



## Coventry and Warwickshire Humanists Newsletter December 2025

Dear Fellow Humanists

Welcome to the final Coventry & Warwickshire Humanists Newsletter for 2025. There is no doubt that it has been a very interesting year for Humanists. We are now seeing the results and possible outcomes of a second Donald Trump Presidency. There has been a significant presence of the so-called 'Christian Nationalism' on the streets of the United Kingdom, following similar events in the USA. The main threats of such incursions are towards Muslims, black and brown people, women's rights and gay and transgender rights – as well as those such as ourselves of no religion. I would expect this trend to increase and gather pace in 2026.

Nevertheless, regardless of these potential threats, I hope that you all had an enjoyable Festive Season and that this Festive spirit continues through 2026. As you will have noticed, this is a shorter Newsletter than usual. I must admit that I have been caught up in Festive activities. However, I can promise a more detailed Newsletter for January 2026

A Happy New Year and much happiness for 2026 to you all

**Brian Goredema-Braid**

**Chair of Coventry & Warwickshire Humanists**

### Meetings:

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** This was our Festive Gathering and the last in-person meeting of 2025. We had an excellent Contribution Supper where we all bought and shared food. Thankfully, there was a good selection of different types of food and refreshment.

As well as the food, we had a few games and a sing-song. There was also an end of year quiz with a prize for the winner – the questions were all about 2025, sport, entertainment, politics and general issues. As all the participants had lived through 2025, it should have been quite easy? We were also graced with a visit from Santa Claus, especially as it was during his busy December schedule?

For those of you who were unable to attend the Festive Gathering on 18<sup>th</sup> December, I have attached the 2025 Quiz for you to test your memory and your knowledge – but please do not cheat and refer to Google!! The answers will be in the January Newsletter

I have also attached a 'Sweet Things' paper with 20 cryptic descriptions of popular sweets and chocolates. i.e. Number 5 'Clever Folk' – the answer is Smarties

Please send your entries to me at [briangb@sky.com](mailto:briangb@sky.com) and I will mark your papers and send it back to you – Don't worry, I will not broadcast your answers. Good luck

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026:** As usual our meetings in January and February are online through the Zoom system. This will be a general meeting to share issues and recommend any books, music, films or TV programmes.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** This will be the second of our online meetings with a similar format to the January meeting – Here is the link, Meeting ID and Passcode to both January and February meetings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79097325920?pwd=UUIMbWQvVWxibFM2VUptWm91ZDFsUT09>

**Meeting ID: 790 9732 5920**

**Passcode: RtGB99**

**Important Festive Season Message from Andrew Copson:**

This Christmas, as homes fill with familiar seasonal comforts and we all have space to relax a little and take stock, I'm reflecting on the past year with a mixture of gratitude and concern.

It has been a remarkable twelve months for Humanists UK.

Together we have pushed forward campaigns that speak to the very heart of who we are – winning attention, influence, and concrete progress towards our aims.



Your support has been the steady light that makes all of this possible, and I am deeply thankful for it. At the same time, I have the feeling that the country around us seems more divided than at any time I can recall. The causes are many and familiar. A media culture that rewards outrage. Extreme religious and nationalist voices intent on drawing hard lines between neighbours. The echo of political storms from across the Atlantic that grows louder with each passing year. An atmosphere of suspicion and cynicism, an idea that people must choose sides, that compassion is a weakness, and that the world is carved into an unbridgeable 'us and them'.

In this season, which for so many generations of our ancestors has invited us to gather close against the cold, this feels especially jarring. Winter celebrations have always been about light in the darkness and the warm reassurance that even in the bleakest months, human beings can choose generosity and kinship.

That is why I keep returning to the words of the late Jo Cox MP, who said that we have far more in common than that which divides us. It is a sentiment rooted in the old wisdom of this time of year, when communities gathered around fires to share whatever they had, because they knew that only together could they get through the dark times.

I suspect this truth will matter more, not less, as we move into 2026. The global and national political climate shows little sign of calming. Some of our most important campaigns will reach critical stages. At such times it becomes even more essential to ground our thoughts and attitudes in humanist values. Reason, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the dignity of every human being. If the world around us tends toward division, we must lean even harder towards understanding and our shared humanity.

