

BURROWINGS

THE NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER
FROM BUNNY BURROWS

NEWS FROM 'THE BURROW

Well I have to admit this has not been the best 3 months but I always say Every Cloud Has A Silver Lining. Here's hoping. The hip is still painful, the operation due to be done on the 25th. of September was cancelled due to an infection in my left ankle where I have another leg ulcer. There is one certain fact, however much I would like to stay in bed with this furry family and all the friends around me, there is no chance.



As you will probably have read in Charlotte's Diary a few of the special residents have gone over Rainbow Bridge. Losing Tanner has been soul destroying, he was such a special part of my life, helping me on eBay on an evening, snuggling up and washing me; such a sad loss. Also Maybelline, after fighting the massive jaw abscess and coming back strong. However, with all the medication being administered each day, we just have to keep smiling.

Thankfully without me, the group have all rallied round to fund raise a successful coffee morning at Northallerton in September and a few days at Pets @ Home Darlington have kept the massive vet bills paid. I have got back into the eBay habit, some great goodies coming in from the supporters has spurred me on; it took a while after losing my eBay partner Tanner, but things are on target again. I must take this opportunity once again to all of you that have been so generous and kind, bringing the amazing variation of items to sell. My life will never be dull when I have the challenge of both photographing and describing the various items to sell. From handbags, clothes, footwear to face creams, tapestry kits and even maracas, just to name a few. Please go onto our eBay site you will be amazed. THANKS!!!



The weather being so warm has made the tortoise hibernation quite

NEWS FROM THE BURROW

CONTUNUED ...

*Here 's
hoping
Christmas
brings you
all you
wish for,
especially
peace and
good
health.*

*Best
wishes
Gwen.*

a difficult task this year, one day they looked asleep the next trying to climb up through the straw to push the lid open to get out: hopefully now they will sleep until March. They are checked and weighed on a regular basis to keep a record making sure not too much weight is lost. Five are asleep, the other three are in vivariums keeping warm and being fed. They are not fit enough to hibernate.

I do hope you are all up to date with the Christmas shopping, we have kept the locals up to date with an electronic countdown to Christmas in the window. It has been on show counting down from 99 days, very popular with the children, not so with the parents.

The Hot X Bunny day is booked in Richmond Town Hall, same as this year. It is the Sunday before Easter that is Palm Sunday. We will remind you in the next Burrowings.

On a more serious note please remember over the winter months if your animals are living outside to be sure they have plenty of hay to keep them warm. Ensure the hutch is secure, dry and weatherproof. Cover the front at night so the wet wind and snow doesn't blow in. Plenty of good food and check the water bowl or bottle is not frozen.

RECIPE FOR NOVEMBER

FROM JOHN TALBOT



8oz Plain flour
Pinch of salt
4oz Margarine
Water to mix
6oz Mincemeat
Icing sugar

Heat the oven to 200c or Gas 6. You will need a tin for 12 tarts.

Mix the flour, salt and rub in the fat until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

Stir in just enough water to form a dough.

Roll out the pastry and cut out 12 large rounds and 12 small rounds. Use the large rounds to line the tins and add a teaspoon of mincemeat to each. Damp the edges of the pastry with water. Place the small pastry rounds on top and press the edges together. Brush with milk and make a small hole in the top of each one. Bake for 15 - 20 mins until golden brown.

Remove carefully from tin & dust with icing sugar.

**MINCE
PIES**

BOARD OR BORING GAMES

FROM KAZ.

The Victorians were fond of Parlour games (*Parlour* derives from the old French word *parloir* or *parler*, meaning, 'to speak'.) but a lot of them have been forgotten, although a handful of them have been passed down through the generations and are still firm favourites. The Victorian families were among the first to have 'free time' and were the last to pass that time without television. They enjoyed interactive parlour games, ranging from cards and board games to charades.



Many games didn't need a lot of sophisticated equipment.. One of the most well known props for parlour and party games was a scarf, used as a blind-fold in games like, 'Blind Man's Buff' where a volunteer had to catch other players with their eyes covered (You couldn't play that now, Health and Safety wouldn't allow it) and 'Pin the tail on the donkey' where the tail (which was a hankerchief, ahhh, clean I hope otherwise I would snot be playing) had to be attached to a picture of a donkey without being able to see. Another prop was the chair, used in Musical Chairs; where an unlucky player is out of the game once the music had stopped (music was often made by banging on a biscuit tin with a spoon and you ate broken biscuits for the rest of the week) and there were no chairs left to sit on. A really popular one was 'Hunt the Thimble' in which one person leaves the room and everybody else hides the thimble. In the singing version, the people who hid the thimble sing 'How Green You Are!' louder when the searcher is close to the object and softer when they are further away.

