

# Belvedere Community Centre

## newsletter 13 - Dec 2020

Our doors may be closed but we are still helping to  
'create a confident and connected community'



### Christmas is coming!

Christmas took a long time to settle on 25 December as the day to celebrate. The festival of renewal has survived for at least 4000 years. When we welcome the birth of the Christ Child with evergreens, the exchanging of gifts and goodwill presents of fruit, cakes, candles, and gold and silver ornaments, we are carrying on ancient traditions.

#### Fun Christmas facts from around the world:

- Most **Italians** give and receive gifts on the 12th day of Christmas, January 6th. A witch known as La Befana is said to bring gifts in the night to put in children's stockings. Attending midnight mass and eating a meatless dinner on Christmas Eve is an important part of Christmas in Italy.
- A big part of the Christmas celebrations in **Germany** is Advent. Several different types of Advent calendars are used in German homes. As well as the traditional one made of card that are used in many countries, there are ones made out of a wreath of Fir tree branches with 24 decorated boxes or bags hanging from it. Each box or bag has a little present in it. Another type is called a 'Advent Kranz' and is a ring of fir branches that has four candles on it. This is like the Advent candles that are sometimes used in Churches. One candle is lit at the beginning of each week in Advent.
- In **Finland**, Santa might also be known as Joulupukki! (This really means 'Christmas Goat' as it was traditional in Finland that there was a Yule Goat who was scary and asked people for presents - and certainly didn't give any out! Over time the goat became the gift giver and then Santa took over the gift giving duties but the name of the Christmas Goat was still retained in Finland!) Joulupukki rides with reindeer leaves gifts under the Christmas tree but if you have been naughty you could end up with a bag of coal!
- On Christmas Eve in **Greece**, children, especially boys, often go out singing 'kalanda' (carols) in the streets. They play drums and triangles as they sing. Sometimes they will also carry model boats decorated with nuts which are painted gold. Carrying a boat is a very old custom in the Greek Islands. If the children sing well, they might be given money, as well things to eat like nuts, sweets and dried figs.
- In **Hungary**, Christmas Eve is very important and is called 'Szent-este' which means Holy Evening. People spend the evening with their family and decorate the Christmas Tree. Sometimes only the adults decorate the tree (without the children there), so when children come in and see the tree, it's a great surprise and they are told that angels brought the tree for them!

**Which ever way you and your family celebrate Christmas, the staff and Committee of Management at Belvedere Community Centre would like to wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas and we hope we will be able to open our centre to all our classes in 2021!**



## Jenny's quick and easy fruit cake!

### Ingredients:

- 1 kg mixed dried fruit
- 750 - 800 ml chocolate milk or apple juice
- 2 cups self raising flour

### Method:

- Soak the fruit in milk overnight, covered in the fridge
- Add flour

### Cooking method 1 - oven

- Cook in lined and greased 25cm lined cake tin at 150 degrees for 2 hours or until a skewer comes out clean.
- Allow to cool in tin before removing.
- This method makes a lighter more crumbly version

### Cooking method 2 - slow cooker

- Grease and line a tin that fits in your slow cooker
- Pour the batter into the tin (up to 2/3 full)
- Place the tin in your slow cooker and surround with hot water up to 2/3 of the outside of your tin
- Wrap the lid of the slow cooker in a cloth (to absorb the condensation), fit the lid and set on low for 4 - 6 hours
- Remove from slow cooker and let cool in tin
- This method makes a rich denser version



## Celebration drinks!

### Tropical Passion Crush

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup pineapple (fresh or tinned), diced
- 1/4 tsp minced ginger
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup passionfruit pulp (fresh or tinned)
- 2 tsp fresh mint leaves
- ice cubes

### Method

- Place all ingredients in a blender and blitz on high until pureed
- Pour into a glass and enjoy!



### Blueberry Breeze Cocktail

### Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp blueberries (fresh or frozen)
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 cup of soda water
- 150 ml sparkling wine

### Method

- Muddle blueberries by crushing with the back of a fork
- Combine with soda water and lemon juice in your glass
- Top with sparkling wine
- Enjoy in moderation!

Ireland Calling

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise **WOMEN** instead of men, don't you?

They 'd have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and brought disposable diapers as gifts!

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MAY THIS CHRISTMAS END THE  
PRESENT YEAR  
ON A CHEERFUL NOTE AND  
MAKE WAY  
FOR A FRESH AND BRIGHT NEW  
YEAR.  
HERE'S WISHING YOU A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