For me, that is the real meaning of this midwinter moment. Beyond festivities and familiar rituals, it is a reminder that the smallest acts of kindness and solidarity are powerful antidotes to the chill of cynicism. As I look at our movement and the community that supports it, I feel hope. Hope in your commitment to fairness. Hope in the many quiet generous things people continue to do for one another. Hope in the knowledge that warmth and light endures, even in difficult times.

As you mark the season in your own way, I hope you find rest, joy, and the company of those you love. Thank you for standing with Humanists UK and for everything you do to help build a more compassionate and rational society. I look forward to continuing this vital work together in the year ahead.

With warmest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year,  
**Andrew Copson**  
Chief Executive, Humanists UK

#### **Festival of Humanism – 2026:**



#### **Festival of Humanism 2026**

Friday 12 June, 19:00 –  
Sunday 14 June, 15:15

#### **Bournemouth International Centre**

Exeter Road,  
Bournemouth  
BH2 5BH

The annual Humanist Conference usually gets booked up very quickly, as do the hotels near to the venue. An early booking for this important event is recommended.

The Festival of Humanism is a true highlight of the humanist calendar. Kicking off on Friday evening with a fantastic evening of entertainment and welcome drinks in the bar, from Saturday morning through to Sunday afternoon we welcome scientists and campaigners, historians and artists, politicians and journalists, to fascinate, educate, entertain – and inspire!

#### **Speakers so far include:**

Alice Roberts – Former Humanist President, Archaeologist and TV personality

Samira Ahmed – Journalist and TV personality

Lord Alf Dubbs – Former Labour MP born in Czechoslovakia and came to Britain as a refugee through 'Kindertransport' during World War 2

Phoenix Andrews – Broadcaster, writer and researcher and champion of gay and trans rights

Erica Buist – Playwright, journalist, famous for writing 'This Party's Over'

Emma Monk – Researcher and writer with a passion for science

Madeline Goodall – Researcher into Humanist Heritage

**The genetic age: who shapes evolution now? | The Darwin Day Lecture 2026, with Professor Matthew Cobb - 12 February 2026, 19:30 -- 21:00**



Like all species, humans have been inadvertently shaping the genomes of other species – predators and prey – throughout our history. And with the development of agriculture, we began to specifically, deliberately alter plants and animals through selective breeding. But in the second half of the 20th century, that ability has taken on a new form. Not only do we have a far more precise understanding of how selection and heredity interact in agriculture, but the invention of genetic engineering in the 1970s has changed things completely.

We can now change species at will. Not only has this transformed the pharmaceutical industry – allowing the cheap manufacture of drugs like insulin – it has also altered agriculture and now, in the 21st century, threatens to change ecosystems and even humanity itself.

Evolution appears to be under our control, but – as the molecular biologist Leslie Orgel warned us – evolution is smarter than we are. Looking at the past, present, and future of genetics, we can glimpse both the promises and perils that await us.

In this 2026 Darwin Day Lecture, Matthew Cobb will confront the shadow cast by our own ingenuity. Tracing the path from simple selective breeding to the ignition of a biological revolution, he will explore a modern Promethean moment where the power to reshape life is no longer theoretical – but operational.

As the pace of discovery accelerates into a competitive sprint, we're challenged to consider whether we have merely stolen the fire of evolution, or if we have sparked a chain reaction that we can no longer extinguish.

#### **About Professor Matthew Cobb**

Matthew Cobb is Professor Emeritus at the University of Manchester. His recent books include *Crick: A Mind in Motion, from DNA to the Brain* and *The Genetic Age: Our Perilous Quest to Edit Life*. He was the presenter of the BBC Radio series *Genetic Dreams*, *Genetic Nightmares*. In 2024 he won the Royal Society's Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal, and in 2021 was awarded the J. B. S. Haldane Lecture by the Genetics Society.

**In-person ticket - £20**

**In-person ticket (late registration) - £25**

**In-person ticket (Disabled person plus companion) £17**

**Livestream ticket (watch online) £15**

#### **Blocking Assisted Dying Bill poses 'danger to the reputation of House of Lords': senior Peer opposed to the Bill 12 December, 2025**

Baroness Butler-Sloss, a senior member of the House of Lords and an opponent of assisted dying, has warned the Lords today that attempts to talk out the Assisted Dying Bill pose a danger to the reputation of the House. This follows a letter from [three senior MPs opposed to assisted dying](#) who called on peers not to hold up the progress of the Bill through Parliament, arguing that there was a serious danger of the Lords losing its democratic legitimacy.

