

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

“Time is flying“, stellt der Englisch sprechende Mensch oft fest, wenn er/sie der Meinung ist, dass das Jahr wieder einmal viel zu schnell vergangen zu sein scheint. Diesen Eindruck hat man ja häufig, wenn sich in einem gewissen Zeitraum viel ereignet hat. Und gerade für Großbritannien war dieses zu Ende gehende Jahr voller bedeutender Ereignisse, wie z.B. dem Diamantenen Thronjubiläum von Königin Elisabeth II. oder den Olympischen Sommerspielen und Paralympics in London. Diese Ereignisse fanden übrigens in unseren letzten Ausgaben Erwähnung.

In dem vorliegenden neuesten Newsletter können Sie auf Seite 6, der Jahreszeit entsprechend, einen Artikel über vorweihnachtliche Feierlichkeiten im Stil der Zeit von Charles Dickens lesen, die alljährlich in Rochester, einem Ort südöstlich von London, stattfinden. Der bekannte englische Schriftsteller, von dem neben anderen Romanen auch die Erzählung über den Geizhals und Weihnachtsmuffel Ebenezer Scrooge, „A Christmas Carol“, stammt, lebte übrigens mehrere Jahre in der Nähe von Rochester. Doch auch andere Orte führen solche Dickensian Festivals durch.

Wir werfen jedoch auch noch einmal einen Blick zurück auf den vergangenen Sommer. In seinem gleich anschließend abgedruckten Beitrag berichtet Karlheinz Uhlig über seinen Urlaub in einem speziell für Radfahrer und Skater ausgebauten Gebiet südlich von Berlin. Vielleicht ist dieser Bericht eine Anregung für all jene, die in ihrem Urlaub auch etwas für ihre Fitness tun möchten.

Einen weiteren Beitrag von einem unsere Mitglieder, Günther Wagenzink, in dem es um die nicht ganz ernst gemeinte Frage geht, welches Geschlecht das Wort ‚Computer‘ hat, können Sie auf Seite 10 lesen.

Es hat sich sicherlich unter den Mitgliedern herumgesprochen, dass unsere Gesellschaft in diesem Jahr nicht am Chemnitzer Stadtfest teilgenommen hat. Die Gründe für diese Entscheidung, die sich der Vorstand übrigens nicht leicht gemacht hat, sind mehrschichtig, haben aber zu einem großen Teil mit finanziellen Überlegungen zu tun. Die Kosten für den Stand, die von den Organisatoren des Stadtfestes für dieses Jahr angesetzt wurden, waren so hoch, dass sich, wenn man die zu erwarteten Einnahmen dagegensetzt, eine Teilnahme nicht gelohnt hätte. Einzelheiten zu dieser Angelegenheit werden auf der Mitgliederkurzversammlung vor unserer Weihnachtsfeier bekannt gegeben.

Hier noch eine Information für die Internetnutzer unter den Lesern dieses Newsletters. Seit Sommer ist die DBG Chemnitz auch bei Facebook zu finden. Frau Tröller hat dafür eine Seite eingerichtet, auf der man weitere Informationen über die Arbeit unserer Gesellschaft finden und selbst Anmerkungen und Kommentare dazu abgeben kann.

Zum Abschluss möchten wir all unseren Lesern viel Spaß beim Blättern in diesem Heft, eine frohe Weihnachtszeit sowie einen guten Start ins Neue Jahr wünschen.

Die Redaktion



Flaeming-Skate

Maybe you like skating or cycling but you don't like steep ups and downs or bumpy ways. Then go to Flaeming-Skate. Discover Europe's first and largest skating path in the region of Teltow-Flaeming, just south of Berlin. Flaeming-Skate is praised as a trekking paradise for skaters, cyclist, and even for those in wheelchairs who like to remain active. After having been there I can confirm that and recommend it. About 200 km long and 2-3 m wide, the path is designed for fitness enthusiasts of all ages and includes different circular courses that take you through a variety of villages, fields, meadows, and forests. The shortest course is 11 km long, the longest one 95 km.