Young ladies and their mothers spent their leisure time learning needlecrafts, creating ornaments and reading books. Both male and female family members would gather around the parlour organ or piano to have a 'sing-song'. Can you imagine doing that now, the neighbours would be banging on the wall !

Memory games were popular and included 'Grandmother's Trunk' in which players had to memorise a growing list of possessions from the trunk. Can you imagine what todays' Grandmother would have in her trunk ... Vodka, Mobile Phone, Tenna Lady !

*Can you
imagine
what to-
days'
Grand-
mother
would
have in
her trunk?*

YORK'S SECRET SPACES

FROM JENNIFER ROBERTS

A forty-five minute brisk walk from my house, past the local Tesco and the new Askham Bar Park and Ride site, brings you to the peaceful haven of Askham Bog.



Approximately 100 acres of woodland and wet grassland, the reserve has been in the care of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust since 1946. The then named Yorkshire Naturalist Trust received this site as a gift from Francis Terry and Arnold Rowntree, the famous York chocolate makers. The Yorkshire Naturalist Trust was set up primarily to manage this unique site and became the first site ever to be owned by the Wildlife Trust we know today. This special site comprises peat bog and fenland, giving home to an array of wetland plants, birds and animals. Retreating glaciers in the Ice Age left debris lodged in a former lake, trapped by a low hill to the south. As a result of this hill, the remains formed a peat bog that was harvested since the Roman times as a fuel source. When finally abandoned, plant life flourished in land rich in nutrients and vital water supplies.

The remains formed a peat bog that was harvested since the Roman times as a fuel source.

Management of this site over the years has included cutting back birches and alders so the site remains damp as the roots of these prolific trees and shrubs would parch the bog of its waters. Some meadows are mown, often with the use of Exmoor ponies drafted in to assist (and a raft of willing volunteers) or left fallow so the orchids and ragged robin can grow. Fen sedge, more akin to the Norfolk Fens, can also be found along with the rarer ginger bread sedge where it is believed that Askham Bog holds the most number in England.

Some watercourses have been dammed to keep water levels high and with the more practical installation of boardwalks, means that visitors to the site can walk easily through the trees, along the water's edge and through the bog without having to wear Wellingtons. The site is prone to flooding in severe weathers, which is only natural, and of course, expected, in York.

There is a car park outside the reserve entrance. The walk away from the busy A64 and along the edge of golf course soon drops you

YORK'S SECRET SPACES

CONTINUED ...

away from the tiring traffic and into nature with a few easy steps. More often than not, a buzzard can be seen sitting on the telegraph poles by the railway line, a tempting tease of the bird life at the bog to be discovered.



The first few feet of board walk leads you past a meadow on your left and a watercourse on your right. The simple fence, which protects the delicate habitat, also serves as a useful bird table. If you leave seed on the posts, you are instantly rewarded with the arrival of a familiar robin, a mass of blue and great tits, the shy marsh tit and bold chaffinches. The wood to the right is boggy (you will need your wellies here) but woodpeckers, both green and great, along with the gravity defying tree creepers can often be seen, and if you know where to look, woodcock, flying low in a shocked twitter of disturbance.

The boardwalk leads you further along; past the reed beds (sedge and reed warblers in spring) and you have the choice of a right turn to the pond or straight on deeper into the reserve. The pond was once home to a family of water vowels now believed to have been lost to a mink. The hope is one day they will return, but the array of dragon flies and damsel flies more than makes up for them. There are paths leading to distant woods and boggy paths best left to dry weather, where kestrels and hobbies have been seen. A bench is nicely placed to sit and listen to the laughing wood warblers or an angry wren.

