

*I'was a death before
Christmas*

Robin Redbreast

Congratulations!

You are taking part in a murder mystery by Red Herring Games.

Firstly: *Don't Panic!*

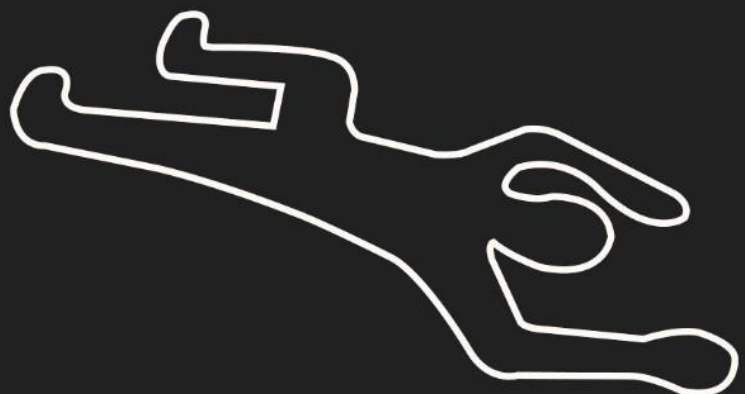
This booklet contains all the information you need to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery; background history, scripted dialogues, questions you should ask and scripted answers to questions you will be asked by the other guests.

You are encouraged to make the most of your part. Feel free to make up new lines and add to your back story or statements if you wish. However, make sure you always provide the information you need to within your answers. We have pre-scripted your statements to make things as simple for you as possible.

Make sure you listen to everyone else's questions and answers.

You won't be told if you're the killer – so feel free to guess yourself at the end – but don't tell anyone else you are! You must protest your innocence until the end!

Lastly: *Have fun!*



Robin Redbreast

Background Character Information

Keep this information to yourself, and use it to help you to act in character throughout the mystery:

You are stern and maintain a teacher persona even though you retired a year ago. You took early retirement - you aren't THAT old!

You have a commanding voice when asking anyone questions and are not averse to putting people in the corner if they are rude, or randomly asking people questions on simple arithmetic. For instance, "What's 8 times 7? - Quickly, quickly!"

You have a penetrating gaze. As you obviously couldn't even be considered for committing a crime as scandalous as this, perhaps you ought to use your 'teacher glare' on any would be questioners.

Robin Redbreast - Introductions

Use the following dialogue to introduce yourself to the other guests, speaking when indicated below.

Robin Redbreast speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well! I can't think why I need to introduce myself! I've taught most of you at one time or another! For those of you who can't remember my name, it's Robin Redbreast. Jack? Perhaps you should go next.

After you have heard from everyone, please continue reading and begin round 1.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 1

- Jack Frost:** Find out how we felt about Bob Scratchitt?
- Declan Halls:** That'll be a quick investigation.
- Gaye Buntin:** I'll say. None of us liked the man!
- Robin Redbreast:** Indeed not. I always said he would come to no good.
- Chris Tingle:** Was that in his school report?
- Holly Reath:** Oh, I don't think he went to school here. Far too posh.
- Jack Frost:** I don't think he grew up around here at all.
- Declan Halls:** No, he didn't. He moved into the manor about 25 years ago.
- Chris Tingle:** We've put up with him for 25 years?
- Robin Redbreast:** It'll be another 25 years for whoever killed him.
- Declan Halls:** But possibly the best Christmas present anyone could have given us.
- Gaye Buntin:** You can't go around saying things like that, Declan! Not with the police listening in.
- Chris Tingle:** On the positive side, at least there's plenty of food left.
- Jack Frost:** Great! I'm starving after all that singing, and those top notes have left me parched.

Robin Redbreast: And there was me thinking that the top notes had just left you all together.

Holly Reath: Robin! The singing was all done in the spirit of goodwill, not to compete.

Chris Tingle: Goodwill? I thought it was done for charity.

Holly Reath: That too, but you know what I mean.

Gaye Buntin: I just don't get it. Why did we end up here? Bob was nothing but an old miser.

Holly Reath: That's probably why he's dead. Maybe the Ghost of Christmas Present visited him and simply decided Bob wasn't worth the effort! Ha! Anyway, shall we crack on?

Robin Redbreast - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Chris Tingle, how do you feel about the new supermarket that's supposed to be coming to Mid-Trimming?

Jack Frost, do you know who asked Bob Scratchitt to host the party at the end of the village carol singing?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Robin Redbreast, you certainly don't look old enough to have retired! Did you take early retirement?

Say: I suppose one could call it early retirement. I objected to the decisions being made about Mid-Trimming School, so I was 'retired' by the school governors. It was really a simple case of jumping before I was pushed. I'd decided to resign in protest, but the governors made taking early retirement a better financial prospect, so I took it.

When asked: Robin Redbreast, who chairs the school's board of governors?

Say: The school governing body was chaired by Bob Scratchitt. I hated him from the moment he set foot in his first meeting. It was clear Bob despised children. I never understood why he put himself forward to be a school governor in the first place! And I certainly never understood how he got in as chairperson!

