

Twas the night before Christmas 2016

Twas the night before Christmas, Twenty Sixteen
A nightmare version of the American Dream
Where hard work can rise up any fool
But only billionaires and hawks, are allowed to rule
An alternative to Right? Well Populism calls this Wrong!
And in a democracy, should we not move, with the loudest chanting throng?
Well, 48% signed their Clinton cards, with just over half of voters attending
The Electoral College, Trump University... These flawed institutions need mending
Make America Great Again? Well do please tell us what era
Try a few historical facts, and not invented hysteria
Ignore tweeted gossip. Borrow a book, and provide your mind with a remedy
Read about Roosevelt, Truman and Clinton; Obama, Carter and Kennedy

Cameron and Osborne, by Gove! What a year!
Brought down by a buffoon, and a bloke with a beer
I fear it was really all about flagrant self advancement
But now a blow to pragmatism, tolerance and racial disarmament
Clearly the EU needs reform
And it's bananas to impose an unwanted norm
But I fear Brexit will be viewed as an international disgrace
Who knows what we've cut off, to preserve our face
While Renzi and other Euroleaders knelt to be 'guillotined'
Summer continued, and we made May while the sun shined

While the juicy fruits were picked over, from a "basket of deplorables"
Back in Blighty our athletes, were somewhat more adorable
A bumper haul in Rio, with gold medals on the Trott
Murray, Mo and Peaty, will never be forgot
And who would have counseled it, not even John Podesta
That Gary Lineker's underpants, would hail the rise of Leicester

Via Eddie Jones I hope we've found, a renaissance of English rugger¹
Alas the more, spherical game, has suffered from excess hygge
The dragon fixed St George with a Baleful eye, and our lions were humbled by Vikings
Hodgson was done, then Allardyce took bungs, (allegedly!) let's hope Southgate is more to our liking
But shame on FIFA, for their poppycock fines
Have they not reformed, since Blatter resigned?
But Willett was masterful, Hamilton thwarted, and a never-ending Paralympic Storey
Sporting heroes, not 'Lochtenating' fibbers. *Bad Santa*, rated against, *Finding Dory*.

Indeed it was a Strange and Fantastic year. With Beasts, and Giants (some Friendly)
Marvel at Disney's rather ucivil war, and ponder its Rogue One intently
Palmyra, Nimrud or the Kyber temple on Jedha? A destructive, evil display
It may not be such a long time ago, and not that far, far away
But come Hell or High Water, Bob the cat was going to thrive
Unlike ghosts, or a sausagey male
And the Girl On The Train, a timely arrival, but clearly not via Southern Rail

¹ Pronounce as 'roogger' so to rhyme with the Danish word *hygge* (pronounced 'whooger')

For a dignified display, let Max Whitlock take the floor
Or get on your bike like Kenny; Brownlees, Froome and more
If by luck or graft you have the power, to millions you can speak
Inspire by wit and humble flair, strive to reach your Peake
But if you hold high office, you have a duty to reject
Misinformed opinions, that history will inspect
It's perhaps not wise to plagiarize, the woman you intend to succeed
Or fuel a rise, with anger and lies, spoken or tweeted at speed
Well at least the Truth is Out There, thanks to the FBI Director
At least Hilary used Google Mail, and not Mossack Fonseca

Forget Brexit, Brangelina to split!
But Kim and Kanye, still publically knit
Will Hiddleston weave Norse magic across the pond?
Or will he remain, here, as Bond
So how does it feel, to be a Nobel winner
But will Dylan turn up to his glitzy Swedish dinner?
Who cares about bling, and who is a social media earner
Give us a hat and a horse, and a buff Aidan Turner

Two black holes collided, and LIGO detected
Gotthard opened, the Alps now transected
Juno continued, to probe new frontiers
The UK economy, still a trillion in arrears
Farewell to Castro, Cohen and Cruyff
Bowie, Prince and Muhammad Ali
And to Aleppo, a city forsaken, those families unable to flee

Spare a thought this Christmas, for those in greater need
Care less about Farage and Trump, and East and Western greed
Trouble is brewing, and we all need to be smart
Be more like Donald Trumbo, combine virtue with your art

*Written by Andy "Dijon" French.
Winchester, 21st December 2016.*

"A film, a piece of theatre, a piece of music, or a book can make a difference. It can change the world."

"If only life could be a little more tender and art a little more robust."

Alan Rickman (1946-2016).