Continuing on the main route through the bog, you pass more reed beds, shrubs and woodlands. The wood is alive in spring with siskin, bullfinch and black caps. Bright chested bullfinch bounce around the branches and blackbirds rummage in the undergrowth for grubs and worms. A quiet walk can often result in the unexpected delight of seeing the roe deer that inhabit the area or the foxes that live nearby. Deer and human meet eyes for that brief magical moment before the latter bound away to hide behind the one holly tree that is located here or into the thicket of shrubs that screen their feeding on fresh green shoots. There are a few benches, for those that need a sit down, and a few information boards for those that want to read more.

*Bright
cheded
bullfinch
bounce
around the
branches
and black-
birds rum-
mage in
the under-
growth.*

YORK'S SECRET SPACES

CONTINUED ...



A snowy walk is both bracing and breathtaking.

Sadly, the area is not so far from town that it does not receive unwanted attention from vandals. The seating does not go undamaged and the cost of replacing too expensive to warrant continued replacement. An equilibrium is sometimes the best that can be managed.

The circular walk is long enough to see the variety of wildlife to be found but also short enough not to deter the smallest or oldest of legs. The boards are flat enough to guide you gently around whatever your level of fitness. It's a great place for a spring or summer walk but to me, it is also a place of beauty in winter, alive with birds and animals just as much if you care to take the time to find them. A snowy walk is both bracing and breathtaking. With winter looming, it is worth remembering that nature is available all year round, if you know where to find it. And now you do.

Location: The reserve lies two miles southwest of York, north of the A64. The Pike Hills Golf Course lies on three sides of the reserve. It can be approached from the A64 or from the centre of York. From the eastbound A64, take the A1036 exit.. The car park is halfway along the sliproad, by the traffic lights. Westbound, take the A1036 exit, follow the road through the underpass to the traffic lights. Turn left to the car park just before the next set of lights. From York, take the A1036 Tadcaster Road towards the A64. Turn right at the Copmanthorpe traffic lights and the car park is on the right. .

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

AKA KAZ

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles this month, I really didn't have to do much 'hounding' HA HA. On page 14 we have a new section called KRAFTER'S KORNER, are you a secret crafter and would like to share it with us, then send me your story and photos.

furryhollow@yahoo.co.uk

I'M JUST WILD ABOUT

FROM GWEN

Bunny Burrows has been my life for the past 20 years. I have been lucky to have learnt such a lot about the life, health, needs and nature of rabbits and guinea pigs. I have to admit the biggest pleasure is having the opportunity to hand rear wild rabbits, thankfully with a great deal of success. To be so close to wild rabbits, some only hours old has been an amazing experience. I say to many, these are the perfectly formed rabbit. Why? because they are perfect in shape and in size. Their colouring could never be matched by putting paint on a canvas, their ears are upright and can move to pick up the slightest sound, eyes as bright as buttons and a scutt (tail) as white as the driven snow, so intelligent and clean.. Simply just perfect.

I was questioned not so long ago as to why I bother to spend so much time on a wild rabbit when rehabilitated back to it's normal habitat it's chance of survival is almost nil. Well actually I pointed out that I am very lucky to have a friend with land around his home and these special creatures live free but are actually quite dependant on Richard to care for them so they have a perfect life sitting on his back step in a morning waiting for their breakfast.

However some of these bunnies are unable to return to the wild due to health issues or becoming too tame to be street wise. Over the past years we had the first wild resident named "Wild Thing" he was a male, we had him neutered and he lived with a very small female called "Trog" that connection will only make sense to folk of my era, a group called the Trogs made a record and the title was Wild Thing. That pair made a perfect group of three and when a grey wild rabbit came in, she was found near a hamlet in the Richmond area called Easby and yes she was named "Easby" they all lived a happy life at Bunny Burrows for many years.

Sometime later the Kensington Vets in Darlington asked me if I would take a wild male rabbit in that had been picked up in a supermarket in the town and had been hand reared by the staff. This we did but again he was unable to go in the wild as he suffered dreadful fits with no warning. He lived many years here with us and sadly passed away on the same day as my husband John 4 years ago. The



**PICKERTY
WITCH**

*The biggest
brightest
button
eyes you
could
imagine
her name
is "Pickety
Witch".*

I'M JUST WILD ABOUT

CONTINUED ...



ROLEX

*One had,
we think
been
caught
with the
shovel and
as she has
grown up
has had
fits and
trauma so
much so
her teeth
were dam-
aged.*

The ironic thing was, it was Johns love and care that could calm Kensington when he was fitting.

