



"Putting people first"

ISIS INTERACTIVE

The newsletter of ISIS Training
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**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL THE STAFF OF ISIS TRAINING.
TO ALL OUR LEARNERS, EMPLOYERS AND CUSTOMERS**



**PRÍEČIČOS ZIENSVE TKOS UN LAIMĪĢU JAUNO GADU?
WESOLYCH ŚWIAT BOŻEGO NARODZENIA OR BOŻE NARODZENIE
KELLENES KARÁCSONYI ÜNNEPEKET
PREJEME VAM VESELE VANOCE A ŠTASTNY NOVÝ ROK
LINKŠO KALEDO!**

Welcome to the Christmas edition of ISIS Interactive, which is packed full of news and seasonal articles for your enjoyment. As 2009 comes to an end here at ISIS Training, we can look back on a very eventful and successful year, which was celebrated in fine style at our annual awards dinner, a full report of which appears on Page 2. An organisation like ISIS Training relies heavily on the support and cooperation of all our Learners, Employers and Customers and we could not function without this support, so thank you for all the support you have given over the past year and here's to a successful 2010.

THE ISIS TEAM

The ISIS Awards Dinner 2009



The annual ISIS Awards dinner was held at the Sir Admiral Rodney Hotel in Horncastle on the 2nd October; the first time we have held this event since becoming part of Lincoln College. The awards dinner celebrated an excellent first year for the newly formed company "Lincoln Academy Ltd T/A ISIS Training" and a very successful partnership with Lincoln College. The evening followed the traditional tried and tested format of a 3 course meal followed by the presentation of the awards and then a bar and disco until the early hours of the morning. Around 35 members of staff, plus their partners and guests attended the dinner and special thanks must go to the two youngest members of staff and former ISIS Training Apprentices, **Helen Ward** and **Dan O'Hara**, who between them organised the whole event. The evening was a tremendous success and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

The awards were presented by the Work Based Learning Operations Manager, **Mary Turnor** and Lincoln College were represented by **Rachel May**, The Director of Employer Engagement. Awards were presented to a number of staff in various categories, for their hard work, efforts and success over the past year. The final award of the evening was presented to Mary herself, by Rachel May, for all her hard work and effort in ensuring the smooth transition from the former "ISIS Training and Recruitment" and the success of the new company.



She doesn't miss much but didn't see that one coming!!



Helen and Dan celebrate their success!!

Speech of the Night

Speech of the night undoubtedly came from **Colin Ashmore**, the E2E Manager. Colin presented an award to Mary Turnor on behalf of the ISIS Training staff, for the help and support she has provided over the last year. Now Colin's main interest outside of work is showing and judging pedigree dogs, so he started the speech with the immortal words "**If Mary were a dog.....**" he then proceeded to compare all of Mary's best assets to those of one of his championship winning dogs, including "Lots of front", "Good Hindquarters", "Full bodied" etc etc.... The speech was absolutely brilliant and went down a storm, although what Mary's husband Adrian, who was listening intently, thought of it all! Well done Colin and see if you can top that at next years awards dinner, which we are looking forward to already!

"Overall, the three most common types of accident/injury were:

- Trips/slips or falls
- Electrical incidents
- Manual handling/lifting"

Some of the most common injuries were:

- Sprains and strains
- Back injury
- Head injury
- Neck injury
- Repetitive Strain Injury

Most Common Risks!

"Overall, slips/trips and falls or damage caused by manual handling/lifting remain the main culprits of injury in the workplace".



"You have very little to fear from biscuits, as a general rule, People just have to use common sense."

Health and Safety



Every Learner Matters
"Stay Safe"

Did you Know!!

- People working in different types of job obviously face a range of different hazards. For example, an office worker is much less at risk from burns than a chef – but there are a range of common accidents and injuries which occur across all occupational sectors – and trips/slips and falls invariably top the league.
- In 2007/08, these accounted for almost four out of every 10 major workplace injuries. Other national statistics for the same year show that the most common 'over-three-day injury' was caused by handling, lifting or carrying.
- A total of 34 million work days were lost because of workplace-related accidents or illness. Of these, 6 million were due to injuries within the workplace while 28 million were 'work-related' ill health days.
- A total of 229 people were killed at work and although this equates to just 0.8 per 100,000 workers, it is still a lot of lives lost. (Long term, death rates have fallen, but the fatality figures have changed very little over the past six years.)
- The most commonly cited workplace hazards involved in accidents/illness were manual handling, sitting for long periods and the handling of harmful substances. More than 2 million people believed that their current or previous type of work had caused them to suffer an illness or made a previous illness worse.

