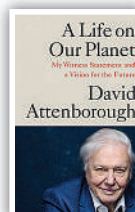
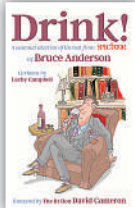
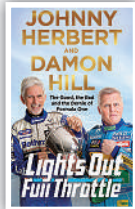


# Christmas reads

**J**ohn & Yoko *Plastic Ono Band* (Thames & Hudson, £40) is the jewel in the crown of the various releases and publications marking John Lennon's 80th birthday, and the 40th anniversary of his murder (see page 56). Beautifully packaged, it marks the tumultuous period in 1969 and 1970 surrounding the release of John and Yoko's remarkable, searingly self-lacerating, solo albums, both titled *Plastic Ono Band*, with interviews, commentary, and evocative photos, Cliff Richard pulls no punches in his frank and surprising autobiography *The Dreamer* (£20) and Rebecca Harrison provides fascinating new perspectives on *The Empire Strikes Back*, the second film in the original Star Wars trilogy, in a new addition to the BFI Film Classics series. Also newly available are guides to *The Cloud-Capped Star* and *Near Dark* – all three are priced at £11.99 each (Bloomsbury Academic).

Doctor Who fans old and new will enjoy *I Am The Master* (BBC Books, £12.99) a collection of original stories featuring various iterations of the Doctor's nemesis and JRR Tolkien's *Unfinished Tales*, edited by Christopher Tolkien, fills in many gaps in the epic Lord of the Rings mythos. Marking its 40th anniversary the book is now available in a sumptuous illustrated edition (HarperCollins, £30).

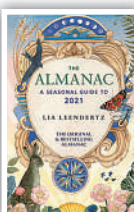
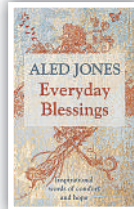
In *Me, Family and the Making of a Footballer* (Hodder, £20) Jamie Redknapp looks back on his



early years, growing up in a family that lived and breathed football, *Klopp* (Faber, £12.99) is Anthony Quinn's love letter to the Liverpool manager, former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger charts his extraordinary career in *My Life in Red and White* (W&N, £25), and *Only Here For A Visit* (Bantam Press, £20) is the riotously enjoyable autobiography from Scottish soccer legend and broadcaster Alan Brazil.

*Lights Out, Full Throttle* (Pan Macmillan, £20) is the story of life in the pit lane by Formula One legends Damon Hill and Johnny Herbert, while *Revolution* (Constable, £20) is Eighties pop star Gary Numan's revealing autobiography. Martin Roach tells *The History of Speed* (Simon and Schuster, £25), there are words from the wise in *The Wisdom of Call the Midwife* (W&N, £14.99) and *Ghosts* is Dolly Alderton's tender, smart debut novel (Fig Tree, £14.99).

*The Almanac: A Seasonal Guide to 2021* by Lia Leendertz (Octopus, £10.99) is the fourth installment of the best-selling series and focuses on movement, migration and pilgrimage, and *Drink* (Quiller, £12.99) is a selection of Bruce Anderson's always forthright wine columns for the *Spectator*. *Britain's Best Political*



*Cartoons*, edited by Tim Benson (Hutchinson, £12.99) finds something to laugh about from the events of the past year, as does the brilliant cartoonist Matt Pritchett in *The Best of Matt* (Seven Dials, £7.99)

David Attenborough sets out his vision for the Earth and its "support machine", a bio diverse natural world, in *A Life On Our Planet* (Witness, £20) and in *Greatest British Railway Journeys* Michael Portillo selects his 50 favourite train trips from more than a decade of travel using his trusty Bradshaw's *Handbook*.

*Inspire* (William Collins, £20) finds Ben Fogle extolling the healing powers of nature, while *Call The Vet* (HarperCollins, £20) is dad Bruce's memoir of his early years as a veterinary surgeon at a distinctly up-market practice. Chris Packham and step-daughter Megan McCubbin celebrate the wonders of wildlife, and conservation, in *Back To Nature* (Two Roads, £20) and Aled Jones selects much-needed *Everyday Blessings* (Hodder, £14.99) coinciding with the release of his album Blessings.

Novels with a festive theme include *Home for Christmas*, by Florence McNicoll, which follows Kathy, a recent widow, who finds a second chance at life via Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Kerry Bell's wartime-set *The Emmerdale Girls* (Trapeze, £12.99), Karen Swan's *Together By Christmas* (Pan, £8.99) and Milly Johnson's heart-warming *I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day* (Simon & Schuster, £14.99). And Maggie Sullivan's *Snow On The Cobbles* (HarperCollins, £7.99) is a wartime-set *Coronation Street* festive tale.