After these wildies we had many more that we hand reared and passed to friend Richard to continue their lives in the wild. In Spring 2011 a wild rabbit, hours old came along, I hand reared him successfully, what a handful he was, he could escape though the smallest gap, he was named "Indiana" a real character but so tame. He stayed on his own for a short time until another single female came in and they became a special bonded couple until sadly Indiana had gut stasis and being wild did not cope and died at the vets. This girl is still with us, the biggest brightest button eyes you could imagine, her name is "Pickety Witch". She is so tame, she comes to the edge of her large cage night and morning for a carrot crunchie. Loves to be outside in her large hutch and run but not happy if the weather is cold, wet and windy, well you don't see many wild rabbits out in those conditions do you?

A call 18 months ago from a company not far away asked if we would take a litter of wild rabbits, the digger had disturbed the nest in a pile of top soil. There was five, only hours old, bottle feeding them with full cream goats milk, making them wee and keeping them warm and quiet certainly helped their survival. However, one had, we think, been caught with the shovel and as she has grown up has had fits and trauma, so much so, her teeth were damaged and also with the damage earlier she has no sight in the right eye. We named her "Rolex" because she is precious and used to roll around a lot. She has been spayed and teeth successfully removed and now lives with a wild male rabbit only 5 months old. Her whole world is now different, no more stress or fits. She will let you fuss and smooth her, will even lick you and take a carrot crunchie. I will now tell you who the special man in her life is.



TARQUIN

Approximately 6 months ago 2 wild babies came in only 48 hours old, one sadly didn't survive; the other a proper little fighter. However we did have an odd occasion when he would stop breathing, I gave him the 'kiss of life' by gently rubbing his chest and it brought him back. As you can imagine that made him very special and very attached to me and me to him. I call

I'M JUST WILD ABOUT

CONTINUED ...

ed him Tarquin because when he was small he looked like a baby otter. When he first arrived he was the size of a credit card now he is such a big boy. He will be going to get his toggles off soon (castrated). Such a friendly rabbit always comes to the front of the cage for attention. The perfect answer to Rolex dreams and the solving of her health issues .they snuggle up together. and groom each other.

Wild rabbits are not pets, they are not for hugging and are very destructive, they belong in the wild and when hand rearing them I do so for them to live in the environment they belong. I am not strong enough to let them go myself but giving them to Richard makes me very happy.

There are so many variations in colours, some even grey and many having a white blaze on the heads, to me they are all just PERFECT!

THE RABBIT HABIT FROM GEORGIA ROBERTS DURSTON

There once was a rabbit, who had the bad habit
Of twitching the end of his nose.
His sisters and brothers, and various others, said
"Look at the way he goes!"

But one little bunny said, "Isn't it funny!"
And practised it down in the dell.
Said the others, "If he can, I'm positive we can"
And did it remarkably well.

Now, all the world over, where rabbits eat clover
And burrow and scratch with their toes,
You'll find every rabbit has got the bad habit
Of twitching the end of his nose.

*This year
we have
had so
many to
hand rear
and only 6
weeks ago
7 went
back to the
wild*



*What a
lovely
nose !*

TALBOT BUNNIES UPDATE

FROM JOHN TALBOT



As I write, the weather has turned considerably colder. Winter has arrived.

Throughout the winter, as long as it is dry our bunnies come out every day into the garden. Rabbits enjoy and need exercise and seem comfortable in Winter weather. Our bunnies are able to go back into their hutches in the shed at any time, although we usually have to chase them back in.

Overall their health has been good recently. Simba is still having his monthly non general anaesthetic dental. At his last dental he had 4 points on his molars, poor little chap.

Our latest editions, the little Dutch pair, Buster & Bonnie have really made themselves at home. Buster is the most friendly affectionate bunny imaginable. In 43 years of keeping rabbits, we have never had such a friendly bunny.

We would like to wish everyone and their pets a very happy and healthy Christmas.

All the summer flowers are now over and I hope to have the digging over of the ground completed very soon. I find it easier to chase the rabbits back in now, as they have nowhere much to hide. They are however, indulging in a lot of burrowing. In a fairly short time they can dig quite a deep burrow and they can be difficult to entice out of it. Well, it is rabbits doing what they do naturally. This Summer we purchased 4 lovely bales of organic hay. We have already used almost two of them, so hope we can purchase three more. We like nothing better than see them warm and snug for the Winter.

