

Almost every year at Christmas time one TV company or another will show that classic film "The Great Escape". Today **Pete Sixsmith** takes us back just a couple of years to recall one of our many recent great escapes.

Sunderland v Chelsea 07/05/16

One that will live long in the memory as we made a huge step towards staying up, pushing Newcastle down at the same time.



Remember them?

There were some good players in this side although it took Sam Allardyce a while to get the best out of them. He had signed Lamine Kone, Jan Kirchhoff and Wahbi Khazri in the January window and they, alongside the outstanding Yann M'Vila and Jermaine Defoe, played a huge part in keeping us out of the Championship – for 12 months at least.

Chelsea scored first through pantomime villain Diego Costa and Khazri equalised with a wonderful volley. However, a simple goal from Nemanja Matic sent the Pensioners in a goal ahead.

With Newcastle drawing at already relegated Aston Villa, we certainly needed a point but took all three when Fabio Borini and then Jermain Defoe scored within three minutes of each other to send the crowd of 47,050 into raptures.



Both goals were special and the day got better when John Terry was sent off for two yellow cards and Newcastle failed to beat an already relegated Villa.

It was one of those fabulous days that will remain in the memory when the nursing assistant is trying to get me to remember my name:

"I don't know that pet, but I can tell you about Khazri, Borini and Defoe's goals when they beat Chelsea 3-2."