I went to Flaeming-Skate accompanied by my garden neighbour. When we had previously been looking for a suitable accommodation, we found a recommendable inn in Petkus. Petkus is a centrally located village at Flaeming-Skate so we would be able to get directly to the most circular courses by bicycle. We decided to go on our tour by my neighbour's car. He has got a big one so both bikes could be put into it.

On 3 July our trip began. We started in the morning to have enough time for a long tour on the first day. However, when we arrived at the inn in Petkus, the landlady said, "Gentlemen, I'm very sorry, your rooms haven't been cleaned yet. The previous residents have left too late."

After a short thinking we decided to go by car to a remote destination we wanted to visit anyway, Kloster Zinna. It's a village that has got its name from a former Cistercian monastery. This monastery



had been founded in the Middle Ages but was partly torn down after the Reformation. The inhabitants of the bordering growing village used the stones and bricks of the monastery walls as building material for their houses. Nowadays there exist only the church, the house where the abbot lived and worked (now a museum), and the distillery where the famous herb liqueur "Zinnaer Klosterbruder" was and is still being made. When we were visiting all these buildings and came to the distillery, we got a sample of that delicious liqueur.

After the visit we had a light lunch, took our bicycles out of the car and went on our first bicycle ride. We wanted to check the state of Flaeming-Skate, and we weren't disappointed. Satisfied with

that, we finished our riding trip and went back by car to Petkus. Meanwhile the rooms had been cleaned and after a good supper we went to bed.

On the second day we rode the longest course that is offered. It's Circular Course No. 1. This course is 95 km long and the paths are as good as promised. Smooth asphalt almost everywhere and only a few ups and downs - easy to manage for a cyclist. 95 kilometres may sound as if it was an exhausting tour. But because of the level way and the smooth surface it wasn't.

On the third day we weren't riding all day long. We made use of the lovely weather and rode to an open-air swimming pool about 30 km away from our inn. So we had a mix of riding and swimming on that day.

In the following night the weather got worse. A thunderstorm was brewing and at dawn it started to rain. Therefore we didn't go for a ride again. Instead, we packed and went home to Chemnitz.

Karlheinz Uhlig



Review of the last months

30 August 2012

"Holidays in Rome"

There is the saying "See Rome and die" (originally "See Naples and die"). Well, **Silvia Tröller** did see Rome, but she decided not to die, which was good. Otherwise we wouldn't have had the chance to experience this excellent report on her holidays in the "eternal city", that is visited every day by tens of thousands of tourists from all over the world.

After some introductory words, Mrs Tröller took the statue of Castor and Pollux as a starting point for a short excursion into Roman history before she eventually turned to present-day Rome. Besides an abundance of photos showing the places and sights Mrs Tröller, her partner and their "temporary daughter" Sofiya, from the USA, had seen and her account of their experiences, she also gave a number of useful pieces of advice on how to travel to and inside Rome. The pictures, that were by the way a selection out of more than 800 photos, were really impressive. From well-known landmarks, such as the Castle of the Holy Angel (Engelsburg) and the Colosseum, to the Easter mass of the pope on St Peter's Square with thousands of spectators, or an unusual view of St Peter's Basilica (Petersdom) through a keyhole of the entrance door to the Order of Malta - all the photos had turned out very well.

Mrs Tröller finished her talk with an account of an incident that happened on the last day of their stay. They intended to visit the villa and garden of the Borghese family but were rejected by the wardens because they hadn't booked in advance. After speaking to one of the wardens and waiting for a while, however, they were finally let in, which shows that some convincing words and patience can sometimes lead to success.

The audience thanked Mrs Tröller for her informative and interesting report with warm applause, and I'm looking forward to her talks on her tour of the USA that she announced for the next year.

Siegfried Rosch

27 September 2012

“Fascinating India”

At the beginning of her talk, **Mrs Jana Schreiber** introduced herself, and the audience got to know some personal dates of her life and how she became interested in India.

Mrs Schreiber divided her report into several parts combined with a lot of photos. She spoke about religious customs and especially about the curious admiration of rats. It was unusual to see countless rats being fed in one of the temples.

