CHRISTMAS NEWS

HOLIDAY HIJINKS

THE house made famous in the classic Christmas movie *Home Alone* is going up for rent on Airbnb.

Home Alone tells the story of a young boy called Kevin McCallister who has to defend his house from bungling burglars after he accidentally gets left behind at Christmas.

Fans of Kevin and his Christmas capers will now get the chance to check into the house used in the film and enjoy the ultimate sleepover. The stay on 12 December will include booby traps inspired by the film, pizza, a screening of the new *Home Sweet Home Alone* on Disney+ and a *Home Alone* LEGO set.

The experience is being hosted by actor Devin Ratray, who plays Buzz McCallister in the film, and costs just $25 (roughly £19). Airbnb says a donation will also be made to Chicago's La Rabida Children's Hospital.

Sarah Crowley

Getty

The 1990 movie features actor Macaulay Culkin doing this famous pose

MYSTERIOUS MICE

TINY knitted mice have been popping up in giant baubles across Hertfordshire.

The cute little creatures have been spied on the top of Royal Mail postboxes in a number of festive scenes.

Secret Society of Hertford Crafters

Among the creations are mice decorating a Christmas tree, making pizza, enjoying a disco and attending their very own Mice Golden Globes awards ceremony. Locals are urged to look out for mice choristers, postal workers and Mexican mice too!

The mysterious animals have been created by the Secret Society of Hertford Crafters, who have 'yarnbombed' 42 Royal Mail postboxes in the county: 28 in Hertford, 12 in Ware, one in Watton-at-Stone and one in Van Hage Garden Centre.

It's hoped the festive fun will help to raise money for Herts & Essex (Ware) Samaritans.

Secret Society of Hertford Crafters

FIVE FUN STATS

- 584 hours were spent on each Christmas tree bauble on average
- There are 222 mice in total
- There are 120 Christmas presents and parcels
- There are 61 pieces of cheese
- There's also one Emmental Raducanu mouse!

UK

Cinderella voted top panto

Cinderella has been voted the nation's favourite pantomime in a new poll. The fairy-tale princess scooped 42% of the public vote, with *Jack and the Beanstalk* in second place and *Aladdin* in third. The poll, run by Premier Inn, also found that eight in ten people feel pantos bring families together during the holidays. Are you going to a pantomime this Christmas?

iStock

SCARBOROUGH

Christmas recycled

Charlotte Graham

A new interactive art project called *Grue* has opened at the Old Parcels Office in Scarborough for Christmas. *Grue* (a historic word for snow or shiver) is a walk-through experience that has been made entirely out of recycled cardboard and repurposed materials. It takes families on a journey through four themed rooms: Town, Sky, Sea and Forest, and features items made by the local community. Artist Steve Wintercroft said he hopes the project will show that "wrapping paper and packaging can have another life even before they make it into the recycling bin".

GLOSSARY	
	choristers — Singers in a choir **Golden Globes** — Awards presented annually by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association to recognise excellence in television and film **hijinks** — Boisterous fun **yarn** — Spun thred for weaving or knitting

Questions on: Christmas News

'Holiday hijinks'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Write the questions for the following answers:

- The house made famous in the classic Christmas movie *Home Alone*.
- 12 December
- The actor Devin Ratray, who plays Buzz McCallister in the film.

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Suggest why this *Home Alone* experience is being hosted.

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Comment on the effect of the use of the adverb "just" in the sentence: "The experience... costs just $25 (roughly £19)."

'Mysterious mice'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. What have the Secret Society of Hertford Crafters created for Christmas?

A2. What do the following numbers refer to?

584 .....

222 .....

120 .....

61 .....

1 .....

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Who is the Emmental Raducanu mouse a representation of?

B2. What do you understand the word 'yarnbombed' to mean?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. What do the pictures add to this article?

'Cinderella voted top panto' and 'Christmas recycled'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Fill the gaps in the sentences.

..... has been voted the nation's favourite ..... in a new ..... The fairy-tale princess scooped ..... of the public vote, with ..... in second place and ..... in third.

A2. What has opened at the Old Parcels Office in Scarborough for Christmas?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Why is it significant that the poll found that eight in ten people feel pantos bring families together during the holidays?

B2. Explain the aim of the *Grue* project.

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Suggest why a question is used in the concluding line of the pantomime news story.