Baroness Butler-Sloss [said during the debate](#):

'I don't like the Bill, but I am here like other noble Lords to try and make it work. It needs scrutiny, it needs improvement, but we must get it to Third Reading. If we don't, there is a very real danger that the reputation of the House, which not only I but all your Lordships care about deeply, will be, or possibly will be, irreparably eroded.'



Kim Leadbeater MP, the sponsor of the Bill, told *The Today* programme this morning that it 'would be wrong from a democratic perspective when the Commons has voted for it, and there's huge public support' if the House of Lords sabotaged the Bill through running down the clock.



Peers today debated unrealistic and discriminatory proposals around mandatory GP home visits and a proposal that all applicants including men, undergo a pregnancy test.

Peers have debated 101 of 1,142 amendments. Analysis by Humanists UK and My Death, My Decision has shown that seven of the most vocal opponents to the Bill have put forward over 600 amendments between them. While some of the unworkable amendments have been withdrawn, such as Baroness Coffey's proposal to ban applicants from going on holiday, amendments continue to be added every day.

The Bill must pass all stages in the Lords and Commons before Spring 2026, or it fails.

**Louise Shackleton, who accompanied her husband to Dignitas for an assisted death, said:**

'Today, terminally ill people and those bereaved by awful deaths were dismissed as "attack dogs" simply for urging the Lords to scrutinise, not block, the Assisted Dying Bill. The Lords select committee refused to hear from terminally ill people, and too many peers forget who this Bill is for. My message to the House of Lords is clear: we will not be silenced, our voices matter, and legalising assisted dying would give compassion and choice to people who currently have neither.'

**Nathan Stilwell, Assisted Dying Campaigner at Humanists UK, said:**

'When an unelected chamber stalls a bill backed by the elected House of Commons and the public, it does more than delay legislation; it undermines the very principle of representative democracy. This is not scrutiny; it is sabotage disguised as procedure.

'Every procedural delay, every stalling tactic, traps people in a system that denies them agency and compassion at the moment they need it most. The status quo forces suffering, strips families of dignity, and exports choice to foreign countries. It is not neutral; it is actively harmful. To preserve this system in the name of process is to ignore the real human cost paid by those who cannot afford to wait.'

**Dave Sowry, Board Member of My Death, My Decision, said:**

'It was Groundhog day, yet again, in the House of Lords today. Despite an ever-growing chorus of pleas to peers to stop putting barriers in the way of those seeking a compassionate death, the same very small group of peers ignored these pleas. It's obvious that the concerted effort to block its progress by these peers, who are all against the Bill as a matter of principle, continues.'

'They ignore the perspective of those the Bill is designed for, people at the end of their lives. Its aim is to improve the quality of those last weeks, and having accompanied my wife to Dignitas for an assisted death, I know how precious those weeks are.

'The process must be as simple as possible for the vast majority of straightforward cases, whilst being robust and safe for the remaining tiny minority of complex cases. This small group of peers must not be allowed to undermine the will of Parliament and the hopes and wishes of the public.'

**Cinema Film Preview: A very good selection of new films for the New Year!**

***(Some are shown on the main cinema circuit, but most are available at the small art cinemas, Warwick Arts Centre, Midland Arts Centre and Leamington Spa Theatre)***

**Anaconda:** Action comedy film that serves as a meta-reboot of Anaconda (1997) Directed by Tom Gormican, who co-wrote it with Kevin Etten, and stars Paul Rudd, Jack Black, Steve Zahn.

**Avatar: Fire and Ash:** A return to the stunning world of Pandora in James Cameron's new visually thrilling adventure. Starring Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Oona Chaplin and Stephen Lang

**It Was Just an Accident:** Directed by Jafar Panahi who was previously imprisoned by the Iranian government. This subtle dig at the country's repressive regime, a cutting and darkly humorous thriller that concerns a mechanic, who believes he has reencountered by chance the government intelligence officer, who had tortured him while under detainment. He enlists the services of acquaintances whose lives were also forever altered by official cruelties, the thirst for revenge and the sense of danger escalate—as do questions of moral choice and culpability. Well worth seeing!

