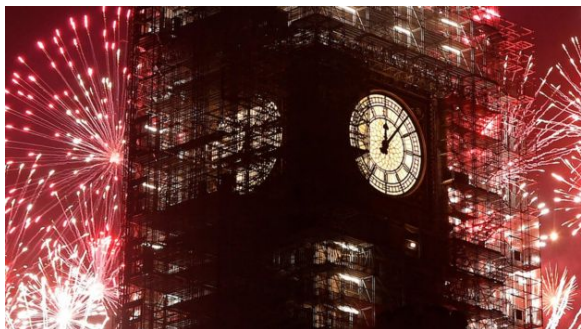


## The UK has welcomed in the New Year with spectacular firework displays in London and Edinburgh among the highlights.



More than 100,000 ticketholders watched London's midnight firework show from the banks of the River Thames.

Big Ben also chimed to welcome in 2018, having been turned back on part way through restoration work.

Meanwhile, Hogmanay in Edinburgh went ahead, despite 76mph winds hitting parts of Scotland on Sunday. Tens of thousands of people were celebrating in the Scottish capital, undeterred by earlier concerns that Storm Dylan might threaten events.

In central London, the soundtrack to the midnight show was dominated by female artists, including Aretha Franklin, Ariana Grande and Florence Welch, to mark the centenary of women getting the vote. Some 10,000 fireworks lit up the sky in every colour, with the London Eye as the centrepiece, in a 12-minute display.

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan tweeted that in London "we celebrate our diversity and strive for equality".

London Ambulance Service (LAS) treated nearly 300 people across central London, and took 77 people to hospital. Many were suffering from alcohol-related illnesses and were helped to sober up or treated for minor injuries, the LAS said.

People across the UK reported seeing a large greenish light streak across the sky on Sunday evening. The source is likely to be a meteor – space matter disintegrating as it enters the Earth's atmosphere.

## Hundreds of people across England have taken to the sea in fundraising New Year dips.



One of the largest took place in Gosport, Hampshire, where 384 bathers swam the Solent to raise cash for a lifeboat charity.

The event, at Stokes Bay raises about £4,000 each year for the Gosport and Fareham Inshore Rescue Service (Gafirs). Fundraising officer James Baggott said: "It's one of those strange, local traditions where people in the local area decide to take a dip in the Solent - but it's a great way for us of raising funds and showing the local community that we are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, on duty to save lives."

"We are not part of the RNLI so events like this are really important for us to raise money."

The Gafirs independent lifeboat station is run by 90 volunteers who last year gave 12,000 hours of their time to the service.

Adapted from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42528945> & <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-42535245>

**Answer these questions as briefly and accurately as you can.**

1. Approximately how many people bought tickets for London's firework display?
2. What is currently happening to Big Ben?
3. What are the New Year festivities called in Scotland?
4. What might have prevented these festivities from taking place?
5. In what year did women in the UK first get the vote?
6. Where was the London firework show based?
7. Where would you have been able to see the meteor on Sunday evening?
8. Why did people take to the waves in Gosport on New Year's Day?
9. In what two ways does James Baggott think the swim benefits Gafirs?

**FINALLY, THREE TRICKY MATHS QUESTIONS!**

10. What proportion of the people treated by the London Ambulance Service ended up in hospital?  
a) over half                      b) about a quarter  
c) roughly a seventh          d) 75%
11. Approximately how many hours of their time does each of the Gafirs volunteers give annually?
12. How many WHOLE days is this?

## E3 WRITING ACTIVITY



Next year, you think you want to take part in the New Year swim at Gosport.

Write to a friend and ask them to do it with you.

You will need to explain:

- what happens
- what charity it helps and how
- where it is.

You could also add information about fancy dress, and how you are going to raise funds.

**Write between 75 - 100 words.**

Plan your work below.

# New Year 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## L1 - L2 WRITING ACTIVITY



Next year, you want to organise a group from your work to take part in the New Year swim at Gosport. Send **an email** to your manager giving details of

- what happens
- what charity it helps and how
- where it is.

Explain that you would like to:

- arrange an informal meeting to enlist volunteers
- the company where you work to match the funds raised by swimmers pound for pound.

**Write 150-200 words.**

Plan your work below.

# New Year 2018

## Answers



1. How many people bought tickets for London's firework display? (about) **100,000**
2. What is currently happening to Big Ben? **It's being restored**
3. What are the New Year festivities called in Scotland? **Hogmanay**
4. What might have prevented these festivities from taking place? **Storm Dylan/high winds**
5. In what year did women in the UK first get the vote? **1918**
6. Where was the London firework show based? **London Eye**
7. Where would you have been able to see the meteor on Sunday evening? **Across the UK**
8. Why did people take to the waves in Gosport on New Year's Day?  
**To raise money for a lifeboat charity.**
9. In what two ways does James Baggott think the swim benefits Gafirs?  
**Raising money, raising awareness**
10. What proportion of the people treated by the London Ambulance Service ended up in hospital?  
a) over half                      b) **about a quarter ✓**  
c) roughly a seventh          d) 75%
11. Approximately how many hours of their time does each of the Gafirs volunteers give annually?  
**120 (if you round the no of volunteers up to 100 then divide that into 12,000 or 133 for those who want to be exact!)**
12. How many WHOLE days is this? **5 days (120/24 = 5)**