

Scunthorpe & Grimsby Advanced Motorists




Group No 7080 Charity No. 10631 December 2022

Full members - 66; Associate members - 8; Total - 74

CONTENTS



CHRISTMAS WAVES A MAGIC WAND OVER THIS WORLD
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SAGAM Contacts	2
From the Editor	3
Chairman's Chatter	
Observer Team News	
Support Family & Friends	4
Pictures from our Social Night	
Info from  Get Ahead for Christmas	
The Original Silent Night – John Wigmore	5
Welcome	
Becoming a Blood Biker	6
Scrummy Yummy	9
Did You Know? – Novice Drivers & Lorries	
IAM RoadSmart Shop	11
A Little bit of What you fancy – Chocolate & Chestnut Parfait	
Christmas Laughter	
Caught My Eye – Legends of Santa & Christmas	12
Info from  Fortnum & Mason Hamper	14
Pembrooke Corgi	
Info from IAM  Tip of the Month	17
We Got Mail!	18
Dates in December 2022	
Christmas Word Search	20
What am I ?	
Finally	

SAGAM CONTACTS & OTHER DETAILS

The Area Service Delivery Manager for the East Midlands and North Yorkshire region is Peter Serhatlic
peter.serhatlic@iam.ork.uk or via 07703 718907

CHAIRMAN

Terry Heath

Tel: 01652 655601

Email – terryheath@sky.com or
chairman@scunthorpegrimsbyadvancedmotorists.org

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Paul Johnson

Tel: 01724 721156

TREASURER

Malcolm Gothard

01724 764237

SECRETARY

Jan Burditt

Tel: 07834 170 678

GDPR

Mick Harris

Tel: 01469 531625

MDU/EVENTS/GROUP CONTACT

Paul Johnson

Tel: 01724 721156

MAGAZINE EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Jan Burditt

Tel: 07834 170 678 email:

publicity@scunthorpegrimsbyadvancedmotorists.org

Committee Meeting Date for 2022 is:

14th December.

PLEASE NOTE: Meetings are to be held via Zoom until further notice.

Observer Team Meeting – 7th February 2023 via Zoom

Our MDU is out on the following dates in 2023:

25th February 22nd April 17th June 12th August 7th October

We will warmly welcome nominations for anyone who would like to join our committee

OBSERVER TRAINER/CHIEF OBSERVER

Paul Cassell

07763 195 912

cassell.10@btinternet.com

LOCAL OBSERVER ASSESSOR SCUNTHORPE/ ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR

John Wigmore

07751 608 127

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of IAM RoadSmart, nor the Scunthorpe and Grimsby group.

SOCIAL MEETINGS

The following are dates for our 2023 Social Meetings: Redbourne Club, Scunthorpe

February 22nd - Speaker – Tim Stanley

April 26th June 28th

August 28th October 25th.

NEXT ISSUE

January 2023

If you have any articles, photographs or anything you feel may be of interest for the **January** edition, please feel free to email me at

publicity@scunthorpegrimsbyadvancedmotorists.org

no later than

15th December please.

Scunthorpe & Grimsby Advanced Motorists

Find us here:



[WEBSITE](#)



Scunthorpe and Grimsby
Advanced Motorists



@SAGAM



It's December!



And its Chrisstttmmmaaaasssss.....

Are you set and ready to go? For various reasons at this point in time, I haven't even started my Christmas shopping let alone almost finished, so I guess Amazon will be my saviour this year! I've dotted a couple of small pictures somewhere inside for you to find and have a guess as to one reason why I'm so behind.....

Are you enjoying the new series about the different breeds of dogs? Please let me know how you feel about this and indeed, the whole of the newsletter and maybe give me some idea of what you would particularly like to see. That way, I can be sure that my efforts are not in vain!

Our speaker at the next SAGAM Social Night at the Redbourn Club in Scunthorpe on the 22nd February will be Tim Stanley, our area examiner, so I'm sure it will be a brilliant night! We look forward to seeing you!



Chairman's Chatter

Hi again folks, well we as a group, are now steadying down a bit for the festive season. Having said that the team behind the group seldom stop. Our brilliant Sec Jan Burditt, has gone and got covid and is feeling rough, but she's still putting this Xmas magazine together. Thanks so much Jan. What a trooper.

Let's take a quick look at what's happened since the last mag! There's still a few on guidance doing their IAM training, which is good.

