

SIXTH SENSE MAGAZINE



Music at the Cube, Poulton
The history of Christmas ornaments
& Our honest review on the Costa
Christmas drinks.



Issue 2
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EDITOR'S LETTER

Hey everyone,
We're proud of the journey Sixth Sense has taken the last couple of years, particularly during 2024 with the help of our visual arts students to bring our articles to life! Matthew Dinsdale creates our incredible cover illustrations and Joe Pollitt designs and transforms our magazine visually. Whilst originally being based online at Wordpress, we now plan on expanding the media we use, including reintroducing physical copies to widen our target audience and showcase the amazing work of our graphics and visual arts departments. It would be amazing if you could share your feedback with us to help improve future issues, but more importantly spread the word

Sixth Sense is back and better than ever.

The Editorial Team,
BELLA BEATTON, ELEANOR MAGUIRE, ELLA WITCHER

As a team, we meet every Tuesday evening to discuss ideas for the new issue, and plan the layout and design of the magazine. Our team is given two weeks to draft their articles which are then checked by our editors and formatted in the magazine. With the help of the college printing team, we can produce new issues every half-term which are then distributed around the College and online.

Take a look at the link on this page to read an online version of the magazine or pop into the FYI and Reception to read the physical copy of the Magazine today!

<https://www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk/sixth-sense-magazine/>

📷 @b6sense

PREVIOUS ISSUE



PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY GILLESPIE
CREATIVE DESIGN BY JOE POLLITT
COVER DESIGN BY MATTHEW DINSDALE

The Evolution of Christmas Decorations

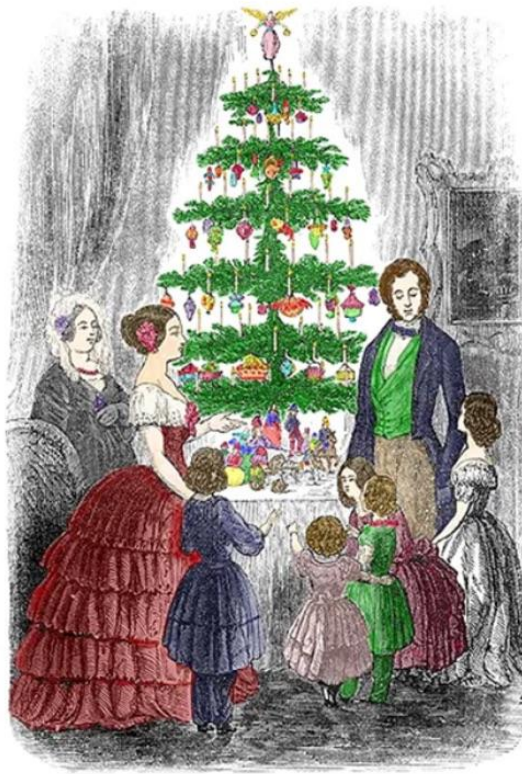
Written by KATY GORDON

Christmas has changed a lot over time. Evolving from a religious holiday to something 88% of British citizens celebrate, so many aspects of the holiday have evolved, most notably (and visually) the decorations.

During the Tudor era, traditional Christmas dinner was introduced. Turkey, just like today, was used and 'mince pies' were made using thirteen ingredients to represent Jesus and the twelve disciples. Another tradition that influenced our Christmas food was the yule log, decorated with a ribbon and burned; the ashes were used as kindling for next year. Of course, presently, the yule log is a chocolate cake and definitely not burned.

The decoration we think of first came to Britain during the reign of Queen Victoria; the Christmas tree as we know it was brought over by German Prince Albert and popularised when a photo of the royal family was published in a newspaper. Trees were decorated with ribbons, candles (very flammable) and food.

In the 1920's, Christmas decorations became more similar to what we know now, with some forgotten traditions. Colourful crepe paper, usually green and red, was used as decorations at parties. It was sometimes used to cover boxes to imitate a tree, a technique commonly used in shop windows. Just like now, tinsel and candles were used to decorate parties, but pom-poms were a more widespread sight, and the tinsel was made of a much more flammable material. As radios became more accessible, family became central to the holiday and so collectible snow baby figurines became extremely popular but



stopped their original production just as quickly.

Moving into the time of World War Two, Christmas decorations became more pulled back as people were forced to be more resourceful. Due to restrictions on goods, few decorations could be bought in shops, so items like hand made paper chains, usually crafted by schoolchildren, became standard. Other makeshift substitutions included using epsom salt to create a frosty effect on ivy, mistletoe and holly.

Decades later in the 60's, Christmas looked completely different than it did in the war time. Handcrafted embellishments were replaced by futuristic-looking white and silver artificial trees, influenced by the space age, with store bought decorations and almost excessive tinsel. New show 'Blue Peter' continued the tradition, however, of homemade decorations by teaching the methods to a new generation of children.