How safe is eating a biscuit!!

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents have revealed about 400 people a year end up in casualty with biscuit-related injuries.

They included "somebody falling over while reaching for a biscuit", someone slipping on a chocolate biscuit on their stairs and various people choking on a snack. One woman had to be treated after stabbing herself in the hand while trying to prise a Smartie off a gingerbread man and a boy was taken to hospital after he was hit in the eye by a biscuit thrown by a pal.

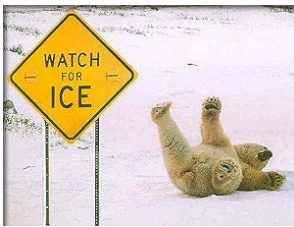
RoSPA spokeswoman Jo Stagg said: "In the general scheme of things, the numbers of biscuit accidents are quite small. There are plenty of things you encounter every day which can cause you to get hurt but we do not want to cause alarm. You have very little to fear from biscuits, as a general rule, People just have to use common sense."

As a result of these figures, Incredibly, it was revealed that four local authorities have drawn up rules on how to munch a biscuit safely.

As a marketing exercise FOX biscuits created the fictional "British Biscuit Advisory Board" and sent out a spoof workplace biscuit risk assessment survey to 5849 council workers. Of the 5849 workers, 1556 were in human resources departments and 516 worked in health and safety. Incredibly, a total of 813 staff clicked through to the online survey - and 437 worried workers actually took the time to complete it.



"If your car breaks down in winter, and you decide to stay inside until help arrives, only run the engine for 10 minutes every hour to keep reasonably warm and open a window slightly to let some air in and prevent the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from the exhaust fumes"



*'That would never be me!!'
and 'You'd have to have been on a right bender to still be over the next day!'*

'Drink a bottle of 15% wine - just three 250ml glasses - and you can't drive for 13 hours - 1pm the next day if you finish at midnight.'

Stay safe on line

The BBC, through Radio 1 is running a campaign called [Bullyproof](#) which focuses on cyber-bullying and how to keep safe online. The link below takes you to some really great tips about privacy settings on social networking sites, real life stories and even some celebrity videos about confidence building and how to report bullying!

The address for the site is: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/bullyproof/>

Stay safe!

Get Set for Winter Weather

We all know that the British winter is unpredictable. And it always seems that the worst of the bad weather strikes at the busiest of times, catching too many of us unaware.

A number of government agencies provide advice and guidance on being aware to risks when driving in bad weather conditions and many are advising that regular road users carry a 'Bad Weather Emergency Kit'.

Here are some of the items they suggest:

- Ice scraper and de-icer
- Torch
- Warm clothes and a blanket (don't forget a hat, gloves and warm socks)
- A pair of boots (rubber is preferable in case of flooding or deep snow)
- First-aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A shovel in case of snow
- Hi-viz jacket or vest for each person in the vehicle

They also suggest that it may be worth keeping a pair of sunglasses in the glove box to protect from the glare of low winter sun. And for long journeys in very cold weather, they advise a flask of a warm drink and some food, just in case.

There is some excellent advice from the AA on

http://www.theaa.com/motoring_advice/seasonal/winter_motoring.html

at the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership on www.roadlincs.com

Party Season is Just Round the Corner

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership advises that if we are driving then we should stick to the soft stuff. Even a small amount of alcohol can impair a driver's ability to react. So, someone else drives and you have a lovely party! That's great – only what happens when you need to drive the next day? It **was** a late night, maybe you are just feeling tired..? Or maybe you still have enough alcohol in your system that you are **still** over the legal limit and not fit to drive. If you are interested it is well worth checking out the 'morning after calculator' on www.morning-after.org.uk. It is pretty scary stuff for example they say

'Drink a bottle of 15% wine - just three 250ml glasses - and you can't drive for 13 hours - 1pm the next day if you finish at midnight.'

