

WEEKLY PLANNER FOR THE DAILY & WEEKLY SPARKLE

(WS column denotes inclusion in the Weekly Sparkle edition)

Week	On This Day		WS	The Way We Were	WS	That's Life	WS	Over To You	WS	Quiz	WS	Singalong	WS
Monday 7th December	1995	Irish poet, Seamus Heaney, receives Nobel Prize for Literature	A x	Knitting gifts for Christmas and making items for a Christmas Fayre		Using a battery charger - and charging the flat batteries on cars		Ricky Valance - 'Tell Laura I Love Her' - popular song that told a heartbreaking story	x	Caribbean Quest - Word Search		Tell Laura I Love Her	x
Tuesday 8th December	1925	Sammy Davis Jr, singer and entertainer, born		Cooking with wine in savoury and sweet recipes such as meat or sherry trifle	x	Train-spotting in the 1950s - local goods trains - J15 0-6-0 in the east of England		Guinea pigs - good for helping children learn responsibility & reliability in caring for pets		Two Of A Kind - words with two meanings	x	A White Sport Coat And A Pink Carnation	
Wednesday 9th December	1960	First episode of 'Coronation Street' broadcast on ITV		Sheets - warm flannelette ones in winter, cool cotton in summer		Woodwork class at school and practical subjects and lessons in general	x	Whisky - grandfather's favourite medicine, good for colds and other home remedies		You Don't Say! - Complete the twelve sayings		Love Me Tender	
Thursday 10th December	1962	Film, 'Lawrence of Arabia', starring Peter O'Toole, released	A x	The smell of paint, and painter's colic in the days when paint contained lead	A x	German Christmas markets, and a rough crossing of the Channel - Dover breakwaters		Strange saying such as 'Curiosity killed the cat' and others and their meanings	x	Fruit And Veg - do we eat the fruits, leaves or roots?	x	I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus	
Friday 11th December	1942	Anna Carteret, actress who starred in 'Juliet Bravo' police series, born		Pepper, the differences between ground white pepper and black peppercorns		Young men getting into fighting - arm wrestling instead as a test of strength	x	Ravens, crows, and the large black Corvid (crow) family in general		Cricket Test Match - quiz about numbers in cricket		Fever	x
Saturday 12th December	1928	Lionel Blair, dancer, choreographer and entertainer, born	A x	Advent calendars – traditional scenes with small images behind every little door	x	Billiards and snooker - enjoying playing, no matter how skillful		Old fashioned toys and games encouraging manual dexterity in a pre-digital age		General Knowledge Quiz	x	The Twelve Days Of Christmas	
Sunday 13th December	1959	Archbishop Makarios elected President of Cyprus		Onions – very tasty ingredient that has a pungent smell and makes your eyes water		Joan Sutherland - her opera recordings and Handel's 'Alcina'	A x	Elephants - a favourite picture brought back from travels and the size of them in real life		Car Rally - name the makes of cars from the clues		Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas	x

WEEKLY PLANNER FOR THE DAILY & WEEKLY SPARKLE

(WS column denotes inclusion in the Weekly Sparkle edition)

