

*The...*  
*'It's nearly*  
**Christmas'**  
*Tour!*



*"Keep going  
Rudolph, you're  
quite safe, Adam's a  
vegetarian!"*

FEATURING

**RICK WAKEMAN** as **Father Rickmas**

**ADAM WAKEMAN** as **Adam The Elf**

**FRASER THORNEYCROFT SMITH** as **Fraser The Goblin**



*Above: A rare photograph of the three of them playing together - in time!!!*

*Right: Mike 'Happy' Holden in normal day-wear!!*

*Bottom right: Ian Barfoot still waiting for pay day!*



## Rick Wakeman Communication Centre

Believe it or not there is a relatively thriving Communication Centre/Fan Club that deals with all musically subnormal people who seem to like what Rick does.

Should you wish to join the unsavoury bunch and receive a 5 times a year newsletter full of on hand news about Rick's forthcoming shows and albums, as well as up to the minute news on 'YES' amongst other things then all you have to do is write to:

Candy Atcheson • RWCC Bajonor House • 2 Bridge Street • Peel • Isle of Man • IM5 1AD.  
Or telephone: 01624 844134 • Fax: 01624 844135

The Centre has been running for nearly nine years now and has proved a must for all those wishing to keep up with Rick's various and varied musical activities.

The RWCC also does mail order on a wide variety of CDs, Cassettes and the last few remaining records and other merchandising and seriously tries to give good value in its service.

The cost of joining this elite band of musically brain damaged people is £8.50 per annum if you live anywhere in the UK. £12.00 in the rest of Europe and £14.00 anywhere else in the world. Please make cheques payable to 'Bajonor Ltd'. Access and Visa are taken on all mail orders, but not on subscriptions.

It's easy to join, just fill in the form printed below and send it off to Candy, or if you don't like cutting up programmes an ordinary letter will suffice. (You can write to us on a fifty pound note if you like!!)

I ..... being for some reason quite fond of the music of Rick Wakeman, would like to become a member of the Rick Wakeman Communication Centre. I would be quite happy to pay a million pounds to join this club, but enclose my Cheque/Postal Order for £8.50/£12.00/£14.00, as I've yet to win the Lottery!

My Address is: .....

My Phone Number is: .....

# Wakeman's Christmas Grotto . . .



Welcome to the **IT'S NEARLY CHRISTMAS TOUR**, and **Wakeman's magical Christmas Grotto**. Enter this magical grotto and you will find seven interesting and unusual creatures. Look closely and you will find:-

Father Rickmas  
Fraser the Goblin  
Adam Elf  
Malcolm ... the biggest Fairy in the world  
Ian the Sound Gnome  
Stuart the Pixie  
& Mike the Magician

## *What do they all do?*

Well Father Rickmas spends most of the year deciding what all his little helpers should do. (You may notice that some of them are not actually little anymore).

Father Rickmas has two very special helpers, Fraser the Goblin and Adam the Elf.

**Fraser the Goblin** lives in a part of Buckinghamshire where there are lots of girl fairies.

When he was younger, Fraser the Goblin liked to chase girl fairies a lot and would squeal with delight when he caught them. They would also squeal with delight when caught.

However, when the boyfriends of the girl fairies found out that Fraser the Goblin had been chasing their girlfriends (and more often than not, had caught them), they would come and have a friendly chat with him, and then he would squeal again.

When the swelling had gone down, he would start chasing them again, and so the cycle continued well into Puberty (a small village near High Wycombe).

Fraser the Goblin has settled down now, (although he still walks a little funny). For many years he played his guitar under a giant mushroom somewhere near Dingly Dell, but, since eating the giant mushroom, he has played his guitar somewhere in orbit close to the Mir space station.

We are all thrilled that Fraser the Goblin has landed back on earth to join Father Rickmas and Adam the Elf on stage tonight, (even though he's probably unaware of it). Don't worry though boys and girls, he'll be there every night as pay day comes before Christmas Day.

... and now we move on to **Adam the Elf**.

Adam the Elf is a lovable creature, closely linked to nature in all respects. He loves animals and would rather starve to death than eat one.

