

LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES
CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR
EDITION
2023/2024



MEMORY LANE

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Welcome to the festive edition of our Newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the last year and special thanks to everyone that has contributed articles and also to anyone that has given us feedback, which we always welcome, letting us know what goes down well or perhaps not so well. Our aim being to provide something for everyone.

Joan Holmes (Editor) on behalf of the Life Story Team

**"We all need people
who give us feedback.
That's how we
improve." - Bill Gates -**



Our next newsletter will be published 1st February, 2024.

Ammon Wrigley

Ammon Wrigley was born on 10th October 1861 at Far Hey, near Oxhey in Denshaw, West Yorkshire.

His father worked in the local woollen mills as did his mother, Mary. They later moved to Millcroft in Castleshaw where Ammon attended school. He received only a rudimentary education. At the age of 9 years, he combined school with working half days at Johnny Mill where his parents worked. Later he moved to Linfitts Mill in Delph.



His love of writing began early. He was 7 when his father awarded him 3 pennies in appreciation of a poem he wrote about a wayside well.

His childhood ended early. He himself wrote: “When I began to work half time, I went to school in the village till I became a full time worker, — trailing wearily about a mulegate all day took sunshine out of my young life — there seemed to be something wrong in the scheme of things, that made “God’s children” toil in stuffy mill rooms all day, while cows could live in sunny fields.

His family were poor. He later wrote, “One of the blackest memories of my early years is of a Christmas time. Work at the mill had been bad for over a month and we were never more poverty stricken. We had no paraffin for our lamp and barely a barrowful of coal. If a neighbour woman had come into our house on the Christmas Eve, she would have seen a father, mother and 2 little lads sitting in silence and gloom, as they watched a few red cinders die down in the grate”.

His first book was published in 1910 so he was 49 before he received his first substantial monetary reward from writing.

In 1912 he published a second book, the cost of publication being met by public subscription in advance. The publication of this book brought widespread recognition, and he was presented with a cheque for 100 guineas (£105) and a watch for his wife at a dinner in his honour at a local pub.

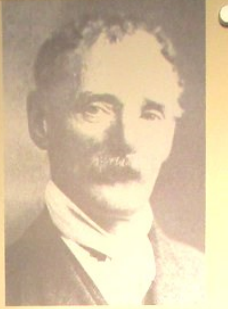
Such public recognition was repeated often in the following years.

He published many works of poetry and local history. His poems were often written in dialect.

Saddleworth People

Ammon Wrigley

Poet and historian
1861-1946



There is a statue on the grass outside the Museum. This is Ammon Wrigley, a man of wide-ranging interests:

