

BRICK BY BRICK

New!

52c

Brick®

Gallery Different

TUE 22ND DECEMBER, 2015, 6.30 – 9PM

1 IDEA, 1 YEAR, 52 WEEKS,
52 UNIQUE, HAND-PAINTED
LONDON NO. 33 BRICKS

MUSIC BY JOSH SAVAGE
www.joshsavagemusic.com

Supporting

CLIC
Sargent



for
children
with
cancer

JAMESON ROBINSON



CLIC SARGENT

Children and young people with cancer face huge emotional and physical challenges at diagnosis, during treatment and later during transition to normal life.

This can involve having some very complex feelings. Feelings that can lead to anxiety and depression amongst other impacts. Painting, photography, drawing or other creative arts are great ways of tapping into and expressing difficult emotions. Things can be communicated through art that can be too painful to express in words.

Expressing and communicating feelings about their cancer creatively can build resilience, self confidence and develop useful skills in children and young people.

At CLIC Sargent, our care professionals work closely with children and young people to build resilience through whatever means that works for them as individuals. For many children and young people this is through art.

HOLLY HAMER, 19

This self-portrait is an acrylic painting, which shows the portacath under the skin, that I had to have chemotherapy through.

Whilst I was going through treatment, most of the time I felt like no one realised how hard the struggles I faced were, and how much pain I was in. The portacath underneath my skin was like a metaphor for how I felt, because people didn't notice it being there most of the time. It represents how much better I looked on the outside compared to how I felt on the inside.

100% of the proceeds from brick sales tonight will go to CLIC Sargent.

www.clicsargent.org.uk

Supporting







AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE

The humble London brick has been around for over 130 years. In that time, it has been used to build over 5 million UK homes. 'Bricks and mortar' has become a symbolic phrase in terms of permanence and making roots. 'Another brick in the wall' has been a way of underlining the monotony or voicelessness of repetition. The London brick is a strong and enduring symbol of urban life. It has rough or smooth surfaces and is functional in its form, but it has a simplistic beauty that belies its strength and consistency. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder..... What is art? A visual stimulus that provokes thought? A new or original use of a product? A creative reclamation of materials? Something that makes you smile?

I am not the first to paint a brick. Millions of houses are evidence of this. I am not the first to appropriate them for alternative use. But I am the first (I think) to present a body of work that borrows 52 different ideas, using the same 65mm, London brick no. 33 brick, as a canvas. One for every week of 2015.

Call it renovation. Call it restoration. A multitude or kaleidoscope of colours and ideas. There may well be something there that you can relate to. Something that captures your imagination and provokes thought. Or makes you smile. Doorstop, ashtray, bookend, ornament, stationary tidy, part of a wall..... No need to drill holes. Or attach hooks. Place it wherever you like. Move it. Move it again. It will outlast you. The paint may flake. It may get chipped. But its strength and durability will remain. The bricks were hand-picked for their suitability and purpose. Planned. Prepared with two coats of undercoat. Stencilled or drawn by freehand. Painted on. No two bricks are the same..... and that is the point. And the irony.

I hope you enjoy the show.

Jameson Robinson, Church Crookham, December, 2015





THE SHOW

Brillo is a trade name for a scouring pad used for cleaning dishes, made from steel wool impregnated with soap. The concept was patented in 1913.

In 1964, Andy Warhol took this mass media image and placed it on plywood boxes, attacking the separation of art from mass culture. These non-functional cubes were a comment on the way that commercial packaging transforms the mundane into a glamorous commodity. They also represent an impersonal consumer society.

The 'Brillo' design or box, forms the basis of my show's promotional artwork and has also been supplanted onto a standard brick and onto a hollow breeze block. The text style, colours and design of the original packaging have been used to package my show into a convenient and desirable format....

Brick®





THE BRICKS

1. ALL THAT GLITTERS

Christmas week, 2014. My first brick for the show. Christmas is glitzy. Gold. And full of glitter. But all that glitters is not gold. The term is taken from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice (it was actually all that 'glisters' but was later modified).

The inverse (all that glitters..... IS gold) is a lyric in the Led Zeppelin song Stairway to Heaven; "There's a lady who's sure all that glitters is gold, and she's buying a stairway to heaven...."

