



The cozy, festive season



FESTIVE

season workshop

WELCOME TO THE COSY

+ audio





Let's rummage through old photographs







HOPFENMEIER









ABOUT HOLLY

- **Common knowledge:** familiar native evergreen/decoration/berries: food birds animals
- +200 cultivated varieties native holly: Plant collectors 19th century introduced other holly species from China /Japan, the Victorians, prized the versatile plant for tolerance to pollution in industrial areas (hybrids@ nurseries.)
- pagan roots: Superstition, magic and myth surround holly's deeply pagan roots. The Druids, Celts and Romans brought evergreens into their homes during winter, believing the plant's ability to keep its leaves was magical and assured the return of spring.
- In Christianity, holly was adopted as a symbol of Christ's crown of thorns, the crimson berries a symbol of his blood and the evergreen a metaphor for life after death.



- Hollies are male and female
- Most hollies are either male or female and need the opposite sex nearby to produce fruit.
holly wood in Dr Wilfrid Fox's arboretum at Winkworth in Surrey:
- When naming the festive sounding silver queen and golden king, with their creamy-white and yellow-tipped leaves, the plant breeders muddled the sexes. The queen is actually a male holly and the king is female.



- Holly's use in furniture

- As one of Britain's most common native trees, holly has been used by furniture makers for centuries. Its dense and finely-textured wood was popular in decorative marquetry and inlay work, and as the whitest wood it can also be easily stained.
- It was used as an inlay in Elizabethan oak furniture and later in the 17th century to form lighter bands of colour on walnut-veneered furniture. During the second half of the 18th century, holly appeared more extensively in fashionable neo-classical furniture, either in its natural white form or stained with colours.
- As well as its decorative uses, holly wood burns hot and long, making it a perfect fire fuel on cold winter nights.

Nostalgia & Reminiscing

Christmas tree	a wreath	candy cane	advent calendar	Biscuits
Looks/shape				
origin				
				+ video

Nostalgia & Reminiscing



by Country Living US

**THE MEANING BEHIND
YOUR FAVORITE
CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS**

CHRISTMAS CRACKER



TOM SMITH'S

1911/12

BY APPOINTMENT
TO
HIS MAJESTY
THE KING.

BY APPOINTMENT
TO
HER MAJESTY
THE QUEEN.

FOUNDED
1841

ILLUSTRATED
CATALOGUE OF
CHRISTMAS
NOVELTIES

TELEPHONE NO 1177 LONDON WALL
TELEGRAMS "CONFECTION" LONDON

TOM SMITH & CO, LTD, WILSON ST, FINSBURY SQUARE, E.C. LONDON.

A large illustration of Santa Claus with a long white beard and a crown of holly leaves and red berries. He is holding a large, wrapped Christmas cracker. The background is a torn piece of paper.

- Before the Victorian era, homes in Britain did not have the decorations that we have today. Especially when it comes to **Christmas trees**. The Christmas tree is thought to have started in Great Britain by **Prince Albert**, Queen Victoria's husband.

The Christmas tree is not the only thing which was started by the Victorians. Another thing which was started by the Victorians was, **Christmas cards**. The custom of sending Christmas cards was started in 1843, by **Sir Henry Cole**. Cole, along with his artist friend, John Horsley, designed and sold the first Christmas card in Britain.

The purpose was to help ordinary Brits **spread goodwill at Christmas**. However, at the time, only rich people could afford to buy and sell Christmas cards. It wasn't until 1860 and 1870 that buying and sending Christmas cards became more popular. Largely because it became cheaper to buy and post Christmas cards, and therefore, more people could buy them.

It is not only the Christmas card which was invented by the Victorians, the Victorians also invented the Christmas cracker.

The Christmas cracker was invented by a sweet shop owner named, **Tom Smith**, in 1847. Tom Smith Christmas crackers is still a shop today, selling Christmas crackers.

The idea behind Tom Smith's Christmas crackers was to **sell sweets in a unique**, and unusual way. In the later Victorian era, the sweets placed in the Christmas crackers were **replaced with small gifts and paper hats**.

Christmas crackers were not the only thing that the Victorians made a focal point of Christmas, they also did the same with Christmas decorations.