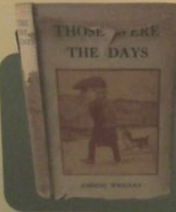

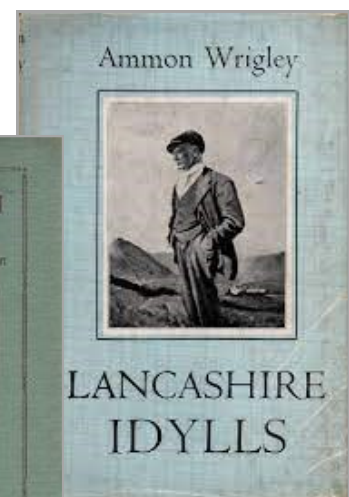
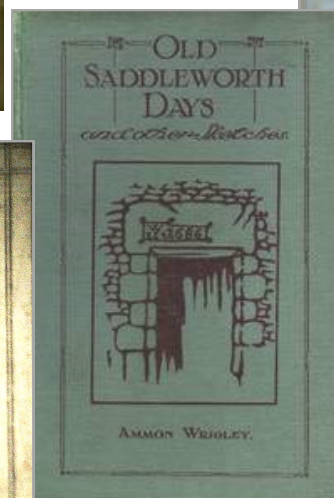
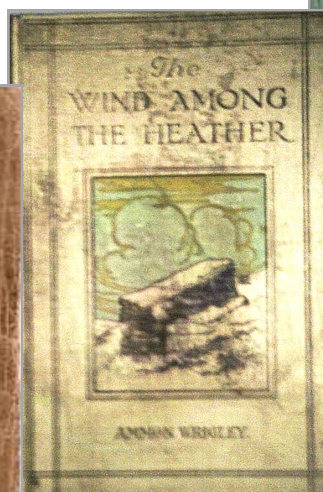
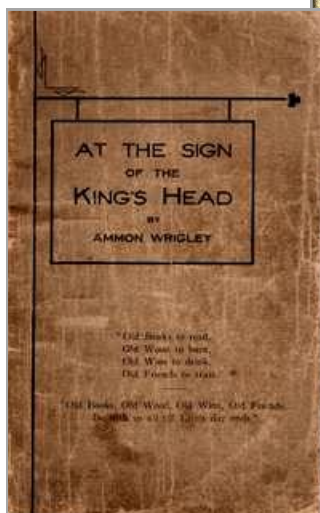
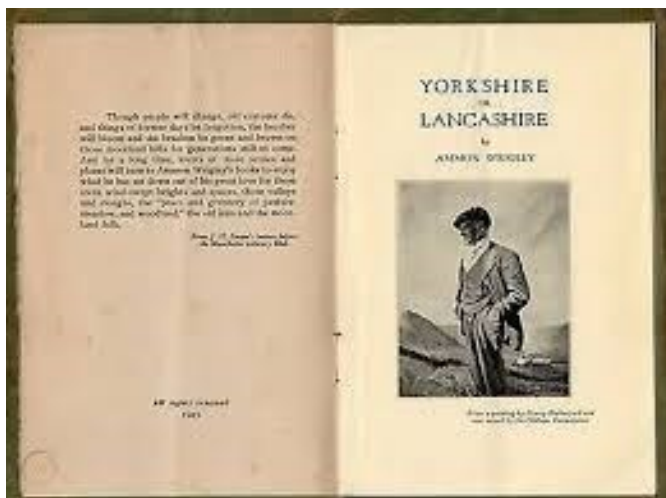
*... I shall skip
Just where the
humour takes me
And roam about
and wander till
The rhyming
mood forsakes me*
Castleshaw Valley

Ammon was born in 1861 in a hillside cottage where his father wove cloth on a handloom and his mother spun the wool. As a boy he was free to roam about Castleshaw valley; even on school days as he recalled "I loved going to that school for in summer we played truant and went on the moor gathering wimberries". He left Castleshaw school to work as a half-timer in a mill. He hated the long hours, the monotony and being stuck indoors only able to look out onto the moors which he loved.

He had started to write verse, on paper used to wrap groceries as they could not afford to buy paper. Later, Ammon's poems were published in the local newspapers. *Songs of a Moorland Parish* published in 1912 is a mixture of poetry, some in dialect, pieces on local history interspersed with personal anecdotes and illustrated with Ammon's own sketches.

Ammon also had an interest in archaeology. He found flints on the moors and in 1897 helped to excavate the Roman forts at Castleshaw.

In 1931 The Ammon Wrigley Fellowship was formed. Enthusiasts and friends met with Ammon to discuss and hear his work. He spent his life as a mill worker and died in 1946. His ashes were scattered, as he requested, near the Dinner Stone at the head of the Castleshaw Valley, where bronze plaques commemorate his life. The Museum Archives have an extensive collection of his books, poems, songs and manuscripts.

In 1931 the Ammon Wrigley Fellowship was formed to meet annually and celebrate his life. The Fellowship, already numbering over 200 members, held its first annual dinner in 1933. Ammon, well known for disliking public functions, did not attend due to the sudden onset of a 'cold'! He was persuaded to attend subsequent dinners, however, and the Fellowship also organised outings to many of the locations featured in his poems. The Fellowship lasted until 1983.