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 2

- Declan Halls:** Well I can't say I'm sure what to do for the best. We were supposed to be having a few carols to finish up this evening. Perhaps we should cancel our last sing-song.
- Robin Redbreast:** Whatever for? Surely "Joy to the World" is more apt than ever now?
- Jack Frost:** You can't say things like that, Robin! Not when there's a murder enquiry going on!
- Robin Redbreast:** Why ever not? It's not as if any of us liked the man.
- Holly Reath:** Hated would be nearer the mark. And the feeling was mutual, wasn't it?
- Gaye Buntin:** Yes. I always thought Bob hated the village. He didn't support any of the local shops.
- Jack Frost:** Or the local causes.
- Robin Redbreast:** The only thing he did support was the school governing committee and the proposal to bring that supermarket to the village.
- Jack Frost:** Yes, well, forgetting our differences for a moment, seeing as this *is* the season of good cheer, surely we can find a few songs that would be appropriate at a time like this?
- Holly Reath:** "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" perhaps?

Gaye Buntin: How about “Go Tell it on the Mountain?” I think most of the village would want to know about something like this!

Holly Reath: Gaye! That is hardly what he meant!

Robin Redbreast: “Abide with Me” isn’t really appropriate for a Christmas party. Perhaps we should just settle with something traditional. Surely no one could take offence at “O Come all ye Faithful”?

Robin Redbreast - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Declan Halls, do you happen to know if Bob Scratchitt liked stollen?

Holly, what were you and Bob Scratchitt arguing about in the village square the other day?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Robin Redbreast, what do you know about the plans for Mid-Trimming School?

Say: It's in the process of being closed down and plans are afoot to turn the building into a supermarket. As I objected to this closure, it was decided it would be better if I wasn't around. Hence the early retirement.

When asked: Robin Redbreast, did you think that the school governing body made the right decision when the proposal came up to shut the school?

Say: Of course not! Bob was a strong advocator of closing the school down from the moment the proposal was suggested. I suspect he had ulterior motives and also that he bribed some of the school governors to support the proposal to speed up the process. I think Bob Scratchitt railroaded the proposal through from start to finish.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 3

Chris Tingle: I'm no policeman, but I really can't see where we're all headed with this investigation.

Robin Redbreast: I agree. This inspector's technique is original to say the least. Does he ever do any work?

Jack Frost: You'd have thought the police force would have been a little more organised, especially at this time of year.

Chris Tingle: Be fair, Jack. We've never even had a murder here before, let alone one on Christmas Eve!

Holly Reath: But it's taking ages! The way they're carrying on I was beginning to wonder, do they know it's Christmas time at all?

Jack Frost: This investigation does seem to be taking all night!

Declan Halls: I couldn't agree more. Still, at least we've got enough food to feed the world here.

Gaye Buntin: I suppose it beats last-minute Christmas shopping.

Robin Redbreast: What were you all doing last Christmas?

Gaye Buntin: Me? Digging out the driveway, I think. It was a white Christmas last year, wasn't it?

Holly Reath: I think it was. A real winter wonderland.

Jack Frost: I was taking a sleigh ride. I was playing Santa for the kids.

Chris Tingle: Santa Claus is coming to town, eh?

Jack Frost: Something like that.

Robin Redbreast I think I was driving home for Christmas. I must have missed your guest appearance.

Declan Halls I believe I was rocking around the Christmas tree with the scout troop. We decorated it, sang the Christmas song, saw Santa here, and then practised “Walking in the Air” for the church service the next day.

Gaye Buntin: I was all alone last Christmas. That’s why I set up the singles group in the village. I didn’t want to be lonely this Christmas as well.

Jack Frost: You won’t be. At this rate we’ll all still be here!

Chris Tingle: Don’t worry, Gaye. I’m sure your singles group will eventually find you someone who will say “all I want for Christmas is you”.

Jack Frost: I think you’ve been drinking too much of the mulled wine Chris. You’ve got all emotional.

Robin Redbreast: It’s a shame that stolen wasn’t doing the rounds. It might have lined everyone’s stomach a bit.

Holly Reath: Perhaps we can look for that after we’ve solved the murder.

Robin Redbreast - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Jack Frost, do you know what kind of pesticide was in the wasp killing kit that you removed from Gaye Buntin's loft?

Declan Halls, what was in that small parcel that passed between you and Jack Frost the other day?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Robin, did you bring any food to tonight's event at the manor house?

Say: No, I didn't. I was assured by Declan, Jack and Chris that they would ensure there was more than enough to go around, even with Bob in attendance. Bob is well known for his gluttony! They were right though. There was plenty.

When asked: Robin Redbreast, did you have a chance to eat a bit of everything on offer this evening?

Say: There's been more than enough food on offer, but I did notice there was surprisingly very little stollen, which has always been one of my favourites. I just love marzipan! If Declan did bring any, then it disappeared very early on in the party as I've not had so much as a bite!

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Robin Redbreast - Concluding Statement

Use the following dialogue to summarise your position, speaking when indicated below.

Robin Redbreast speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well all I can say is that it wasn't me that killed Bob Scratchitt. If he were poisoned with cyanide, then it would have to have been in the food or drink and I neither served him this evening, nor brought him any food. You don't have to be a grade A pupil to see that I had no means or opportunity.

After you have heard from all the guests make a prediction as to who the murderer is and why.

Tell the others.

We hope you enjoyed playing this Red Herring Games murder mystery and will visit us again to try out our other games.

Red Herring Games have a collection of experienced authors, who are continually producing new games for your enjoyment.

Red Herring Games are constantly on the lookout for more authors to add to our portfolio, giving you more choice.



10% OFF YOUR NEXT PURCHASE

Thank you for playing a Red Herring Game. In order to receive a 10% discount on future purchases simply enter code: **RHG777** when you visit:

www.red-herring-games.com