Gold in its raw form is dull and does not glitter. Pyrite, nicknamed 'Fool's Gold', reflects substantially more than real gold does. My message? A positive one. Look for authenticity. Look beyond first impressions and the obvious. Look past the glitter.

2. INFLATABLE BRICK

Inflatable objects change their form over time. Air invades them, then, in time, escapes through valves or tiny pores. Temperature and time affect this process. These objects are often thin-skinned and fragile. They can be repaired and patched up but lose their integrity. But they often give us pleasure - be it a beachball, a birthday balloon, a bicycle tyre, an inflatable 'friend'..... They rotate at speed and smooth out the bumps. They float. They slow down reality..... What if bricks had a thin outer skin and were filled with hydrogen and oxygen?

My first inflatable brick was left on the centre piece fountain in Banksy's Dismaland 'bemusement' park, on 22 August 2015. It was inscribed on the base with the caption 'Finders Keepers'. This is the second one.

3. I LOVE NY

Conceived in a taxi on the way to a meeting by a graphic designer, Milton Glazer, the logo was in a rounded slab serif typeface called 'American Typewriter' and was created for a tourism campaign for New York State. Launched in 1977, the logo swiftly became an iconic symbol of the city, finding its way onto t-shirts, mugs, hats, posters, books and bumper stickers.

The original sketches for the logo were donated to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. After the events of 9-11, the logo was re-imagined by Glaser as 'I Love NY More Than Ever' with a small black spot on the heart to symbolise the World Trade Center.

The terrible events of 13 November, 2015, provoked me to paint and include an 'I Love Paris' brick.





4. LOVE 5. HOPE 6. LESS 7. DOPE

All you need is..... a four letter word. Robert Indiana's best known image is the word Love, in upper case letters, with a tilted letter O. Indiana stacked LO and VE on top of one another and it was first seen as a Christmas card for the Museum of Modern Art in the red, green, blue colourway. By 1973, the iconic image had made its way onto an 8 cent US Postal Service stamp and could be seen in its sculpted format in many cities across the US and worldwide.

In November, 2013, I was visiting Tokyo and had hired a bicycle to tour what is the biggest and perhaps the craziest city in the world. Amidst the chaos and beauty of the city, I literally 'bumped' into one of Robert Indiana's LOVE sculpture, in Shinjuku.

In 2008, Indiana re-worked the design as 'HOPE' and this was used to support and raise funds for Barack Obama's presidential election campaign. The artist called HOPE 'Love's closest relative'.

The next brick, 'LESS', is a negative, add-on connotation of LOVE and HOPE. I call it 'Love and Hope's bad uncle'.

The final brick in the series of four, Dope, is 'a drug taken for recreational purposes, especially cannabis, or a stupid person, or a type of lacquer formerly used to protect, waterproof and tauten the cloth surfaces of an airplane's wings.....' Or, (my favourite meaning) 'wonderful, rad, excellent, cool, super....'





8. ZEBRA

Zebra stripes come in different patterns, unique to each individual animal. These unique stripes make them one of the most familiar animals to people. It was previously believed that zebras were white animals with black stripes but experts have concluded that the animal's background colour is actually black with white stripes. I assumed the former and painted black onto white which is always easier for an artist, but after I realised this, I wondered how different would it look if painted in reverse?

The stripes have several purposes, including the ability to disrupt the animal's outline in the grass to potential predators, deterring horse flies and cooling the animal. Air moves more quickly over light-absorbing black stripes and more quickly over white stripes, creating cooling convection currents. Now that is cool.

9. HARING DOG

How would it feel to have created an image that is recognisable worldwide? To see your design feted, exhibited, commercialised, copied, appropriated, mis-appropriated, re-worked..... Re-worked is precisely what Banksy did in 2010 with his 'Choose Your Weapon' image of a hooded thug walking a Haring dog on a chain. The genius is in the simplicity, animation and violence. It jolts the senses and lends itself so well to applications of various colour-ways. It is the last print image produced by Banksy, 28 years after it had originally been conceived by Keith Haring, in New York City. My re-imagining of the design is all together less violent.

Magenta is a favourite colour of mine. It is strong and bold, warm and cold. Shocking. It provides the perfect backdrop for the tonal colours.

