

Christmas Edition 2021

LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



MEMORY LANE

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THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



The Twelve Days Of Christmas

A yuletide evergreen with an interesting history.

It is much more than a novelty song for children; it dates back to the period between 1558 and 1829 when Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning, plus a hidden subtext known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember. The 'true love' mentioned in the song is God himself, and the partridge in a pear tree is Jesus.

FAMOUS PEOPLE OF OLDHAM

Sir William Walton

William Turner Walton was born on 19th March 1902 into a musical family in Oldham, the second son in a family of 3 boys and a girl. His father Charles had trained at the Royal Manchester College of Music under Charles Hallé, and made a living as a singing teacher and a church organist. Louisa, his wife had been a singer before their marriage.

William's musical talents were spotted when he was still a young boy. He took piano and violin lessons and both he and his elder brother sang in their father's choir.

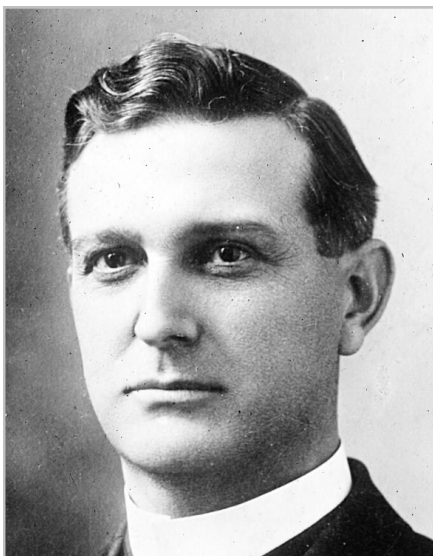
William attended a local school, but in 1912 his father saw a newspaper advert for probationer choristers at Christ Church Cathedral School in Oxford, and applied for William to be admitted. William and his mother missed their intended train to Oxford because his father had spent the train fare in a local pub! Louisa Walton had to borrow the fares from a greengrocer! Although they arrived in Oxford after the auditions were over, Mrs Walton successfully pleaded for her son to be heard and he was accepted.

He remained at the choir school for the next 6 years. At the age of 16 he became an undergraduate of Christ Church and was one of their youngest students. However he neglected his studies, passing his musical exams with ease but failing the Greek and Algebra necessary for graduation.

While at Oxford William had befriended several poets, including Sachaverell Sitwell who invited him to lodge in London with his literary brother and sister, Osbert and Edith. William later recalled, "I went for a few weeks and stayed about 15 years!"



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William as a young man



Christ Church, Oxford

In addition to providing him with a home, the Sitwell family introduced him to Europe's cultural and artistic élite. William met George Gershwin and Igor Stravinsky, absorbing a variety of musical and intellectual styles. During this period he travelled to Italy which was a tremendous experience, as William deeply identified with Italy's music, culture and way of life.

"Façade" composed in 1923 was written to accompany Edith Sitwell's satirical poems. In 1929 he completed his Violin Concerto, a masterpiece in which he emerged as a composer of true genius. In 1931 he composed the music for "Belshazzar's Feast", a massive choral cantata, to a text by Osbert Sitwell based on verses from the Old Testament plus the Book of Revelation.

During the 1930's he widened his circle of influential friends, enjoying the patronage of Siegfried Sassoon and Lady Alice Wimbourne. He had numerous love affairs and his relationship with the Sitwells became less close.

Although she was 20 years older than him, William had an affair with Lady Wimbourne lasting from 1934 until her death from cancer in April 1948.

With his wife, Susana



In order to cheer him up following her death, some friends invited him to a conference in Buenos Aires and while there he met a young Argentine woman, Susana Gil Passo, with whom he fell madly in love. He was 46 and she was 22.



They married the same year (1948) after a whirlwind courtship, settling on the Italian island of Ischia the following year, spending half the year there and half in London. William did not want children so when Susana became pregnant he insisted upon an abortion.

In the 1940's William had started working with Laurence Olivier and this partnership produced masterpieces of film music such as the scores for "Henry V" and "Hamlet" and later, in 1955,"Richard III".

Between 1947 and 1954 he wrote the opera "Troilus and Cressida". It had a successful premier at Covent Garden in 1954 and other successful productions followed in New York and San Francisco.

William twice wrote music for coronations: the "Crown Imperial March" for King George VI in 1937 and "Orb and Sceptre" for Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

In 1956 William sold his London home and moved to Ischia full time. He built a hill top house and Susana created a beautiful garden there.