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Consumer Law Tips

Sale of Goods Act

Under this act, goods for sale must:-

- Correspond with any description
- Be of merchantable quality
- Be fit for purpose for which they are intended

Consumer Protection Act

This Act bans:-

- False comparisons with a recommended retail price.
- False comparisons with a previous price.
- Suggestions that the goods are cheaper than they really are.
- False Statements about services.
- Claims about 'worth' and 'value'.

Useful Links

Office of Fair Trading
www.oft.gov.uk

Consumer Line
www.consumerline.org

Consumer Direct
www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

Department of Trade and Industry
www.dti.gov.uk

Did you know!!

There is a detailed Consumer legislation Course workbook and PowerPoint presentation available in the ENVQ Learning Resource area.

Consumer Law

Christmas is an expensive time and also a time when you might want to return unwanted or damaged gifts. So it is a good idea to be familiar with consumer law and what your rights are.



The Headline: You might not need that five-year extended warranty after all.

The Scenario: The all singing all dancing MP3 player, the totemic centre of your life, breaks down precisely 366 days after you bought it. The large electronics firm that sold you the MP3 player says that because the one-year guarantee had elapsed, there's nothing they can do to help you. You'll just have to buy another one.

But there's some good news. The operative who spoke to you didn't know what they were talking about

The Truth:

- The Sale of Goods Act says that your MP3 player must be fit for purpose.
- It must be as described.
- It must be of satisfactory quality,
- It must be sufficiently durable, free from any defects,"

If you've ignored the manufacturer's warnings and have been leaving the player out in direct sunshine and wearing it in the bath, then you probably haven't got much of a case. But if the player has been lovingly treated and has still conked out that suggests something may have been wrong with it at the very beginning.

It works like this. For the first four-five weeks you have a "right of rejection" - if the item you've bought breaks down, you can demand a refund.

For the next six months, you are entitled to replacement or repair of the goods. It is up to the retailer to prove there was nothing wrong with it if they wish to get out of having to do the work and then after six months, there is still a duty to replace or repair faulty goods, but the onus is on you, the consumer, to prove that there was something wrong. The key time span is six years, That's how long goods may be covered by the Sale of Goods Act. It all depends on what "sufficiently durable" means. If a light bulb goes after 13 months, the consumer is not going to be overly gutted. If their washing machine goes after the same time span they are going to be livid.

The government's guidelines say: "Goods are of satisfactory quality if they reach the standard that a reasonable person would regard as satisfactory, taking into account the price and any description."

And be aware that if you go to the washing machine repairer, spend money attempting to diagnose an inherent fault, and find out you have been using it the wrong way, then you are going to be out of pocket.

A key fact is that your relationship in the Sale of Goods Act is with the retailer, not the manufacturer.



"All the staff at ISIS Training have worked extremely hard in order to win these awards, but it could not be done without the help and cooperation of our Learners and Employers"



ISIS Triumph at the Lincs Media 2009 Awards

ISIS Training won the category **"Best use of IT and Communications"** at the Lincolnshire Media Business Awards, sponsored by Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and BT. The award was gained for our work with E-Portfolios, E-learning, Electronic Assessment methods and our general use of IT and technology with all our learners on their qualifications.

The awards ceremony was held at the EPIC Centre within the Lincolnshire Showground and 12 members of ISIS Training staff, together with a further 12 members of Lincoln College, including the Principle Mr John Allen, were there to witness the success and watch our E-Learning Manager, Mick Gilroy, step forward to accept the award on behalf of all our staff. We faced stiff competition from 2 other companies who had made the final, Ample Financial Services and RealWire Ltd.

Before the actual award ceremony itself we were treated to a champagne reception, a 3 course meal with wine and entertainment from a magician who walked around the various tables doing his tricks and even impressing old cynics like myself!! The ceremony itself was pretty nerve wracking, especially as they read out the achievements of the other finalists and there was a moment's hesitation as we were announced as the winners, due to the person presenting the award mispronouncing our name, using the abbreviations I.S.I.S instead of our name ISIS.

