

## A WINTER WARMER

We all know it's *that* Time of Year again. When so many people are fretting and anxious and too busy to read our Comedy Nonsense... But since we care we've prepared a little miscellany as a distraction for you anyway.

First up is our friend Old Ceewig the Soothsayer. Under the last Beaver Moon he donned his vatic Polar Bear Suit and sat out all night on the Greenwich Meridian to catch the currents of Time and see where they lead in 2025. This is what he learned...

## CEEWIG

On June 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 the Government will panic about its rapidly waning popularity and in desperation nominate Lewisham as Britain's first Pilot Turbo FreePort.

Even though Lewisham barely tickles the Thames and is miles from the Coast, the Borough will be stripped of "Red Tape" to encourage Growth, Innovation, Technology, and Synergy.

"We are all GITS now!" declares the Communities Minister. "Wealth will flow into the Turbo FreePort. Which will be re-named Lewishamilton in order to attract Tourists, Investors and, er... Generally Raise the Whole Tone of the place a bit."

A week later the new Chief Executive Officer of LTFP announces a ground-breaking collaboration between British Gas and Thames Water to renew gas and water supplies throughout the whole of the TFP, starting on September 1st. "Both Companies bring their matchless skills together in what will be the first fruit of Synergy," she declares. "They do not mess around!"

But the start will be delayed when the Royal Borough of Greenwich complains of multiple boundary incursion offences by Lewishamilton residential associates into traffic control areas.

"Royal Schmoyal!" mocks the CEO of LTFP. A detachment of North Korean troops promptly invade Greenwich and annexe it for FPL. Concerned Greenwich Residents present a Petition, drafted by a resident ex-Prime Minister, to beg King Charles to protect their freedoms. The appeal is ignored on the grounds that it is incoherent and that the appellants are, by definition, no longer residents of the UK anyway.

("So at last we really do have a Port," jokes a local comedian. He is detained and held in the new dungeons constructed under the old Tesco's car park.)

In a coup for LTFP it is chosen as the substitute venue for the annual Davos wealth gloat in January 2026. (The Swiss ski resort having closed since all its ice has mysteriously melted.) Asked if LTFP will in return meet certain conditions a grateful FPL CEO says, "*Yes we can!*" So Greenwich Park is sold to a Virgin Islands-based Hedge Fund. The Park is immediately closed, covered by a perspex dome, and dug over to become a ziggurat of purple greenhouses propagating rare orchids for the global market.

Blackheath itself is sold to Quaggy, a mail-order Fulfilment company, who concrete it over to be used for van and lorry parking as well as a heliport and drone super-hub.

The unveiling of the synergistic collaboration between British Gas and Thames Water is brought forward to coincide with the pseudo-Davos meeting.

The CEO's speech praises the Companies to the vast crowd of Quaggy workers who stand blinking in the sun, having been given 20 minutes off work. Every schoolchild in LTFP has been gathered up to wave a banner and chant, "WE LOVE SYNERGY!"

"One day a whole chain of TFPs like Lewishamilton will adorn the Nation like a 'String of Pearls,'" says the CEO. She seems puzzled when the crowd laughs. "I have EVEN BETTER news for you. A major scheme of home building begins tomorrow! Hundreds of old and ugly properties will be demolished and a road-widening scheme will ensure that Formula 1 racing will... COME HOME AT LAST. So, are you ready for the GREAT BRITISH TURN-ON?"

More disrespectful laughter ensues so she goes straight to the countdown. The Plan is that on ZERO everyone in LTFP will turn on their water and gas simultaneously.

And so... In thousands of homes across the post codes, gas gushes into baths, sinks and basins and water squirts and dribbles from cookers and boilers...

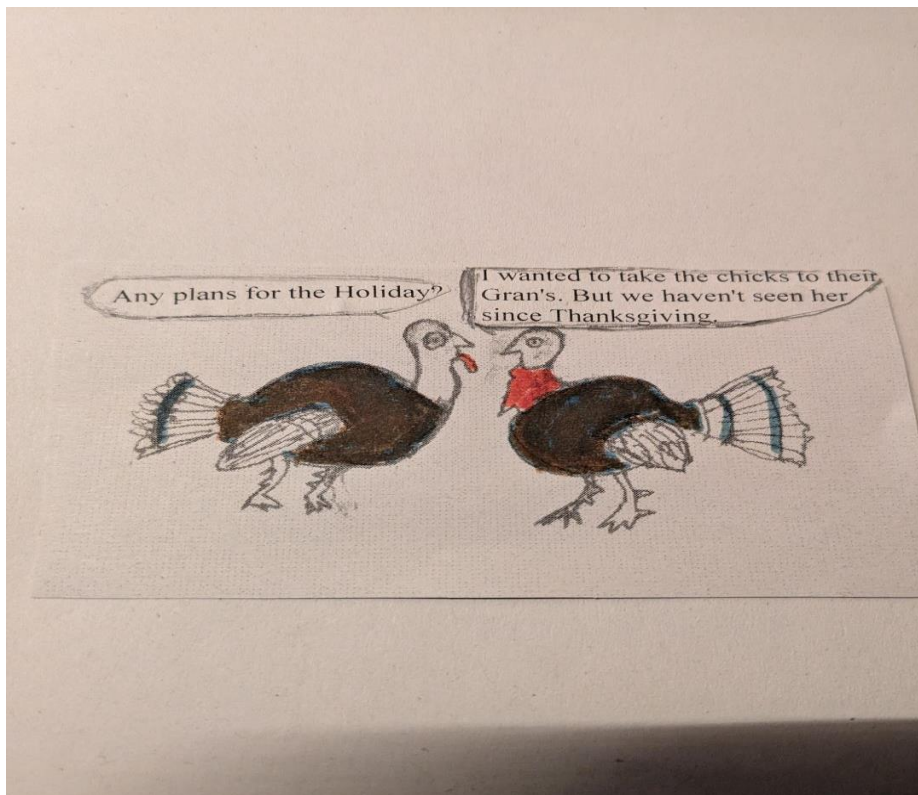
**PUZZLE PICTURES: Where are these places? (Clue: Not very far away...)**



**Do these railway bridges really run through a hotel?**

**Did Snake-Handling Religion originate in Lewisham?**

**FESTIVE CARTOON**



**"That's all for Now!"**

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