

My mother loved children - she would have given anything if I had been one.

Groucho Marx.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

It was Halloween night. The kids had already gone around playing trick or treat. They were given money and sweets, but the best part of the night was to follow. It was also Jordan's birthday. He was having a Halloween party.

Jordan and his friends looked weird as they entered the house. Jordan was dressed as a pumpkin, and Elizabeth as a witch with long pointed talons.

There were no electric lights on in the room. It was lit by pumpkin lanterns strung around the walls, making the place look eerie. On top of the T.V and window cills were eyeball candles which were scary. The candle shone through the eyeball. On top of the table and dresser were Ghoul candle holders. Hanging from the staircase, which ran up the side of the lounge, were several black lanterns with horrible faces cut out.

In the middle of the table was a horror cake. It was dark brown and had marzipan shapes on top. Written on them were "scared silly" "trick or treat" and "freaky friends" Next to the cake was a plateful of small cakes with coloured skulls and pumpkin faces on the top of each one. There was a dish of Vampire Fangs Chewitts,. Jordan's Mam had made Gingerbread men. They had white skeleton bones decorated on the top with white icing sugar.

Elizabeth, cried out "I'm frightened of the awful faces on the cakes. We won't be able to eat anything because they'll taste awful"

Jordan's Mam said "I bought everything at Asda, They are normal cakes but just have horrible faces painted on the top which can easily be lifted off. They're only decorations"

"Look what I've got" Jordan shouted. He carried a dish of water with green apples in. Elizabeth had her hands tied behind her back, knelt down and tried to grab an apple in her mouth .She got her hair and face wet but no apple. One by one each child tried to pick up an apple. They screamed and laughed with delight.

The doorbell rang. Jordan ran and opened the door. A Witch flung past him into the Lounge. She was old and wrinkled and had a green luminous face. She wore a long black flowing robe, had a black high pointed hat on her head and her straggly black hair hung loosely down her back. She had a broom between her legs. The kids stared in shock and ran into the Conservatory. The witch followed them laughing at their yells and howls of fear. They screamed and ran into the large backgarden. The witch followed. She opened her mouth and screamed over and over again. She shouted, "The wind is angry and it's blowing all the leaves from the trees. They' re falling on the grass then lifting up into the air over the hills and fields far away. The trees are

very angry with the wind roaring through them." The kids ran into the shed in the corner screaming and wailing in fear.

Jordan's Mam knocked on the door." The witch has gone. Open up and come into the house. It's time to eat."

They ran into the house. Sizzling hot beefburgers, mini sausages on sticks, hotdogs, crisps and nuts had been put on the table. They chose what they wanted and put them onto plates with witches, pumpkins, skeletons etc. painted on. Grandma walked into the House saying "Happy Birthday Jordan. He's a present for you"

"Thank you Grandma. We've had a real Witch on a broomstick chase us around the garden. She had a glistening green face. We were scared and hid in the shed" He laughed and said "But the angry wind blew her back to where she came from"

Jordan's Mam came over to Grandma "I'll just wipe your face. You've left a little green paint on it". They smiled at each other.

GINGERBREAD SKELETONS

Plain flour 350g (12oz)

Bicarbonate of soda 1 tsp Ground ginger

2 tsp Margarine 100g (4oz)

Light brown sugar 175g (6oz)

Golden syrup 4 tbsp

Egg 1 large, beaten

Icing pens, to decorate. Sift the flour, bicarbonate of soda and ginger into a bowl.

Rub in the margarine until it looks like breadcrumbs.

Mix in the brown sugar.

Add the golden syrup to the egg, then mix into the flour.

Knead mixture lightly until it forms a smooth dough.

Halve, flatten into two discs, wrap in cling film and chill for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 190C / 375, gas 5

Lightly flour the work surface, roll out each piece of dough to a thickness of around 5mm (1/4inch)

Cut the figures with a gingerbread cutter (or make a template using cardboard)

and bake on a baking sheet for 10-15 minutes until golden.

Leave to cool, then decorate with icing sugar pens to look like skeletons.

Stella Rutherford.