

LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES



MEMORY LANE

CHRISTMAS EDITION
PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED FOR CHILDREN

Christmas is a magical time especially for children but for the generation that were young during the 1940's, during the war years if they were lucky enough to have received presents they would more than likely have been handed down from older children or handmade from whatever material their parents could find which wouldn't have been much due to the rationing.

If you did get toys during your childhood or have given them to your children you may recognise some from the following pages. It's interesting to note how times have changed. The advert below for the Meccano set is aimed at a boy and on the Bayko Set the girl is sitting holding her doll watching the boy building the house. Girls were predominately given things aimed at them becoming the 'little housewife', whilst boys were given things deemed to be masculine including cars, soldiers and even guns and rifles to emulate the cowboy films that they watched.



Give Your Boy Meccano this Christmas

LET your boy use his hands and brains to build his own Toys. With Meccano any boy can build hundreds of real working models in shining steel—Transporter Bridges, like the one shows here; Motor Cars that run; Cranes that will raise real loads; Looms that will weave real ties and ribbons; Lathes that will turn.

Meccano building is delightfully simple—endlessly fascinating. No skill or study needed. The big Book of Instructions makes everything clear.

Complete Outfits 6/- to 180/-

MECCANO

INTERESTING STORY BOOK FREE TO BOYS.

This is a real story of a boy's journey into a sunny land where all is happiness and fun; where dullness is never known. A splendid story for boys.

How to get a Free copy.
Just show this page to three chums and send us their names and addresses with your own. Put No. 43 after your name for reference.
Write To-day.

Meccano Ltd : Binns Road : Liverpool

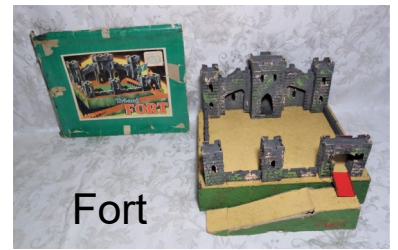
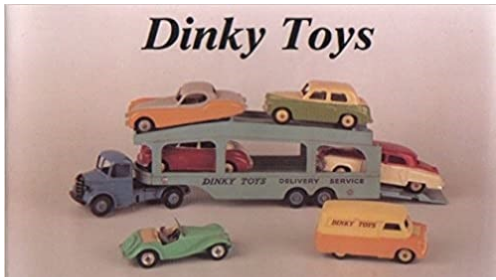


During the 1950's a film called Davy Crockett was very popular and children, especially boys went round wearing Davy Crockett Hats after watching the film.



Davy Crockett Hat

TOYS MADE FOR BOYS



TOYS MADE FOR GIRLS



Dolls House

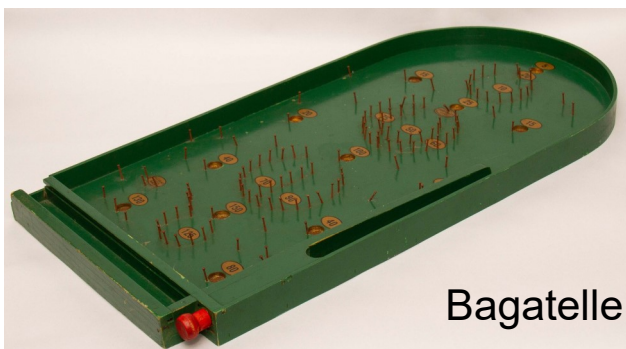
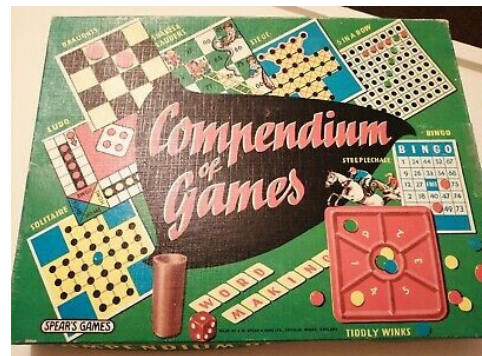
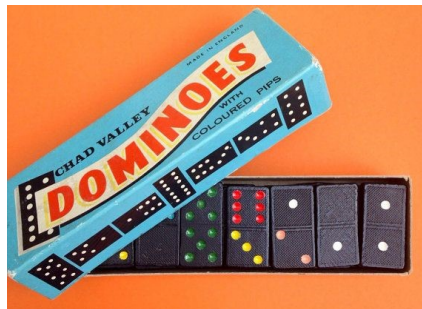