Video cracker





Video cracker



My true love said to me



Christmas was preceded by a 40 day Advent fast. This would be broken on Christmas Day, when the season's festivities would begin with a great feast. The celebrations continued in one form or another for a further twelve days, ending with a final feast on 'Twelfth Night' – the evening before 6th of January, also known as Epiphany, the Magi visited Jesus.. During this festive period food played an important role. By the medieval era it was common for a celebration bread to be baked, often containing fruit and spices, to be served at the Epiphany or Twelfth Night Feast.

Part of the fun of the Twelfth Night Feast was the appointment of a Lord of Misrule. As in Roman times, he organised the games and entertainments at the final feast. To select the Lord of Misrule, a bean was baked inside a cake. Whoever received the slice containing the bean was 'crowned' the Lord of Misrule, otherwise known as the King of the Bean. Sometimes a pea was also included, and its discoverer would be declared Queen of the Pea. This practice was particularly popular during the early Tudor period. Henry VII had an Abbot of Unreason – another name for the Lord of Misrule – at his festive gatherings.

As Brits embraced 'new' Christmas traditions during the reign of Queen Victoria, such as the Christmas Tree and sending Christmas cards, the Twelfth Night Cake was gradually replaced by the Christmas Cake, and its hidden charms sometimes migrated to the Christmas Pudding.