CONTACT DETAILS

FOR BUNNY BURROWS



*68 Whitefields Drive
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 7DL*

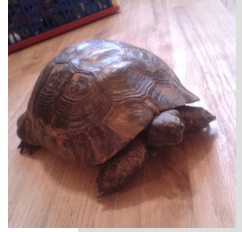
Telephone 01748 824788

bunnyburrows@tesco.net

FRED THE TORTOISE

FROM SOPHIE WEBB

Fred is one of the oldest and largest tortoises who has been brought to Bunny Burrows, as his current owners alone have had him for around 50 years.



He first came to Bunny Burrows five years ago on holiday and has been coming regularly since. He had always lived outside and when it came to Winter, he used to dig himself a hole in his owner's garden to hibernate. However, this year he was forced to come out of hibernation early as the premature Spring meant that the bulbs sprouted earlier than usual, forcing Fred to return to the surface before he normally would. Due to his early rising, it was not warm enough for him and as a result, he stopped eating and became ill. His shell was also found to be damaged (see photo) but it is not known what caused this and as a result, his concerned owners brought him to Gwen who kept and treated him at Bunny Burrows for a while.

After several trips to the vets and regular injections, he got better and was well enough to return home but soon went downhill again. The vet said that he wouldn't survive hibernating underground again due to his health and age and because his owners do not have the facilities for him to be brought inside over winter, they brought him back to Bunny Burrows at the beginning of Autumn.

Thankfully, he is now back to his former health after lots of care, including injections every third day for three weeks and feeding him a tablet every day for two weeks, something which he did not take to very well and it turned into a battle just to get him to open his mouth to take it!

Lately he has been eating very well and has returned to his usual mischievous self, including trying to mate with the lawnmower!

He has certainly become a part of the Bunny Burrows' family and is a welcome part of the gang, whenever and for however long he stays.

Fred used to dig himself a hole in his owner's garden to hibernate.

THE CHRISTMAS CARD

FROM KAZ.



It is believed that the very first Christmas card may have been made in Germany.

It's that time of the year when you sit down and draw up your Christmas card list for friends. You probably haven't heard from half of them since last Christmas but you 'always send a Christmas card !!'

But ... Did you know this tradition has its roots in Torquay ?

Henry Cole was a very busy man, working in the Public Records Office in London. In fact, he was so busy, that he didn't have time to write to all his family and friends at Christmas time. So, in 1840, he asked well known artist, John Calcott Horsley (I don't think I knew him !) to design a card with a message on it to send to family and friends. The artist was living close to Torquay and it was there he designed that card.

The card showed the feeding and clothing of the poor on each side and in the centre, there is a 'happy family' having a drink and enjoying the festivities. 'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year To You' was printed on the front ... Hmmm ... Not a lot has changed ! The card went down well with Henry's family and friends and in 1843, 1000 cards were produced for commercial sale, costing one shilling each, making it the first recorded mass production of a Christmas card. It is believed that the very first Christmas card may have been made in Germany, centuries earlier but the one designed in Torquay is the one which marked the birth of the commercial card.

Henry Cole went on to help Organise the Great Exhibition in 1851, which was the first international exhibition of manufactured products, held in Crystal Palace in Hyde Park. It's thought that a few of Horsleys original cards still exist and one of them is on display in the National Art Library in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

DID YOU KNOW ?

FROM KAZ.

THE abbreviation Xmas isn't irreligious. The letter X is a Greek abbreviation for Christ.

BROWNIES ... EDIBLE ONES !

FROM ANNE SUTTIE

185g Butter
185g Dark chocolate
85g Plain flour
40g Cocoa powder
50g Milk chocolate
50g White chocolate
3 Large eggs
275g Caster sugar

Cooking time, 25 minutes + 5 if necessary at 160° C

Melt butter and dark chocolate.

Sieve together flour and cocoa.

Cut white and milk chocolate into chunks.

Whisk eggs and caster sugar on high, until thick and creamy.

Add chocolate mixture to eggs and sugar.

Add flour and cocoa and chocolate chunks.

Pour into a lined tin, bake and leave to cool in the tin.