In the present day, decorations have a more cohesive look, involving colour schemes and more factory made and accessible decorations than not. There's a strong debate that often occurs around the holidays between two groups of people: the previously mentioned, put-together individuals and those who believe Christmas decorations should return to tradition. This debate is only driven by the involvement of social media, creating new trends at a rapid rate in decorating for the holidays. Some people may conclude that Christmas decorations have only just transformed, but evidently they are a constantly evolving part of this time of year.



A photograph of Lana Del Rey. She is wearing a light blue denim shirt and has her dark hair styled in a high bun with a dark ribbon. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. In the background, there is a large sign with the letters 'A R W' visible, and the scene appears to be outdoors on a paved surface.

“It’s never too late
to be who you wanna be,
to what you wanna say”

-Lana Del Rey and the Power of Songwriting

As an English literature student would tell you, lyric writing is effectively poetry, and no one knows this better than Lana del Rey. As proven in her book ‘Violet Bent Backwards over the Grass’, Lana del Rey is a poet and in this article I will be briefly analysing some of Lana’s lyrical techniques from a poetic perspective.

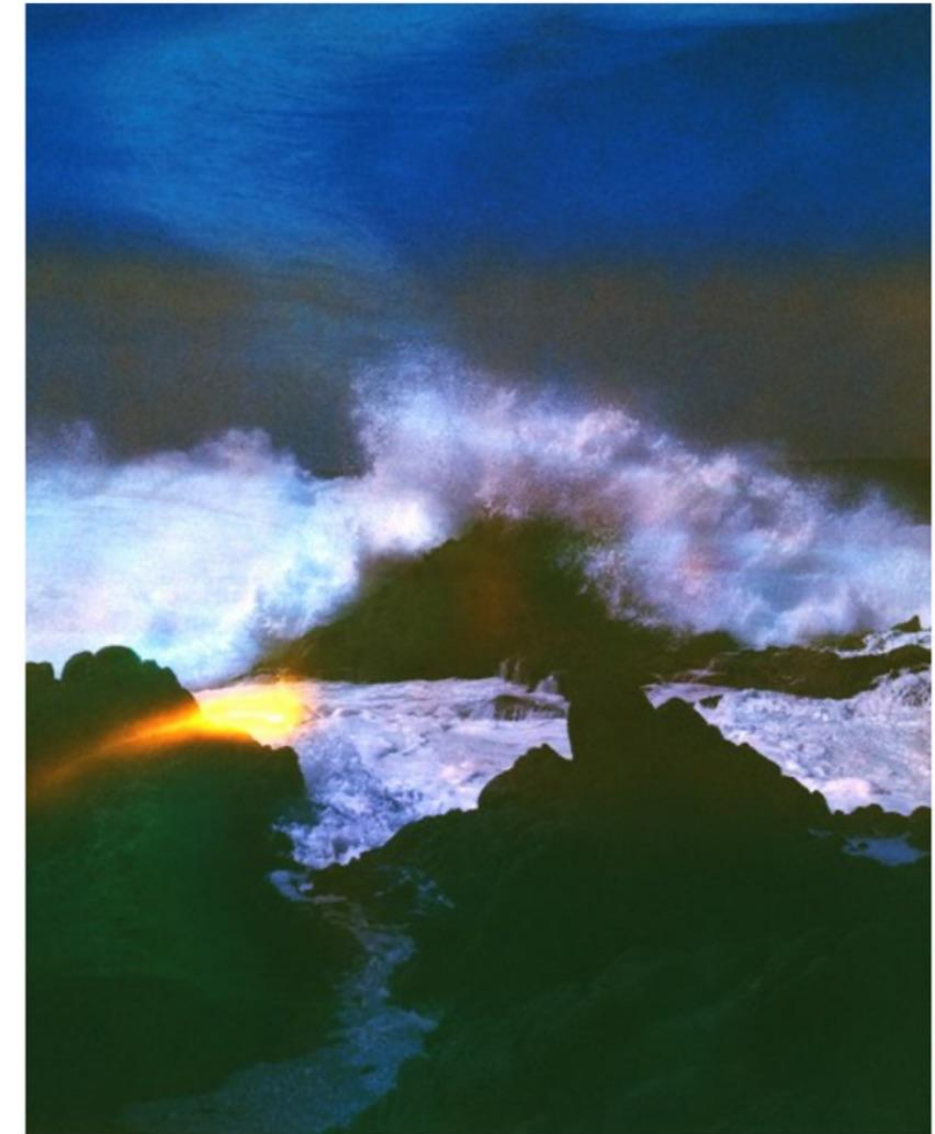
Written by ELLA WITCHER



**“I can hear sirens, *sirens*
He hit me and it felt like a kiss
I can hear violins, *violins*
Give me all of that ultraviolence”**

LANA DEL REY Ultraviolence 2014

Arguably, the use of the half-rhyme ‘sirens’ and violins’ create a sense of confusion and blurring of beauty and pain: this is compounded in the song through Del Rey’s pronunciation of the words, where she makes them extremely phonetically similar highlighting her mental confusion and romanticisation of violence. This inability to distinguish between love and abuse is a theme prevalent throughout Lana’s early discography, leading to some controversy and accusations of glamorising domestic abuse.