**Eleanor the Great:** A lonely Jewish woman spends her days wandering around Manhattan, and inadvertently attends a Holocaust survivors' group, and makes an impromptu speech that dramatically changes the course of her life. Directed by Scarlett Johansson and starring June Squibb

**Christy:** A true story of the astonishing life of ground-breaking women's boxer Christy Martin. A fierce tale of self-actualization in the face of terrifying adversity, exacerbated by drug use, financial malfeasance, and acts of physical and psychological abuse. Starring Sydney Sweeney and Ben Foster

**Song Song Blue:** Based on a true story, a Vietnam veteran meets a hairdresser with similar show-biz ambitions. They both revel in entertaining audiences, and form Lightning and Thunder, a Neil Diamond tribute experience. They marry and their popularity grows, but personal trials arise and test them both on and off the stage. Starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson

**Sentimental Value:** An aging and estranged film director comes back into his daughter's lives shortly after their mother's death. He asks the actress daughter to play the lead role of his mother in the new autobiographical film he's convinced will revive his career.

**Hamnet:** The long-awaited film adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's bestselling novel features mesmerising performances by Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal. William Shakespeare and his wife struggle to come to terms with the loss of their only son, Hamnet – the grief driving a wedge between the couple.

**Becoming Victoria Wood:** One of Britain's most cherished entertainers. Behind her joyous persona lay a young woman navigating insecurity, anger and self-doubt. Told in her own words and through the voices of those who knew her best.

**The History of Sound:** A gifted singer from rural Kentucky, raised on country songs, he leaves the family farm to attend a Music Conservatory, where he meets a charming composition student who is drafted into the final stages of World War 1. By 1920, they reunite and spend a winter collecting folk songs to preserve them for future generations. Starring Paul Mescal and Josh O'Connor

**The Voice of Hind Rajab:** The last recorded words of a 6-year-old girl in Gaza into a vital act of remembrance. The film captures both the unbearable suspense of the complex rescue attempt and the impossible choices faced by first responders, creating a devastating and unforgettable portrait of innocence in the face of unspeakable violence. A definite 'must-see' film

**Marty Supreme:** It's 1952, and Marty Mauser is stuck selling shoes. Table tennis has become his escape hatch. In post-war USA, table tennis is barely more respected than tiddlywinks. A bold, kinetic portrait of a fast-talking dreamer, hellbent on turning an overlooked sport into his personal springboard to glory. Starring Timothée Chalamet in the title role

**No Other Choice:** When a paper expert is abruptly laid off, he loses the perfect life he's worked hard for. So, when a new job comes along, he realises a perfect plan – by getting rid of his competition via any available means.

**The Audience:** Returning to cinemas for the first time in over a decade, Helen Mirren plays Queen Elizabeth II in the Olivier and Tony Award winning hit production, directed by Stephen Daldry

**The Chronology of Water:** Based on writer and educator Lidia Yuknavitch's memoirs, an uncompromising depiction of love, trauma and artistic self-expression. Chronicling Yuknavitch's life as she experiences and processes childhood abuse, first love, addiction and grief. Excellent performance from Imogen Poots.

**28 Years Later: The Bone Temple:** Expanding upon the world created by Danny Boyle and Alex Garland in 28 Years Later - but turning that world on its head. Dr. Kelson (Ralph Fiennes) finds himself in a shocking new relationship, with consequences that could change the world as they know it, whilst Spike's (Alfie Williams) encounter with Jimmy Crystal (Jack O'Connell) becomes a nightmare he can't escape.

**Rental Family:** A sweet-natured comedy of an American adrift in Japan. An out-of-work actor lands an unusual gig with a Japanese agency by playing stand-in family members for strangers. Unfortunately, he immerses himself in the clients' worlds that blur the lines between performance and reality. Starring Brendan Fraser

**Killer of Sheep:** A ground-breaking film exploring the everyday lives of the Black community in Los Angeles during the rebellion movement.

**How to Have Sex:** A shy teenager and her more confident friends are seeking drinks, sun and sex at a Cretan resort. As a night of hedonism turns sour, she starts to question her experiences, friendship and future. Even as the partying continues around her. Starring Mia McKenna-Bruce

**Little Miss Sunshine:** A riotously funny portrait of a dysfunctional family on a mission. A husband and wife, an emotionally crisis uncle, an incommunicative teen and a foul-mouthed grandfather accompany their beauty queen hopeful daughter on a trip that stretches their sanity to the limit. Starring Greg Kinnear, Toni Collette, Abigail Breslin and Alan Arkin

**Is This Thing On?** Based on British comedian John Bishop's early stand-up career. A bitter-sweet comedy based on his potential divorce. As his marriage begins to unravel, he aims to grow up in the New York comedy scene while his wife confronts the sacrifices she has made for her family. Starring Will Arnett and Laura Dunn.