10. NUMBER 10 - MUSTARD, BLACK, WHITE & RUST

Instead of using a 'drip' technique, black, white and rust colours were 'flicked' over a mustard yellow background in 8 layers. There are no positives or negatives; no inside or outside the lines. Much of the paint remains on the sheets, beyond the brick.

Some studies have suggested Jackson Pollock's 'drip' paintings may have had an intuition of the nature of chaotic motion and the expression of mathematical chaos, ten years before "Chaos Theory" was proposed. Later in his career, he abandoned titles and started using numbers, perhaps to evade the viewer's search for figurative elements or meaning in his paintings.

Two additional bricks are available in Anthracite, White & Rust (Number 53) and in Anthracite, White, Winsor Blue & Fluorescent Blue (Number 54).





11. EXPOSED BRICK ON BRICK

Exposed brick became trendy in the nineties and it is easy to understand why. They provide an industrial feel and no two bricks are the same. They therefore break up the monotony of the surface with different colours and textures. Every small brick has a slightly different shade. The plaster has mostly been taken off but the plaster that remains is real.

It is easy to see the appeal of these ready made canvasses. It is also tempting to add more paint to this brick, but I'll leave it in its blank form...

12. PINK LEOPARD

The leopard's success in the wild is partly due to its well camouflaged fur. There is great diversity in coat colour and rosette patterns. Generally, the coat varies from pale yellow to deep gold and is patterned with black rosettes. The coat colour and patterning are associated with habitat type. For example, the yellow coat tends to be paler in dessert habitats. Solid black spots in place of open rosettes are generally seen along the face, limbs and underbelly.

This bright, fluorescent pink coat is native to urban areas and often found on the clothing and shoes of fashionistas. Editions are also available in red and fluorescent blue.

13. GRADATION

I started to experiment with colours and liked the gradation of silver into white and then white into a bright, fluorescent colour. It was so far removed from the original state and colour of the brick.

To spray the paint would have been far easier, but I chose to paint the graduating colour, mixing colours on the pallet and then blending them further on the brick.

It is when the bricks are in a group setting of contrasting colours that they really come alive.

Editions in green and orange are also available.





14. 1966

The Space Race, riots in US cities over the war in Vietnam, mini skirts, Carnaby Street fashions, the Beach Boys, the Rolling Stones, the Beatles, Harold Wilson and the Labour Party win the General Election. Mods and Rockers clashed on British beaches, colour televisions become popular, the first episode of Star Trek airs, Thunderball and Dr Zhivago are the big movie releases....

The year was also very significant to me.

15. IRON AGE

The Iron Age of the British Isles covers the period from about 800 BC to the Roman Invasion of 43 AD and followed the Bronze Age. This period saw the gradual introduction of iron working technology. War and the creation of weapons drove this advancement and populations boomed as a result. Fast forward two millenia and in 2015, steel companies across Britain are announcing job cuts due to inexpensive imported Chinese steel.

Rust has a strange appeal for me. It's colours are changeable and can be beautiful. In creating this brick, I wanted something that simply looked heavier than its 1.95kg.

16. THEORY OF RELATIVITY

The Theory of Relativity or simple relativity in physics encompasses two theories by Albert Einstein: special relativity and general relativity. The principles of relativity were first created by Galleleo Galilei, the Italian astronomer, in the 1600's.

Special relativity states that every person has their own time. This is demonstrated through Twin Paradox, which shows how time changes because of speed. The faster someone or something travels or the more mass that they have, then the slower time passes for them.

It was at this point in class that I became lost. I also asked too many questions in school.





17. MONDRIAN

Piet Mondrian was a Dutch Pioneer of abstract art and lived 1872-1944. He created a label for his geometric and colourful style, calling it 'Neoplasticism'. He often used Red, Yellow and Blue, creating boxes across an otherwise neutral canvas and with minimal detail. He used black lines to separate the blocks of colour and this contrasted brilliantly against the remaining white.

These abstract forms were groundbreaking at the time and helped to bring modern art into the mainstream.

Look for the contrasting London brick in the grid pattern, that disturbs the ordered pattern of squares.