He is a very lovable elf.

Unlike Father Rickmas, (who would happily slap huge slices of most four legged creatures between a couple of loaves of bread), Adam the Elf is a vegetarian.

He is a very thin elf.

Most of the girls from the sixth form at his local school must be studying the lives of elves for their GCSE's as they always seem to be popping round to his little cottage at midnight to study him in detail.

He is a very tired elf.

Sometimes they bring bottles of wine and stay for hours on end, stroking his long wavy hair, sipping nectar and exchanging fairy stories until dawn arrives.

What a popular girl Dawn must be.

Moving on through the Grotto you'll find **Stuart the Pixie**. He is really the right hand man of Father Rickmas. When things go horribly wrong, Stuart the Pixie will be first on the scene reminding Father Rickmas that it's all gone horribly wrong.

Then we have **Ian the Sound Gnome**. He has a little business selling ear plugs at concerts. He is also in charge of the PA system.

It will probably be very loud.

Out in the foyer of the grotto you'll see two extremely large magical creatures.

**Malcolm the Biggest Fairy in the World** and **Mike the Magical Magician**.

Mike the Magical Magician will magically take money from you in return for giving you lots of nice Christmas presents and Malcolm the Biggest Fairy in the World will sit on you if you don't buy anything.

Father Rickmas really likes Mike the Magical Magician and Malcolm the Biggest Fairy in the World.

It'll be nearly Christmas for everybody at every single concert with all these lovable creatures, and if you listen very carefully tonight you may well here some new Christmas versions of some of Father Rickmas's most well known pieces such as "Journey to the Centre of the Turkey", (sponsored by Paxo), or the legendary "Gifts and Presents of King Arthur and the Nights of the Brown Reindeer".

Fraser the Goblin may well debut his new Christmas pastime which he has been practising for months. It involves throwing Mrs. Thatcher's daughter as far as he can. It's called Carol Slinging.

Adam the Elf will be debuting his new Yuletide vegetarian album entitled "Just Stuffing for Christmas". It features such classic tracks as "Hark The Herald Anchovies Sing" and "O Little Brown Bread in Bethlehem".

Father Rickmas will be getting you in the festive mood with plenty of Christmas anecdotes and witticisms such as "What's brown, got four legs and comes out of clouds"? ... "Just rain dear" (reindeer, get it)? Well it's too late to go home now, you've bought your ticket AND this programme so you might as well sit through tonight's performance. Father Rickmas will do his very best to fill you all with the Christmas spirit. (Most of his little helpers are full of it already).

Yes, it's nearly Christmas!





# A Winter's Tale

(an adaptation set in 1942)



**Cast** Adolf Scrooge .....Father Rickmas.  
Tiny Tim.....Adam the Elf.

*Tiny Tim ... I'm hungry Herr Scrooge. I'm tired of working twenty two hours a day in your Grotto.*

*Adolf Scrooge ... So am I . You're big and strong. You should be working at least twenty four hours a day.*

*Tiny Tim ... If I'm so big and strong , then why do they call me Tiny Tim? I'm over six foot three.*

*Adolf Scrooge ... I believe it was a nickname given to you by your first girlfriend.*

*Tiny Tim ... Can I have some food for Christmas?*

*Adolf Scrooge ... I can offer you a mammoth forty five pound turkey.*

*Tiny Tim ... But you know I'm a vegetarian.*

*Adolf Scrooge ... That's why I'm offering you a turkey.*

*Tiny Tim ... In the original Dicken's version, Scrooge had a ghost in his bedroom which changed his life.*

*Adolf Scrooge ... That's already happened, but I thought nobody knew.*

*Tiny Tim ... You mean you've had a ghost in your bedroom that changed your life?*

*Adolf Scrooge ... Oh sorry, I thought you said goat.*

*Tiny Tim ... Happy Christmas Herr Scrooge.*

*Adolf Scrooge ... Humbug.*

*Tiny Tim ... Yes please, I haven't eaten for days.*

This version of A Winter's Tale only gets worse and so we'll leave you not only to imagine the rest, but to make it up for yourself. Please fill in the spaces according to your intellect, literary knowledge and amount of time you spend in the bathroom.