Many photos illustrated the various cultural life of Indian people, among others, for instance, women and men during a wedding ceremony in their precious clothes.

Mrs Schreiber also talked about everyday life in India and showed photos of overloaded lorries or electricity poles with chaotically entwined electric wires and hemp plants on the roadside. In this regard she explained that Indian circumstances may cause a great culture shock to European people.

The audience experienced an interesting and funny evening and thanked with great applause.

Maria Weiße

25 October 2012

“Tanzania: What you may not have heard about my land”

Those in the audience who had hoped to learn new and unknown facts about **Mr Dunlop Ochieng's** home country, might have been a little disappointed because only at the beginning of his talk, he gave some general pieces of information on Tanzania, such as the geographical situation, the name of the capital (which is not Dar es Salaam, the biggest city of the country and major sea port, but Dodoma, which was new to me), or the number of National Parks. He also mentioned the highest mountain in Africa and the only one with a snow cap, the Kilimanjaro, and Zanzibar, called ‘The Stone City’, which is, because of its unique architecture, a World Heritage Site.

Mr Ochieng, who actually studies at the University of Dar es Salaam but is presently at the TU Chemnitz to write his doctoral dissertation, had decided for the greater part of the evening to present a rather humorous view of his country. For this purpose he showed several photos of varying quality taken from the internet and representing different aspects of everyday life in his country. We saw road signs and posters on which the two official languages, Swahili and English, were mixed in a funny way, he gave security tips and showed how to stay fit - all in a tongue-in-cheek attitude which frequently raised a laugh in the audience.

At the end of his talk, Mr Ochieng gave the audience the opportunity to ask him questions about Tanzania and himself.

All in all, it was a rather unusual but still entertaining talk. A little problematic, however, might have been for some listeners his accent and the fact that he didn't always speak towards the audience which made it sometimes difficult to understand him.

Siegfried Rosch

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Fr., 7.12.2012, 18 Uhr, Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125, Veranstaltungsraum:
Mitgliederkurzversammlung und Weihnachtsfeier

Di, 8.1.2013, 16 Uhr, Otto-Brenner-Haus, Hainstr. 125, Veranstaltungsraum: Stollenparty,
Eintritt: 2 Stück Stollen

Do., 31.1.2013, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Washington D.C.", Reisebericht in
englischer Sprache von Silvia Tröller

Do., 28.2.2013, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: Vortrag von Nancy Gibson (Kanada),
Sopranistin und Leiterin der Musikschule Chemnitz, Thema steht noch nicht fest

Do., 28.3.2013, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "The Beautiful South – The English Riviera",
Videovortrag in englischer Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

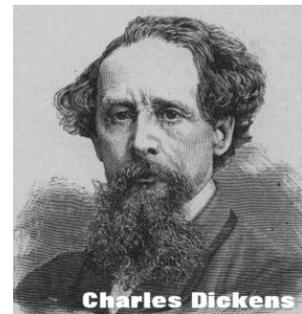
Do., 25.4.2013, Nachwächterrundgang mit unserem Mitglied Thomas Mehnert, weitere Einzelheiten
zu Zeit und Treffpunkt folgen

-Änderungen vorbehalten-

“Having a Dickens of a Good Time”

The scenes could be straight out of a box of old-fashioned Christmas cards. Dickensian characters in top-hats, ladies in bonnets and full-length dresses and chimney-sweeps stroll past shops and inns decorated for the festive season. Flakes of snow float past a medieval castle and cathedral onto groups of carol-singers and warmly wrapped ice-skaters. Christmas trees and colourful lights everywhere; roast chestnuts and mulled wine being enjoyed.

These aren't images from long ago but memories of last year's Dickensian Christmas in Rochester, Kent, an hour south-east of London. This compact city beside the River Medway has many links with writer Charles Dickens, who lived at nearby Gads Hill Place in Higham. Rochester was one of his favourite places and he based many of his novels there. Descriptions of the town appear in *Great Expectations* and *The Pickwick Papers*. The parade of his fictional characters along the High Street is one of the highlights of the annual free event, held on the first weekend of December. Scrooge, the ghost of Christmas past, carol singers, bell ringers, street theatre, children's shows, Father Christmas and Dickensian characters are among the activities at the festival.



