

Each year, record companies compete for the Christmas number one single spot on the British charts. Having the UK Christmas number one is very prestigious and leads to a lot of media coverage. Since people are buying gifts for the Christmas period, single sales are extremely high in the week before Christmas, and since the Christmas number one is the single with the highest sales, record companies can make sizable profit from trying to get their single to Number One. Many people place bets at a bookmaker's on who will be Christmas number one.

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when the subject of the Christmas number one began to excite significant media coverage. However some believe it dates back to 1973, when two of the most successful bands of the day - Slade and Wizzard - both released Christmas-related singles ("Merry Xmas Everybody" and "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday" respectively) in an attempt to clinch the festive chart-topper, with Slade ultimately coming out on top.

To settle any arguments that this piece might stimulate, the winners for the last ten years have been:

- 1997: Spice Girls - "Too Much"
- 1998: Spice Girls - "Goodbye"
- 1999: Westlife -
"I Have A Dream" / "Seasons In The Sun"
- 2000: Bob The Builder - "Can We Fix It?"
- 2001: Robbie Williams & Nicole Kidman -
"Somethin' Stupid"
- 2002: Girls Aloud - "Sound Of The Underground"
- 2003: Michael Andrews featuring Gary Jules -
"Mad World"
- 2004: Band Aid 20 -
"Do They Know It's Christmas?"
- 2005: Shayne Ward - "That's My Goal"
- 2006: Leona Lewis - "A Moment Like This"

Cliff hasn't been seen in the number one spot since 1990 with "Saviours Day" but believe it or not he's back in the running apparently for 2007!



Staying with the Music business for a moment, Troubled singer Amy Winehouse's husband, Blake Fielder-Civil was refused bail after appearing in a London court on Nov 23.

Blake Fielder-Civil, 25, along with another man, Michael Brown, was due to stand trial this month, charged with inflicting serious bodily harm on a pub landlord, James King, in Hoxton, east London, in June last year

Their trial has been delayed after police arrested Fielder-Civil and charged him with conspiracy to distort the course of justice.

Earlier in the year we saw the amazing revelation from Amy that "taking so many drugs that you have to be rushed to hospital before you die isn't all that much fun in the big scheme of things."

What amused me more was Liam Gallagher being reported as telling Amy to 'calm it'. The Sun reports that Liam was overheard, saying: "She plays with fire, you get burnt. That's the way it goes. If she knows what she's doing's not good then she needs to back up a bit. "She's young. I'd probably be doing the same thing - except twice the drugs. I'm sure she'll grow out of it."

Words of Wisdom indeed. [sic]

Moving quickly from C minus celebrity to A plus, some of our more mature readers will no doubt have already seen that the world's finest actress took the award for best actress for her performance in the Queen and was included in the Top Ten *InStyle* magazine awards in November.

The ever-gorgeous Dame Helen Mirren, the ultimate thinking man's sex symbol, also made it to Number 4 in the list of best dressed women compiled by Harpers Bazaar. Mirren, 62, stunned the crowds at the Oscars in Hollywood earlier this year by appearing in a magnificent gold beaded Christian Lacroix gown.

The actress similarly dazzled crowds at the Baftas when she arrived on the red carpet in a plush cream gown and bronze bolero and has attributed her new, very flattering look to two stylists she has hired - New York-based Alicia Lombardini and Rachel Fanconi who is based in London.



Leona Lewis.
Christmas Number
One in 2006



Search Google and over 100,000 entries have a connection to Sir Cliff's Calendar for 2008. Which one is the 'official' one only you can decide!