Twelfth Night

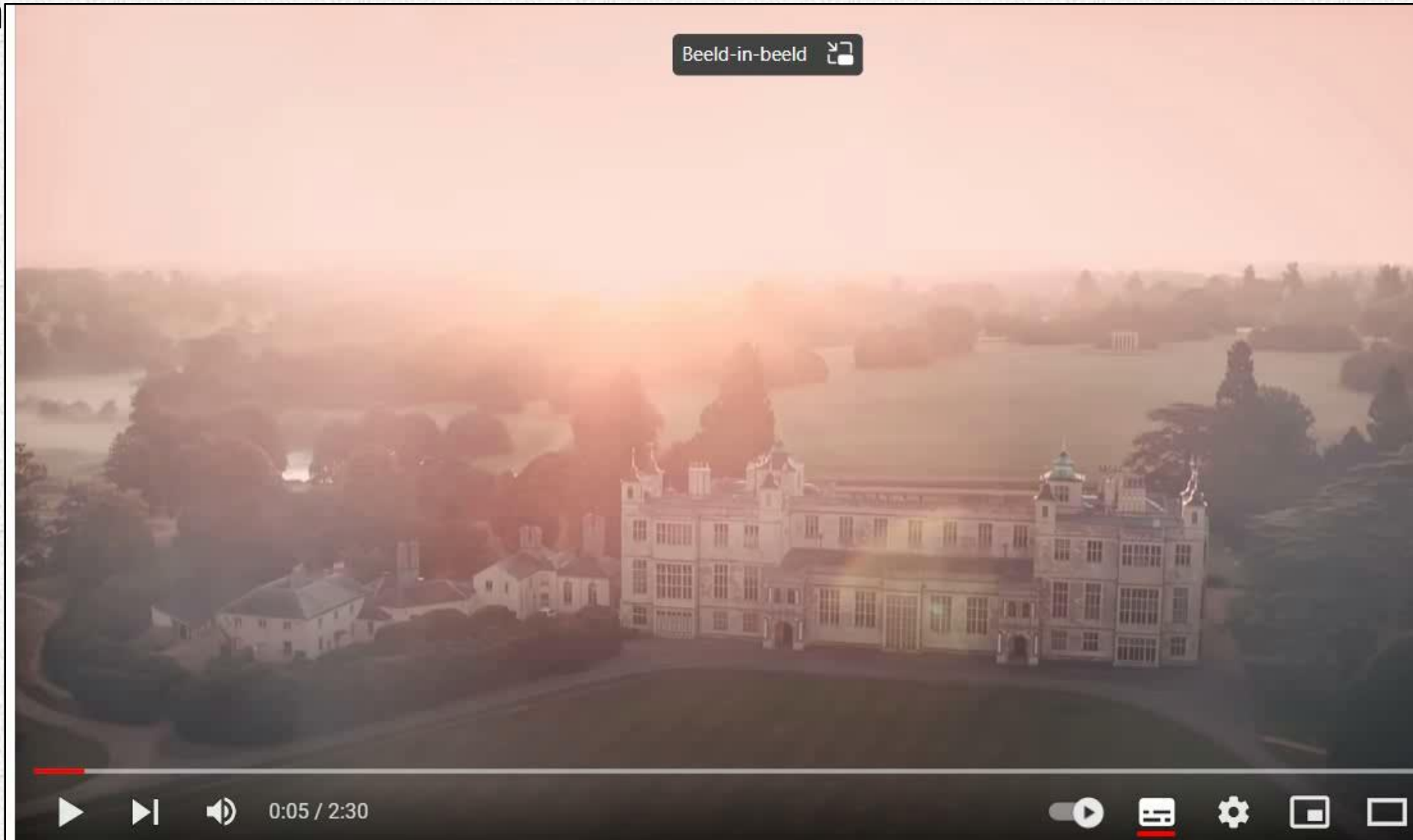


Best Christmas Wishes



A festive tippale  = *drink/aperitif* 

The Christmas punch



HOGMANAY

Hogmanay is Time For Fresh Start

- For all of us, New Year is synonymous with a **clean slate** or a fresh start, and often a whole list of ambitious New Year Resolutions to tackle.
- **'Out with the old and in with the new'** sums it up well



The Hogmanay tradition called '**Redding**', which includes cleaning house, paying bills and erasing debt fits right in. The idea is to greet the new year with a clean, tidy home + finances in order. To start out any other way is considered bad luck.

In times gone past when every home had a **coal fire**, it was necessary to totally clean out the fireplace and ashes and set a new fire for the coming year. Once the home was clean and tidy and the new fire set it was customary for someone to **carry a smoking juniper branch** through the home, the doors and windows were opened during, or sometimes immediately after, this ritual to make breathing easier for those inside! This Hogmanay custom was to clean the air inside the home. A chilly undertaking but I'm sure it was worth it.

Traditions after Christmas heralding a new year



- The most widespread national custom is the practice of first-footing, which starts immediately after midnight. This involves being the first person to cross the threshold of a friend or neighbour and often involves the giving of symbolic gifts such as salt , coal, shortbread, whisky, and black bun (a rich fruit cake → to bring different kinds of luck to the householder. Food and drink (as the gifts) are then given to the guests. This may go on throughout the early hours of the morning and well into the next day (although modern days see people visiting houses well into the middle of January). The first-foot is supposed to set the luck for the rest of the year. Traditionally, tall, dark-haired men are preferred as the first-foot.

Who is the preferred First-Footer on Homanay?

Traditionally first-footers are preferred to be dark-haired men... this is considered lucky and a good omen for the coming year.

Historians speculate that this preference for dark haired men stems from a time when Viking invaders were a real threat to Scotland's inhabitants and finding a blonde man on your doorstep was more likely to cause fear than joy.

SCOTLAND BANNED CHRISTMAS

- Up until the Scottish Reformation in the 16th century, Christmas was celebrated in Scotland ((many (classic Christmas traditions we know today originated in Celtic Scottish society. “Yule” is a Scots word (from Old Norse /means winter solstice festivities that took place from before Christmas Day all the way through until after New Year). Celtic Pagan traditions included burning of the Yule log, decorating an evergreen tree & kissing under the mistletoe!
- From 1640, Christmas was officially banned and any Scot who still wished to celebrate Christmas risked imprisonment. Bakers were encouraged to inform the government of any customers who placed orders for any Christmas foods such as Mince Pies. Although the ban was officially revoked in 1712. Christmas did not become an official public holiday in Scotland until 1958. So, this year will only be 61st official Christmas in Scotland since 1640!

SCOTLAND BANNED CHRISTMAS

- For many Scots, Christmas Day was just another day and work continued as normal. The banning of Christmas led to New Year's Eve, Hogmanay, having more of an emphasis placed on it. Scots couldn't celebrate Christmas but they sure could celebrate the end of the old year and so, this is when Scots exchanged presents, attended parties and feasted. This is why Scotland has so many Hogmanay traditions!

XMAS GUESTS



Here's my news this week - I made my own [#christmaswreath](#) ! (OH yeah and my husband's big birthday is incoming... 'spose that should be on my radar too 😂). What's the big news from your life this week please? Tell me and we'll do the [#HeadlinesFromYourHouse](#) at 8.20 @bbcoxford



XMAS GUESTS



XMAS GUESTS

Geine Pressendo Simply Crackers



**SIMPLY
CRACKERS**

HOME

BRANDED CRACKERS

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

JUMBO Cracker

CRACKER KITS - DIY

SALE

More



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

- Text me merry Christmas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmhfdQlOiy0>
- Michael bubblé
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRkxj_3APZs
- Christmas always finds me
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oE4E-jzYEVs>