18. B-17 BOMBER

The American bomber crews of World War II were very adept at personalising their 'steeds'. In addition to painting a German balkenkreuz or cross for 'kills' on the side of the cockpits, they painted mascots onto the noses to brighten up the otherwise drab external paint jobs.

Before long, supply of new planes could not keep up with demand and planes were leaving the factories unpainted, displaying polished aluminium panels which further enhanced the crews' later artistic work.

4145 American bombers never returned to their bases in World War II.

19. NYC GRAFFITI

John 'Crash' Matos is a street artist legend from the Bronx in New York City. His colourful creations have been adorning trains, streets and gallery walls the world over since 1980. His signature eyes, colours and cartoon style caught my attention early in 2015.

His early subway car spray-painting was unique for its full image artwork, as opposed to simpler tagging and was soon transferred to canvas.

Crash's work can be found on Fender Stratocaster guitars, super cars, Absolut vodka bottles, handbags and Levi's jeans.





20. DISTRESSED WOOD - HOME

An Englishman's home is his castle....

A home is a dwelling place used as a permanent or semi-permanent residence for an individual or family. More generally, home may be considered to be a geographic area such as a village, town, city or country.

We like to make our home unique to us. To put our trademark on it. This wood-clad brick is gloriously shabby. Some might say 'shabby chic'.

21. DISTRESSED WOOD - HOMELESS

In 2012, 120 million people worldwide were estimated to be homeless. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains the following text: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services".

Is it too much to ask that, in 2015, no one should be sleeping rough on the streets of Britain?

22. DIGITAL CLOCK 5.59

A digital clock displays time digitally, as opposed to an analogue clock where the time is indicated by the positions of rotating hands. Most use a seven segment LED or LCD for each of four digits. They also include other elements to indicate AM or PM and whether the alarm is set or not.

Why 5.59? Because for a lot of hard-working people that is the dreaded time of arrested motion before the digits change to 6.00 and herald the dreaded alarm beep and another working day.





23. FLIP CLOCK 7.43

Flip clocks were an altogether calmer transition of minutes and hours and a wholly mechanical affair that ingeniously utilised two halves of the numerical form to indicate time. More specifically, they are electromechanical digital timekeeping devices, with the time indicated by numbers that are sequentially revealed by a split flap display.

The flip clock was two fingers up at the digital age. Its life was, however, short-lived.

24. BARCODE

Developed in the late 1960's, a barcode is an optical machine-readable representation of data relating to the object to which it is attached. They were initially scanned by special readers and, later, by printers and smartphones. The first commercial use was to automate supermarket checkout systems, and the very first scanning of a Universal Product Code (UPC) barcode was on a pack of Wrigley's chewing gum in 1974.

In April, 1978, Mad Magazine featured a giant barcode on the cover, with the text 'We hope this issue jams up every computer in the country... for forcing us to deface our covers with this yecchy symbol from now on!' This is the barcode I chose to paint.

25. SCRABBLE

The game of Scrabble was created by American, Alfred Butts, in 1938. It had a 15x15 game board with crossword-style play. He made several sets for himself and friends, but was unable to sell the concept to any major game manufacturers. However, the the rights to manufacture the game were finally sold in 1952, in exchange for royalties for the creator. Within a year, 4 million sets had been sold.

The game is now sold in 121 countries and is estimated that one third of all American homes have a set.

LOVE is a 7 point word but in the context of an empty scrabble board, has more powerful scoring.





26. BANKSY WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Weston-Super-Mare not only has a very cool name, but it was also the favourite childhood seaside location of the street artist known as Banksy. He paid the town council a compliment in 2015 by installing a pop-up theme park in the derelict lido on the front, that he used to visit as a child.

In this famous Banksy image, the pensioner is enjoying a rest stop on a bench on the seafront, oblivious to the approaching band saw and the gore that this will ensue. The proportions of the image lend itself to the brick format so well.

27. BANKSY BOMBING MIDDLE

This image, on a similar theme, depicts the popular and very English pastime of crown green bowls. On a visit to Milton-on-the-sea in June of this year, I sat myself down and watched a game unfold.

No doping, no cheating, no contracts, no sponsors, no cameras, no stress...
The epitome of middle class England. Waiting to be bombed.