Each day there are parades through Rochester, and the magnificent surroundings of Rochester Cathedral and Castle and guaranteed snowfall create a charming scene. (There is always snow at the time of the festival with the help of an artificial snow machine, unless the real stuff turns up.) The finale of the festival is the Dickensian candlelight parade through the High Street culminating in Christmas carols outside the Cathedral.

Rochester's Dickensian Christmas has been held annually since 1988.

Another Dickensian festival takes place in Grassington, in the north of England. On three Saturdays in December Grassington, a pretty village in the Yorkshire Dales, transforms itself into a Dickensian wonderland, its streets and square filled with a bustling market thronged with strolling musicians, dancers and other entertainers in Victorian costume.

The Grassington Dickensian Festival is a magical celebration of all that's best about Christmas from days gone by. This fabulous fun-filled event involves the whole village and attracts visitors from far and wide.

Over three Saturdays in December the streets of this lovely village are awash with Christmas lights and decorated in traditional Dickensian style. Villagers and shopkeepers are dressed in Victorian costumes and visitors are encouraged to enter into the spirit of things by doing the same.

There is so much to enjoy during the festival, including Santa's procession, torchlight nativity processions, handbell ringers, Morris Men, carol singing, musicians, dancers, traditional crafts, a barrel organ, a brass band and a whole host of Christmas market stalls selling traditional festive fayre and gifts.

The British expression "having a dickens of a good time" is never more appropriate than when at one of these atmospheric events. Everyone wants to have a good time.

(www.rochesterdickensfestival.org.uk, www.grassington.uk.com)

This and that from the 'island'

Could it be Richard?

Searching for a medieval king who had been lost for 527 years always looked like a long shot.

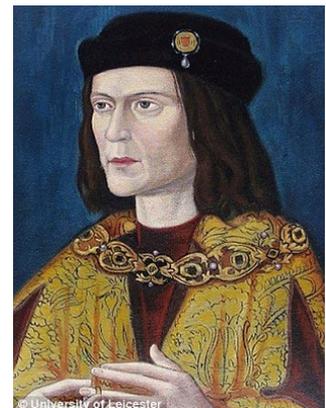
In a discovery worthy of a Hollywood film, however, archaeologists announced at the end of October they had unearthed what appear to be the remains of Richard III.

Using historic maps, they traced a friary where he was rumoured to have been buried after being killed in battle – underneath a council car park of New Street in the centre of Leicester.

After only three weeks of digging, to their astonishment they found the skeleton of an adult male who was well-built and clearly of noble descent. His injuries – a metal arrowhead embedded in his back, and a severe blow to the head – are consistent with the king's death at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. Even more persuasive is the fact that the man has a severely curved spine; Richard was famously nicknamed Crookback. He was not a hunchback, the archaeologists said, but his right shoulder was higher than his left – consistent with accounts of Richard's appearance.

Experts stress that the remains must be subjected to rigorous DNA testing, to be undertaken over the next three months, to be sure if it is him. But they say the discovery is a potentially 'historic moment'.

Richard III, the last monarch of the Plantagenet family, ruled for only two years before dying in battle in 1485 when he was 32. It marked the end of the Wars of the Roses and the victory of Henry Tudor, the first of the new dynasty.



Mad Mud race

Hundreds of hardy competitors try to cover themselves in glory at one of the world's dirtiest sporting events - the Maldon Mud Race in Essex. More than 250 runners, many in fancy dress, take part in the annual mud race in the estuary town of Maldon. Racers must cross the mouth of the River Blackwater at low tide - a distance of about 500 yards. Huge video screens will make visibility available to all spectators.

The Maldon Mud Race is probably one of the most unusual events in Great Britain and it attracts both local and global media attention.