Ammon Wrigley is well-known both locally and further afield, for his poems capturing the landscapes and lifestyles of Saddleworth, as well as for his history works.

Ammon loved Saddleworth and its people, but his main love was the Pennine moorland around the area where he was born and raised.

The Dinner Stone

Where the old rock stands weathered and lone
And black as night, turned into stone.
There's a green church I call my own,
Take my ashes and scatter them there,
Roughly or kindly, just as you care.

Ammon died on 31st August 1946. His ashes were scattered a fortnight later near the Dinner Stone, a rock formation on Standedge on the moors above

Saddleworth in accordance with his wishes, by members of the Ammon Wrigley Fellowship. There is now a memorial plaque marking the spot, with a smaller one either side for his 2 daughters.



Ammon's collections are preserved at Saddleworth Museum.

He is commemorated by a bronze statue in Uppermill, commissioned as part of the 1991 Saddleworth Festival for the Arts. It stands in the gardens close to the museum.



In August 2016, 5 month old Ammon Harrison and his family made a special trip from Sheffield, to stand beside the statue of their ancestor in Uppermill. The name Ammon, has become a tradition in the family, and the latest to bear it is his great-great-great-grandson.



Ammon Wrigley's great-great-grandsons, his great-granddaughter and baby Ammon



Saddleworth celebrates its Yorkshire roots each year on Yorkshire day, the Sunday closest to 1st August, with crowds gathering to watch a wreath of white roses placed around the neck of the statue of Ammon Wrigley, and listen to the official Declaration of Integrity which launched Yorkshire 1,148 years ago.

Quiz provided by Viv White

QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. How many cubic centimetres in a cubic metre?
2. How many steps are there in John Buchan's novel?
3. Which country is divided into 23 cantons?
4. What is Chanel's most celebrated perfume?
5. How many Dalmatians featured in Dodie Smith's book?
6. What measures 1760 yards?
7. Which wedding anniversary is signified by china?
8. What comes next 2,3,5,7,11,13,17,19,?
9. Which element has the atomic number 1?
10. What is 40% of 40?
11. How old is an institution celebrating a quincentenary?
12. If you throw a six dice, what is the total of the four other visible faces?
13. Which of Walt Disney's seven dwarfs is missing: Doc, Grumpy, Sneezy, Sleepy, Happy, Dopey?
14. The western *The Magnificent Seven* (1970) was based on which Japanese tale?
15. How many green bottles are there on the wall before the first one should accidentally fall?
16. What is one-tenth of a nautical mile: a fathom, a cable, a knot, a league?
17. According to the Book of Revelations, what is the number of the beast?
18. What was banned by the 18th Amendment to the US Constitution, passed 1920 and repealed in 1933?
19. How many 'leagues under the sea' did Captain Nemo travel in Jules Verne's 1870 story?
20. The drinkers of which Australian lager wouldn't give a XXXX for anything else?

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. 1 million
2. 39
3. Switzerland
4. No.5
5. 101
6. A statute mile
7. 20th
8. 23 is the next prime number
9. Hydrogen
10. 16
11. 500 years
12. 14 (it is always 14)
13. Bashful
14. The Seven Samurai (warriors)
15. 10
16. A cable (a league is 3 nautical miles)
17. 666
18. The sale of alcoholic liquor ('Prohibition')
19. Twenty Thousand
20. Castlemaine

Poem provided by Sue Livesey (Author unknown)

A POLITICALLY CORRECT CHRISTMAS

**It's the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck
How do you live in a world that is politically correct?
His workers will no longer answer to 'elves'
'Vertically challenged' they are calling themselves
And labour conditions at the North Pole
Are alleged by the unions to stifle the soul
Equal employment has made it quite clear
That Santa must not be using Reindeer
Now they have vanished without much propriety
Released to the wild by the human society
As for presents he's never quite got the notion
That having a choice would cause such commotion
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur
Which means nothing for him and nothing for her
Nothing that claims to be gender specific
Nothing that's warlike or non pacifistic
Fairy tales are okay but, whilst not forbidden,
Just like Ken and Barbie they are better off hidden
No Rugby or football someone might get hurt
Playing those sports exposes children to dirt
So Santa just stood there dishevelled, perplexed
He couldn't figure out what to do next
Something special was needed a gift that he might
Give to us all without upsetting left or right
A gift that would satisfy with no indecision
All groups of people in every religion
So here is the gift, its price beyond words
"MAY YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES ENJOY PEACE ON EARTH"**