28. *NOT FOR GAYS (I) - PRIDE

The rainbow flag, commonly known as the 'Gay Pride' or 'LGBT' flag is a symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pride and social movements. The colours represent diversity.

Originally created in Northern California in 1978, by Gilbert Baker, it is now used worldwide. The six stripes of the flag are flown horizontally, with the red stripe on top, as it would be in a natural rainbow. The six colours (from red at the top) represent life, healing, sunlight, nature, harmony and spirit.

*Warning: May contain traces of sarcasm and protest.





29. *NOT FOR GAYS (II) - PUTIN

Under his presidency, Russia has enacted many sick, twisted and restrictive laws, harassed, intimidated and imprisoned political activists and started to restrict its critics. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in Russia face tough legal and social challenges, despite the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1993. In 2012, the feminist punk band 'Pussy Riot' staged a performance in Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, stating their protest was directed at the Orthodox Church leader's support for Putin. The performance was entitled 'Punk Prayer, Mother of God, Chase Putin Away'. Two of the band members were imprisoned for 21 months.

But gay people throughout Russia have had some respite from Putin's attentions, since he became busy trying to annex Ukraine.

*Warning: May contain traces of sarcasm and protest.

30. SPACE INVADERS

The game 'Space Invaders' was developed in Japan and released in 1978. As one of the earliest shooting games, its aim was to defeat waves of aliens with a laser cannon and earn as many points as possible.

It was a pioneering game and helped to expand the video game industry into a global industry. The pixelated enemy alien has become a pop culture icon and spawned the street artist of the same name, who leaves tiled images of invaders on city street corners across the globe.

31. GAME OVER

Game Over is a message in pinball and video games that signals a failed game, usually due to a negative outcome such as losing all of your lives.

The phrase has since been used to describe the end of an event in real life. "Game Over" was projected via laser onto government buildings at the end of the 2013 Egyptian protests.





32. INSERT COIN

Long before electronic swipe multi-play cards, we were having to feed arcade machines with 10 pence (and later 20 pence) pieces. In the seventies, I had a vintage Williams pinball machine from the fifties that took 5 pence pieces. Insert coin would light up at the end of a play and you would feed the slot.

I used it as a piggy bank, safe in the knowledge that I would once again see the coins and be able to spend the takings on the latest toy or treat.

33. LOVE HEARTS

Love Hearts, made by Matlow Brothers and Swizzels Limited, first rolled off the production line in 1954. Production methods have changed little and is a pressed tablet method, similar to many pharmaceutical products.

Love hearts come in 6 colours or flavours, are 19mm in diameter, 5mm in height and are decorated on both sides, the front with a message in a heart outline. The love-related messages are written in capitals in the Sans Serif font, which is scaled and sometimes stretched to fit.

The UK supermarket ASDA produce a brand of sweets called 'Whatever's', in the style of Love Hearts, but with a range of British colloquial terms. The sweets are also manufactured by Swizzels Matlow.

34. SPOTLESS

Damien Hirst's spot paintings - with dots of varying colours and sizes - have been celebrated and disdained for their anonymous and machine-like industrial uniformity.

There are allegedly 1365 different versions in existence. Hirst said he painted the first few dozen and the rest were left to his army of assistants.

All 3 editioned 'Spotless' bricks have been painstakingly created by yours truly. I am now looking for an army of assistants to continue with nos. 6-999. Apply, sending your CV, at jamesonrobinson5@gmail.com. Whilst an art qualification is not essential, your own paints and brushes would help.





35. DISMALAND - RED 36. DISMAL WORLD

Dis'mal. Causing a mood of gloom or depression. Originally, this word referred to the 24 days, 2 each month, that medieval people believed to be unlucky. This quickly became 'dismal days'. Soon dismal days could be any time of disaster, gloom or depression. Johnny Rotten often used the word to sum up a gloomy, recession hit seventies. In 2015, the street artist Banksy, used the word in the naming of his temporary, dystopian theme park in Western-Super-Mare, Dismaland. An alternative to the soulless sugar-coated banality of the average family day out. A 'bemusement' park. Alas, it was short-lived? But don't be down-hearted; coming in Autumn 2016, 'Dismal World'.....

An additional edition of Dismaland is available in dark blue.