Photography by NEIL KRUG

According to an interview with BBC Radio 1, ‘Mariner’s Apartment Complex’ tells the story of a conversation between her and an ex-boyfriend, who apparently told her that he thought they were together due to their similarity in mental state, because ‘they were both really messed up.’ For Lana, this was one of ‘the saddest thing she’s ever heard’ because of her partner’s complete misunderstanding of her on a spiritual level: in response, ‘Mariner’s Apartment Complex’ is an ode to the power of knowing yourself, and how this fortitude can allow you to be a pillar for others to lean on.

“I ain't no candle in the wind
I'm the board,
the lightning,
the thunder.”

LANA DEL REY Mariners Apartment Complex 2019



Through the imagery of light, Del Rey highlights that, unlike a candle in the wind, her spirit is strong enough to withstand challenging times, and perhaps able to act as a guide for her partner through his own struggles with his mental health. The juxtaposition between a 'candle in the wind' and 'lightning' and 'thunder' also reiterates not only her strength in herself, shown by the 'thunder' but also her recognition of her own worth and individuality as a bolt of 'lightning'. This sense of strength within herself, completely independent of her partner, is reaffirmed and built upon throughout the repetition of the line 'I'm your man', subverting conventional gender stereotypes and perhaps speaking directly to her boyfriend mentioned in the interview, completely alienating herself from his misconception of her.



Manipulation of language in 'Love Song'

Whilst the title leads the listener to expect a romantic ballad, and initially perhaps the lyrics seem to support this, upon closer inspection it can be argued that 'Love Song' is a product of wishful thinking, perhaps revealing less of a romance and more the delusion of the poetic voice, and their wishful projection onto their partner

'I believe that you see me for who I am
So spill my clothes on the floor of your new car'

Through the repeated affirmation 'I believe', the sense of romance that the song superficially paints is tainted slightly through the indication that the sense of connection is not reality and instead only imagined or 'believed' by the speaker. Furthermore, the almost logical correlation between this belief and her choice to 'spill her clothes' creates an almost transactional sense of using intimacy, based not on reality but a one-sided perception of their relationship.

THE CUBE, POULTON

THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER



Six amazing bands performed at the Cube Bar in Poulton-le-Fylde with our upper sixth band PANEL3 closing the night (pictured)
Photography by JOE POLLITT using CANON EOS 1000D

B6 MUSIC TAKEOVER





PHOTOGRAPHY by JOE POLLITT
SHOT on CANON EOS 1000D



Demystifying Christmas at Costa

This festive season, the Sixth Sense team had the ultimate Christmas treat – we sampled every new seasonal drink at Costa Coffee! Whether you're craving a cozy classic latte or curious about trying a new, quirky hot chocolate, there's a drink for you!

Written by BELLA BEATTON





Terry's Chocolate Orange Hot Chocolate

★★★★★★

If you're a fan of chocolate orange, this drink is a MUST-try. It tastes exactly like Terry's chocolate orange in a warm, festive cup. One team member gushed, "I really like that!" while another admitted, "I don't usually like chocolate orange but that was really good!" The cute orange sprinkles add to the festivity, though I'm sure the drink could get overwhelming if you're not a chocolate fanatic. If we were to crown a drink as the winner, this would be it – the whole team was fighting over who got to finish it!

Nutcracker Hot Chocolate

★★★★★

The Nutcracker Hot Chocolate is a hot chocolate with hazelnut hints. It is exactly like the Autumn Maple Hazel Hot Chocolate - it was great to see we get to have our beloved drink for a few months longer and still have that Christmas feel. On top of that, there was an array of cute red and green sprinkles to add to the festivity of the nutty drink!

Festive Spice Latte

★☆☆☆☆

While the Festive Spice Latte is a lovely coffee, it only has a faint hint of cinnamon. It tasted like a regular latte. It's a perfect coffee for channeling your inner Lorelai Gilmore, but if you're after Christmas magic then this one might disappoint you.