We were able to celebrate with two bottles of champagne, kindly provided by the Principle and Senior Management of Lincoln College and this put the icing on a very successful year for ISIS Training which has seen us record our best ever learner numbers, qualifications and retention figures and being awarded Technology Exemplar Status from Becta/LSC for the second consecutive year. All the staff at ISIS Training have worked extremely hard in order to win these awards, but it could not be done without the help and cooperation of our Learners and Employers who readily embrace the technology we use and quickly learn to adapt and make the most of our E-learning and E-assessment methods. We will continue to build on this success and we plan to introduce some more new technology during 2010.

Lincs and Rutland Apprenticeship Awards 2009

It is now the Learners and Employers turn to be recognised and awarded for your efforts as we begin to make nominations for the Lincs and Rutland Apprenticeship Awards 2009. ISIS Staff have been compiling the names of both learners and employers we feel deserve an award and the nominations will be shortly submitted to the awards committee.

Following the submissions, all nominees will receive an application form, which your Learning Advisor and/or other members of the ISIS Staff will be happy to help you complete.



Mission Statement

"To provide teenagers, suffering from long term or life threatening illness, with access to computer technology thereby enabling them to continue their education and maintain contact with their school, so as to continue to develop key life skills and help them in coping with their illness be that in hospital or at home"

"The treatments they undergo for their illnesses usually run throughout the day, and in the mornings, many teenagers in hospital cannot wake up until midday or later, due to side effects of the treatment"

The MattDotCom Charity

www.mattdotcom.org.uk



Every Learner Matters
Make a positive
Contribution to society

This article was written by one of our learners, Charlotte Harding-Price, to promote a charity founded and run by her family, MattDotCom, which works and supports teenagers living with terminal illnesses. This is Charlotte's story.

"MattDotCom is a local charity which works with teenagers who are living with terminal illnesses such as cancer and cystic fibrosis. MattDotCom raises money in order to purchase laptop computers and other IT equipment which is then lent to teenagers who are at school or college and need the facilities to complete their school work. The equipment MattDotCom lends out also enables the teenager to stay in touch with friends and family when away from home and can be used to act as a distracter when the teenager is undergoing painful treatment.

In 2000 my brother Matthew was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, which is a form of bone cancer. Matthew was sixteen at the time and studying for his GCSEs. When Matt went into hospital to begin another round of treatment, he was surprised to find out that he was being stopped from doing his school work, due to the hospital school closing at 3pm and after this time; no one had access to the school facilities. As a result Matt would borrow our dad's laptop to do his school work, or catch up with friends, meaning dad had no means to do his own work. Matt knew that other teenagers on the ward had the same problems, but some were not lucky enough to have a laptop to borrow.

The treatments they undergo for their illnesses usually run throughout the day, and in the mornings, many teenagers in hospital cannot wake up until midday or later, due to side effects of the treatments. As a family we could not understand why the school in the hospital shut so early. Matt and mum came up with the idea of raising some money to buy Matt his own laptop. Matt's school friends organised a fund raiser, which saw his friends get various parts of their bodies waxed, girls cutting their hair and boys having their hair shaved off, to match Matthew's bald head. The event raised enough money and Matt had his very own laptop, which made such a difference to his treatment cycle.

Matt noticed how much more school work he could do and enjoyed the fact that he could do whatever he wanted, whenever he wanted. This made him wonder if others would benefit from their own laptops. In 2001 Matthew, mum and dad started brain storming ideas by which they could come up with a way to give others in the hospital access to laptops. Out of this idea, which came about in a hospital bed MattDotCom, was born.

We as a family all got involved in MattDotCom. Events included a car treasure hunts, car boot sales which were always a great day out and we would get involved in running the stall and games. We held various coffee mornings, have had a line dancing evening, which was entertaining and we learnt new dancing skills and also had raffles and food on sale. One of the great events was the Trilby Ball, which was organised for two years running which is a great excuse to get all dressed up, have good food and dance well into the night. Over the past eight years we have had a variety of teams running in the 10k, and it has always been such an enjoyable day. For the past two years I have run the 10k and it is great to have been able to watch when I was younger, and progress to actually getting involved and running.