We have added a couple of additional characters in order to give you more scope.

- Adolf Scrooge.....
- Tiny Tim.....
- Adolf Scrooge.....
- Hermann Goering.....
- Des O'Connor.....
- Tiny Tim.....
- Adolf Scrooge.....
- Rupert Bear.....
- Princess Margaret.....
- Tiny Tim.....
- Frank Bruno.....
- Adolf Scrooge.....
- Posh Spice.....
- The Pope.....

## A Pet is not just for Christmas Day

by Fraser the Goblin

Very true. It's so sad that people just think pets are for Christmas Day. In this article I hope to help clarify what can be done to avoid the appalling situations that we seem to read about every year.

Let's take a puppy for instance. He certainly isn't just for Christmas Day. On Boxing Day you can have what's left over either cold with a fresh salad or served in a piping hot soup, or Doggybroth as we like to call it.

Of course we appreciate that our little four legged Christmas friends come in all shapes and sizes and so I have come up with some tasty serving suggestions for you to tide you over the festive period.

For the traditional country food lover there's Braised Bulldog and for a Sunday, what could be nicer than Roast Rotweiler with Yorkshire Terrier Pudding.

For the Italian lovers amongst you there's Spaghetti Spaniel and if you are fond of burgers then try a Big Mac Russell.

For those of you who love the Spanish atmosphere, then there's also Poodle Paeila, a firm favourite everywhere.

For me though, you can't beat English cooking and so my personal ideal menu would be a traditional breakfast of bacon, egg, sausage dog and beans with a simple evening meal of German Shepherd's Pie.

Whatever you choose to eat, remember, a pet is not just for Christmas Day.

Finally, for those of you who are given kittens for Christmas, then the best thing you can do is to take them down to your local Chinese Restaurant and ask their advice.

# The Pantomime

# Dick Whittington

Starring Rick as Dick.  
Mike "Happy" Holden as Eric Cantona.  
Ian "Bunter" Barfoot as Trevor McDonald.  
Stuart "Doom" Sawney as Vatman with his sidekick  
Dobbin the Boywonder Horse played by Malcolm  
"Tiny" Welch.  
Fraser Thorneycroft-Smith as Camilla Parker Bowles.  
Adam Wakeman as a carrot.

## Act One ... Scene One. The Road to Wigan.

Dick has decided that London is not the place for him to make his fortune and so he decides to go to where the streets are paved with gold ... Wigan.

Being a budget pantomime, Dick does not have the traditional cat to accompany him, instead he takes his trusty carrot as a companion.

Dick .....We'll soon be at Wigan my trusty carrot and then we will make our fortune.

Carrot.....I hear there's a shortage of vegetables in Wigan so I'm frightened I might get eaten.

Dick .....Don't worry, they only eat pies in Wigan so you'll be safe.

They approach the outskirts and come across a man sitting behind a desk reading the news.

Trevor McDonald ... Good Evening. I bring you news tonight of a disaster in Wigan. There has been a huge explosion which initial reports say has killed or injured three million people. Damage is estimated to be in excess of £B.

To make matters worse the evil Vatman and his sidekick Dobbin the Boywonder Horse have sent out VAT demands to every survivor. It will need a miracle to save them all. The town is in chaos.

Dick .....Come on Carrot, we can save Wigan.

Carrot.....Why?

Dick .....Because if we don't then Nationwide Division 2 will be a team short and just think of the chaos it will cause with the fixtures, not to mention the FA Cup.

Dick and his Carrot arrive in Wigan. It is chaos everywhere with people searching amongst the ruins for their pies.

Dick .....This is terrible Carrot, we must help these people. We must root out the evil Vatman and Dobbin and convince them to go somewhere else.

Carrot.....Like where Dick?

Dick .....Well being a Man City supporter, Old Trafford sounds good to me.

Suddenly they confront a large man carrying VAT returns and wearing a huge black cape and mask. He is accompanied by a horse wearing red underpants and also wearing a mask.