During his lifetime he received many honours and awards, including the Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society in 1947 and a knighthood in 1953.

He died at his home on Ischia in March 1983 aged 80. A memorial service was held in Westminster Abbey.

Since his death, the Walton Trust, inspired by his widow, Lady Susana Walton, has run arts educational projects, promoted British music and held annual summer master classes for gifted young musicians. Susana died in 2010.

Receiving a kiss from his wife

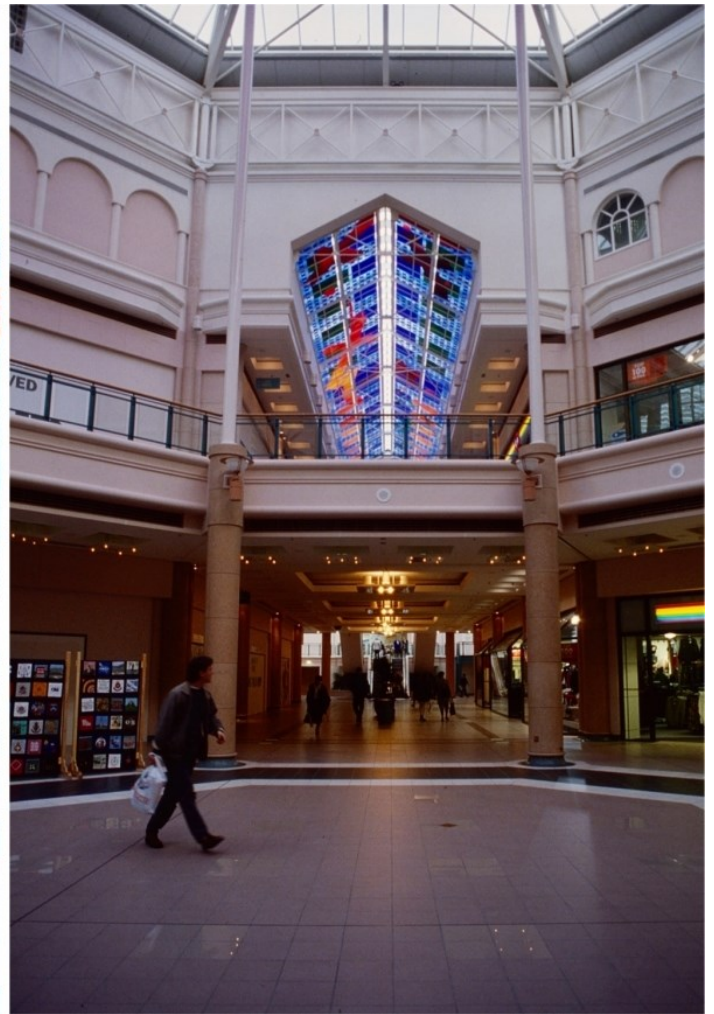
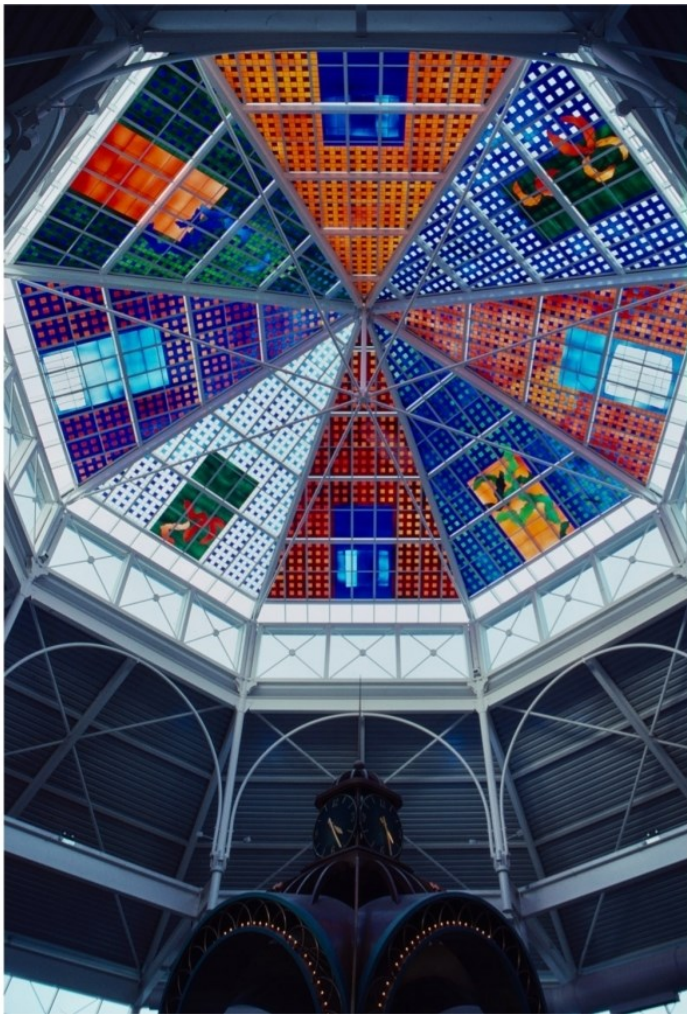