"Unfortunately in March 2004 Matt succumbed to his illness. He had been living with cancer for three and a half years, and in all that time, he never let it get him down".

Unfortunately in March 2004 Matt succumbed to his illness. He had been living with cancer for three and a half years, and in all that time, he never let it get him down. Eight days before he died he accompanied dad on a trip to Dublin. He managed to get himself all the way to Dublin, to meet dad, in his wheel chair and with an oxygen cylinder on his back, much to my mother's panic.

Every time we get together as a committee it brings back all those memories of Matt which we work so hard to keep alive. Each time we get a new referral it hits home as to why we as a family with the help of many great friends run MattDotCom. There are so many teenagers out there who need our help. Matt opened my eyes as to how many young people live with cancer and other illnesses, which was something I knew nothing about. I wonder how many people like me associate cancer with older people. The harsh reality is that cancer can strike no matter how old or young a person is. As Matt's sister, it is my responsibility to keep his memory alive and remember what he went through and the good that he managed to do against the odds. Matt purchased a Peugeot 306 in 2003, which showed his sheer determination to not let his illness get the best of him. The car was an absolute mess, but he went out every day to add or take bits off of it. His illness did not even stop him from crawling under the car to tinker with some mechanism.

Matt was lucky enough to see some of the good MattDotCom was doing, which made all the difference to his battle, as he could see the benefits it was having on other teenagers like himself. By the end of 2004, MattDotCom had lent laptops to twenty two teenagers. In 2005 this had progressed to thirty eight and by 2006, MattDotCom crowned its fiftieth successful loan. To date we have helped eighty three teenagers. MattDotCom is currently working with forty four teenagers across the East Midlands and beyond.

Our sister Abigail is the current president of MattDotCom and like me is working to keep our brother's memory alive and ensure that people remember his name and what he battled against. Matt would have wanted us to carry on with helping these teenagers, which is why we fulfil his dreams. It is amazing how much of a difference a laptop can make to a teenager's life. After you meet those teenagers that need your help, you become more determined to help them, because they are in desperate need and you would do anything you could to make their life that bit better, just as we did for Matt.

"Through MattDotCom we have met many great families and have the chance to change the lives of teenagers across Lincolnshire and the UK"

Through MattDotCom we have met many great families and have the chance to change the lives of teenagers across Lincolnshire and the UK in a situation we normally would not have had the chance to do. Recently we have become more noticed, but we are always working to become better known, which I am hoping this article will help to do. In 2005 MattDotCom won The Guardian's Charity of the Year. I was privileged to go to London to collect the award with my sister and parents".

If you would like to find out more about our work, please visit our Web site at –

www.Mattdotcom.org.uk

How to make donations? There is a "just giving" site that has been set up for people who wish to make donations. The address is: www.justgiving.com/davidhardingprice .

Alternatively donations can be sent to MattDotCom at 47 Lincoln, LN2 4QS

**ISIS Training will appreciate any support you can give to this very worthwhile charity.
If you support a charity or would like to promote any activity that meets the principles of
"Make a positive contribution to society"
talk to us about publicising your work in ISIS Interactive.
Please speak with your Learning Advisor or contact any member of the ISIS Team**

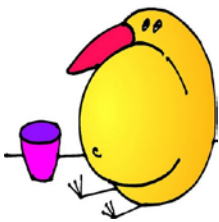
Have a Healthy Xmas



Every Learner Matters
"Be Healthy"



- *A hair of the dog does not cure a hangover, it just delays the inevitable.*
- *There is no such thing as drinking yourself sober, this really is a myth. It is more likely to lead to alcohol poisoning.*
- *Nobody has yet invented a pill, potion or drug that prevents or cures hangovers. Some medication might make you feel slightly better but that's about all*



- *Most people put salt on their food through habit and before they even taste the food, rather than because the food needs it.*

Christmas is a time for eating and drinking to excess and everyone having a good time (and rightly so!) but it is possible to eat reasonably healthily and to take some simple steps to avoid the dreaded hangovers. Try some of these simple tips and you might just feel a little less worn out when you return to work in January!!