Dick .....I wonder who they are?

Carrot.....I think it's the Dynamic Duo.

At that moment Camilla Parker Bowles dressed as Florence Nightingale clammers from out of a pile of wreckage. She turns round and shouts down the hole she has clambered out from.

Camilla.....That's more like it Charles. I really did feel the earth move for once.

She turns and faces Vatman and Dobbin.

Dobbin.....Are we related?

Camilla turns to Dick.

Camilla.....These are the evil Vatman and Dobbin. Can't you do something Dick ?

Dick turns and faces the evil duo, carefully putting the carrot in his pocket without them seeing.

Dick .....Come with me Dynamic Duo, I've got something to show you that will make your eyes water.

Vatman and Dobbin eagerly follow Dick off stage and a huge scream is heard followed by a terrible crunching noise. Two minutes later, Dick returns with a triumphant smile on his face.

Dick .....Wigan is saved!

Camilla looks at him admiringly.

Camilla.....How did you manage it Dick ?

Dick .....Easy. Unbeknown to you all, I did not just bring a carrot with me from London I also had concealed about my person a full size industrial mincing machine which I cleverly lured Dobbin into and so there is now enough meat to make pies for everyone in Wigan.

Camilla.....You hero Dick. But what was that blood curdling scream I heard ?

Dick .....Ah yes. There had to be sacrifice and I'm afraid I've lost my trusty carrot.

A tear appears in Camilla's eye. (The brown one).

Camilla.....That's awful, I was beginning to feel that we could have become friends. What exactly happened?

Dick .....Well, as Dobbin fell into the mincing machine, Vatman dropped his returns and as he bent down to pick them up I pulled carrot from my pocket, and, well the rest is just too painful to tell.

Camilla.....Is he ... dead?

Dick.....No, he's gone to live in Brighton with the carrot.

And so Wigan was saved. The Nationwide League Division Two was saved from disaster as was the FA Cup. Pies are in abundance with more meat in them than ever before ... and what of our heroes and villains ?

Well Camilla lives quietly with her little dog, (a King Charles spaniel) and Carrot eventually escaped before being eaten by a vegetarian in Felmersham near Bedford. Vatman multiplied and his clones are now all over the country. Dobbin has been eaten in numerous Chinese restaurants around Britain and Trevor McDonald does Lenny Henry impersonations on the 9 o'clock news.

Finally, our hero Dick.

He walked away from Wigan, the city he'd saved, and formed a band. Who knows, one day he may well take his band to Wigan in order to make his fortune.....we'll just have to wait and see!

.....AND Eric Cantona?

Well, he just never turned up for rehearsals!

# Christmas Lists ...



## STUART (Doom)

Shorts that fit him .....Shorts that don't fit him  
 A years free drinking.....6 cans of lager  
 A cheque from Rick.....6 pairs of socks  
 A year off with full pay .....A year on with no pay  
 To record the Troggs .....To record Rick  
 To play guitar at a dozen  
 Blues gigs in Chicago .....To play a dozen weddings  
 on the Isle of Man

## IAN

A 96 channel mixing desk .....A food mixer  
 A 60 channel monitor desk .....A whisk  
 To eat five times a day .....(already does this)  
 To eat between meals.....(already does this)  
 To eat whilst asleep .....(already does this too)  
 An electronics book that  
 only he understands .....(already got one)

## MIKE "Happy" HOLDEN

A proper job .....A job with Rick  
 A £250,000 lighting rig.....A torch  
 A Theatre.....6 pairs of socks  
 Double money from Rick.....3 pairs of underpants  
 Wentworth Golf Club.....6 golf balls  
 A Flight to South Africa.....12 air miles

## MALCOLM (The World's Biggest Fairy) WELCH

Food that doesn't give him wind .....6 pairs of underpants  
 A curry every day for a year .....6 pairs of underpants  
 3 breakfasts a day.....6 pairs of underpants  
 An air freshener.....6 pairs of underpants  
 A kite.....6 pairs of underpants  
 Stoke City Football Club.....Stoke City Football Club