TOYS AND GAMES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Whip & Top



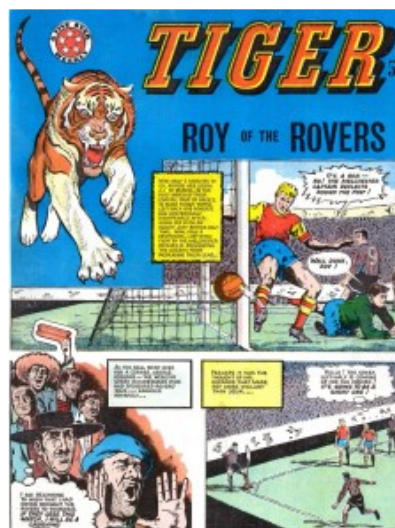
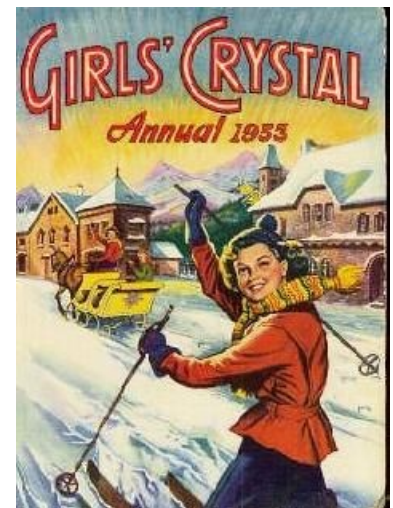
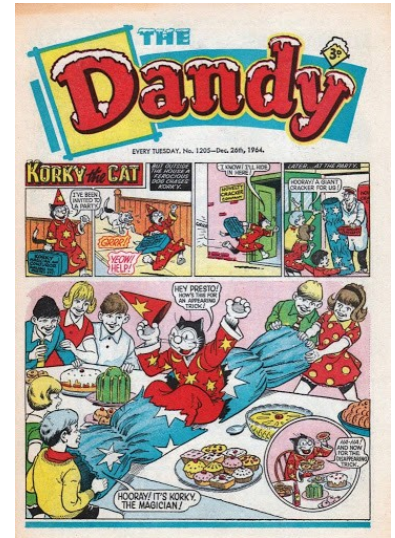
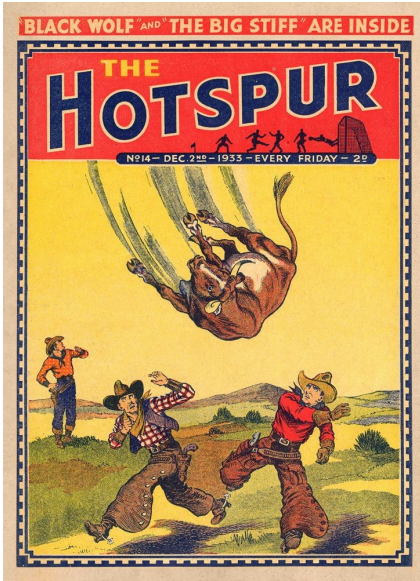
Marbles



Bagatelle



Do you recognise any of the Comics/Annuals from your childhood:



Read how in fifteen years of being a Life Story Visitor Volunteer, Maeve has heard some fascinating stories and met some lovely people

FIFTEEN YEARS OF LIFE STORY

When I retired in 2004 I was determined not to just relax and sit and do nothing. A friend suggested that we volunteered at Age UK and that was how I found out about Life Story. It seemed such a good idea that I wanted to be involved. There was the option to either be a visitor or to work in the office producing the books. I decided I would prefer to visit people and I am glad I made that choice. When I look at the books I know I could never produce anything as beautiful as the ones I have seen. On my first visit to a care home, Diane, who was the coordinator at the time came with me. The lady I visited was 91 years old and was in the home because she could no longer go up the stairs at home. She had lived in the same house all her life and remembered when Broadway one of the busiest roads in Chadderton, was just an unpaved narrow road. To publicise Life Story the Oldham Chronicle sent a reporter to the presentation and the story appeared in the paper along with a photo of us and details of how to volunteer.

After that I visited on my own and I have done over 40 stories since then. I have accompanied new volunteers on their first visits and also done stories with people who are still living in their own homes. When I had been volunteering for a while I realised how many care homes there are in Oldham. Some were large and modern and others small and old fashioned but the one thing that made the difference was the staff. I could feel the commitment of staff to make residents' lives as pleasant as possible with activities for them. One home had a quiz every week on local places that residents would remember and also music and songs that they would know. That makes a lot of difference as they would then start to reminisce about places like Oldham Market and what it was like when they were young. In other homes everything looked new and well organised but there did not seem to be much community activity. There was usually a large room with a television in the corner that was on all day and residents sleeping because they were bored.