BYGONE CHRISTMASSES - 1930's & 1940's

There were a lot of challenges for people during these two decades including the 'great depression' and World War II but people did their best to make the most of the festive seasons despite for many poverty, uncertainty and rationing.

1930's

Most popular Christmas food:

There were no supermarkets yet and no credit cards and, during this period, only the wealthy had fridges so, as in the previous decade, all shopping was done as close to Christmas as possible. Turkey was enjoyed though some people still had goose. This was an abstemious time with any waste frowned upon and leftovers made into soups and pies – turkey soup being a favourite.

Christmas pudding - usually made weeks in advance.

Canned food was becoming very popular, particularly fruit, pickles, chutney, and meat.

Brandy Butter made its first appearance.

The wealthy enjoyed cocktails at this festive time. A particular favourite was 'Sidecar' which consisted of lemon juice, Cointreau, and brandy.

Christmas entertainment:

No TV! Though it had been invented it wasn't until 1936 that it became available to a few people (in the Southeast) and specifically for the King's Coronation.

Games enjoyed were: Charades, Consequences, Hunt The Thimble.

Board games such as Scrabble, Monopoly and Mah-Jongg were starting.

Popular Toys:

It was during this period that for the first time children were targeted with toys linked to films and celebrities from radio and cinema.

Shirley Temple dolls, Mickey Mouse toy (produced in 1930), Trains, Meccano sets, Soft toys, Aeroplanes on wheels, Rocking horses.

Developmental toys – just starting – for example 'Minibrix' launched by the Premo Rubber Company consisted of rubber and moulded press stud blocks.

The first Royal Christmas Message was read by George V in 1932. It was listened to by 20 million people across the UK, Australia, Canada, Kenya, India and South Africa.

How did they decorate their houses?

For those who could afford a tree, electric fairy lights were coming in, a much safer choice of lighting!

The first bristle-style artificial tree was made in 1930.

Paperchains suspended across the ceiling were common as were chalkware decorations. This was moulded plaster decorated with water-based paint and glossily varnished.

Elaborate fold-out paper decorations were loved.

Woolworths was the favourite shop for festive decorations where nothing cost more than sixpence.

Cont...

Remember the excitement of helping to put up the Christmas decorations.



1940's

Most Popular Christmas food:

Beef, chicken or duck - turkey was still expensive.

Vegetables - plentiful.

Trifle.

Tinned fruit.

Carnation milk.

Christmas pudding.

Popular Toys:

Marbles, toy dump trucks, scooters and bicycles, toy trains, and toy farm sets for boys.

Dolls, doll buggies, rocking chairs, and play dishes for girls.

Colouring books, crayons, fruit, and nuts for both boys and girls.

BB guns and 22 rifles for older boys.

Sleeping bags, gas masks, and flasks for practical purposes.

Master Pogo stick, Cluedo, and Monopoly for fun and entertainment.

Christmas Gifts:

Presents were often homemade and as wrapping paper was scarce, gifts were wrapped in brown paper, newspaper or even small pieces of cloth. Scarves, hats and gloves might be hand knitted using wool unravelled from old jumpers that had been outgrown by members of the household. War bonds were bought and given as gifts, thereby also helping the war effort. Homemade chutneys and jams made welcome presents. Practical gifts were also popular, particularly those associated with gardening, for example homemade wooden dibbers for planting. Apparently the most popular Christmas present in 1940 was soap!

Christmas entertainment:

Radio was very important to people.

Piano entertainment was much enjoyed, especially in pubs.