One of Sir William Walton's brothers was the music master at Hulme Grammar School in Oldham for many years.

On Desert Island Discs



The Spindles Shopping Centre in Oldham features a stained *glass window* by Brian Clarke, designed to celebrate the music of Sir *William Walton*.



QUIZZES

Find the **animal, bird or fish** from the clues below:

The numbers in brackets are the number of letters in each word.

1. Cleese & Co (5,6)
2. Two under par (5)
3. Non conforming family member (5,5)
4. Have a suspicion (5,1,3)
5. London Tube station (8,3,6)
6. Hogan (9,6)
7. In a straight line (2,3,4,5)
8. Fed up (4,3,2,6)
9. Easy target (7,4)
10. Tall building in London (6,5)

Find the answers to the clues.

The numbers in brackets are the number of letters in each word.

1. 7DS (6,4)
2. 366 D in a LY (4,2,1,4,4)
3. 7W of the W (7,2,3,5)
4. 1,760 Y in a M (5,2,1,4)
5. 70 TSY and T (5,5,4,3,3)
6. 1066 B of H (7,2,8)
7. 12 T of I (6,2,6)
8. 24 H in a D (5,2,1,3)
9. 60 NSL (8,5,5)
10. 180 TS in D (3,5,2,5)

See next page for answers...

The above two quizzes have been provided by Sue Livesey.

Answers to Quizzes from previous page...

Answers to find animal, bird or fish.

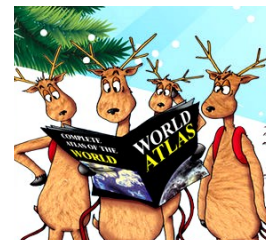
1. Monty Python
2. Eagle
3. Black Sheep
4. Smell a Rat
5. Elephant and Castle
6. Crocodile Dundee
7. As the crow flies
8. Sick as a parrot
9. Sitting Duck
10. Canary Wharf.

Answers to the number and letter clues.

1. Deadly sins
2. Days in a Leap Year
3. Wonders of the World
4. Yards in a mile
5. Three score years and ten
6. Battle of Hastings
7. Tribes of Israel
8. Hours in a Day
9. National Speed Limit
10. Top score in darts.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa felt ill
He'd scoffed all the mince pies, eaten more than his fill
He sat at the table feeling rather replete
But when he tried to stand up he couldn't get to his feet
He arranged a zoom meeting with Rudolph and Co
And told them they'd have to go out in the snow
To make sure the presents and the big sacks of toys
Were delivered to all of the girls and the boys
The sleigh was well laden as they left in the night
To make the deliveries before it grew light
But the sat nav was broken and soon they were lost
They'd misread the signs which were covered in frost
So they turned left at Greenland and hoped for the best
And found very soon they were heading due west
The snow was quite thick, it was so hard to see
But by some quirk of fate they'd reached the M3
Then out of the blue the sleigh came to a halt
When it fell into a ditch with a shuddering jolt
Rudolph 'phoned Santa to see what he'd say
But he just got grumpy and said "Ring the AA"
Just as they thought they were down on their luck
The man from the AA arrived in his truck
"Let's get you lot sorted and well on your way
To deliver the presents in time for Christmas Day"
This year don't let Santa feed his fat face
Hide all the mince pies in a safe, secret place
Make sure they're well hidden where they can't be found
Till he's back at the North Pole after finishing his round.



By Sue Livesey

REMEMBER WHEN - CHRISTMAS WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG



The Christmas Nativity Play at School. Did you ever land up being at the back in the donkey costume?



Making paper chains for the classroom at school



Did you go to visit Father Christmas at Lewis's store in Manchester? Look how well dressed the little girl is. No going shopping in jeans in those days!