Things have changed over the 15 years I have been volunteering and nearly all for the better. Age UK provided a course on understanding people with dementia which has helped me a lot. I learned about the many different types of dementia and how they affected people. One of the main things I learned was not to argue with what a person was saying. If something was real to them, it was not my place to try to change their mind. A few of my visits were to see people with Alzheimer's and one of the people I visited was a man who could barely speak. His sister came every week when I was there to help and it gave her such pleasure to tell me about him and his life as nobody else in the family came to see him. When I went to present the book, which had a lot of photos in it, I could see the difference in him. He seemed to come alive and was pointing at the pictures and smiling and his sister was so grateful for what Age UK had done.

I have an interest in local history and it was fascinating to listen to some of the stories of what the area was like over 60 years ago. People who had worked in the mills told me about their jobs. Many of them remembered WW2 and told me about how they replaced men who had gone to war and how disappointed they were to give up work when the war was over. My last life story before Covid stopped us visiting was with a lady of 96 who had been born in America to Irish parents. Eventually they moved back to Ireland to a farm with no electricity or running water and the children went to school with no shoes. It was a great shock for her after the luxuries available in America. She eventually moved to Oldham and became a nurse. When she was 90 she wrote about her life in America but then she deteriorated. Ever week after that her daughter met me at the home and told me all about her life.

I started my last life story in March and had been visiting about a month when I had to stop and unfortunately I could not carry on doing it over the phone as the person was deaf. I just hope I am able to finish it when a vaccine has been found.

**If you are interested in having your Life Story done
Contact: 0161 633 0213
Your copy will be free but for any additional copies we ask for a small donation.**

This is a photo of Maeve standing on top of a high hill overlooking the centre of Lima. It was a bit scary but I was OK as long as I didn't look down.



This story is about one of the famous Jingle Bells

DING A LING THE CHRISTMAS BELL

1

Gather round and I will tell
The story of the Christmas Bell
Who used to shine and chime and ring
And why they call him 'Ding a Ling'

One of the famous jingle bells
That's what he was and then he fell
And broke his pretty harmony
And he began to ring off key

Now they call him 'Ding a Ling'
Because he has a funny ring
And doesn't play his notes too well
Ding a Ling the Christmas bell

The other bells met secretly
And he heard one say (in a real low key)
"He's sure to ruin our Christmas sound
And we don't want him hanging around"

He overheard their secret vote
And walked away with a lump in his note
The saddest bell you've ever seen
The Christmas bell called Ding a Ling

As Christmas Eve came to the town
A blinding snow was coming down
And Ding a Ling heard someone say
"Old Santa's sure to lose his way"

2

The thought occurred to Ding a Ling
To ring as loud as he could ring
And when Old Santa heard the sound
It guided him into the town

Now the children laugh and sing
And everyone loves Ding a Ling
So everything has turned out well
For Ding a Ling the Christmas bell.



Composed by Sue Livesey

Do you remember any of these sayings/words from your childhood.

Good Old Lancashire Dialect - They may vary in different districts.

I'm spitting feathers here: *Meaning: I am thirsty (can also be very angry!)*

Nice one: *Meaning: Thank you*

Beltin': *Meaning: Great*

He's not as green as he's cabbage-looking: *Meaning: He's not as stupid as he looks*