Week	On This Day		WS	The Way We Were	WS	That's Life	WS	Over To You	WS	Quiz	WS	Singalong	WS
Monday 14th December	1895	Prince Albert, Bertie, the future King George VI, born		Christmas gifts such as multi-purpose gadgets for the men in the family		The National Coal Board and super-pits - Bickershaw Colliery, Lancashire		Carrots help you to see in the dark, and the things adults tell children		Presents Puzzle - Joan goes Christmas shopping and wrapping presents	x	Heart Of My Heart	
Tuesday 15th December	2001	Leaning Tower of Pisa reopens following repairs to stop it falling over	x	Store cupboard — getting well stocked up for Christmas	x	Amateur dramatics - putting on a pantomime such as 'Aladdin' - playing the part of a dame	x	Prime Ministers during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and what makes a good PM		Loch Challenge - quiz about Scottish lochs		Here We Come A-Wassailing	
Wednesday 16th December	1899	Noel Coward, English playwright and singer, with wit & flamboyance, born	x A	Christmas Lights in London and the Blackpool Illuminations	x	Singer Vogue Estate car, and differences between saloon, estates and hatchback cars		The seaside in winter, and Christmas swimmers	x	Word Quiz - can you find all these words beginning Hol.....	x	How Far Is It To Bethlehem	
Thursday 17th December	1914	Mushtaq Ali, first Indian cricketer to score Test century, born		What is 'The Ideal Woman' — views from the 1950s compared with today		Wellington bomber - mainstay of RAF during Second World War		Photography as a hobby; how photography has changed — film to phones		Fresh Mints - can you name all these mint sweets and chocolates?	A	I Saw Three Ships	x
Friday 18th December	1888	Gladys Cooper, English stage and film actress for seven decades, born		Christmas shopping — enjoying choosing gifts you know people will like		Long journeys by car in the 1960s - breaking the journey - cosy inn at Charmouth in Dorset	x	Triumph Spitfire - favourite car in the 1960s but not very practical for family use		Juke Box Jury - in which year were each of these a UK number one hit?		Portrait Of My Love	x
Saturday 19th December	1984	UK and China sign agreement to return Hong Kong to China in 1997		Carol concerts at the local school and the joy of hearing children singing Christmas songs	x	Edinburgh from Calton Hill on a dull, damp day, and the Scottish term, dreich		Red squirrels and grey squirrels and the attitudes to them - cute or vermin?	x	The Alphabet Puzzle	x	Jingle Bells	
Sunday 20th December	1946	Celebrated Christmas film, 'It's A Wonderful Life' released	A x	Christmas trees - a custom introduced by Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert		Aga cooker - cast iron stoves compared to gas and electric cookers	x	Nativity plays put on in infants and junior school and the challenges it involves		World Religions - identify the six major faiths		Let It Snow	

WEEKLY PLANNER FOR THE DAILY & WEEKLY SPARKLE

(WS column denotes inclusion in the Weekly Sparkle edition)

Week	On This Day		WS	The Way We Were	WS	That's Life	WS	Over To You	WS	Quiz	WS	Singalong	WS
Monday 21st December	1962	Nassau Agreement between Kennedy and Macmillan on Polaris missiles for UK		Christmas Hit Singles - novelty records that sell well at Christmas		Pensioners' Xmas Party - helping out at one, then finding you are old enough to be at one!	x	Christmas gifts - practical items or a treat people would not buy for themselves.		General Knowledge Quiz	x	Ernie The Milkman	
Tuesday 22nd December	1948	Noel Edmonds, disc jockey and television presenter, born		Carol singing & going around neighbourhoods as a young child - not likely to happen now	x	Brighton Town Hall - and grand civic buildings in general		The Ideal Man - response to last week's column about The Ideal Woman		String or wind instruments?		Mr Sandman	
Wednesday 23rd December	1947	First electronic transistor produced, such as the Bush portable radio		Frankincense and Myrrh - exotic smells associated with Christmas	x	Bowl of hyacinths as a Christmas present - differing opinions on these flowers		Walnuts, and the difficulty of cracking nuts neatly. Only having bowls of nuts at Christmas		Puddings Puzzle		Once In Royal David's City	x
Thursday 24th December	1968	Crew of Apollo 8 become first humans to orbit the Moon	x	Reindeer - traditionally depicted as pulling Father Christmas's sleigh to deliver presents		The 1951 film, 'Scrooge' - Charles Dickens' tale of 'A Christmas Carol'	A x	A narrative poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'		Joan is making a Christmas chocolate log - can you help her?	A x	Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree	
Friday 25th December	1899	Humphrey Bogart, American film and stage actor, born		White Christmas - how often has it actually snowed on Christmas Day?	x	When do you open your Christmas presents? Christmas presents as a child and as an adult		Christmas table settings and special crockery bought and used just for Christmas	x	The Christmas Day Quiz		White Christmas	x
Saturday 26th December	1962	Film, 'To Kill A Mockingbird' starring Gregory Peck, released	x	Christmas crackers, a seemingly only festive item, and making your own		A traditional Christmas dinner on Boxing Day - preferring Boxing Day to Christmas Day itself	x	Boxing Day long walks & hikes with picnics of turkey sandwiches and mince pies	x	Christmas Puzzle - find the gifts that Joan received		The Twist	
Sunday 27th December	1822	Louis Pasteur, French chemist renowned for discoveries of vaccination, born	x	Sales - from Boxing Day not January: hard work for shop staff straight after Christmas		Being asked out for a meal by prospective in-laws and having Black Forest gateau	A	Fruit flavoured jelly: colourful, wobbly and a simple dessert, quickly made		Which one is The 'Odd One Out'	x	Cwm Rhondda - Bread Of Heaven	