Cinema was loved – particularly comedy war films and a film called 'In Which We Serve' (1942) was produced to raise morale.

Football games over the festive period were popular.

Dance halls during the war provided much needed joyful entertainment.

Card games.

Board games.

However the Christmas break was, for some, cut short. During the war years some shop and factory workers, vital for the war effort, were back at work on Boxing Day even though 26th December had been a public holiday in Britain since 1871.

Looking back with modern eyes at these frugal, 'make-do-and-mend' war years, it is easy to feel sorry for those spending Christmas on the ration. However, if you ask those who lived through the war, many will say that they look back fondly on their childhood Christmases. The simpler wartime Christmas was for many, a return to simple joys; the company of family and friends, and the giving and receiving of gifts made with care by loved ones.

1940's Christmases



Look how smart the ladies are dressed. They are even wearing heeled shoes.



1940's Christmas Card



A rare wartime Christmas Gift when wrapping paper was scarce.

SHORT FABLES

THE TWO DOGS:

A MAN had two dogs: a Hound, trained to assist him in his sports, and a Housedog, taught to watch the house. When he returned home after a good day's sport, he always gave the Housedog a large share of his spoil. The Hound, feeling much aggrieved at this, reproached his companion, saying, "It is very hard to have all this labour, while you, who do not assist in the chase, luxuriate on the fruits of my exertions." The Housedog replied, "Do not blame me, my friend, but find fault with the master, who has not taught me to labour, but to depend for subsistence on the labour of others."

Moral:

Children are not to be blamed for the faults of their parents.

THE THREE TRADESMEN:

A GREAT CITY was besieged, and its inhabitants were called together to consider the best means of protecting it from the enemy. A Bricklayer earnestly recommended bricks as affording the best material for an effective resistance. A Carpenter, with equal enthusiasm, proposed timber as a preferable method of defence. Upon which a Currier stood up and said, "Sirs, I differ from you altogether: there is no material for resistance equal to a covering of hides; and nothing so good as leather."

Moral:

Every man for himself.

THE FIR TREE AND THE BRAMBLE:

A FIR TREE said boastingly to the Bramble, "You are useful for nothing at all; while I am everywhere used for roofs and houses." The Bramble answered: "You poor creature, if you would only call to mind the axes and saws which are about to hew you down, you would have reason to wish that you had grown up a Bramble, not a Fir Tree."

Moral:

Better poverty without care, than riches with.

CHRISTMAS DINNER TRAYBAKE



For this recipe you will need a large, flat or low-sided baking tray measuring 40x30cm/16x12in (or larger) lined with a non-stick baking paper.

SERVES 4



Cont...

Ingredients:

For the turkey marinade

1 tbsp honey

1 tsp finely chopped thyme or ½ tsp dried thyme

1 orange - zest and 1 tbsp juice only

1 tsp ground cinnamon

For the meat

8 x turkey breast fillet pieces, each weighing about 100g/3½oz

8 chipolata sausages

16 rashers smoked streaky bacon

salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the roast vegetables and stuffing

500g/1lb 2oz roasting potatoes, peeled, cut into evenly sized chunks (about 5cm/1¾" across) and rinsed

300g/10½oz carrots, peeled and cut into batons

300g/10½oz parsnips, peeled and cut into batons

1 tbsp finely chopped rosemary

6 tbsp vegetable or olive oil

12 ready-made stuffing balls

For the sprouts

200g/7oz small Brussels sprouts, halved

2 garlic cloves, crushed to a paste with a little salt

180g/6oz vacuum-packed chestnuts, roughly chopped

2 tbsp olive oil

To serve

Cranberry sauce

Turkey gravy

Cont...

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200°C/190°C Fan/Gas 6.

In a bowl, stir all the turkey marinade ingredients together with a little salt and freshly ground black pepper.

For the meat, add the turkey pieces to the marinade and combine. Cover and leave for 20 minutes in the fridge to marinate.