Do you remember going to Christmas parties at school or at the place your mum or dad worked?



Christmas cards from the 1940/50s. Do you remember making a card and/or a calendar at school?



Some customs remain the same but how long for? The kids today aren't as gullible as we were.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Philippines - The Giant Lantern Festival

Ligligan Parul Sampernandu) is held each year on the Saturday before Christmas Eve in the city of San Fernando – the “Christmas Capital of the Philippines.”

The festival attracts spectators from all over the country and across the globe. Eleven barangays (villages) take part in the festival and competition is fierce as everyone pitches in trying to build the most elaborate lantern. Originally, the lanterns were simple creations around half a metre in diameter, made from ‘papel de hapon’ (Japanese origami paper) and lit by candle. Today, the lanterns are made from a variety of materials and have grown to around six metres (19ft) in size. They are illuminated by electric bulbs that sparkle in a kaleidoscope of patterns.



Sweden - Yule Goat

Since 1966, a 13-metre-tall Yule Goat has been built in the center of Gävle’s Castle Square for the Advent, but this Swedish Christmas tradition has unwittingly led to another “tradition” of sorts – people trying to burn it down. Since 1966 the Goat has been successfully burned down 29 times – the most recent destruction was in 2016.



Austria - Krampus

A beast-like demon creature that roams city streets frightening kids and punishing the bad ones. St. Nicholas’ evil accomplice, Krampus. In Austrian tradition, St. Nicholas rewards nice little boys and girls, while Krampus is said to capture the naughtiest children and whisk them away in his sack. In the first week of December, young men dress up as the Krampus (especially on the eve of St. Nicholas Day) frightening children with clattering chains and bells.



Japan - Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Christmas has never been a big deal in Japan. Aside from a few small, secular traditions such as gift-giving and light displays, Christmas remains largely a novelty in the country. However, a new, quirky “tradition” has emerged in recent years – a Christmas Day feast of the Colonel’s very own Kentucky Fried Chicken.



Continued...

Germany - Saint Nicholas

Not to be confused with Weihnachtsmann (Father Christmas), Nikolaus travels by donkey in the middle of the night on December 6 (Nikolaus Tag) and leaves little treats like coins, chocolate, oranges and toys in the shoes of good children all over Germany, and particularly in the Bavarian region. St. Nicholas also visits children in schools or at home and in exchange for sweets or a small present each child must recite a poem, sing a song or draw a picture. In short, he's a great guy. But it isn't always fun and games. St. Nick often brings along Knecht Ruprecht (Farmhand Rupert). A devil-like character dressed in dark clothes covered with bells and a dirty beard, Knecht Ruprecht carries a stick or a small whip in hand to punish any children who misbehave.



Norway - Never leave a good broom behind in Norway over Christmas

Perhaps one of the most unorthodox Christmas Eve traditions can be found in Norway, where people hide their brooms. It's a tradition that dates back centuries to when people believed that witches and evil spirits came out on Christmas Eve looking for brooms to ride on. To this day, many people still hide their brooms in the safest place in the house to stop them from being stolen.



United States - Lighting of National Hanukkah Menorah, Washington, D.C.

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah is celebrated with much fanfare across the United States with one of the most elaborate events taking place on a national stage. Since 1979, a giant nine-metre Menorah has been raised on the White House grounds for the eight days and nights of Hanukkah. The ceremony in Washington, D.C. is marked with speeches, music, activities for kids, and, of course, the lighting of the Menorah.

The lighting of the first candle at the White House takes place at 4pm, rain or shine, and an additional candle is lit each successive night.



Continued...

Venezuela - A Christmas dinner consisting of 'tamales'

In Caracas, Venezuela every Christmas Eve, the city's residents head to church in the early morning – so far, so normal – but, for reasons known only to them, they do so on roller skates. This unique tradition is so popular that roads across the city are closed to cars so that people can skate to church in safety, before heading home for the less-than-traditional Christmas dinner of 'tamales' a wrap made out of cornmeal dough and stuffed with meat, then steamed.



