



Glad Tidings!!

Well I hope we are all putting up our Christmas decorations, for us and our Dolls! I will touch on some more seasonal items in this issue.

the winner and have a full review of the entries both in next month's newsletter and on the website.

details inside. Don't forget to volunteer if you think you can run a session on one of the club nights, there could be small funds available for

The main talking point this month is, of course, the WADDHAMS Fair at Good-years. How do you think it went - I have some of the feedback from the visitors plus details on the next Fair already!



any materials. Please speak to Kevin if you have any ideas.

Finally - don't forget to join in the Forum website - I have now made it possible to use without registering all your details. Go on, have a

The other main topic this month is the Box File Competition and I hope you have all done what you can. We shall be voting for

The committee are working on the Schedule for next year for the club nights and we already have one workshop booked for you all. Further

look!!

Michelle

Special points of interest:

- *Artisan Fair—Saturday 9th December, Town Hall, Sutton Coldfield. 11am—4pm*
- *Doreen Jefferies Fair—Sunday 14 January, Stafford County Showground, Stafford. 10.30—4pm*

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WADDHAMS Autumn Fair Sunday 19th November 2006

The eagerly awaited WADDHAMS fair finally came last month and it seems, from feedback received so far, to have been a success.

We had over 200 people through the door and there were even people waiting to come in when the doors were opened and the Express & Star even came to take some more photos. They rang me later in the day for a story to go with the pictures and that appeared in the Monday edition of the paper.

Some of you may have seen the original newspaper article that appeared on the Thursday before the fair. I was a bit worried that they had misunderstood what it was all about and seemed to report it as though it was an exhibition but that didn't deter the majority of our visitors to the fair. Angy and myself produced some quick questionnaires for the visitors to complete if they

could and these could prove very useful to learn for future fairs.

The vast majority of people who completed these forms, I would go so far as to say around 90% heard of the fair in the newspaper article. It just shows how powerful an article can be as opposed to just an advertisement in the What's On section. We must try to do this again for the next one.

A large proportion of the replies also left some contact details so we can notify them of any events again. This may prove useful as a mailout for the next fair, or if we have a guest visitor booked for a club night workshop.

Some said they found it difficult to find and yet others said they found it quite easy to get to. It seems that a lot of people were looking for "signs" or direction signs posted around and this is something we will look at for next time.

The main feed back we received from the traders seemed to be the lighting. The hall was designed for night time entertainment and the lighting was considered poor for daytime exhibits. After enquiring, we found there is nothing that can be done about this and if we are to use this venue again, we would have to advise traders to bring additional lighting with them. All in all, it seemed to go very well, we raised a good sum of money in the raffle and the tombola towards the club funds.

Kevin has already enquired about hire of the hall for fairs next year and it seems to be fairly well booked. We have therefore provisionally booked both 4th February and 11th November 2007 so put



Action Points to Learn

- Traders need to bring additional lighting with them
- We need to put signposts up around the venue for the day and a banner on the entrance to the Pavilions
- Try for another article in the local paper—Can we ask for volunteers to have their own houses photographed next time? In trying to find someone for the photos, it highlighted that not many of us know just what the other club members own in the way of houses/miniatures—be prepared for a questionnaire in the near future!!
- Use the contact details we have gained for invitations to the next fair and club news/events



'Tis the Season...

Christmas has been celebrated in some form for many years. It was Julius Caesar who first decided it should fall on December 25th. It is though that Jesus was actually born in March because the Pagan calendar is different to ours.

So where do all the traditions we honour today come from? I have included some of the main origins of the traditional aspects of Christmas below. You may be surprised!



Rudolph is the most famous reindeer. He is the leader of the other 8, whose names are **Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dancer, Dasher, Donder, Prancer, and Vixen.**

- The image of Father Christmas we know today stems from a poem written by Clement Clarke Moore in 1822.. He described a “right jolly old elf” with a portly figure and a supernatural ability to descend down chimneys with a mere nod of his head! He also described how Santa Claus flew in a miniature sleigh from house to house leaving presents for deserving children.
- Rudolph is actually over a hundred years younger than his eight flying counterparts. Rudolph was created in 1939 by Robert May. He wrote a poem advertisement to get shoppers into his store that described the story we know today in the song Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer.
- Christmas trees generally take around 6-8 years to mature
- John Calcott introduced the idea of the Christmas Card in the late 1830's when newly efficient post offices were able to cope with the sudden craze.
- People have considered mistletoe to have magical properties but in fact the name mistletoe is translated as “dung-on-a-twig”! In ancient times it was forbidden to fight in front of mistletoe.
- Originally the mince pie contained liver,

chopped meat and boiled eggs! These items were later replaced by fruit in the 17th century. Tradition says the mixture should only be stirred in a clockwise direction otherwise it will bring bad luck. Tradition also says you should make a wish when eating your first mince pie of the season and that they should be eaten in silence (!)

- Christmas puddings were made on the next Sunday after Advent, known as Stir-up Sunday.
- The parlour game of Snap Dragons was traditionally played on Christmas Eve where raisins were placed in a bowl of brandy which was then set alight. The aim was to pluck the raisins from the flames without getting burnt. This was popular in the 17th–18th Centuries.
- Boxing Day, or St Stephens Day, is on the 26th December. So called because money was collected in boxes in churches during the festive season and distributed to the poor and needy on this day. It is thought Boxing day may have started in the Middle Ages. It is also celebrated in the 19th century by lords and ladies would give presents to their servants for all their hard work over the festive season.. If 26 December falls on a Saturday or Sunday, Boxing day will be on the Monday.