**Still on the Main Circuit:**

**Palestine 36 – A definite 'Must-See' film:**

A powerful historical drama that brings to life the daily realities of Christian and Muslim Palestinians in 1936 under the British Mandate and explores the lead-up to and events of the Palestinian Arab Revolt from 1936 to 1939. The film is grounded in authentic human stories and avoids sensationalism, which makes its emotional impact far stronger.

**Wicked for Good** - Following last year's first instalment, we now have the final section with all of its electrifying and emotional conclusion. An angry mob rises against the Wicked Witch. Glinda and Elphaba will need to come together one final time. Starring Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande – cameos from Michelle Yeoh and Geoff Goldblum. Another 'must-see' with the family

**The Ice Tower** - A teenager dreams of a life beyond her orphanage in a snowy mountain village. She flees and takes refuge in a film studio housing a production of The Snow Queen, where she first encounters Cristina, the star playing the title role. Captivated by her performance, she soon falls under Cristina's enchanting spell, which endangers her initial quest for freedom.

**The Choral:** Ralph Fiennes leads this funny and moving World War 1 drama by Alan Bennett. A Yorkshire village's choral society finds its ranks depleted as men head off to war. With the annual performance looming, the society is forced to change its entry rules to enlist some unlikely teens and the musically gifted but socially scandalous Dr Guthrie.

**The Mastermind:** An unemployed family man and amateur art thief sets out on his first heist. He thinks that he has an airtight plan. The wry tale of the folly of man. Starring Josh O'Connor

**Blue Moon:** The lyricist Lorenz Hart's collaborations with composer Richard Rodgers was on the rocks. Rodgers had paired up with Oscar Hammerstein II for their hit musical Oklahoma! This luminous, erudite drama imagines a loquacious Hart on the night of Oklahoma!'s premiere, is holed up at a bar and moving through various stages of grief and acceptance when faced with Broadway's new world order. Set in 1943, only months before he died from pneumonia, as a consequence of heavy drinking. Starring Ethan Hawke and Margaret Qualley.

**TV Programmes and Films:**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January:**

**10.15 – BBC2: New Year Day Concert Live from Vienna 2026** - Essential viewing for me – a great way to start the New Year with a selection of Strauss music with film of scenes from the beautiful city of Vienna (**Repeated at 19.00 on BBC4**)

**14.35 – BBC2: Lawrence of Arabia** – Excellent David Lean Oscar winning film starring Peter O'Toole in his finest role and the emergence of Omar Sharif

**15.15 – BBC1: The Sound of Music** – Many people still like this Rogers & Hammerstein epic

**20.00 – BBC1: The Traitors** – The first episode

**21.00 – BBC1: The Night Manager** – The long-awaited sequel to the first series starring Tom Hiddleston as Jonathan Pine

**21.00 – BBC4: The Great Escape** – It wouldn't be the Festive season without this great war film!

**23.25 – BBC1: Mission Impossible 2** – Action spy thriller starring Tom Cruise

**23.45 – BBC4: The Italian Job** – Phew! Thankfully, it is the much better 1969 version starring Michael Caine and Noel Coward

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January:**

**19.30 – BBC1: Would I Lie to You?** Still the best comedy show on TV – this week Rob Brydon, Lee Mack and David Mitchell are joined by comedians Chris McCausland and Harriet Kemsley, actress Julie Hesmondhaigh and broadcaster Yinka Bokinni

**20.00 – BBC1: The Traitors** – Second episode

**21.00 – BBC2: Operation Mincemeat** - World War 2 drama based on a true story, starring Colin Firth, Matthew Macfadyen and Kelly Macdonald. Britain, 1943: in order to deceive Germany into believing the Allies are going to next invade Greece (rather than Sicily),

**22.15 – ITV1: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade** - Another film favourite at Yuletide

**22.45 – BBC1: Mission Impossible 3** - More spy action with the 3<sup>rd</sup> episode with Tom Cruise

**23.00 – BBC2: The Damned Don't Cry** – Excellent drama. A middle-aged sex worker leads a difficult life, constantly on the move with her teenage son. After a violent encounter, they return to her home village. However, mother and son discover they are not welcome there, and the pair become increasingly estranged as their lives take different, harrowing paths.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January:**

