

u3a Computer Group

Christmas special

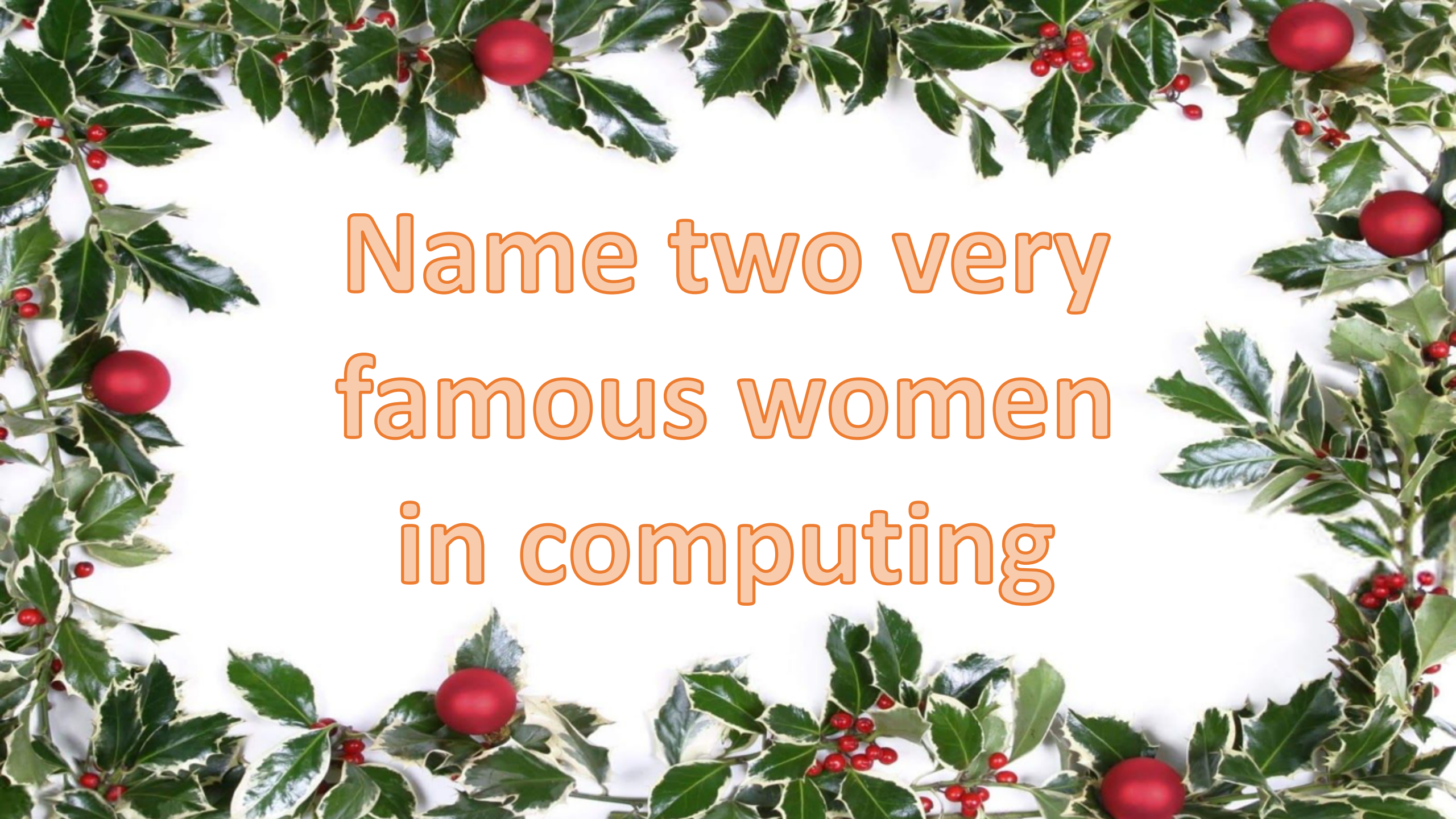




Christmas agenda

- Did you know?
- Quiz & prizes
- Say goodbye annoying things
 - Adverts
 - Paywalls
- Be a master of efficiency
 - Cut and paste
- Keeping out of trouble
 - Web forms without tears

Gazette At the *heart* of the
community since 1878

A decorative border of holly leaves and red berries frames the central text. The leaves are dark green with white variegation, and the berries are bright red.