Scran: *Meaning: Food:*

Our kid: *Meaning: My brother/sister*

Manchester caviar: *Meaning: Mushy peas*

Wind ya neck in: *Meaning: Calm down/keep your nose out of my business*

Shut ya gob: *Meaning: Be quiet*

Put big light on: *Meaning: Turn on the main light*

Ta rah: *Meaning: Goodbye*

Your hair is full of lugs: *Meaning: Your hair is all knotty*

Chuffed: *Meaning: Pleased*

Willie heckers like: *Meaning: No he won't*

Ow'do: *Meaning: How are you?*

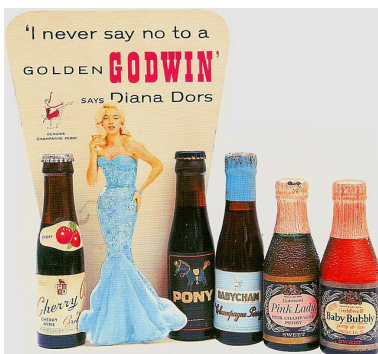
'angin: *Meaning: Horrible*

Don't be nesh: *Meaning: Do not be soft*

Mingin' *Meaning: Not nice*

Article By Sandra Ward

Today's generation don't think anything about going out for meals over Christmas but for their grandparents it was spent at home. Christmas merchandise never appeared in the shops before December. It was a time for families to get together and sometimes a big family would arrange to borrow the bench from the local chippy (chip shop) so everyone could sit round the table together. The presents children received often included, a main present, small boxes of toffees, selection boxes, colouring books and crayons, a book or annual, a torch that shone different colours, yo yo or other small items. House slippers were a favourite for grandparents to give. Not everyone had a television and after the meal had been eaten and the washing up done, games would be played. Here is a selection of the drinks that might have been consumed.



This is a true Christmas story supplied by Lifestory visitor volunteer Trevor Boskill.

MATCHING CARDIGANS

It was on Christmas Eve in the year 2015 at 10:30 pm, when Arthur Boskill invited a struggling fellow care home resident to take a pew while he caught his breath and never in his wildest dreams could he have predicted what would unfold. As Arthur (86) and Ronnie Howarth (88) got talking and introduced themselves in Medlock Court, in Lees, they realised they had much more in common than the fact they were both wearing the same cardigan! It turned out they'd both been best man at each other's weddings but lost touch after they were married and hadn't clapped eyes on each other for nearly 60 years! The delighted pair have been spending time catching up ever since their incredible chance meeting. Arthur took pride of place next to his pal's side when he married Margaret at St Herbert's Church, Chadderton, in 1953. Ronnie then returned the best man favour when Arthur married Maureen in June, 1955, at St Aidan and Oswalds RC Church, in Royton. They met at Jackson & Ogdens (Cranes and Lifts), in Chadderton, when Arthur was 14 and Ronnie was 16. "We went through our apprenticeships together and went to the pub together but then we both had to do our National Service," said Arthur who has two sons, John (59) and Trevor (57).

Read more on next page



Arthur left with Ronnie in their matching cardigans

MATCHING CARDIGANS continued from previous page:

After our National Service we went back to our jobs which had been guaranteed at Jackson & Ogdens and we picked up on our friendship, both agreeing to be best man for each other. Sadly we gradually drifted apart when I went to live on a farm in Royton and Ronnie stayed in Chadderton. When we started having families it got more difficult to get together. "I can't believe after all these years we would meet up.

If I hadn't asked Ronnie to sit down next to me to get his breath on the way back from the toilet we'd never have met up again. "It's incredible. We were even wearing the same cardigans!" Arthur's son Trevor, from Royton, said: "It really is such a lovely and amazing coincidence, in fact when my dad told me I didn't believe it at first. The staff there couldn't believe it either until I showed them the pictures in dad's wedding album and there they were stood together." Sadly the two old chums won't both be living at Medlock Court assessment centre for long as they are both awaiting moves to Oldham residential homes. Trevor added: "They will keep in contact but due to both having very poor mobility it would be hard to visit each other once they move. We will make sure they have each other's phone numbers so they can chat."

THE way they were . . . Arthur's wedding day with Ronnie as his best man, right.



It is with sadness that we have to report that Arthur died 2 yrs ago, only 6 months after his friend Ronnie.

Article reported in Oldham Evening Chronicle Tuesday 19 January 2016.

THE CHRISTMAS JUMPER

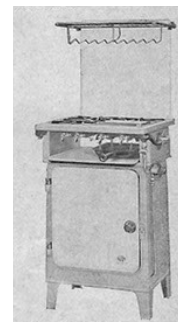
At one time if you wanted to be fashionable and wearing the latest style in clothes you definitely didn't wear a Christmas Jumper. They were the type of garment that would get laughs in 'sit coms' and any teenager opening a present on Christmas morning and finding one, even if it had been knitted by a kindly grannie, would have been horrified. Along the way somehow they have not just become acceptable but cool and even film stars are wearing them and the gaudier the better for some. Would you wear any of these?



This is taking inseparable to a new level.



Another old recipe from Jean that would make an ideal New Year treat.



Rich Dundee Cake.

10ozs butter
10ozs soft brown sugar
5 med eggs, beaten
1 tbsp black treacle
1 tsp mixed spice
Pinch of salt
10oz plain flour
14ozs currants
10 ozs sultanas
10 ozs raisins
2ozs cut mixed peel
2ozs blanched almonds for decoration



Method

Heat oven to 150C, 300F gas Mark 2.