**17.30 – BBC2: The Guns of Navarone** – IMO one of the best war type films ever made. An all-star cast including Gregory Peck, David Niven and Anthony Quinn

**19.45 – BBC1: The Traitors** – Episode 3

**21.00 – Channel 4: Taskmasters: New Year Treat** – One of my favourite comedy shows with Greg Davies and Alex Horne. For this special episode they have invited back former contestants to put them through even more embarrassing situations

**21.30 – BBC1: Waiting for the Out** – A new drama series, starring Josh Finan as a teacher leading a philosophy class in a prison. On his first day, the lesson soon unravels as he realises he's underestimated his audience - and the weight of his own past.

**22.00 – Channel 4: Bowie: The Final Act** – A great night for fans of the late great David Bowie. From a career low to his greatest reinvention – how he transformed into his masterpiece album Blackstar

**00.00 – Channel 4: Moonage Daydream** - Documentary that tells the story of David Bowie's life and career, from his start on the rock and roll scene in 1960s London to his death in 2016.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January:**

**20.00 – BBC4: Rear Window** – An excellent Alfred Hitchcock suspense film starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly

**21.00 – BBC1: The Night Manager** – Pine is on the run and ends up in Colombia

**22.00 – BBC2: Back to Black** – An excellent bio-pic of the brilliant blues singer Amy Winehouse starring Marisa Abela as the troubled singer

**22.15 – ITV1: Pretty Woman** – Another festive favourite starring Richard Gere and Julia Roberts

**22.45 – BBC4: North by Northwest** – IMO one of the greatest Hitchcock suspense films starring Cary Grant. The scene at the crossroads with Grant on the run, pursued by the crop spraying plane and the appearance of the oil tanker. Cinema does not get much better

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January:**

**20.00 – BBC4: Pavlopetri – The City Beneath the Waves** - Archaeologists use submersible robots and computer simulations to investigate the submerged city of Pavlopetri, which lies off the southern



coast of the Greek mainland. Originally rediscovered in 1967, it is believed to be the oldest underwater city in the world.

**21.00 – BBC2: Lucy Worsley's Victorian Murder Club** - Lucy investigates the case of a little-known Victorian serial killer the Thames Torso Murderer, who was operating at the same time as Jack the Ripper and was also never caught.

**22.40 – BBC1: The Hunger Games** - Futuristic action thriller starring Jennifer Lawrence. In annual retribution for a failed uprising in the totalitarian state of Panem, each of 12 districts is forced to select a young boy and girl to take part in a televised fight to the death.

### A Few Cartoons





### **A Few Funnies to Finish With:**

#### **School Jokes:**

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years

Teacher: What? How is this possible?

Kid: He became my father when I was born

Teacher: Maria, please go to the map and find North America

Maria, goes to the map and points and says, 'Here it is'

Teacher: Correct. Now class who discovered America?

Class: Maria

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell crocodile?

Glen: KROKODIAL

Teacher: No, that is wrong

Glen: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: HIJKLMNO

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Donald: Yesterday, you said it was H to O

Teacher: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brothers. Did you copy his?

Clyde: No Sir – it is the same dog

Teacher: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking even when people are no longer interested?

Harold: A Teacher

I told the man who invented zero – 'thanks for nothing!'

I went to B & Q and said to the salesman, 'I am looking for a new toolbox'

He said, 'Do you wanna steel one?'

I said, 'No, I have enough money to buy one'

My dentist said, 'Don't brush your teeth with your left hand. I asked why?  
He said, 'because a toothbrush is a lot better'

At the Space Academy, they had a group of us in to watch the Earth rotate from space.  
After 24 hours, we all got bored and we called it a day

I was up in the loft yesterday, spraying the mice with WD40. It doesn't kill them, it just stops them squeaking all the time