## RICK

What He'd Like .....What He'll Get  
 A Brooklands Bentley Mulsanne .....6 pairs of socks  
 A Colour Photocopier.....8 handkerchiefs  
 An Alesis A-Dat digital recorder .....2 ties  
 Ping ISA blue Spot golf clubs.....6 golf balls  
 A 1926 Parker Mandarin Yellow  
 Duofold Senior fountain pen .....Aftershave  
 A Car CD stacking system .....6 cans of Kaliber

## ADAM

A Porsche 911 .....6 pairs of socks  
 A new bathroom suite .....8 handkerchiefs  
 A wide screen television  
 with surround sound.....2 ties  
 A Sky Satellite system .....Aftershave  
 A cheque for £10,000.....6 pairs of underpants  
 A woman.....6 cans of lager

## FRASER

New Golf GTI.....New Golf GTI  
 Fender Stratocaster .....Fender Stratocaster  
 Big cheque from mum.....Big cheques from mum  
 A penthouse in town .....A penthouse in town  
 Numerous women.....Numerous women  
 A rise from Rick.....6 pairs of socks



Stuart showing Fraser how to play properly.



Malcolm receiving the 1996 "Anorak of the Year" award.





Adam, desperately after a shampoo commercial.

# A Vegetarian Christmas

by Adam Wakeman

As many of you are aware, there are a lot of vegetarians in this world. There are also a lot of different reasons as to why people become vegetarians.

Fraser, for example, became a vegetarian for three weeks whilst going out with a girlfriend who didn't eat meat. When the relationship finished, she continued with her vegetarian lifestyle and he ate twenty nine steaks in three days.

Malcolm also became a vegetarian for just over a month, when Rick didn't pay him and he couldn't afford meat.

Adam of course is the most famous vegetarian in the band. He has been a "veggy" since the age of ten. He has never lost sleep over this decision although he has lost weight.

There is no doubt that Adam is our expert in this area and so we asked him what a normal pale skinned, thin, insipid and malnourished vegetarian eats instead of the traditional Christmas dinner. No turkey with all the trimmings for "veggies, so what does Adam recommend for them?

"Christmas is an exciting time for us veggies", said Adam enthusiastically. "People seem to think that a vegetarian diet is boring and unimaginative, but it's not. It's varied and very exciting. I really look forward to my Christmas dinner".

"And what will you be having this year"? we asked.

Adam licked his lips.

"Stuffed carrot", he replied. "It's a super meal at Christmas. For anybody who fancies a change this year, I'm quite happy to give away the recipe".

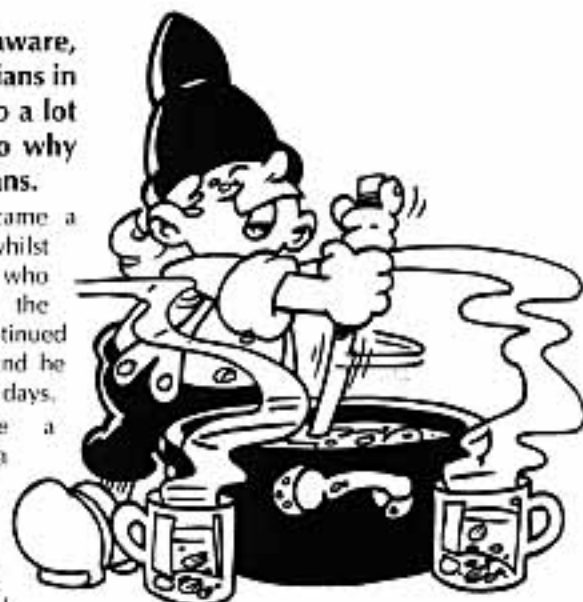
....and he did.

....and here it is.

**Ingredients:** 4 large carrots.

**Method :-**

First you make the stuffing. To do this you take one of the large carrots and grate it into small pieces.



Next, take one of the other large carrots, imagine it looks like a turkey, visualise where its bottom is and core it out.

Then stuff the carrot with the stuffing you made earlier.

