

Results of and Answers to the WDSG-UK 2025 Xmas Dingbats Competition

Thank you to everybody who took part in the Xmas themed Dingbats competition which has raised an astonishing **£675** for the Group and especially to those who bought lots of copies and/or made generous donations to the Group through it. Thank you also to *Vario Press Ltd* of Slough who sponsored the event.

There were 38 entries returned with 5 all correct answer sheets and 12 runners up with only one answer wrong. Clue number **23** seems to have stumped many! Congratulations go to Sarah Payne, Sara and Phil Latham, and the Hoctor and Duncan families, all of Cambridge, and Peter McWilliam of Oxford who got them all right. As there can only be one winner, in compliance with the rules of the competition the winner's name was independently drawn out of a hat. I therefore have much pleasure in announcing that the outright winners of the competition are SARA & PHIL LATHAM who have been presented with the **£25** cash prize donated by our past chairman and friend of the Group, Dr Graeme Alexander.

I appreciate that Dingbats are not an exact science and many of you will think your answers as good as, if not better than mine. One of the reasons I am attracted to devising Dingbats quizzes is that the answers can't be sought on the internet. Having said that, I am reliably informed that AI was indeed able to solve some of my clues! How annoying! And finally, well done to everybody who took part for the first time, especially those who scored so highly.

Val Wheeler

1 Feb. 2026

ANSWERS (with explanations in brackets)

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| 1. Pantomime (phantom + mine) | 22. Selection Box (S + Vote for 1 candidate = election + box) |
| 2. Tinsel (Sn—chemical symbol for tin + cell) | 23. Chimney (PE = gym + knee) |
| 3. Three Wise Men (3 x Mars symbols with Ys under) | 24. Midnight Mass |
| 4. Presents (Present tense with Roman numeral X (ten) removed) | 25. Reindeer (rain + expensive meat!) |
| 5. Holly (Olly Murs—singer) | 26. Yuletide |
| 6. Santa Claus (centre claws) | 27. Crackers (quackers) |
| 7. Turkey (their flag) | 28. Gingerbread (bread written in ginger lettering) |
| 8. Lapland (lapel - e + and) | 29. Boxing Day (boxing + Sun(day) - a day of the week) |
| 9. Decorations (military honours - awarded any time of the year) | 30. Devils on Horseback (written backwards) |
| 10. Chestnuts | 31. Mistletoe (missile + toe) |
| 11. Mince Pies (M in CE + 2 x pi symbols) | 32. Frankincense (a franking mark inside cent symbols) |
| 12. Fairy lights (ferry + (traffic) lights) | 33. Festival (first Evil in list) |
| 13. Morecombe & Wise | 34. Hogmanay (hog + money) |
| 14. Candles (canned LLLs) | 35. Paper chain (newspaper + 66ft = 1 chain) |
| 15. Season's Greetings (CCCs on s + green tings) | 36. Wreath (reef knot with not crossed out—silent k) |
| 16. Carols (car + 2 x golf holes) | 37. Baubles (Four bulls with f removed and b added) |
| 17. Scrooge (screw + j) | 38. Sleighbells (Sl + Eight Ls with t removed and b added) |
| 18. Tree (Irish (flag) - Irish pronunciation of 3) | 39. Twelfth Night (12th knight in the line) |
| 19. Stocking (Oxo stock cube in letter "g") | 40. Ivy (high "V") |
| 20. Noel (L missing from alphabet) | 41. A Star in the East (A* at East on compass) |
| 21. Marzipan (Red planet = Mars in pan) | 42. King's (Xmas) Speech (Kings' names + Peach) |