Gingerbread Latte

★★★★☆

The Gingerbread Latte brings a subtle festivity to your coffee break. While it doesn't pack a strong gingerbread punch, its creamy and sweet flavours make it a comforting choice. One taster commented, "Yeah," which just about sums up its easy going appeal. If you're just a chill guy and not a fan of overly sweet drinks but still want that holiday feel, this could be a great pick! It had just enough of a coffee flavour to make it feel like you're sipping on a coffee-flavoured gingerbread man. And, if you aren't too keen on coffee you can buy a hot chocolate with the gingerbread syrup!

Black Forest Hot Chocolate

★★★★☆

We didn't really know what to expect with a 'Black Forest' Hot Chocolate but we were in for a treat. This hot chocolate is perfect for those of you who enjoy cherry-flavoured drinks, like Doctor Pepper. Remember to stir it first to fully mix the cherry flavour in it because we didn't at first and the difference in taste is huge!



After navigating our way through Costa's festive menu, we can confidently say that there's something for everyone this winter. So why not embrace the festive vibes and discover a new holiday favourite! Treat yourself (you deserve it after surviving mocks)!

Pork Pies and Carrots in Disguise

Christmas adverts 2024
Written by ELEANOR MAGUIRE

I've heard that some people wait in anticipation of the annual Christmas advert, but me? Not so much. It's not that I dislike them or go out of my way to avoid watching them, but really is it worth all the fuss? With advertisers estimated to have spent around £10.5 billion on advertising this festive season, it is clear that these big companies view Christmas as a major commercial opportunity. Amongst the neon signs and enticing discounts it is hard to find any trace of the traditional English Christmas, but perhaps the morals behind these adverts (even if they are a little selfish) is the closest thing we have left to discovering the true spirit of Christmas.

Below I have analysed some of this year's most popular Christmas adverts with the hope of settling on a favourite and hopefully to encourage you to do so as well. I should probably add a disclaimer that any adverts I haven't included are purely a result of my naivety rather than any bias. Catering for families and those with a cheeky sense of humour, Sainsburys and Aldi have settled on animation for their Christmas adverts this year; the BFG who visits Sainsburys food producers and a cunning carrot who makes a rather rude entrance on a heist. Now I don't recall seeing Snoozcumbers in Sainsburys and even if they were there I'm not sure I'd buy them, but I did appreciate their tagline: 'Want to go big this Christmas?'



JOHN LEWIS 2024 Christmas Advertisement

After all, the BFG was the star of the show. As for the Aldi advert, although it has received some criticism for its rude remarks, I admired its branching out to both children and adults. Christmas is about inclusion and spending time with family right? Well M&S haven't quite gone down that route with Dawn French presenting the reality of Christmas; we're all a little bit selfish at some point. But pork pies at Christmas? It's a new one to me and I'm all for it!

Undoubtedly the John Lewis Christmas advert carries the greatest expectation every year which I am sure is a heavy burden for whoever works on it. The heart-wrenching story of the mother/daughter/sister (I am still confused) definitely represents the struggle to purchase presents for loved ones at Christmas. Not to mention the Narnia-esque wardrobe which I'm sure we'd all like to add to our Christmas list, though if that's too hard then maybe just some chocolate coins instead? They are the hero of Christmas after all.

To add an extra level of suspense into the festive season, the Waitrose advert has gone bold and left the nation on a cliffhanger regarding the disappearance of one of its desserts. As yet it is unclear when the sequel to this mystery will be released, but fear not because whilst you shiver in suspense, gripping the edge of your seat, you can indulge in some singing oven gloves courtesy of Morrisons. Talk about having 'More reasons to shop' at this supermarket, I will certainly be popping in if I'm going to be greeted by an aisle of dancing oven gloves. However, they are not the only supermarket who have been fighting for the nation's attention, as Tesco have been putting up a pretty good fight with their three-minute long advert.



ALDI 2024 Christmas Advertisement

As a forewarning to all food-lovers out there, a substantial amount of gingerbread features in this advert. On reflection, I think I should probably have focused on the topics of loneliness, grief and hardship addressed by Tesco and the consequent importance of family which links back to our original discussion about the power of Christmas adverts to maintain the traditional spirit of Christmas. Yet, the gingerbread does look tasty.

Naturally there are many companies whose adverts I simply haven't included for lack of space and my attention span, but hopefully I've given you a taste of the quirks and nuances of this year's Christmas adverts. Now it's up to you to decide which one you like best. Either way I hope you have a lovely Christmas and make sure to indulge in those pork pies and chocolate coins!

POST COLLEGE CLARITY



COMING SOON...

Made by ARCHIE HOLROYD

 @b6sense

Cover illustrated by MATTHEW DINSDALE
Magazine edited and designed by JOE POLLITT
Logo designed by JENNA LABAND

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