Name two very
famous women
in computing



- Augusta Ada King
10 December 1815 – 27 November 1852
- Countess of Lovelace also known as Ada Lovelace (not Linda!)
- An English mathematician and writer chiefly known for her work on Charles Babbage's proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine. She was the first to recognise that the machine had applications beyond pure calculation. Ada Lovelace is often considered to be the first computer programmer.

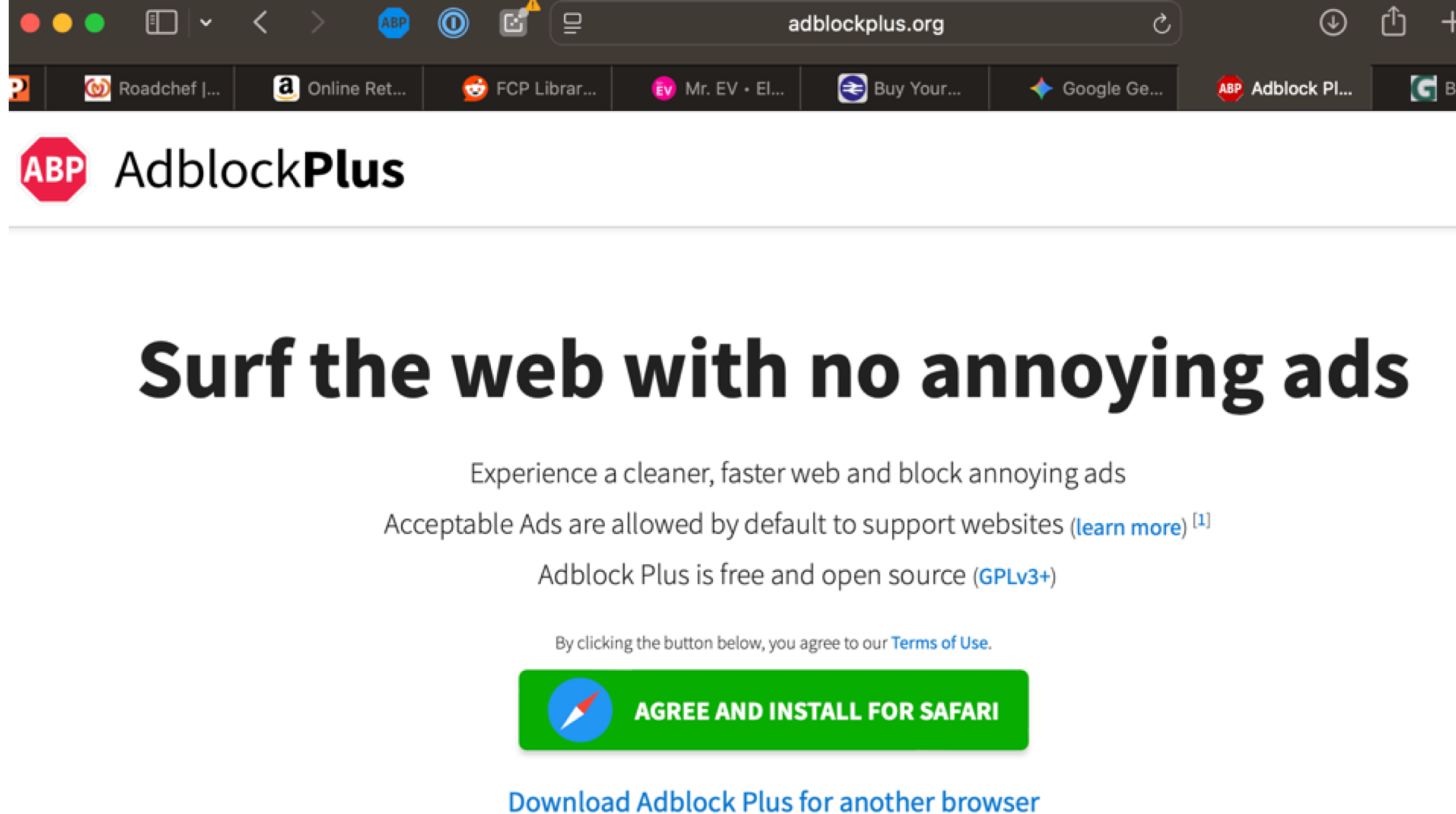




- Grace Brewster Hopper
December 9, 1906 – January 1, 1992
- An American computer scientist, mathematician, and United States Navy rear admiral
- She was a pioneer of computer programming
- What computer language was she the mother of?
- COBOL

