



Vol 2 Issue 8 December 2009	<b>CHANGE &amp; RAISING MORALE</b> <b>(Turkey, Duck or Goose?)</b>
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**Dear John**

Alas, 'tis almost Chrimbo and 'twill soon be time to celebrate and enjoy some time with our loved ones and friends; I can't wait. This year we'll be having the usual turkey... on second thoughts, it's five years old... we'll buy a fresh one :)

I'm also a little upset. I'm attending an event next week and have been volunteered to be Santa to hand out some presents. Last week I went to have the Santa outfit 'fitted' and I DIDN'T NEED ANY PADDING :(

I mentioned in my last newsletter I've been my own boss now for twenty years. Twenty years, amazing! I have to say the biggest disadvantage I've found is that whenever I phone in sick I know I'm lying.

Talking of lying and my last newsletter, I can honestly say last month I did not lie; unfortunately I did unintentionally misinform you and thank you to those of you who pointed out my error. The first being Simon Bray of QSMR, a marketing and communications consultancy. I am actually writing this missal as I sit on the naughty step and have my head bowed in shame. In 'The Challenge' section last month I stated, 'a duck's quack doesn't echo', which on further investigation I've found is... an urban myth.

Coincidentally, whilst out walking recently I came across a pond and bang smack in the middle of it... A DUCK!!!

After waiting very patiently, it quacked and (unless it was a ventriloquist duck) there WAS an echo. A flippin' echo I tell yaw. A quack from the duck produced another quack without the duck

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moving its bill/beak/lips, or whatever it is ducks have.

Being a quick thinker I've invited my new duck friend for lunch on Christmas day and she's accepted, so there'll be no need for me to buy that fresh turkey after all. Isn't it wonderful when everything just falls into place :)?

I promise to do my best and get my facts right in future.

### **The Sneaky Stunt - The Floating Egg**

Imagine, you've just had your Christmas dinner and even though you're looking quite handsome in your paper hat, all the poppers have been popped, the crackers cracked and for the 197th time you've heard the joke about how to kill a circus. In case you don't know... you go for the juggler (Peter Kay circa 247bc).

You need something that is simple and yet impressive to astonish the gathered clan.

Go into the kitchen and get yourself an egg (uncooked) a couple of glasses (same size and shape and big enough to put the egg in).

Fill one glass a little below a third with ordinary table salt. Fill it with water (leave enough space at the top so that when you put the egg in the water it won't overspill onto the table). Dissolve the salt thoroughly by mixing with a spoon until the water is clear. Essentially you're creating the Dead Sea in miniature.

Fill the other glass with water, but to the same level as the first glass.

If you put the egg into the glass with the unsalted water it will sink to the bottom and stay there.

If you then put the egg into the glass with the salted water it will sink to the bottom and then slowly rise to the top and float.

### **The Challenge - for a bit of fun, I challenge you to drop these useless facts in to your next conversation or two**

**If you're on a train, tube or bus I dare you to turn to the person next to you and say:**

*Did you know that if you multiply 21978 by 4 it reverses the numbers and you get 87912.*

If you really want to worry them follow it up with:

*Camel hair brushes are made from squirrel hair.*

If you add the words 'you know' at the end, the seat next to you will be vacated in record time giving you plenty of room to stretch out.

For good measure you might like to mention:

*The opposite of cross-eyed is wall-eyed.*

Who knows you might get the whole carriage to yourself.

### **I Can't Believe They Said That, or... Dooh!!!**

*"Christmas Pudding Charms. Sterling silver charms for good fortune. Potential choking hazard: do not use with food."*

Past Times catalogue

*"Children! Would you like Father Christmas to write to you and send you a photo of himself? If so, send your letter to: The North Pole, 13a Wavertree Road, Liverpool."*

Sussex Express & County Herald

Funny, I don't remember seeing many elves in Merseyside.

### **John Recommends - Something you may find of interest**

#### ***Presents for the ladies***

I recently spoke at and hosted the GRID Gem awards; an event that encourages and helps fledgling businesses. The winner of, 'The Most Exciting Business Idea,' award was Donna Fraher of Fluffy Auto Boutique. She runs an online business supplying women with car accessories. So plenty of ideas for stocking fillers.

#### ***A book***

A good friend of mine Alan Stevens, the Media Coach, has written a great little book about tapping into traditional and social media to improve your profile and profit. It's called 'Ping' and sells for about a £10.

The book is easy to read and has heaps of practical tips and ideas; I've already started to formulate a plan for myself.

In case you're wondering, Alan is a PR expert, Media Coach, Author and International Speaker. He's made over 2,000 radio and TV appearances including BBC, CNN and Sky News, to name but a few. So he has a 'rough' idea of what he's talking about.

### **...and finally**

If you're looking for help with creating an event where your staff and/or clients experience an impactful business or inspirational message with laughter then I can help. Organisations who have already employed my services as an after dinner speaker or business and keynote speaker, John, agree that the results I deliver

far exceed their expectations. You don't have to take my word for it, just [click here](#) and read what they said.

Now, I'm not saying I would be a perfect fit for your event; that would be for you to decide, but if you do have an event coming up, then now would be a good time to give me a call on 01274 685152 or email me at [john@hotowka.co.uk](mailto:john@hotowka.co.uk) and find out how I can help!

Also, if you know of anyone who can benefit from my services I'd appreciate you forwarding my contact details on to them. Thank you.

See you in the New Year; until then I wish you the Christmas you would wish for yourself.

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