was the main route out of the town to Bromsgrove and on to Kidderminster. Within the town, in 1962, it served Vicarage Crescent and Batchley Estate and, before it arrived in the town, Bromsgrove Road has a sudden rise and fall.

After the initial fall of snow, it effectively became a footpath as vehicles were unable to manage the sudden rise in the road as it approached the town.

Over a relatively short distance Holloway Lane moved from the valley of the River Arrow – Studley Road - to the higher plateau, where the town centre was created. This is typical of Redditch which was built on a plateau at the end of the ridgeway, before it descended to the Arrow Valley. This caused somewhat of a problem for vehicles and the picture shows the long line of cars which had failed to make the incline.



Watery Lane was an important route as it was the main way to go to Henley in Arden, Warwick and Leamington. There was some building along the initial part of the lane from Studley Road, but it was generally undeveloped. To the right of this picture, looking towards Studley Road, it was farmland.

The route crossed the River Arrow over a narrow bridge and went past Ipsley Mill, which still existed at that time. It then carried on past Ipsley Church, Ipsley Court, and crossed Ikniel Street. It then went through open farmland (now housing estates) before arriving at the Alcester Road junction.

Ipsley Church has hardly changed from this 1962 picture to today.

I hope that you have enjoyed this illustrated tour of Redditch in the incredible UK winter of 1962/63. Although these photographs are of a phenomenon, they do illustrate how Redditch appeared nearly 60 years ago before the New Town Development Corporation brought in the bulldozers.

Despite the obvious advantages which were created by the Kingfisher Shopping Centre, a road system which was 'fit for purpose' and the introduction of many new businesses, it is nevertheless, nice to wallow in nostalgia, and, difficult not to look back at a simpler time with regret.



Bromsgrove Road looking towards the town



Looking down Holloway Lane



Watery Lane



Ipsley Church

Christmas Dishes from around the World

by Elizabeth Simpson

As we tuck into what we now think of as a traditional Christmas meal with roast turkey and all the trimmings, what would people in other countries be looking forward to over the festive season? From mainland Europe to South Asia, the festive season looks and tastes quite different to ours.

Many countries begin their main festive meal on Christmas Eve.

In Poland they would enjoy a meat-free twelve dish feast, representing the twelve apostles and the 12 months of the year,

This begins with Barszcz, which is a beetroot soup, traditionally served with small mushroom-filled dumplings called uszka.

Denmark serves a special pickled herring, called Julesild, which is pickled and spiced with cinnamon, cloves, and sandalwood.

India's western state of Goa was a colony of Portugal for four centuries and this has influenced their traditional foods. As part of the Christmas Eve meal, they would incorporate Sorpotel, which is a dish of pork, slow cooked in cinnamon, cumin, and Kashmiri chillies.

Top Picture: Barszcz

Middle Picture: Sorpotel

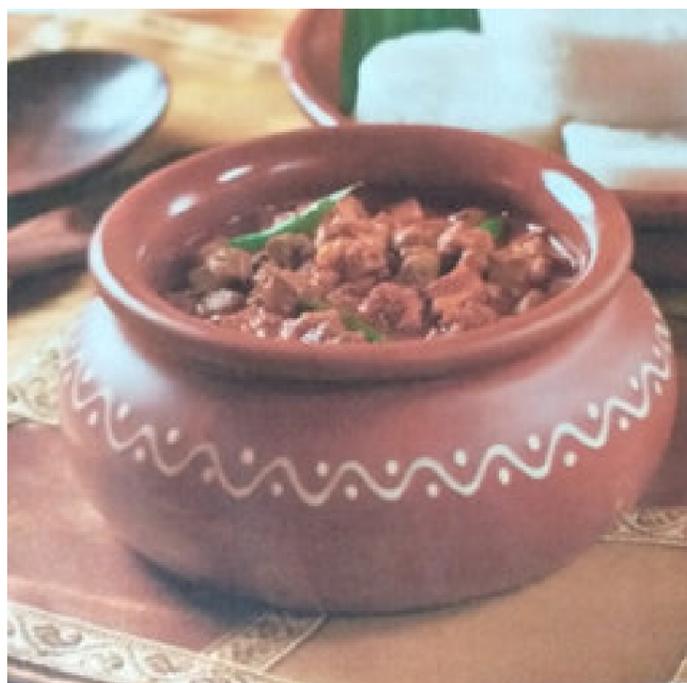
Bottom Picture: Sopa de Galets

Finland also enjoys its largest festive meal on Christmas Eve, where roast ham, smoked fish and pickled beetroot salad take centre stage. Just as importantly there are vegetable casseroles to accompany the meat, such as Lanttulaatikko, which is a spiced swede bake, incorporating double cream, breadcrumbs, nutmeg, and treacle.

In Brazil they start their festive dinner late on Christmas Eve and continue into the early hours of Christmas morning. The meal can include Bacalhau, a salted cod dish, roast turkey or chicken and light side dishes. However, it also generally includes Farofa, which is a breadcrumb like mix of cassava flour oozing with butter and garlic.

On Christmas Day in Spain, in Catalonia, they would start the lunch with Sopa de Galets, a meaty soup bobbing with pasta shells.

This dish is a labour of love, made with a mixture of beef and ham bones, chicken breast and pig's trotters and vegetables which are simmered for several hours, before adding minced beef and pork balls into the broth along with pasta shells, towards the end of the cooking process.



Christmas Dishes from around the World cont...

In the Philippines, the star of the Christmas meal may be a whole roast suckling pig or Kadereta, a goat stew.

Pinnekjott is a traditional Norwegian main course dish based on lamb ribs.

In Great Britain we would traditionally have Christmas pudding for dessert.

Again, there are different traditions around the world. In France, the *Buche de Noel* or Yuletide Log is the star of the dining table.

Italy would be celebrating with a chocolate or raisin-filled panettone.

In South Africa it would be Malva pudding, a sponge pudding incorporating Amarula, a South African cream liqueur made from marula fruit and whilst the cake is still hot, its drizzled with a sweetened butter-cream sauce.

Many other foods are popular over the Christmas period, such as in Canada, where they enjoy Tourtier, which is a minced meat pie, flavoured with spices and apple cider.

Top Picture: *Buche de Noel*

Upper Middle Picture: *Malva Pudding*

Lower Middle Picture: *Tourtier*

Bottom Picture: *Fruit Rum Cake*

This dish is popular with French speaking Canadians.

Stollen is a traditional German bread made and eaten during the Christmas season.

In Greece they would enjoy Baklava, whilst in Spain, Turrón is the sweet dish of choice.

However, in Jamaica it would be Fruit Rum cake, with dried fruit soaked in rum and red wine for months before being baked.

Perhaps some of these dishes may have provided you with inspiration to try something new this Christmas.