Let's lighten things up

- Advertising steals and wastes our time
- Solution for computers and phone
- Free
- Fit and forget



The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying the Adblock Plus website. The browser's address bar shows 'adblockplus.org'. The website's header features the Adblock Plus logo (a red octagon with 'ABP' in white) and the text 'AdblockPlus'. The main heading is 'Surf the web with no annoying ads' in a large, bold, black font. Below this, there is a subheading: 'Experience a cleaner, faster web and block annoying ads'. A line of text follows: 'Acceptable Ads are allowed by default to support websites ([learn more](#)) [1]'. Another line of text states: 'Adblock Plus is free and open source ([GPLv3+](#))'. Below this is a line of text: 'By clicking the button below, you agree to our [Terms of Use](#).' The central element is a large green button with a white Safari icon on the left and the text 'AGREE AND INSTALL FOR SAFARI' in white capital letters. Below the button is a blue link that says 'Download Adblock Plus for another browser'. The browser's tab bar at the top shows several open tabs, including 'Roadchef |...', 'Online Ret...', 'FCP Librar...', 'Mr. EV • El...', 'Buy Your...', 'Google Ge...', 'Adblock Pl...', and 'B'.

adblockplus.org

ABP AdblockPlus


Surf the web with no annoying ads

Experience a cleaner, faster web and block annoying ads

Acceptable Ads are allowed by default to support websites ([learn more](#)) [1]

Adblock Plus is free and open source ([GPLv3+](#))

By clicking the button below, you agree to our [Terms of Use](#).

 **AGREE AND INSTALL FOR SAFARI**

[Download Adblock Plus for another browser](#)



Quiz time

- **What is the easiest way to replace text?**
 - New text reveals that Arthur manages computers for Father Christmas



Keep out of trouble

- For your doctor's surgery, you spend five minutes typing your symptoms
- You press 'submit'
- The website crashes
- Grrrrr



Keep out of trouble when entering data on the internet

- Avoid spending ages typing into a form using your web browser
 - You press 'submit'
 - The website crashes
 - Grrrrr
- Instead, first write long text into a note, then paste it into the web form

EXAMPLE



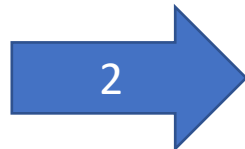
My request to see the doctor

When I bend down to touch my toes, I sometimes get stuck and have to wait for help to get back up. This started about three weeks ago. I didn't do anything in particular to trigger this behaviour. I am generally active and I have not experienced this before. None of my relatives have a history of this condition. I did see on YouTube that it is a good idea to keep a nail file in my back pocket so I can at last trim my nails while I am stuck bent in half. I do find that if I drink five pints of beer, or sometimes three gin and tonics, the issue does not arise. This is fine at Christmas but what can I do for the rest of the year? Please help as it is painful when I get stuck, and I don't want to get caught out half-way through preparing Christmas lunch. |



Write a note first

Paste note into web form



Describe your symptoms in more detail

Muscle cramps:

Describe your symptom with more detail: When did it begin? How and in what situation did it manifest?
Has the symptom changed since it begun? If so, how?

0 / 600

Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath:

Describe your symptom with more detail: When did it begin? How and in what situation did it manifest?
Has the symptom changed since it begun? If so, how?

0 / 600

A tip – Microsoft Word

- All you can achieve
- Now is the time
- Do it now
- You can do it
- Indicate before turning
- So and so
- All change
- Thank you
- Win every time
- In we go
- Take your time

- **A**ll you can achieve
- **N**ow is the time
- **D**o it now
- **Y**ou can do it
- **I**ndicate before turning
- **S**o and so
- **A**ll change
- **T**hank you
- **W**in every time
- **I**n we go
- **T**ake your time





And what do you do?

I delete cookies, your
majesty



Ken

Let's read the Basingstoke Gazette

- Problem: accept cookies and adverts or buy a subscription
- There is a solution!



