 Good question! Lateral thinking challenge

Ref: 1.25

Figure out what really happened by asking questions. Only questions that can be answered “yes” or “no” can be asked. Can you solve the mystery?

A man walks into a bar and asks the barman for a glass of water. The barman pulls out a gun and points it at the man. The man says ‘Thank you’ and walks out. Why?

***The man had hiccups. The barman recognized this from his speech and drew the gun in order to give him a shock. It worked and cured the hiccups – so the man no longer needed the water.***

A man lives on the tenth floor of a building. Every day he takes the elevator to go down to the ground floor to go to work or to go shopping. When he returns he takes the elevator to the seventh floor and walks up the stairs to reach his apartment on the tenth floor. He hates walking so why does he do it?

***The man is very short. Variants of this puzzle include the clue that on rainy days he goes up in the elevator to the tenth floor (he uses his umbrella!)***

Five pieces of coal, a carrot and a scarf are lying on the lawn. Nobody put them on the lawn but there is a perfectly logical reason why they should be there. What is it?

***They were used by children who made a snowman. The snow has now melted.***

A man pushed his car. He stopped when he reached a hotel at which point he knew he was bankrupt. Why?

***He was playing Monopoly.***

A man is lying dead in a field. When he got near to the centre of the field he knew he was going to die. Next to him there is an unopened package. There is no other creature in the field. How did he die?

***The man had jumped from a plane but his parachute had failed to open. It is the unopened package.***

A man went into a party and drank some of the fruit punch. He then left early. Everyone at the party who drunk the punch subsequently died of poisoning. Explain.

***The poison from the punch came from the ice cubes. When the man drunk the punch, the ice was fully frozen. Gradually, as the ice cubes melted the poison was released into the punch.***

A man and a woman live peacefully in a house together. But one day the woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over five minutes. Finally, she hangs him, but ten minutes later they go out and enjoy a wonderful dinner. How can this be?

**The woman is a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it and hung it out to dry.**