37. DAZZLE CAMOUFLAGE

Dazzle camouflage was also known as 'razzle dazzle' or dazzle painting, and was used on ships extensively during World War I. The design was credited to artist Norman Wilkinson, and consisted of complex patterns and geometric shapes in contrasting colours, interrupting and intersecting each other.

Unlike other camouflage patterns, dazzle works not by offering concealment but by making it difficult to estimate range, speed and direction. Its success was, however, limited.

Dazzle attracted the attention of artists such as Picasso and Wadsworth.

38. WYNWOOD

This neighbourhood, north of Miami, consists of two sub-districts, the art district and the fashion district. It is also known as 'Little San Juan' as the area was first populated by Puerto Rican immigrants.

Some 30 artists travelling from around the world came here to create murals for what are now known as the 'Wynwood Walls'.

This geometric pattern is currently on a building at 300, N. Miami Ave. and was created and painted by the Venezuelan artist, Alberto Jose Sanchez.





39. DARK SIDE OF THE BRICK

Possibly rock music's most iconic album cover, the 1973 Pink Floyd album 'Dark Side of the Moon' featured a prism and only six colours in the spectrum (violet is missing). The artwork was produced by George Hardie and there were dozens of minor variations of the artwork for various releases.

The brief for the cover was for a 'smart, neat, classy' design. Inspired by a photograph, the prism represents three elements; the band's stage lighting, the album's lyrics and a 'simple and bold' design.

The album's content included themes of conflict, greed, the passage of time and mental illness. The latter was partly inspired by ex- band member Syd Barrett's deteriorating mental state.

An additional brick is available as a reversed image.

40. REVERSAL OF FORTUNES

This brick represents a failed attempt to fill a brick recess with resin in order to simulate a swimming pool scene. But every cloud has a silver (or gold) lining and the discoloured resin was popped out and, as if by magic, it took on the appearance of a gold ingot bar. So out came the antique gold spray paint and you have a reversal of fortunes. And of the brick.

41. BACK TO THE FUTURE 42. BACK TO THE FUTURE II

21 October, 2015, was the point in time to which Marty McFly (Michael J Fox) travels in Back to the Future II.

The future he finds captured the imagination of millions, when released in 1989.

Save for a few oversights (no internet or mobile phones) and a few over-hopeful punts (flying cars, hoverboards, Jaws 19), the world dreamt up was uncannily like ours today - automation everywhere, robot technology, fingerprint scanning, video calling.....





43. 9-11

This brick was created on the 14th anniversary of 9-11 and using The Times newspaper cuttings from 12 September, 2001.

Four coordinated terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda claimed the lives of 2996 people, including 343 firefighters.

The image of George W. Bush on the brick shows the moment the news was broken to him, on a school visit to Florida. The president was reading a book to schoolchildren, covered by a dozen news cameras. His chief of staff whispered in his ear for a few seconds. Bush calmly continued chatting with the children, showing no sign that anything was amiss. Several minutes later, he excused himself and left.

44. PALESTINE

Palestine is a partially recognized state, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) claiming its independence on 15 November, 1988. In 2012, the state was granted non-member observer status by the United Nations.

The West Bank is occupied by approx. 2.7 million Palestinians and the Gaza Strip by another 1.8 million. 273,000 people have been displaced. 139 square miles. All packaged in a 'convenient and desirable' format. As is Philadelphia brand cream cheese.

William Penn named the city of Philadelphia in the U.S. from the Greek for brotherly love (philos "love" or "friendship" and adelphos, "brother").

Thank you to our sponsor, Kraft Foods.

45. DULUX MAGNOLIA WITH ROLLER

Safe. Neutral. Bland. Suburban. The preferred choice of house builders and DIY enthusiasts nationwide. Easy to paint over. Goes well with any furniture. This brick is offered in magnolia with the option to paint over in a colour of your choice. Or just leave. Sold as a set with a 'decorated' Pollock-style roller.

The focus is turned onto the humble roller.





46. CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS - BLUE

The Christmas or 'Plum' pudding has its origins in medieval England. Despite the name 'plum pudding', the pudding contains no actual plums due to the Victorian use of the word 'plums' as a term for raisins. Aged for up to a year, the high alcohol content of the pudding prevents it from spoiling.