After we explore legitimate interest

The screenshot shows the Basingstoke Gazette website. The browser address bar displays 'basingstokegazette.co.uk'. The website header includes navigation links: 'Public notices', 'Newsletters', 'Jobs', 'Book an ad', 'Cars', 'Homes', 'Local listings', and 'Local info'. The main header features the 'Gazette' logo with the tagline 'At the heart of the community since 1878', and buttons for 'Subscribe', 'Digital Edition', and 'Puzzles'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links: 'News', 'Sport', 'Your Say', 'What's On', 'Notices', 'Nostalgia', 'e-Editions', and 'Hampshire Life'. A modal window is overlaid on the page, containing the following text:

Gazette At the heart of the community since 1878

Advertising provides the means by which we are able to fund our team of talented journalists. This funding is essential to the continued delivery of the local news stories and quality journalism you've come to expect. You have the choice to either accept the use of cookies and personalised advertising and read our content for free, or reject the use of cookies and purchase a privacy minded subscription.

Newsquest and our technology partners ask you to consent to the use of cookies to store and access personal data on your device. This can include the use of unique identifiers and information about your browsing patterns to create the best possible user experience on this website. The following description outlines how your data may be used by us, or by our partners.

Some of our 206 [partners](#) process personal data on the basis of legitimate interest. You can object to such processing at any time.

Your choices on this site will be applied only to this site. You can change your settings at any time, including withdrawing consent, by using the Manage Consent link at the bottom of each page.

You can view our [Privacy Policy](#) or [Cookie Policy](#) for more information.