The race began in 1973 when a regular of the local pub "Queen's Head", which stands on Hythe Quay in Maldon, was challenged to serve a meal on the saltings of the River Blackwater dressed in a tuxedo. The challenge was duly accepted and carried out, resulting in the next year a bar being



opened on the saltings. About twenty people made a mad dash across the river bed, drank a pint of beer and dashed back; this was the beginning of the Maldon Mud Race. In subsequent years so many people wished to take part in the event that the time taken to consume the beer caused a "logjam" on the saltings, so that part of the event was discontinued and the race reverted to a dash over the river bed and back again.

The event is watched by thousands of spectators and raises tens of thousand of pounds for charity.

This famous event was originally held at the end of December but extremely cold weather in 2010 caused it to be postponed until the following spring. This change of date was such a great success with over 12,000 spectators that the organisers decided to make the change permanent.

The next Maldon Mud Race will be held on Sunday 5th May.

(Source: MailOnline, www.maldonmudrace.com)

Our language section

Help!

Wie wir Menschen brauchen auch Verben gelegentlich etwas Hilfe. Für diesen Zweck stehen im Englischen die so genannten unvollständigen Hilfsverben, wie z. B. **can/could**, **may/might**, **must**, **will/shall** und **ought to**, zur Verfügung. Diese werden deshalb als „unvollständig“ bezeichnet, weil sie bestimmte Zeitformen nicht bilden können. Für diese fehlenden Zeitformen müssen andere Verben oder Ausdrücke mit ähnlicher Bedeutung einspringen.

Beispiel: I **can** play the guitar no problem, but I **have** never **been able to** read the notes. – Gitarre spielen ist für mich kein Problem, aber die Noten lesen habe ich noch nie gekonnt.

Eine weitere Besonderheit dieser Hilfsverben ist, dass sie in der Gegenwart für alle Personen unverändert bleiben, es wird also nach **he**, **she**, **it** usw. kein **-s** angehängt.

Beispiel: he must ..., my sister can ...

It's a must

Es gibt ein unvollständiges Hilfsverb im Englischen, das sich für die Übersetzung von „müssen“ geradezu aufdrängt: das Wort **must**. In der Tat gibt es Situationen, in denen **must** für „müssen“ verwendet wird, zum Beispiel, wenn damit eine sichere Annahme oder Überzeugung ausgedrückt wird. Dies wird im Deutschen oft durch „bestimmt“, „sicher“ oder „wohl“ ausgedrückt.

Beispiel: He **must** be completely exhausted. – Er ist **bestimmt** völlig erschöpft.

Und dann gibt es auch Dinge, die einfach notwendig sind:

Beispiel: I really **must** get a haircut. - Ich **mus** mir **unbedingt** die Haare schneiden lassen.

Aber nicht jedes Muss wird von einem selbst bestimmt. In diesem Fall verwendet man die entsprechenden Formen von **have to/have got to**.

Beispiel: He **has to** pick up his mother-in-law at the train station. – Er **mus** seine Schwiegermutter vom Bahnhof abholen.

An dieser Stelle muss darauf hingewiesen werden, dass **must** nur in der Gegenwartsform existiert. Für die Bildung der Zukunft oder der Vergangenheit wird **must** deshalb ausschließlich mit der jeweiligen Zeitform von **have to/have got to** umschrieben.

Beispiele: Yesterday I **had to** have a tooth out (amerik.: pulled). – Gestern **musste** ich mir einen Zahn ziehen lassen.

You **will have to** explain that to the boss! – Das **werden** Sie dem Chef erklären **müssen**!

Dass **mustn't** nicht „nicht müssen“ sondern „nicht dürfen“ bedeutet, müsste hinreichend bekannt sein. Bei „nicht müssen“ nimmt man **needn't** bzw. in der Vergangenheit **needn't have**, wenn der Sprecher selbst etwas für nicht notwendig hält. Ansonsten wird die entsprechende Form von **not have to** verwendet.

Hier müssen wir erst einmal Schluss machen. Mehr zu den Hilfsverben folgt demnächst.

Christmaslieder

In den folgenden ersten Zeilen deutscher und englischer Weihnachtslieder haben sich die Sprachen vertauscht. Es fällt Ihnen sicherlich nicht schwer, herauszufinden, welche Lieder das sind.