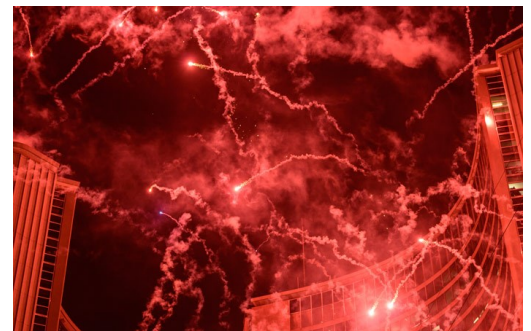
Colombia - Day of the Little Candles

Little Candles' Day (Día de las Velitas) marks the start of the Christmas season across Colombia. In honour of the Virgin Mary and the Immaculate Conception, people place candles and paper lanterns in their windows, balconies and front yards. The tradition of candles has grown, and now entire towns and cities across the country are lit up with elaborate displays. Some of the best are found in Quimbaya, where neighbourhoods compete to see who can create the most impressive arrangement.



Canada - Toronto Cavalcade of Lights

In wintry Toronto the annual Cavalcade of Lights marks the official start to the holiday season. The first Cavalcade took place in 1967 to show off Toronto's newly constructed City Hall and Nathan Phillips Square. The Square and Christmas tree are illuminated by more than 300,000 energy-efficient LED lights that shine from dusk until 11 pm until the New Year. On top of that, there are spectacular fireworks shows and some outdoor ice skating.



We have quite a lot of our own traditions: Christmas food: Turkey, stuffing, mince pies, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding with sixpences in it and Yule Logs. Cards, presents, Christmas stockings and Christmas crackers. Christmas Eve Church services and Carol singers. Pantomimes. Christmas Decorations and Christmas trees. Queen's Speech. Boxing Day sporting events. Holly and kissing under the Mistletoe. Father Christmas coming down the chimney whilst the children are asleep.

THE GREAT SNOWFALL

Worst winter in the 20th century, the snow lasted seven weeks

The winter of 1946–1947 was a harsh European winter noted for its adverse effects in the United Kingdom. It caused severe hardships in economic terms and living conditions in a country still recovering from the Second World War. There were massive disruptions of energy supply for homes, offices and factories. Animal herds froze or starved to death. People suffered from the persistent cold, and many businesses shut down temporarily. When warm weather returned, the ice thawed and flooding was severe in most low-lying areas.

Beginning on 23 January 1947, the UK experienced several cold spells that brought large drifts of snow to the country, blocking roads and railways, which caused problems transporting coal to the electric power stations. Many had to shut down, forcing severe restrictions to cut power consumption, including restricting domestic electricity to nineteen hours per day and cutting some industrial supplies completely. In addition, radio broadcasts were limited, television services were suspended, some magazines were ordered to stop publishing, and newspapers were reduced in size. These measures, on top of the low temperatures, badly affected public morale and the Minister of Fuel and Power, Emanuel Shinwell, became a scapegoat; he received death threats and had to be placed under police guard. Towards the end of February, there were also fears of a food shortage as supplies were cut off and vegetables were frozen into the ground.

Mid-March brought warmer air to the country which thawed the snow lying on the ground. This snowmelt rapidly ran off the frozen ground into rivers and caused widespread flooding. More than 100,000 properties were affected, and the British Army and foreign aid agencies were required to provide humanitarian aid.



SHAW
Broad Lane, Near Fairview



Moorside



Jean's recipes from around the world



CANADA



SALMON STEAKS

Serves 4

Ingredients:

4 Salmon Steaks

Salt and pepper

2 thinly sliced lemons

2 tbsp lemon juice

2 tbsp melted butter

1 small sliced onion

1 cup of sour cream

Method:

Wipe the fish steaks and sprinkle with seasoning.

Line a greased baking dish with thinly sliced lemons, arrange the steaks over them and pour the lemon juice and butter on top.

Sprinkle with onions, finely sliced.

Bake in hot oven 400°F for 15 minutes.

Spread with sour cream and return to oven for 10 mins.

Garnish with Parsley and serve.

CANDIAN PEANUT COOKES



Ingredients:

4 tbsp butter

1 cup of sugar

2 eggs

2 cups of plain flour

2 teasp baking powder

1/2 teasp salt

1/4 cup of milk

1 cup of peanuts

1 teasp vanilla essence

Method:

Cream butter and sugar thoroughly.

Add well beaten eggs.

Stir flour with baking powder and salt and add alternately with the milk.

Fold in coarsely chopped peanuts and vanilla.

On a greased baking sheet place teaspoonfuls of mixture and bake in a moderate oven 350°F for 20 mins.

Allow space for spreading on sheets.

CUBA



ARROZ CON POLLO

(Chicken with Rice)

Serves 4

Ingredients:

1 Chicken

1/4 cup of olive oil

2 onions

1/2lb rice

1 pint of chicken stock

Salt, paprika, pepper, bay leaf

1lb of green peas

Method:

Joint a good sized chicken into as many pieces as possible.