*Only as
part of a
calorie
controlled
diet la*

FOR JEAN BRADLEY

FROM MARCIA TALBOT

Jean, a BB supporter from the Isle of Wight is wished a speedy recovery. She has a broken shoulder from a fall and she has fallen again and broken her wrist and bruised her face. Things can only get better Jean ☺

DID YOU KNOW

FROM KAZ

US scientists calculated that Santa would have to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at 650 miles a second.

BOXING Day gets its name from all the money collected in church alms-boxes for the poor. I thought it was fighting with your family the next day !!!!

*Santa
Claus was
born in
270 AD.*

KRAFTERS KORNER

FEATURING JO WABBIT FELT CREATIONS

If you read Charlotte's Diary on our website, you will have read about Jo, one of the Trustees who has turned her spare time into felt craft.

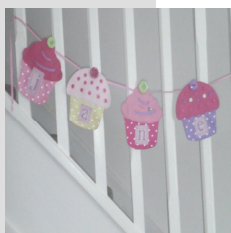


Jo told us, I don't know how it all started, or where the idea came from but I woke up one day in February and just wanted to start making things. One of the photos I have attached is a floral bunting with the letters 'M U M' on.....this was my very first bunting and my Mum didn't know I was making it for her so she was pleasantly surprised when I gave it to her - she knew I had been practising but sneaky me didn't let on what I was making!



To the left is my very first felt bunting, made for a friend's grandson.....you can see how I have advanced over the months ☺

I feel I have been given a special gift that started in February of this year and I just love creating all my felt creations. I am in the process of putting together a 'portfolio' of all my makings.....I've started it but as yet haven't finished it!



I'm also in the process of completing three commissioned bunnings.

A note from Kaz ...

Many cultures have legends as to the origins of felt making. Sumerian legend claims that the secret of feltmaking was discovered by Urnamman of Lagash. The story of Saint Clement and Saint Christopher relates that while fleeing from persecution, the men packed their sandals with wool to prevent blisters. At the end of their journey, the movement and sweat had turned the wool into felt socks.

Feltmaking is still practised by nomadic people in Central Asia where rugs, tents and clothing are regularly made. Some of these are traditional items, such as the classic yurt, (a portable dwelling) while others are designed for the tourist market, such as decorated slippers. In the Western world, felt is widely used as a medium for expression in textile art as well as design, where it has significance as an ecological textile.

SPONSOR A PET AND HELP BUNNY BURROWS

SPONSOR
A
PET

Sponsoring a pet is a super way of helping Bunny Burrows.

Sponsorship lasts for one year and costs £20, the equivalent of only 39p a week.

You will receive an A5 sponsor certificate card with a colour photo, an Easter card, Christmas card and an updated photo in the form of a fridge magnet. Also our newsletter, four times a year.

Take a look at the long term residents who will never be rehomed because of on-going health problems.

If you are interested please let us have your name, address and who you would like to sponsor.

Please send your details with a cheque to
Bunny Burrows
68 Whitefields Drive
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 7DL

GIFT AID is tax relief on money donated to UK Charities, please tell us if you will allow us to claim this back from your £20.



TYSON



BARNEY



MERCURY



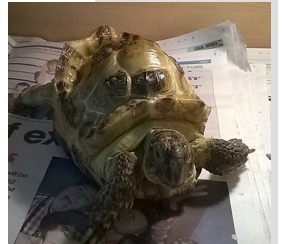
EVIE



DIZZY



CLARISSA



MARIGOLD

LIZZY'S LINKWORDS

FROM LIZZY

Find the missing link between the words!

I've done the first one so you "get the idea"- enjoy!

Shopping Up

The answer is "trip" shopping trip and trip up!

1. Banana Shift
2. Fruit Over
3. Wedding Up
4. Plain Mill
5. Chocolate Boat
6. Bob End
7. Roof ... Gun
8. Gold Supper
9. Paper ... Friend
10. Candle House
11. Pitch Over
12. Blown Due
13. Fish Down
14. Holiday Away

15. Royal Court

16. Bunny ... Over

17. Fore Christmas

18. Watch ... Tired

19. Poodle Game

20. Back Car



1. Split
2. Bowl
3. Dress
4. Flour
5. Sauce
6. Tail
7. Top
8. Fish
9. Boy
10. Light
11. Fork
12. Over
13. Scale
14. Time
15. Crown
16. Hop
17. Father
18. Dog
19. Parlour
20. Side