WEEKLY PLANNER FOR THE DAILY & WEEKLY SPARKLE

(WS column denotes inclusion in the Weekly Sparkle edition)

Week	On This Day		WS	The Way We Were	WS	That's Life	WS	Over To You	WS	Quiz	WS	Singalong	WS
Monday 28th December	1945	Max Hastings, British journalist and military historian, born		Booking a holiday when the holiday adverts start straight after Christmas	x	Peugeot 404 - solid and reliable French car, with same designer as Austin Cambridge.		Fennings Little Healers and buying 'over the counter' medicines	x	What's In A Name? Boys' names starting with the letter J	x	Cathy's Clown	
Tuesday 29th December	1970	Aled Jones, Welsh singer, television and radio presenter, born	A x	Credit cards – intended to 'take the waiting out of wanting'	x	Ice dancing - the Protopopovs, Olympic and World dance skating champions in the 1960s	x	Knitting with fluffy yarn - soft angora wool, bonnets and hats for small children		The Floor Quiz – All these things might be found on a floor		It Might As Well Be Spring	
Wednesday 30th December	1945	Bananas - first boat of bananas arrives from Jamaica after World War Two	A x	Favourite TV shows shown again during the Christmas and New Year period		Blowing a bugle and the reveille. Using Brasso to clean brasses	A	Root vegetables – good and sustaining in winter. Texture and taste not liked by children		Changing States - countries that have changed their names		Morning Has Broken	x
Thursday 31st December	1941	Alex Ferguson, Scottish football manager with Manchester United, born		New Year's Eve - celebrating with friends after family gatherings at Christmas		Hogmanay - First-footing in Scotland - taking a lump of coal to friends or neighbours		Eccles Cakes from Manchester and similar ingredients to those in mince pies		In Which Year? When were each of these events?		Auld Lang Syne	x
Friday 1st January	1948	Railways nationalised - and the first day of British Railways		New Year's resolutions, and having several good intentions	x	Full Scottish breakfast - too much, especially with white pudding and Scottish tattie scones	A x	Itchy clothes - woolly fabrics and layers in winter, and wearing Chilprufe vests	x	Action Words Quiz which word best describes these	x	Two Lovely Black Eyes	
Saturday 2nd January	1938	David Bailey, English celebrity and fashion photographer, born		Chutney - eating more of it at this time of year served with cold meats and cheese		Milk frozen in bottles on the doorstep - the tops pushed off - winter weather in general		Fisherman's Friends – eucalyptus & menthol to clear the airways – sweets or medicine?		General Knowledge Quiz	x	It's Only Make Believe	
Sunday 3rd January	1883	Clement Attlee, Labour politician, Prime Minister and Leader of Opposition, born	x	Leftovers – and using cling film, foil and Tupperware to protect the items		Knitting, especially on a cold, winter's night - counting the stitches and the rows	A x	Thank-you letters, and rules about receiving and acknowledging gifts		The Bright Side of Life Puzzle – find six words that look on the bright side of life		California, Here I Come!	