

Twas the night before Christmas 2014

Twas the night before Christmas, two thousand and fourteen
England still deficient and Osborne still mean
Intense Salmond charming fed a hunger for freedom
But the Scots voted No for his wee little kingdom
Still a Commonwealth sharing, all that gas to be fracked
But not a Celtic Qatar, even if Devo-Maxed
Now speaking of renowned footballing nations
(Deemed hot by FIFA's directors of finance creation)
The Germans were awesome and rightfully famed
Less a Brazillian, wax, than a wane!

A torturous year for the old superpowers
A crime here, a crime there....
Innocent blood on Ukranian flowers
No gay abandon in Sochi, only heterosexuals lauded
They piped half-pipe snow, else all would be waterboarded
Unrest in Thailand, Iraq and Syria
A blight, beyond the pale in Nigeria
Boko Haram, Ebola and ISIS
Spread the disease of inhuman crisis
Pistorious inglorious, a moment of madness
Planes and ferries, vehicles of sadness
Goodbye Robin, Tony, Shirley
Peaches, Mickey, Philip, Theresa

Now chief hack Coulson was sent to jail
While Real Madrid were granted Bale
He scored more goals than a team of Brazilians
But perhaps he should, for eighty five million
Pavey showed what can be done at forty
While Mockingjay Laurence, was rather naughty
And through the Google-glass, Bieber imbibed
George Clooney got hitched and a million women sighed
A marriage of subtlety, integrity, passion
Much like Kanye West and Kim Kardashian (!)
And Yarnold and Hamilton won of course...
But it was Yorkshire who were Le Tour de force!

Now Osborne may have avoided, the financial double dip

But beware the spectre, of a growing UKIP
Switcher Carswell elected and Mark himself Reckless
But two more ticks on Farage's power checklist
English men must prevent rationalism's fall..
Display a science Cox and an economic Balls!
With Invictus, Harry, enabled the disabled
And women at last joined the religious top table
Pigs flew again, a new Floyd album unveiled...
Good enough to eat, like some hostellers in Wales

Although much of 2014 should by rights be forgot
The Imitation Game recalled to whom we owe a lot
In this age of computers, bequeathed by Turing
SpaceX keeps the ISS turning
I believe in mankind's, potential to better
The audacious journey of Interstellar Rosetta
Orion now holds the mantle of Apollo
It is a human Cosmos, that we must follow

*By Andy French, written while climbing seven of Guatemala's magnificent volcanoes.
Began while sticking to the leather seats of a United Airlines flight to Guatemala City
from Houston, and completed in the fabulous art deco Hotel Modelo in Quetzaltenango,
19th December 2014.*