To assemble, put a piece of turkey and a chipolata together, wrapping two rashers of bacon around them to hold. Repeat with the remaining turkey pieces. They will look like large pigs-in-blankets.

For the roast vegetables, place the potatoes, carrots and parsnips in a large pan of cold water with a little salt. Bring to a simmer and then cook for 8–10 minutes – or until the edges of the potatoes are a little soft. Drain well in a colander, shake and leave to cool for 5 minutes.

Tip the vegetables into a large mixing bowl, season with salt and pepper, add the rosemary and 4 tablespoons of the olive oil (or goose or duck fat). Mix well.

Spread the vegetables over the roasting tray and roast for 30 minutes. Keep the mixing bowl for the next stage.

For the sprouts, using the same mixing bowl, season the Brussels sprouts and toss with the garlic, chestnuts, and olive oil.

When the root vegetables have been roasting for 30 minutes, scatter over the Brussels sprouts and chestnuts. Gently move all the vegetables around then cook for a further 10 minutes.

Place the wrapped turkey and stuffing balls on top of the vegetables. Drizzle the remaining olive oil over everything and return to the oven for 25 minutes, or until the turkey is cooked through. Leave to rest for a few minutes before serving with a jug of hot gravy and a bowl of cranberry sauce.

REMEMBER WHEN



Mopping or Stoning the front step



The early days of Coronation Street.

'Coronation Street's Day Out'.

Are you old enough to remember Edna Sharples, Martha Longhurst and Elsie Tanner on the front row and can you name the other two women, one is stood with a bag and the other holding her dress up?



The days when children played out and got dirty.





A CHRISTMAS QUIZ



1. If you were born on Christmas Day what's your star sign?
2. What colour are mistletoe berries?
3. In which year was the first Christmas card sent 1743, 1843, 1943?
4. In which Ocean can Christmas Island be found?
5. Which plant beginning with P is associated with Christmas?
6. What are 'roasted on an open fire' and also feature in the famous Christmas song?
7. Which yellow food item would you find under the icing of a Christmas cake?
8. In which tin of chocolates would you find the 'Green Triangle'?
9. What beverage company has been using Santa Claus in its advertising since 1931?
10. There are more than 110 different varieties of which popular vegetable?
11. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas Tree?
12. What must-have item did Tom Smith invent for the Christmas table in the 1850's?
13. In which country did Christmas carolling originate?
14. How many ghosts show up in 'A Christmas Carol'?
15. In which film does Tom Hanks voice Santa?
16. What is the UK's No.1 selling Christmas song?
17. Which band sings the iconic Christmas song 'Mary's Boy Child'?
18. What Christmas-themed ballet premiered in Saint Petersburg, Russia in 1892?
19. What Bing Crosby song is the world's best-selling single ever?
20. According to the song what did my true love give to me on the ninth day of Christmas?



Answers to Christmas Quiz

1. Capricorn
2. White
3. 1843
4. Indian Ocean
5. Poinsettia
6. Chestnuts
7. Marzipan
8. Quality Street
9. Coca Cola
10. Brussels Sprouts
11. Germany
12. Christmas Crackers
13. Austria
14. 4
15. Polar Express
16. Do they know it's Christmas?
17. Boney M
18. The Nutcracker
19. White Christmas
20. Nine Ladies Dancing



A MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS SPORTING MOMENT DICK, KERR LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM



Photograph: Popperfoto/Getty Images

Dick, Kerr Ladies F.C. was one of the earliest known women's association football teams in England. The team remained in existence for over 48 years, from 1917 to 1965, playing 833 games, winning 759, drawing 46, and losing 28. Dick, Kerr's Ladies football team were founded during World War One and continued to draw crowds until 1965.

The women on the team had joined the company in 1914 to help produce ammunition for the war. Although women had initially been discouraged from playing football, it was believed that such organised sporting activity would be good for morale in wartime factories and would aid production, so competitive sport was encouraged.