1. Am ersten Tag der Weihnacht schickte mir mein treuer Liebster einen Truthahn in einem Birnbaum
2. The bells never sound sweeter than in the festive season
3. Einst stand in der Stadt des Königs David ein niedriger Viehstall
4. Horcht! Die Engelsboten singen "Ruhm dem neu geborenen König"
5. Merry Christmas everywhere, cheerful sounds are ringing through the air
6. The snow is falling softly, the lake lies quietly and silently

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 64 "Numbers"

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| 1. nine | 2. two | 3. six |
| 4. one | 5. eight | 6. three |

The Gender Question

A Spanish Teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. 'House' for instance, is feminine: 'la casa.', 'pencil,' however, is masculine: 'el lapiz.'

A student asked, 'What gender is 'computer'?' Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether 'computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender ('la computadora'), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay check on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine ('el computador'), because:

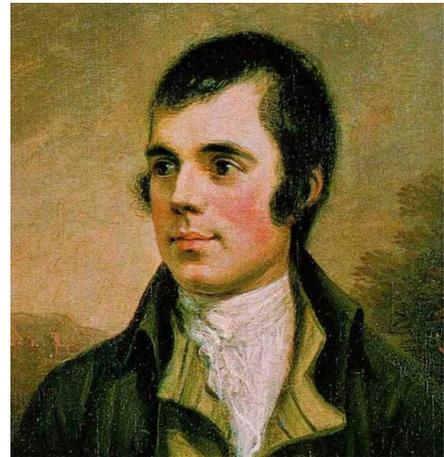
1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.

(submitted by Günther Wagenzink)

The Scottish Bard

Burns Night, effectively a second national day, is celebrated on 25 January, Robert Burns' birthday, with Burns suppers around the world, and is still more widely observed than the official national day, Saint Andrew's Day. The format of Burns suppers has not changed since Robert's death in 1796. The basic format starts with a general welcome and announcements, followed with the Selkirk Grace (a prayer said before a meal). After the grace comes the piping and cutting of the haggis, where Burns' famous *Address To a Haggis* is read and the haggis is cut open. The event usually allows for people to start eating just after the haggis is presented. This is when the reading called the "immortal memory", an overview of Burns' life and work, is given; the event usually concludes with the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*.



Robert Burns, also known as Rabbie Burns, Scotland's favourite son, the Ploughman Poet, the Bard of Ayrshire and in Scotland as simply The Bard, was a Scottish poet and a lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland, and is celebrated worldwide. He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots language, although much of his writing is also in English and a "light" Scots dialect, accessible to an audience beyond Scotland. He also wrote in standard English, and in these pieces, his political or civil commentary is often at its most blunt.

He is regarded as a pioneer of the Romantic movement and after his death became a great source of inspiration to the founders of both liberalism and socialism. A cultural icon in Scotland and among the Scottish Diaspora around the world, celebration of his life and work became almost a national charismatic cult during the 19th and 20th centuries, and his influence has long been strong on Scottish literature.

As well as making original compositions, Burns also collected folk songs from across Scotland, often revising or adapting them. His poem (and song) *Auld Lang Syne* is often sung at Hogmanay (the last day of the year), and *Scots Wha Hae* served for a long time as an unofficial national anthem of the country. Other poems and songs of Burns that remain well-known across the world today, include *A Red, Red Rose*, *A Man's A Man for A' That*, *To A Louse*, *To A Mouse*, *The Battle of Sherramuir* and *Tam o' Shanter*.

Robert Burns died on 21 July 1796 at the age of 37. The funeral took place on Monday 25 July 1796, also the day that his son Maxwell was born. He was at first buried in the far corner of St. Michael's Churchyard in Dumfries; however, his body was eventually moved in September 1815 to its final resting place, in the same cemetery, the Burns Mausoleum.

(from Wikipedia)

Christmas Fun

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?
Claustrophobia!

How long do a reindeer's legs have to be?
Long enough so they can touch the ground!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?
A Holly Davidson!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinselitis!