TEN TIPS ON HOW TO STAY REASONABLY SOBER AND PREVENT A HANGOVER

1. Know your limits!! 75% of people who drink to intoxication will have a hangover the next day.
2. Eat before drinking so the alcohol isn't absorbed so quickly.
3. Drink a glass of milk before alcohol, it coats the stomach lining and slows the absorption of alcohol.
4. Choose light drinks over dark drinks as they contain less congeners, the chemicals that cause hangovers.
5. Stick with non-fizzy mixers, fizzy mixers accelerates alcohol absorption.
6. Choose less concentrated drinks, beer or lagers rather than spirits.
7. Stick with one type of alcoholic drink and don't mix your drinks!
8. Stay hydrated, drink lots of water, before during and after a drinking session. Alcohol does not quench your thirst, but makes you dehydrated.
9. Be Happy!! Happy cheerful drinkers are far less likely to develop a hangover than those who go drinking when they are miserable or depressed.
10. Don't drink to impress or feel you have to keep up with you mates. Drink at a pace you are comfortable at and stop when you feel you have had enough.

TEN HEALTHY EATING TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS

1. Start the day with a simple breakfast of toast, cereal and juice!!
2. Turkey is the leanest and healthiest of traditional Christmas birds.
3. Pile on the Christmas veg as part of your 5 a day, but microwave, steam or roast the veg to preserve the vitamins and nutrients.
4. Cut potatoes into large chunks for roasting as they'll absorb less fat. Use sunflower, vegetable or olive oil rather than lard, dripping or goose fat.
5. Make your own gravy, as package mixes contain a lot of salt and additives.
6. Don't put extra salt on your dinner plate there is plenty in the ingredients and added during the cooking process.
7. Cinnamon, a traditional Christmas spice helps balance blood sugar levels, so put some in your tea or coffee and sprinkle it on your breakfast cereal.
8. Celery helps lower blood pressure and is good for cholesterol, so serve celery sticks with cheese, instead of crackers or biscuits.
9. Get active for a couple of days over the holidays, have a snowball fight (if it snows!), go for a brisk walk or put some music on and dance to burn off some calories.
10. Don't go to a party feeling hungry, you'll only eat all the junk food! Have a small meal or snack before you go and enjoy the nibbles in moderation.

Humour: The Banker and the Dead Donkey (Economic well-being!!)

A banker moves to the country to escape the credit crunch. He decides to get a small holding and buy a Donkey. A local farmer agrees to sell him one for a hundred pounds, so he gives him the money and the farmer agrees to bring it round in a couple of days. 4 days passes and the Donkey still hasn't arrived, so he phones the farmer up and says "Where is my Donkey?" and the farmer replies "I am sorry but it is dead!". The banker says "I'll have my hundred pounds back then", but the farmer says that he has spent it. The banker thinks about it for a minute and then says "Well just bring me the dead Donkey". What are you going to do with it asks the Farmer and the banker replies "I'll raffle it". You can't raffle a dead donkey says the farmer, watch me says the banker. A couple of months pass and the farmer bumps into the banker again. How did the raffle go says the farmer? Great replies the banker, I sold 200 tickets at £2 each and made £400, that's a 150% return on the original 100 pounds. Didn't any one complain? Says the farmer. "Only the bloke that won says the banker, so I gave him his 2 quid back!!"