Place the stuffed carrot in a roasting dish and put it in the oven at 180 degrees, if you have electricity, gas mark 7 if you have gas and throw on four extra pieces of wood if you live under the second runway at Manchester Airport.

Now take one of the remaining two carrots and carefully peel it. Then slice it and put the pieces into a saucepan of salted water and bring to the boil for about ten minutes.

(Give the remaining carrot to the rabbit).

Take the stuffed carrot out of the oven and place it onto a plate. Drain off the boiled carrot pieces and decoratively spread them around the stuffed carrot.

Finally, open a bottle of vodka and drink the lot. This way you can be assured that you will really enjoy your Christmas dinner ...

... and if you're still hungry after this glorious feast, then Adam recommends Christmas Carrot Pudding with Carrot Custard and Carrot Cream.

## A Christmas Poem of Love

Mike at Christmas eats a lot  
Until he's fit to burst.  
Adam stuffs the turkey.  
(Shame he didn't kill it first).

Malcolm eats much more than Mike  
Until he feels no pain.  
Adam shouts "You greedy swine",  
Then stuffs the bird again.

He turns to Rick and says "Guess what"?  
"I've just seen stars above",  
I have a super feeling Dad  
That this could be true love.

Rick looked on in amazement  
"You're talking double Dutch  
The skin's all wrinkled, and what's more  
The legs ain't up to much.

Adam said "No, not the bird"  
But every single girl.  
Every time I see one, well,  
My heart goes in a whirl.

Dad said "I'm pleased you said that Ad,  
That turkey's fit to burst  
But double check each girl  
That Fraser hasn't been there first.

The moral of this story.  
(Which I think you all have got),  
Is that your turkey's safe this Christmas,  
But your daughter's not.

# Hospital visiting at Christmas

**Lots of people, for lots of reasons, find themselves in hospital over Christmas. A £3,000,000 Government research project has shown that the major reason for this is people being too ill to be treated at home.**

In order to do their bit, Rick and the lads decided this year to visit a hospital, (St. Ventricle of the Bleeding Artery), in order to cheer the patients up and also to find out exactly what happens in a busy hospital over the festive period.

Rick arrived about half an hour after the other guys and was immediately ushered into a side room by Dr. Shakey, the chief consultant.

"Ah. The VIP treatment", said Rick. "That's what I like to see".  
"Far from it", replied Dr. Shakey.

"I don't follow you", said Rick. "Have the lads arrived yet?"

Yes they have, and that's the problem and also why I've ushered you into this side room before any more damage is done".  
Damage?"

Dr. Shakey started to live up to his name and shake quite violently.

He started to whimper. "Everything was running so smoothly until your guys arrived".

Rick tried to look concerned.

"What exactly have they done that's so bad?" he asked.

"You have a roadie called Malcolm Welch"? (He started to shake even more violently).

"Er yes".

Well he just wandered into the operating theatre just before the surgeon arrived to do a tonsillectomy".

"He was probably just interested".

"He turned the patient's trolley round without anybody noticing and now all the patient is any good for is the Vienna Boy's Choir, and he's still got his tonsils".

Rick tried to sound positive.

"Well I hope that your not going to let one little incident spoil our little visit".

"You have a Doom"? asked Dr. Shakey, now shaking so violently that Rick almost felt like asking him to come home with him and get in the bath so that Rick could throw his washing in with him.

"Ah yes. Stuart Sawney", said Rick. "A real bundle of laughs".

"Well, your bundle of laughs went to the senior citizen ward and told them that the world is in such a state, and they're all so old that it's pointless them even trying to get better".

"I'm sure they saw the funny side of it".

"They've got up a euthanasia petition".

Rick tried to look concerned and did his best to placate the situation.

"I'll make sure that both lads are jolly well told off and I'll also make sure that it doesn't happen again. Now I'm sure the other lads have been wonderful with the patients".

Dr Shakey was now shaking so violently that cocktail waitresses were now coming in frequently to hand him their shakers. Vodka Martinis were flying everywhere.

His voice now sounded like that of a manic depressive.

"Ian Barfoot".

Yes", said Rick. "We have an Ian Barfoot.

"He's been handing out food parcels in the obesity wing".