Christmas can be a time of over-indulgence. It can also be an incendiary time. If relationships are under strain, Christmas is often the breaking point, as couples realise they just don't get on, dropping the 'Pudding Bomb'.

And the moral of the story (brick)? Leave the Christmas jumper in the drawer. Two editions are available in a green colour-way.

47. ANTHRACITE 2016 ON RUSTED METAL

As we approach 2016, it is often the time to reflect on the past year. 2016 will also be the anniversary of several notable events...

400 years since Shakespeare died. 350 years since Isaac Newton discovered gravity (it had always been there) and the Great Fire of London. Queen Elizabeth II will be 90. She gets two birthdays, which is good, just in case she has a hazy gin-tinted recollection of the first. And 40 years since Concorde's first commercial flight.

2016 is also leap year, starting on a Friday.

48. SCREAMING FACE IN WALL

The British cartoonist, Gerald Scarfe, drew the illustrations for the 1979 Pink Floyd album cover the 'The Wall'. He also produced animation for the film. The screaming face in the wall depicts a character from the story being trapped or in the state of being a cog in the industrial machine or school system - 'just another brick' in the wall. The album featured the band's only number one single "Another Brick in the Wall Part II".

There was much press controversy over the children involved in the singing and video for 'Another Brick in the Wall'. They were eventually each given a copy of the album and a £1000 donation was made to the school. The album went on to sell 29 million units worldwide.

Had the school children unwittingly been just 'bricks in the wall'?





49. BLACK & WHITE SWIRL

Often abbreviated, B/W or B&W and hyphenated black-and-white when used as an adjective. Black-and-white images are not usually starkly contrasted black-and-white, but they combine black and white in a continuum producing a range of shades of gray.

Swirl (swurl). To move with a twisting or whirling motion; whirl; eddy. Confusion; disorder. A twisting or spiralling movement or pattern.

Urban dictionary definition: two people of different ethnicities hooking up.

50. PAINT-BY-NUMBERS

In 1951, Palmer Paint created the Craft Master brand and have since sold 12 million Paint-by-Number kits.

The box lids proclaimed 'a beautiful oil painting the first time you try'. This simple process of filling in-between the lines enabled the artistically inept to create a masterpiece in oils, in homes all over Britain in the seventies. It was a very proud moment for my mother when I finished a Tiger, part-concealed in jungle foliage. This picture was duly framed and adorned the family bathroom until it became unfashionable (or dropped and broke) in the nineties.

Today, four early Paint-by-Number designs are exhibited in the New York Museum of Modern Art.

51. HALF-END DUCKER

The Brixton riots. Handsworth. Toxteth. In 1981, Margaret Thatcher's inner city Britain was in a state of rebellion, provoked by high levels of unemployment, recession, heavy-handed policing and racial tensions. This incendiary time was conveniently swept under the carpet of millions of conservative front rooms from Solihull to Sevenoaks.

Riot shields and barricades. Molotov cocktails and 'half-end duckers'. These were half bricks, turned into lethal projectiles; the weapons of choice on 6 July, 1981.





52. DANGER / HIGH KNOWLEDGE

The term 'High Voltage' usually means electrical energy at voltages high enough to inflict harm on humans.

High knowledge has the potential to bring down governments and the hierarchy. Knowledge is power and in the wrong hands, knowledge is dangerous. If you control information, you can control people.

"How fortunate for governments that the people they administer don't think."
(Adolf Hitler)





TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Category II, HD, Clay masonry unit
215 x 102.5 x 65mm
Compressive strength >25N/mm²
Water absorption <23%
Dry weight 1.95kg
Complies to BS EN 771

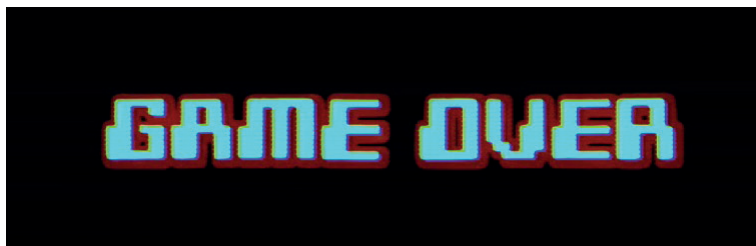
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