Music Review 2009

The UK Chart scene was once again dominated by the X Factor, Britain's got talent (not from what I've seen on these shows!) and other so called "Talent Shows" in 2009. However if you looked hard enough there was some decent music to be found. The biggest events were probably the re-release of all 13 digitally re-mastered **Beatles Albums**, which were available in several formats and sold like proverbial hot cakes and the sad death of **Michael Jackson**. Those of you too young to remember them just need to know that without the Beatles, the rock and pop scene today would simply not exist, that's how influential they were. GMTV tried to get in on the reality pop scene, with their Britain's NO1 family competition, but the standard was so appallingly bad that they hedged their bets and gave the prize to **Beardsmith** a semi-professional band who make their living on the holiday camp circuit. They are based around a 12 year old drummer called Gill, who takes centre stage and looks like he should be on a 1980's US High school TV show. They play rock covers and Christmas songs!! and their family Christmas album will be out on 7 Dec. Don't expect HMV to open at midnight for this one. They also have a Christmas single out "Joy to the world" which is currently not looking like giving them their big hit breakthrough. Girl Power had a bit of revival in 2009 with **Pixie Lott**, **Katie Perry**, **Little Boots**, **La Roux** and the excellent **Florence and the Machine** making their big breakthroughs. **Lady GaGa** just kept releasing the same song with a different name and that seemed to work for her, **Madonna** released yet another Greatest Hits Collection and **Britney Spears** made a reasonably successful comeback, whilst **Whitney Houston** didn't.....**Robbie Williams** made a half hearted attempt at comeback but it sort of fizzled out and his former band **Take That** just seem to go from strength to strength. Those kings of soft rock and power ballads **Bon Jovi** released what seems to be their 200th album, *The Circle*, (it's their 23rd actually) sticking to their tried and tested formula of sing along anthems and they have just sold out 20 consecutive nights at the O2 Arena next summer. In the flogging a dead horse stakes, there are the usual glut of Greatest Hits Albums out in time for Christmas from Fleetwood Mac, Black Sabbath, The Foo Fighters, The Pretenders, Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, Will Young, Run DMC, Snow Patrol, Queen, inevitably Michael Jackson and far too many more to mention. **Spandau Ballet** reformed after Gary Kemp was released from his sofa advert contract and did a sell out tour, but couldn't be bothered to write any new songs, so just reworked new versions of their classic 80'S hits on "new" album *Once More*. **Morrissey** got around to releasing some of the best songs he has ever written, but never made it onto an album with the very good *Swords* album (all tracks hand picked by the great man himself). **Green Day** made their long awaited follow up to *American Idiot*, *21st Century Breakdown*, another concept album and will do a stadium tour next summer and some festival appearances. **The Stereophonics** got back on track after a couple of dodgy albums with *Keep Calm and Carry on* and **Muse** made more weird sounds than a three piece band should be allowed to with *The Resistance* and some stunning concerts during 2009. If Hip Hop, R&B, Rap etc is your thing then it was a great year for British artists with **Tynchy Stryder's** *Catch 22* album one of the years best sellers, **Dizzie Rascal** was back on form after a couple of years in the wilderness and those X Factor losers **JLS** proved everyone wrong by selling millions of both albums and singles. The **Black Eyed Peas** got back together after their various solo projects with a top ten album and singles and breakthrough acts included **Chipmunk** whilst other established acts such as 50 Cent, Scooter, Calvin Harris and Jay-Z had good years also. There are lots of up and coming British acts in this genre, who all talk in American Gangsta accents and say "Huh Huh Huh" a lot at the start of their songs. Turns out most of them are white middle class kids from university (only joking!!). On the novelty side there were lots of surprise best sellers, not least of all **Susan Boyle** or Subo, who is currently at No 1 in the album charts after finally completing her debut album and looks like being there for some time. Strange appearances in the charts were also had by **The Priests** (yes they really are priests) **The Soldiers** (ditto) **Chris Moyles** from Radio one with his Parody album and various male voice choirs. The strangest success story is however **Seasick Steve**, who is a 67 year old American former Hobo, who sings the Blues. He shot to fame after an appearance on *Later with Jules Holland*, has a million selling album and made lots of successful festival appearances in Britain during the summer. It just goes to show it's never too late, or you're never too old for success.

Soap land (How to capture an audience by a self confessed soap hater)

The world of TV soaps seems to get weirder by the week and have you notice how they are all morphing into each other? Coronation Street has become Eastenders, Emmerdale has become Coronation Street and Eastenders has become Misery! But the most bizarre storylines undoubtedly belong to Emmerdale. How can so much go on in a village of 15 houses (count them at the start, I do). We have seen Cain Dingle turn up with 2 million quid he nicked from the King family, in a sports bag after being released from prison, with not so much as a by your leave from the Police or his Parole Officer, Debbie Dingle trying to Marry her mum's boyfriend or was it the other way around? Poor dippy Lauren getting almost killed and stalked by another crazy psychopath. (Haven't we been here before with Lorraine Chase?) And those two life long losers Marlon and Paddy getting dumped yet again by their respective partners. Have the residents not realised a call to their local Constabulary would sort out all these problems and crime in the village instantly, it works on Heartbeat, but oh no! They insist on trying to do it all themselves. I actually can't stand the programme but end up watching it through a compelling bizarre curiosity every night to see what happens, complaining and moaning all the way through. Now that is the way to get a television audience and increase your ratings, well done ITV!!