"Well it is Christmas".

"Mike Holden"?

"Yes. A veritable bundle of fun".

"Well I don't know what he's been eating, but we had security searching for nearly an hour for a major gas leak before we discovered it was him".

"He's fond of the odd curry", countered Rick.

"Well he must have washed it down with rocket fuel because he wandered into the pathology lab, stood too close to a hunsen burner and ten seconds later we found him in the car park. It was lucky that the window was open".

Rick was determined to be positive and so he gently knelt down beside Dr. Shakey who was now in a state of total collapse.

"I bet Adam and Fraser have been good", Rick said.

Dr. Shakey looked up at him, his eyes pleading with Heaven to take him now.

"They've been in the pregnancy wing for hours now".

"Well that's nice", said Rick.

"No it's not", said Dr. Shakey. "We didn't have a pregnancy wing until they got here. The first thing they did was to get all the nurses together in one room and try to start one".

Rick tried a different approach.

"Can I play my new CD on your hospital radio"?

Dr. Shakey got up and appeared to change into some sort of demented monster.

"Go" he screamed, "and take your hooligans with you".

At this juncture security brought in all the lads and they all mustered around their glorious leader.

Rick shook Dr. Shakey warmly by the hand who in turn shook Rick warmly by the throat.

Rick pulled himself free and started the speech that he had prepared earlier.

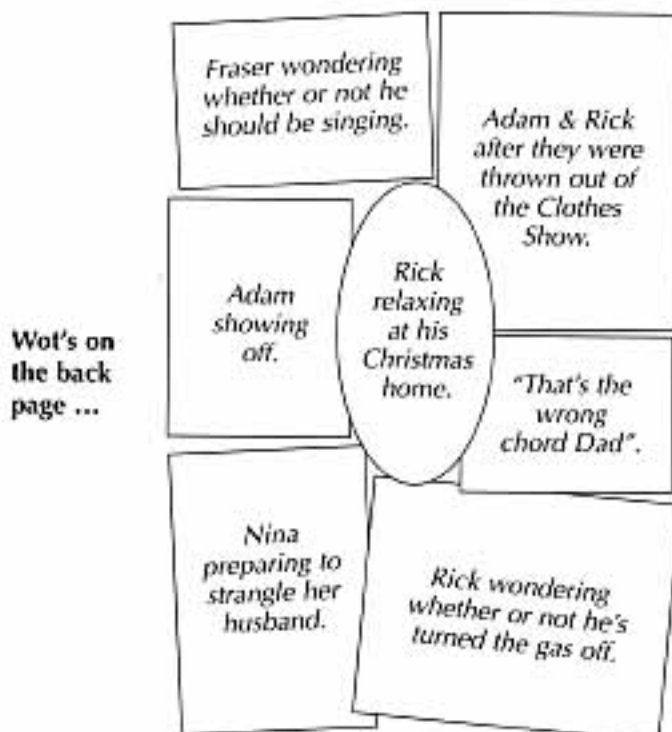
"It has been very pleasing to come here today and to bring a few rays of sunshine to those less fortunate than ourselves at this festive time. Come on lads. Duty done, let's leave the good doctor and his trusty staff to carry on where we have left off".

As the lads leave and walk down the corridor they hear a muffled gun shot come from Dr. Shakey's room.

"Obviously couldn't take the pressure", said Rick. "I'm not sure I like the smell in hospitals anyway. No more curries for you for a little while Mike. DON'T LIGHT THAT CIGARETTE FRASER!

"Never mind, we'll catch up with Mike later".

So, if you have a friend or relative in hospital that could do with cheering up this Christmas, then feel free to ask the lads for a few tips. (Malcolm has a box full of them from the circumcision ward).