Store and/or access information on a device ✓

Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development ✓

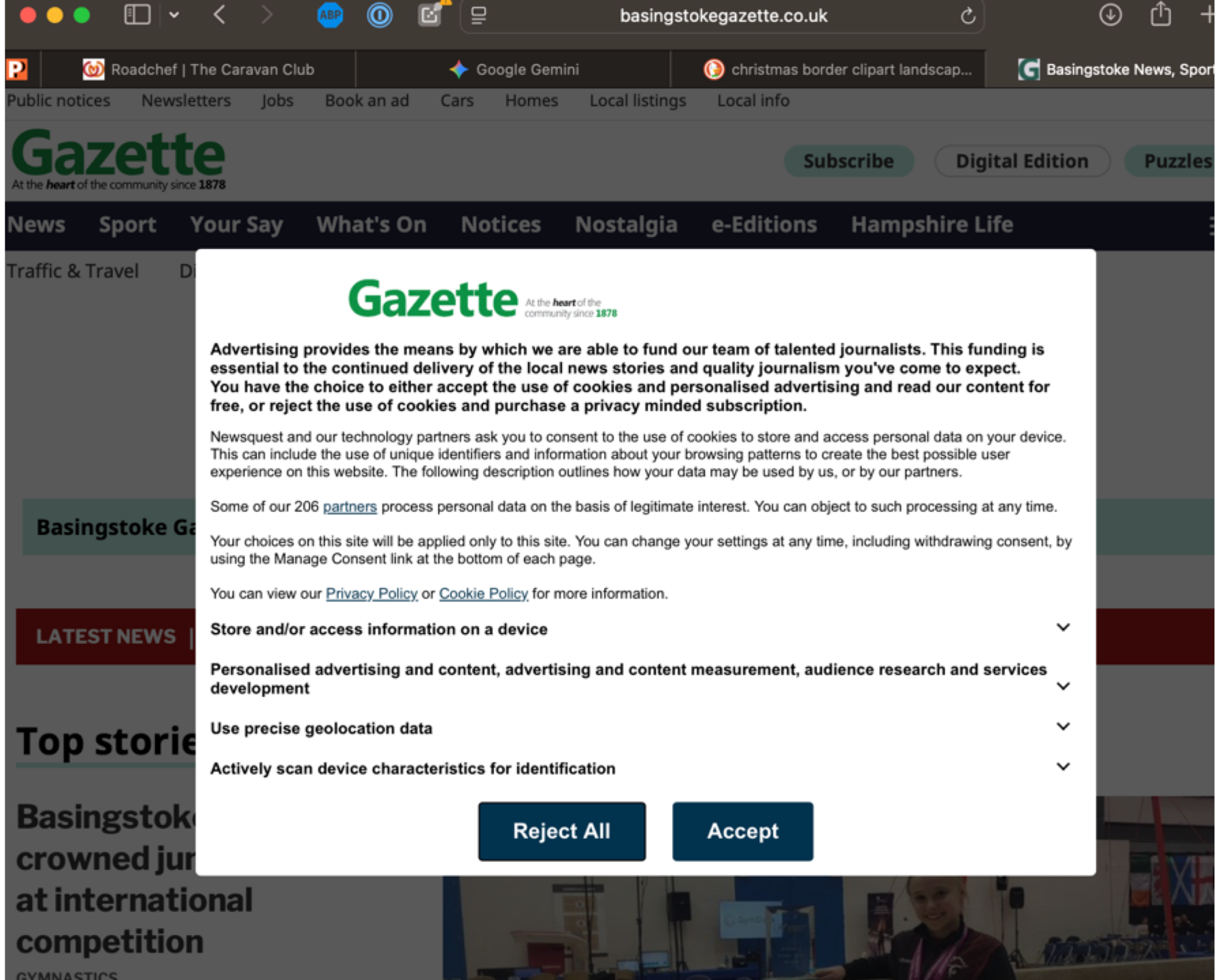
Use precise geolocation data ✓

Actively scan device characteristics for identification ✓

At the bottom of the modal are two buttons: 'Reject All' and 'Accept'.

Legitimate interest cookies

- **Legitimate interest** is a legal term from GDPR. In short it's any legal reason that justifies the need to process your personal data by the site. For example, if you order something from an Internet shop, the shop's **legitimate interest** to process your data is the need to complete your order.
- However, the **legitimate interest** concept is often abused by sites and they list for example tracking users in order to "protect from fraud" as **legitimate interest**. If there is an option to turn this off, **turn off whatever is possible**. If there is something that is really needed for the site to function, you won't be able to turn that off.



Avoid distracting items – non Apple devices

EXTENSION NAME	FEATURES	SUPPORTED BROWSERS
SocialFocus	Hides distractions on sites like YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram.	Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge, Whale
Unhook	Removes YouTube recommended videos, shorts, and comments.	Chrome

Antigram	Blocks feeds and reels on Instagram and YouTube for a distraction-free experience.	Chrome
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LeechBlock	A productivity tool for	Firefox
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**Browser extensions
for PC and Android phones**



AND NOW FOR
SOMETHING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT

Let's distribute the remaining prizes

- What is the chemical formula for snow?
- Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day 1642?
- Gold was one of the gifts bought by the Magi, what is the chemical symbol?
- What spacecraft was lost on Mars on Christmas Day 2003?
- Out of which metal are most bells made from?
- What is the name for a baby turkey?
- The plant *Viscum album* is better known as what Christmas favourite?
- What colour is the egg of a robin?
- Which scientist is widely credited as having the first electric Christmas lights?
- Which creature *Rangifer Tarandus* is often featured on Christmas cards?
- Which scientist initiated the first Royal Institution Christmas lecture in 1825?
- With what colour flame does Brandy burn?

Christmas quiz – for remaining prizes

- What is the chemical formula for snow?
- **H₂O**
- Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day 1642?
- **Isaac Newton**
- Gold was one of the gifts bought by the Magi, what is the chemical symbol?
- **Au**
- What spacecraft was lost on Mars on Christmas Day 2003?
- **Beagle 2**
- Out of which metal are most bells made from?
- **Bronze**
- What is the name for a baby turkey?
- **Poult**
- The plant *Viscum Album* is better known as what Christmas favourite?
- **Mistletoe**
- What colour is the egg of a robin?
- **Blue**
- Which scientist is widely credited as having the first electric Christmas lights?
- **Thomas Edison**
- Which creature Rangifer Tarandus is often featured on Christmas cards?
- **Reindeer**
- Which scientist initiated the first Royal Institution Christmas lecture in 1825?
- **Michael Faraday**
- With what colour flame does Brandy burn?
- **Blue**



Computer Group 2026 kick-off

Tue 13 Jan 2026 2-4pm	Mastering gestures and basic functions on your phone	Beginners Intermediates Windows PC Apple Mac Linux Android phone Apple iPhone	This session is absolute beginner level. Looking for an easy way to find your way around a phone or tablet (your new Christmas device perhaps?) and get common stuff done. We will explain everything from screen gestures to button shortcut and core apps. Speakers: Ken and Andy
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THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT IN
IN 2025

COMPUTER GROUP ❄️