TV TOONS



FACTS, MYTHS AND TRIVIA ABOUT CHRISTMAS

- ❖ The image of the red and white Santa Claus we use today was developed by Coca-Cola for a marketing campaign in the 1930's and has stuck ever since. **Fact!!!**
- ❖ Most of the Christmas traditions we follow today were invented by the Victorians and we associate Christmas with a lot of the writings of Charles Dickens, especially A Christmas Carol. Almost all Christmas markets and events in England are based on this period, with Victorian dress and stalls the preferred options. **Fact!!!**
- ❖ White Christmas's are extremely rare and only occur about once every 12 years. In the whole of the 20th century there were a total of 7 white Christmas's. The only places guaranteed a white Christmas are Albert Square, Emmerdale, Coronation Street and the end of any Chick flick/Rom Com (even though its 80 degrees in LA where they are usually set)!! **Fact...and Joke!!**
- ❖ Prince Albert the husband of Queen Victoria, invented Christmas trees. **Myth!!**
- ❖ Teddy bears were named after the American President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt when on a hunting trip he refused to shoot a baby bear cub. A New York toymaker asked his permission to name two stuffed toy bears he had in his window "Teddy Bears" and permission was granted. **Part Fact/Part Myth!!**
- ❖ Auld Lang Syne is sung on New Years Eve all around the world, but nobody knows all the words and nobody knows what they mean anyway, apart from Robert Burns who wrote it. **Fact**
- ❖ Nearly all perfume adverts shown on TV at Christmas are in French or spoken with a heavy French accent, even though hardly anyone in England can speak French!! **Trivia! (Watch them and see for yourself)**
- ❖ No mainstream band or recording artist will release a single at Christmas; such is the power of the X Factor, where the winner is almost guaranteed the No 1 spot. This has meant an end to the traditional race to number 1, which was the highlight of many teenagers Christmas's (including my own) for years. This gives lots of minor artists and novelty acts the chance to have a top 40 hit single. **TRIVIA, but probably fact!!**
- ❖ Nobody has successfully written a modern Christmas Carol, with everyone preferring the old traditional carols which date back 100's of years. **(Merry Christmas Everyone by Slade IS NOT a Christmas carol)**

So there you go!! Notice there are not too many myths in there as I don't want to be the Grinch that spoiled Christmas, (which is also based on a true story!!) **Fact or Myth.....You Decide!!**

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New website
coming soon
Watch this space!!



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- **Business Administration**
- **Team Leading**
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- **Accounting**
- **Hospitality and Catering**
- **Customer Service Management**
- **IT Practitioner**
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Apprentices can boost your business!

In a recent survey to gauge support for Apprentices, three quarters of the people of Lincolnshire said they are more likely to use a business if they employ an Apprentice, 78% of people would actually buy a product from a company that supports young people and employs Apprentices and 86% of people think it is important for employers to take on an Apprentice in the current recession. What more of an incentive do you need to use the best training provider in the area and boost your business by taking on an Apprentice? Now is the time to speak to us about the benefits of taking on an Apprentice and working with ISIS Training.

Become a progressive employer – take on an Apprentice!

Safeguarding Learners

All the staff at ISIS Training have received comprehensive training in supporting and safeguarding young people up to the age of 18 and vulnerable adults. All ISIS staff carries a 3 year license confirming this. If you have a problem, please feel free to talk to your Learning Advisor or any member of the ISIS Team. We can provide general help and support and put you in touch with a suitable person or organisation that can provide the specific levels of support and advice that you need. We will keep all the information you provide in the strictest confidence, but please be aware that there are certain instances that by law we are required to report to the appropriate authorities. If you need any further information about the help and support we can provide, please speak to your Learning Advisor.



Every Learner Matters
"Stay Safe"