Grease and line a 9" round or 8" square tin.

Cream butter and sugar. Add beaten eggs and treacle.

Mix in sifted spice and salt and fold in the flour. Add fruit and mix well.

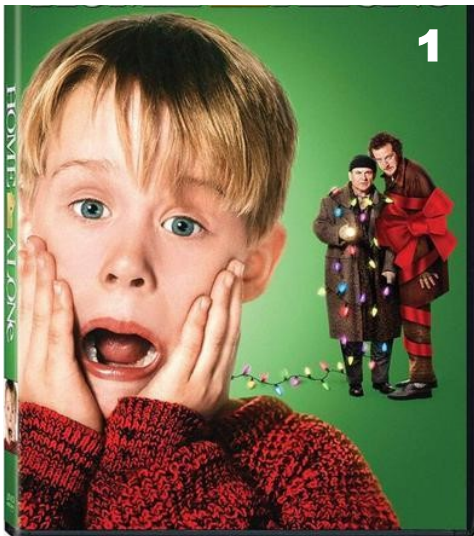
Place mixture in prepared tin, arrange nuts on top and protect with brown paper. (See notes below) Bake for 4 1/4 hours.

To protect a large cake by fastening a band of double brown paper round the tin, 2-3" higher than the tin. Stand the tin on a thick layer of brown paper or a newspaper. Cover the cake with paper or foil after 2 hours or if browning too quickly. Check cake after 3 hours, then every half hour until cooked.

An excellent long keeping cake.

Provided By Jean Ryder

CAN YOU NAME THE CHRISTMAS FILMS



Turn page to see answers:

1. Home Alone
3. Holiday Inn
5. The Snowman
7. Miracle on 34 Street

2. White Christmas
4. It's a Wonderful Life
6. A Christmas Carol

PETS CORNER

MEGAN

Meet Megan who was 14 years young on the 6th November. She is a large lovable Labradoodle who joined our family at Christmas 2006. I had two children desperate for a dog but with one of them allergic to dog hair we never thought it could be a reality. But then we discovered there were some dogs that didn't shed hair and along came Megan.

Like all dogs she is loyal, cuddly and was very, very bouncy when she was younger. Her favourite passion as with all Labradors is food. Anything will do, just so long as it's edible. Unfortunately, this has resulted with quite a few trips to the local vets to retrieve things that should not be eaten by dogs. When she was younger, we would feed a stray cat scraps of cooked meat and Megan would be found at the side of the wall, giving the cat her paw and hoping to share, ever hopeful! Megan also developed a love of carrots from sharing the rabbit's food. So now whenever I'm chopping carrots Megan is there waiting very patiently.

Although now at the age of 14 she is slowing up quite a bit, she still loves her walks and has always loved attention from anyone she meets. She really is a big soft girl, with bags of personality, a little imp in the nicest of ways and has given us lots of love and laughs.

Megan loves opening presents and enjoys Christmas and birthdays. One year she took herself off upstairs and opened everything; annoying but also very funny.



By Anne – Life Story Project

SPORTING GREATS

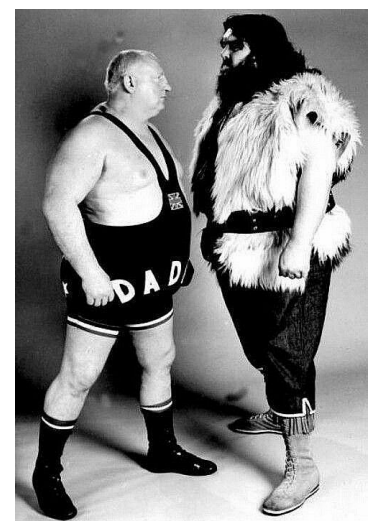
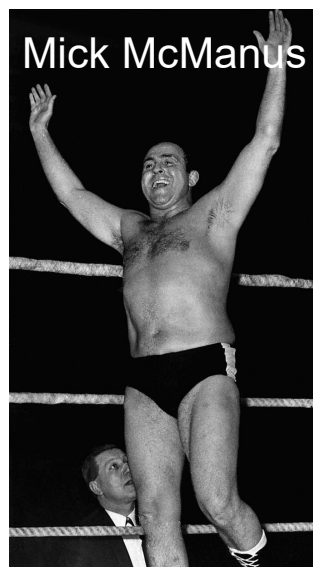
We take a look back at the boom in British wrestling when the legend of Big Daddy the alter ego of Shirley Crabtree (former body builder) took to our television screens. In the mid-1970s (most notable for his tag team partnership with future arch-rival Giant Haystacks and a heel vs heel feud with legendary masked wrestler Kendo Nagasaki, whom Daddy unmasked during a 1975 televised bout), from the summer of 1977 onwards, Big Daddy became a larger-than-life fan favourite of children and pensioners alike. That he was no longer a bodybuilder youth, rather an overweight man in his forties, did not seem to be an obstacle as every major heel in the country was defeated by Daddy, usually in short order thanks to Crabtree's lack of conditioning. To gain heat (with boos and jeers from the audience), heels are often portrayed as behaving in an immoral manner by breaking rules or otherwise taking advantage of their opponents outside the bounds of the standards of the match. In other words 'Heels' are the bad guys.