# Special Christmas thanks

- It really is Christmas every day when you have wonderful friends around you and so genuine thanks have to go to Candy who deserves a medal for putting up with Rick all year and also John, her long suffering husband who somehow puts up with Candy putting up with Rick!
- Without Nina and the family, Rick would have little reason for doing anything and so a huge thank-you goes to them.
- Rick has wonderful little helpers on tour and Stuart Sawney heads the list as keyboard technician as well as being the studio engineer for all Rick's albums. (You can blame him if you don't like them).
- Ian Barfoot has been welcomed back into the fold as our number one sound engineer after a two year sabbatical in Liverpool. He would have returned earlier but he was waiting to try get his car wheels and hubcaps back.
- To Robert Le Brecht at Premier Ford on the Isle of Wight we say a huge thank-you for the wonderful deal he does us on van hire. We pay him lots of money and he rents us a van.
- Mike "Happy" Holden is in charge of lights and merchandise. He is an invaluable part of the team as without him customers would just steal the merchandise without paying.
- Malcolm Welch loves being out on tour, and we love having him. Malcolm lives in Stoke, which is probably why he loves being out on tour.
- Thanks must also go to Korg, Kurzweil and Voice Crystal who keep Rick musically on his toes and a final mention must go to Barclays and The Isle of Man Bank, both of whom have been taken OFF of Rick's Christmas card list. ... NEVER to return!
- Well that's all the thank-you's, except to say thank-you to all of you who have come tonight, because without you, there'd be nobody here tonight.
- The "It's Nearly Christmas" logo by Jemma Wakeman.
- Tee-Shirt Cartoon by Jemma Wakeman.
- Printed by Mannin Printing.
- Photographs courtesy of Carol Farnworth, Tim and Kim Rice, William J. Griffiths, Robert Rooks, Mike Holden, David Bearne, Ian Bailey, Steve and Helen Terrell.

## Rick's crafty Christmas

In order to find out more about the band, what they really thought of him, and also what they wanted for Christmas, Rick came up with a cunning plan. He would dress us as Father Christmas, sit in a grotto in the town centre and put up a sign which would simply say:

Children under 10..... £75.

Children under 5 ..... not welcome.

Rick Wakeman's Band and Crew ..... Free.

Sure enough, this did the trick and soon there was quite a queue, with each member of the band or crew jostling for position.

Mike "Happy" Holden was first to enter the grotto.

"I want to sit on Santa's knee", he said.

"Well you can't", said Santa, "You'll have to go to the department store in Brighton for that kind of thing. Now sit on that toadstool over there and behave yourself".

"Happy" was really excited. He loved Christmas. He leaned forward and waited with baited breath for Santa to speak again.

"Now little boy, I presume you once were a little boy, before I ask you what you want for Christmas, Santa's going to ask you a question".

"Happy" was even more excited. He loved games and puzzles.

"Tell me little sixteen stone boy", said Santa, what do you really think of that kind hearted, musical genius, Rick Wakeman?"

Mike took a deep breath, (removing most of the oxygen from the air in one gulp).

"He's tight fisted, makes me work twenty two hours a day and hardly lets me sleep at all. He hasn't paid me for years and I have to eat left-overs and wear hand-me-downs".

"You like him then ?

"Do I get a present if I say yes", said Happy, keen to please Santa.

"Well Santa's certainly going to give you something this Christmas".

"Will it be in a sack" ? said Happy eagerly.

"It'll probably be the sack", muttered Santa. "You can go now and please send in the next little boy".

Happy left and in came a 40 year old man wearing shorts that didn't fit him properly.

You look miserable, little boy", said Santa. "What's your name"?

"Doom".

"Next".

In came Ian Barfoot carrying a tray piled up with food.

"Sit down on the mushroom please", said Santa.

Ian looked at the mushroom, picked it then ate it.

"Guess what I'd like for Christmas" ? Ian asked Santa excitedly.

"Anorexia would be a promising start, but you're unlikely to get it. Send in the next customer please".

Hello, I'm Fraser".

You've already got everything. Next!

"I'm your son Adam".

Your mother's got everything. Next!

"There isn't anybody else", said Adam.

"What about Malcolm ?

"He's jammed in the grotto entrance".

... and so the grotto closed its doors for another year. Rick took off his Santa costume, flew back home to the Isle of Man, walked through the front door into the house where his lovely wife Nina was waiting for him ... and put the Santa costume back on again.

It was a happy Christmas after all.