## HUMANIST QUIZ – 2025 Questions

|     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
| 1)  | Which city has been City of Culture for 2025?  |  |
| 2)  | Who is the new Archbishop of Canterbury?<br>Who is the new Pope  |  |
| 3)  | Which book and author won the 2025 Booker Prize?   |  |
| 4)  | Suni Williams and Butch Wilmer were the two astronauts who returned to Earth after being stranded in space for how long?                 |  |
| 5)  | The kidney of which animal was transplanted to a human patient at Harvard Medical School?  |  |
| 6)  | Which famous author and playwright's library card was re-issued this year by the British Library 130 years after it was revoked?         |  |
| 7)  | Who were the finalists in the men's and women's finals at Wimbledon - who actually won both competitions? What were their nationalities? |  |
| 8)  | Who won the FA Cup Final?<br>Who scored the winning goal?<br>Who were the losing finalists?  |  |
| 9)  | The England Red Roses won the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup – who did they beat in the final and what was the final score                 |  |
| 10) | Who won the World Snooker Championship?<br>What was his nationality?   |  |
| 11) | Whose final Match of the Day was on 25 <sup>th</sup> May? After how many years?  |  |
| 12) | England Lionesses won the Women's European Championship - who did England beat in the final?   |  |

|     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
|     | The exciting climax of the tournament was the penalty shoot-out in the final – what is the name of the England goalkeeper who saved 2 penalties?<br>Who scored the winning penalty for England? |  |
| 13) | Which film won the Best Picture Oscar?<br>Who won best Male Actor Oscar?<br>Who won best Female Actor Oscar?<br>Who won best Director Oscar?  |  |
| 14) | Which two presenters of Master Chef had their gooses cooked after disreputable and offensive behaviour?   |  |
| 15) | Which celebrity proved to be a very effective Traitor?  |  |
| 16) | Which music act has been criminally investigated after performing at Glastonbury and making potentially offensive comments and song lyrics about Israel?  |  |
| 17) | Which controversial Netflix drama won 6 Emmy Awards<br>What is the name of the young actor who won the Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor?   |  |
| 18) | Who won 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!'   |  |
| 19) | Which Prince of Darkness died in July one week after his final concert in Birmingham?   |  |
| 20) | Which two brothers ended their feud to end up earning up to £400 million?   |  |
| 21) | Which was the most watched TV moment of 2025?   |  |
| 22) | Who was elected as the Leader of the Green Party?<br>What was his majority?   |  |
| 23) | Who went fishing in August? And forgot to bring his Rod Licence?<br>Who accompanied him?  |  |
| 24) | Who suffered serious consequences because they failed to pay their Stamp Duty?  |  |
| 25) | Who resigned as Prime Minister of Canada in January? Who succeeded as Prime Minister of Canada?   |  |
|     | <b>Those who have passed in 2025</b>  |  |
| 26) | A famous actress best known for managing a hotel and her incompetent husband  |  |
| 27) | Actress famous for her roles as 'Annie Hall' and also in 'The Godfather'  |  |
| 28) | American actor famous in 'The Sting', 'The Great Gatsby' and 'The Way We Were'  |  |

|     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
| 29) | No more good vibrations and surfing on the beach for this famous American rock icon? |  |
| 30) | A boxer from 'The Rumble in the Jungle' who was also a famous griller                |  |

**Please, please – no cheating or Google please!**

**When you have answered them all please send your answer papers to me at [briangb@sky.com](mailto:briangb@sky.com)**



## SWEET THINGS

- 1] SLY GIGGLES \_\_\_\_\_
- 2] MONEY MAKING  
ROYALTY \_\_\_\_\_
- 3] DARK OCCULT \_\_\_\_\_
- 4] MOTHERS LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_
- 5] CLEVER FOLK \_\_\_\_\_
- 6] VARIOUS BLACK ITEMS \_\_\_\_\_
- 7] FRANKIE VAUGHAN WANTED IT  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8] FELINE EQUIPMENT \_\_\_\_\_
- 9] DAIRY HOLDER \_\_\_\_\_
- 10] ARRANGE MARRIAGE  
PARTNERS \_\_\_\_\_
- 11] GEM ORCHARD \_\_\_\_\_
- 12] SPIN AROUND \_\_\_\_\_
- 13] CAPITAL GRANITE \_\_\_\_\_
- 14] ISTANBUL HAREM \_\_\_\_\_
- 15] OUT THERE \_\_\_\_\_
- 16] EVEN MORE OUT THERE \_\_\_\_\_
- 17] NOISY INSECT \_\_\_\_\_
- 18] ONE WHO WANDERS \_\_\_\_\_
- 19] SWEET TOOTH CLEANER \_\_\_\_\_
- 20] WOODEN PINS \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM NAME \_\_\_\_\_