Fry in the olive oil.

When browned, remove the chicken.

Add finely sliced onions and well washed rice.

Cook gently till well-coated with the oil, stirring all the time so that the rice does not stick.

Then add the liquid and mix well.

Put a layer of rice and hot stock in a greased casserole.

Add the bay leaf and seasonings.

Then place the pieces of chicken on the top.

Sprinkle paprika over.

Cook in a moderate oven 350° F for about an hour.

The chicken should then be cooked and the liquid absorbed by the rice.

Add the peas about 15 minutes before the dish is ready.

Recipes provided by Jean Ryder

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Match the lines to a well known Christmas Song.

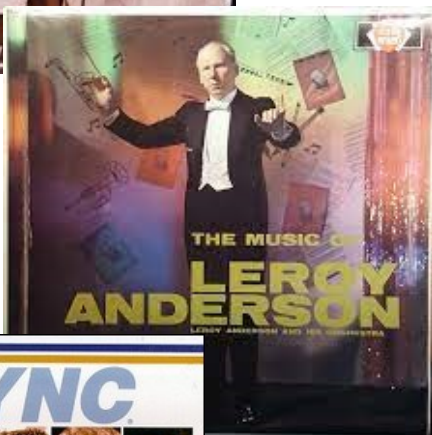
To make it easier they are in Date Order and at least one song from the Decades 1940s/50s/60s/70s/80s/90s.

1. And children listen
2. Outside the snow is falling and friends are calling "yoo hoo!"(ring-a-ling-a ding-dong-ding!)
3. You girls and boys won't get any toys
4. I hear a choir
5. With the kids jingle belling
6. That's where I'll be, since you left me
7. This year, to save me from tears
8. Snowy night, where it's warm here by the fire

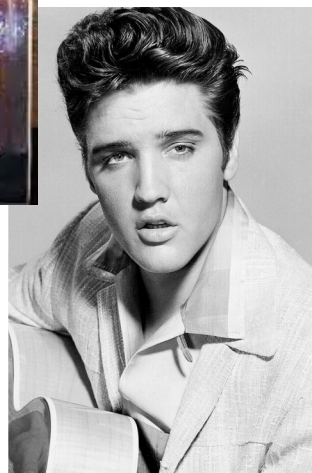
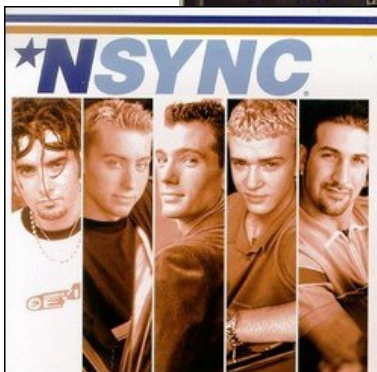
Some Random Picture Clues



Andy Williams



BILLY COTTON & HIS BAND SING A NEW SONG



Answers on next pages...

Answers to Christmas Songs.

1. **White Christmas (1941 Bing Crosby)**

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know
Where the tree tops glisten

And children listen

To hear sleigh bells in the snow, oh, the snow

2. **Sleigh Ride (1946 Leroy Anderson)**

Just hear those sleigh bells jingling, ring tingle tingling too (ring-a-ling-a ding-dong-ding!)

Come on, it's lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you (ring-a-ling-a ding-dong-ding!)

Outside the snow is falling and friends are calling "yoo hoo!" (ring-a-ling-a ding-dong-ding!)

Come on, it's lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you (ring-a-ling-a ding-dong-ding!)

3. **When Santa got stuck up the chimney (1950 Billy Cotton and his Band)**

When Santa got stuck the chimney he began to shout

"You girls and boys won't get any toys

If you don't pull me out

My beard is black

There's soot in my sack

My nose is tickling too!"

Santa got stuck up the chimney

A-choo, a-choo, a-choo!

4. **If every day was like Christmas (1957 Elvis Presley)**

I hear the bells

Saying Christmas is near

They ring out to tell the world

That this is the season of cheer

I hear a choir

Singing sweetly somewhere

And a glow fills my heart

I'm at peace with the world

As the sound of their singing fills the air

Oh why can't every day be like Christmas

Why can't that feeling go on endlessly

For if everyday could be just like Christmas

What a wonderful world this would be

Continued...