During a period of low production at the factory in October 1917, women workers joined the apprentices in the factory yard for informal football matches during their tea and lunch breaks. After beating the men of the factory in an informal game, the women of Dick, Kerr formed a team, under the management of office worker, Alfred Frankland.

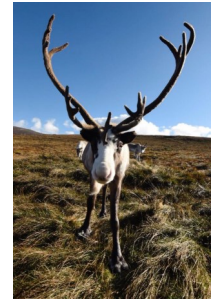
Dick, Kerr Ladies attract 67,000 to Goodison Park (Boxing Day 1920)

Dick, Kerr & Co were taking on a team from St Helens in a charity match for "disabled and unemployed soldiers and sailors" who had suffered in the Great War. Dick, Kerr Ladies, led by their star striker Lily Parr, ran out 4-0 winners, the match raising over £3,000 for charity. Initial reports said 45,000 had paid to watch the game, but that figure was later revised to nearly 53,000, with over 14,000 more reportedly locked out. It was a record attendance for a ladies match – and one which sent the misogynistic mandarins of the FA into a hot stew.

Dick, Kerr were a skillful outfit and had been drawing large crowds for quite some time. Initially this was tolerated because the menfolk were at war — but when the appetite for the women's game continued to match the men's after the Football League restarted in 1919, the blokes panicked, and this crowd proved to be the last straw. After nearly a year of frantic political manoeuvring, the FA finally banned women from the game, citing spurious medical reasons and unfounded financial chicanery.

The English FA Ban – 5th December 1921. The ban was in place for **approximately 50 years** and during that time male clubs, players and referees were frequently warned and sanctioned for helping with the women's game, even when the matches which were being played were to raise funds for charities.

ANIMAL CORNER - REINDEERS



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.

When did Reindeer become associated with Christmas?

The enchanting association between **reindeer** and **Christmas** is a delightful tale that weaves together history, culture, and wonder. Let's embark on an enchanting journey through the heartwarming story of how these majestic creatures captured our hearts and became the ultimate Christmas companions!

Origins of Reindeer: A Cultural Heritage

Reindeer, scientifically known as *Rangifer tarandus*, are not only fascinating creatures but also integral to the history and culture of Arctic and subarctic Indigenous communities.

- Indigenous peoples, like the **Sami** in northern Scandinavia and Finland, have nurtured a deep connection with reindeer for centuries. These resilient beings are more than just beasts of burden; they're a vital source of transportation, clothing, and sustenance in the unforgiving terrains.
- The intricate dance between reindeer and Indigenous communities exemplifies the harmony that can exist between humans and nature, enriching both sides.

Reindeer Join Santa's Festivities: A Whimsical Tale

The enchanting link between reindeer and Christmas finds its origins in the early 19th century.

- In 1823, a delightful poem by **Clement Clarke Moore**, titled "*A Visit from St. Nicholas*," weaves its way into our imaginations. In this timeless tale, Santa makes his grand entrance in a sleigh drawn by "*eight tiny reindeer*." With this stroke of literary brilliance, the association between these magnificent creatures and the holiday season was sealed.
- Then, in 1939, the beloved holiday song "*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*" took centre stage. Written by **Johnny Marks** and made famous by **Gene Autry**, this heartwarming tune introduced **Rudolph**, a reindeer with a shiny red nose.

A Symbol of Christmas Magic

The tapestry that has woven reindeer into the holiday spirit is rich with history, culture, and wonder. From the Arctic lands of Indigenous communities to the silver screen and holiday tables, reindeer have etched their hoofprints on the very essence of Christmas magic.

See poem on next pages...

A Visit From Saint Nicholas

Clement Clarke Moore



TWAS the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads;
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap—
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of midday to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be Saint Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer! and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleighful of toys, and Saint Nicholas too.
And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney Saint Nicholas came with a bound.

cont...

Cont...

He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes, how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face, and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump - a right jolly old elf;
And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
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,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to the team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle,
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"





THE LIFE STORY TEAM
AT
AGE UK OLDHAM
WISH ALL OUR READERS
A
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A
PEACEFUL
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