Do you remember any of these opponents:



Jackie Pallo



Big Daddy &
Giant Haystacks



Kendo Negasaki

JAYNE TORVILL OBE & CHRISTOPHER DEAN OBE



Torvill & Dean are English Ice Dancers.

Both born in Nottingham

Dates of Birth:

Jayne Torville: 7th October 1957

Christopher Dean: 29th July 1958

Turned Professional: 1984
following world championship.

Briefly regaining amateur status in
1994 to compete in the Olympics once
again winning a Bronze Medal.

Retired from competitive skating 1998.



ACHIEVEMENTS:

Former British, European, Olympic and World champions.

At the Sarajevo 1984 Winter Olympics the pair won gold and became the highest scoring figure skaters of all time (for a single programme) receiving twelve perfect 6.0s and six 5.9s which included artistic impression scores of 6.0 from every judge, after skating to Maurice Ravel's *Boléro*. One of the most-watched television events ever in the United Kingdom, their 1984 Olympics performance was watched by a British television audience of more than 24 million people.

After retiring they toured one last time with their own show, *Ice Adventures*, before re-joining *Stars on Ice* for one more season. Their final routine was performed to Paul Simon's "Still Crazy After All These Years", a routine they had devised a few years earlier for competition. Although remaining close friends, the pair did not skate together again until they were enticed out of retirement to take part in ITV's *Dancing on Ice*.

In Nottingham their achievements are recognised with street names. Dean Close is located just off Torvill Drive with some surrounding roads named after coaches and dances associated with the pair.

CHRISTMAS SONGS TO SING ALONG TO

White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know
Where the treetops glisten
And children listen
To hear sleigh bells in the snow

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write
May your days be merry and bright
And may all your Christmases be white

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know, (uh,
uh, uh)
Where the treetops glisten
And children listen to hear
Sleigh bells in the snow

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write
May your days be merry and bright...
And may all your Christmases be
white...

I saw Mummy kissing Santa Clause

I saw Mummy kissing Santa Clause
Underneath the mistletoe last night
She didn't see me creep
Down the stairs to have a peep;
She thought that I was tucked up
In my bedroom fast asleep.
Then I saw Mummy tickle Santa Claus
Underneath his beard so snowy white.
Oh, what a laugh it would have been
If Daddy had only seen
Mummy kissing Santa Clause last night.



Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh

Hey, jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh

Hey, jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh

MERRY XMAS EVERYBODY



Are you hanging up your stocking on the wall?

It's the time that every Santa has a ball

Does he ride a red-nosed reindeer?

Does a ton-up on his sleigh?

Do the fairies keep him sober for the day?'

So here it is, Merry Christmas

Everybody's having fun

Look to the future now

It's only just begun

Are you waiting for the family to arrive?

Are you sure you got the room to spare inside?

Does your granny always tell ya

That the old songs are the best?

Then she's up and rock and rollin' with the rest

So here it is Merry Christmas

Everybody's having fun

Look to the future now

It's only just begun

What will your daddy do

When he sees your mama kissin' Santa Claus?

Ah-ha

Are you hanging up your stocking on the wall?

Are you hoping that the snow will start to fall?

Do you ride on down the hillside

In a buggy you have made

And land upon your head, then you been slayed?

So here it is Merry Christmas

Everybody's having fun

(Repeat last verse)

Look to the future now

It's only just begun

(3 more times).



**WISHING YOU ALL
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND
A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**

**FROM THE LIFESTORY TEAM
AND VOLUNTEERS**



**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM
LIFE STORY VOLUNTEERS
EDITOR
JOAN HOLMES**



Life Story

Every life has a story...