More Answers to Christmas Songs.

5 It's the most wonderful time of the year (1963 Andy Williams)

It's the most wonderful time of the year

With the kids jingle belling

And everyone telling you be of good cheer

It's the most wonderful time of the year

6. Lonely this Christmas (1975 Mud)

Try to imagine a house that's not a home

Try to imagine a Christmas all alone

That's where I'll be, since you left me

My tears could melt the snow

What can I do, without you?

I've got no place, no place to go

It'll be lonely this Christmas

Without you to hold

7. Last Christmas (1984 Wham)

Last Christmas, I gave you my heart

But the very next day, you gave it away

This year, to save me from tears

I'll give it to someone special

8. All I want is You (This Christmas) (1998 NSYNC)

Snowy night, where it's warm here by the fire

Here with you, I have all that I desire

(Here with you)

It's been a long year but somehow we got by

Now, it's Christmas Eve and love is on our side

I don't need a hundred gifts beneath the tree

(Beneath the tree)

Don't you know the best thing you could give to me

Nothin' else will do, all I want is you this Christmas

(This Christmas, this Christmas)

OH, TO BE A HUSBAND AND DAD IN THE 1950S!

A selection of extracts from a vintage (American) home economics book for girls on how to become good housewives.

HAVE HIS DINNER READY: Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal on time. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospect of a good meal are part of the warm welcome needed.

PREPARE YOURSELF: Take 15 minutes to rest so you will be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people.

CLEAR AWAY THE CLUTTER: Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives, gathering up clutter. Then run a dust cloth over the tables. Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order, and it will give you a lift too.

PREPARE THE CHILDREN: Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces (if they are small), comb their hair, and if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part.

SOME DONT'S: Don't greet him with problems or complaints. Don't complain if he's late for dinner. Count this as minor compared with what he might have gone through that day.

MAKE HIM COMFORTABLE: Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest he lie down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him. Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soft, soothing and pleasant voice. Allow him to relax and unwind.

LISTEN TO HIM: You may have a lot of things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.

MAKE THE EVENING HIS: Never complain if he does not take you out to dinner or to other places of entertainment. Instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure, his need to come home and relax.

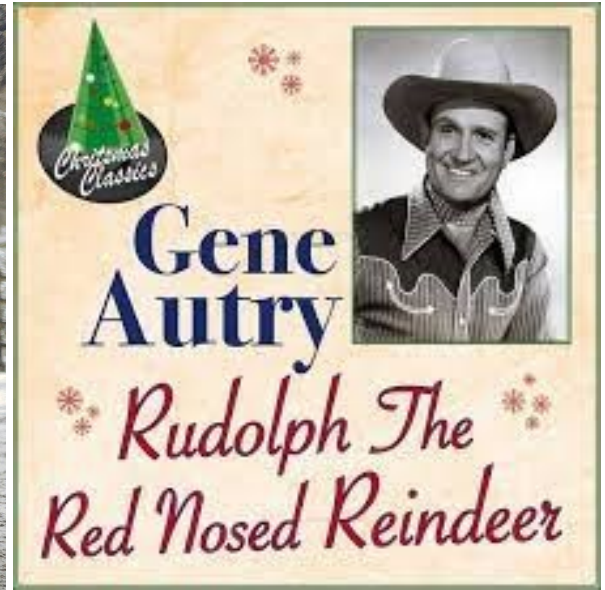
THE GOAL: Try to make your home a place of peace and order where your husband can renew himself in body and spirit.

Did someone say spirits: Now, this is a tip we can take on board because we need a stiff drink after reading this!



ANIMAL CORNER

RUDOLPH and the Reindeers



Living and growing up in this part of the world you will almost certainly have heard of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and the association with Christmas but do you know how it all started many years ago:

Pagan mythology loves the reindeer and during the Middle Ages (when Pagans converted to Christianity), their ancient customs became a part of Christmas celebrations. The reindeer came to symbolise creativity, resourcefulness and knowledge, whilst also representing safe journeying and endurance through travels.

Unlike Santa, elves or even clean coal, reindeer are real. They may not fly, but there's a good deal of truth around the many myths of Christmas's favourite animal. Yes, they do live in extremely cold conditions. Yes, they are known to pull sleds. And, yes, their noses really do turn a shade of red given the right conditions.

First off, caribou and reindeer essentially are the same animal and are classified as the same species (*Rangifer tarandus*). They are also both part of the deer family, or cervidae, which also includes deer, elk and moose. However, there are subtle differences. "Reindeer" is often used to describe the domesticated animals, the ones that are herded and employed by humans to pull sleds. They are also often smaller and have shorter legs than their wild brethren. In addition, the name reindeer is more often used to refer to the European variety, ones that live in Siberia, Greenland and northern Asia.

Continued on next page...

Continued...

The word “caribou” tends to mean the North American (meaning living in Canada and Alaska) and/or the wild variety. Because caribou are wild and reindeer are domesticated, scientists agree that most of the differences between the two are evolutionary as opposed to inherent. Caribou are larger, more active, faster and migrate further than reindeer. In fact, the caribou undertake the largest land migration of any animal in North America every year in search of better conditions and food for their young.

Antlers are the defining characteristic of many large deer and Rangifer tarandus certainly have large antlers (in fact, they are the largest and heaviest antlers of any living deer species). However, there are differences between their antlers and other deer. Unlike other deer species, both male and female Rangifer tarandus can have antlers, but they possess them at different times of the year depending on gender. Males start growing them in February and shed them in November. Females start growing them in May and keep them until their calves are born sometime in the spring. This has led many to note that Santa’s reindeer (including Rudolph) would technically have to be all female because males usually shed their antlers by November - only females have them through the Christmas season.

While reindeer seem to be a pretty obvious animal to help Santa on his Christmas travels, they didn’t become part of the Jolly St. Nick story until the 19th century. In 1821, a New York writer named William Gilley published a children’s booklet where Santa and reindeer were first mentioned together: “Old Santeclaus with much delight, his reindeer drives this frosty night.”

Later, Gilley would write that he knew about reindeer living in Arctic lands from his mother, who was from the area. A year later, he would anonymously publish his poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” otherwise known as “The Night Before Christmas,” co-opting the idea and popularised it as part of Christmas lore.

Although it should be noted in his version he describes St. Nick riding a “miniature sleigh” with “eight tiny reindeer” that had little hooves. This, of course, explains how St. Nick was able to fit down a chimney - he was a tiny little elf.



You will notice some names aren't spelt the way we would spell them today. This is because of language differences and the evolution of the words over time.

See next page for poem



Twas the Night Before Christmas



Twas the night before Christmas
and all thru the house,
not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse.
All the stockings were hung
by the chimney with care
In the hope that St. Nicholas
soon would be there.
Then what to my
wondering eyes should appear,
A miniature sleigh
and eight tiny reindeer.
A little old driver
so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment
it must be St. Nick.
And more rapid than eagles
his reindeer all came
As he shouted, "On Dasher"
and each reindeer's name.
And so up to the housetop
the reindeer soon flew,
with the sleigh full of toys
and St. Nicholas too.
Down the chimney he came
with a leap and a bound
He was dressed all in fur
and his belly was round
He spoke not a word
but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings
then turned with a jerk.
And laying his finger
aside of his nose,
then giving a nod
up the chimney he rose
But I heard him exclaim
as he drove out of sight
"Merry Christmas to all
and to all a Good Night".



The verse from the later edition published anonymously by Clement Clarke Moore that names the eight reindeers:

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer, and Vixen!
"On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Dunder and Blixem!

CHRISTMASES PAST AROUND OLDHAM & DISTRICTS



Delph



Dobcross



Saddleworth Round Table
Santa Dash



Oldham Parish Christmas Tree Festival



Lees



Chadderton Town Hall



Shop in Lees



Spindles, Oldham

SPORTING GREATS

This month's Sporting Page covers some of the most famous iconic football matches of all time that took part at Christmas many years ago. Sadly though the men taking part were far from home:

FOOTBALL IN NO-MAN'S LAND

The Christmas Truce has become one of the most famous and mythologised events of the First World War. But what was the real story behind the truce? Why did it happen and did British and German soldiers really play football in no-man's land?

Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches.

The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football.

They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts.

After Boxing Day, meetings in no man's land dwindled out.

The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere the fighting continued and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit.

After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again. Despite this, there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war, and not only at Christmas. In what was known as the 'Live and Let Live' system, in quiet sectors of the front line, brief pauses in the hostilities were sometimes tacitly agreed, allowing both sides to repair their trenches or gather their dead.





*We share our
warmest wishes for
a holiday season
filled with joy and
a New Year
of peace and prosperity.*

*Best wishes
to all our Readers
from the
Life Story Team
at
Age UK Oldham*

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Life Story

Every life has a story...