One of our events recently was at the North Lindsey college where our group president and myself went to witness a programme called, "The Braking Point Event" presented by a professional young team of four, and aimed at a young audience. We were there to add to the impetus of road safety message, but alas very few of them were drivers, in fact just a small handful had passed the D.O.T. test. At least we were there when the seed was planted. We gave out a few leaflets, but to be honest I don't think anything will come to fruition any time soon.

We have a number of outings planned in the new year for the MDU, and some really good social meetings planned.

For now though, I'll keep this short and finish by saying I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a really happy and safe New Year.

Observer Team News December 2022

Hello again to all SAGAM group members and welcome to our update for December 2022. The Team had our Quarterly meeting on 1st November. Here is a brief resume:

Firstly, the National Observers amongst us have now successfully completed our reassessments for which we are all proud and await our next ones in three years' time. John, our observer coordinator gave his Observer/Associate update showing we have nine active Observers with six associates. We have one new associate due to start soon.

We had an interesting discussion about working with associates whose cars have automatic transmission and allowing time to use System of car control. With the various types of auto gearboxes, there's certainly food for thought. I am not giving too much away because hopefully we shall learn more at a future social meeting. Also, we are in the very early stages of lifting our profile in the Grimsby area so watch this space and we shall let you know as things develop. A positive response from the team was welcomed which means we can progress from here.

As usual, if you know of any-one interested enough to take our advanced driving course, we have intro packs available or get them to contact us on one of the numbers in the magazine.

Finally, The Observer Team wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and we'll see you in 2023.

On behalf of the team,
Paul Cassell. Chief Observer.



SUPPORT YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO BECOME AN ADVANCED DRIVER

To receive your application form please send your name and contact details along with your payment to:
Mr M Gothard
7, West Green
Messingham
North Lincs
DN17 3QT

Cheques should be made payable to: IAM RoadSmart

For more information contact: Terry Heath on:
01652 655601 or visit our website

www.scunthorpegrimsbyadvancedmotorists.org

Tell your friends and family now, for them to take advantage of our current offer at the subsidised price of £95.00

Pictures from our Social Night when the Barry Heath Quiz was held – courtesy of Terry Heath.



Lots of people enjoyed the night



Terry presenting John Dicker with his 2nd Fellows Test Pass. John got another F1rst.

Info from 

Get ahead for Christmas

Are you looking for the perfect gift to treat a loved one this Christmas?
We've got a variety of gift vouchers to suit any recipient, from our Advanced Driver or Rider courses to Young Driver Assessment and Mature Driver Review. Whichever course you gift, it will make the perfect gift for someone who wants to become a more skilful and experienced driver or rider, regardless of age and ability.



Gift vouchers must be purchased by 15th December to be delivered in time for Christmas, so don't delay.

[Find out more about gifting a course](#)

The Original "Silent Night"

We are all familiar with the term "Christmas Carol", but few will know that the word "carol" is derived from the early French language. Literally meaning "circular dance" in entered the English vocabulary as a word for "a song of celebration".

As well as Christmas, many historic carols celebrated such events as Easter and New Year. However, it was as recently as 1818 that the 26 year old Roman Catholic priest Joseph Mohr wrote the first Christmas related Christian Hymn "Silent Night".

Legend has it that it was the Sunday before Christmas in the year 1818, and the young priest has just arrived to open up the church in Oberndorf, Austria ready for the midnight worship. A few minutes later the organist Franz Xaver Gruber, arrived and discovered that rats had entered the building and destroyed a vital part of the organ. The congregation would soon be arriving for the service, but the obvious conclusion was that, without the organ, it would be a silent night.



The young Father Mohr replied with the comment that they would be expecting a "Holy Night". This prompted him to recall the poem he had written the previous year as a young Priest during his training at his hometown of Mariepfarr. He presented this germ of an idea to the organist, a schoolteacher from nearby Arnsdorf, who within a few minutes had penned the melody of the now famous carol "Silent Night".

During the subsequent Midnight Mass, the congregation sang the entire new Christmas Hymn to guitar accompaniment, and thus the notion of the Christian related Christmas Carol was born.

Pictured, Silent Night Chapel in Oberndorf

Very Many thanks to John Wigmore for supplying the above article

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace!

Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight!

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ the Saviour is born!

Christ the Saviour is born!



Welcome

**TO OUR NEW MEMBER
KATH WYNNE**





I'm sure I'm right in thinking that we have several bikers amongst us as well as drivers. The following article will no doubt be of interest to them but having read through it, I also found it extremely interesting and very informative of not only how to become a Blood Biker but what they actually do and how rewarding it can be too. We may already have a Blood Biker or Bikers amongst us- if we have, please let me know and tell me how you feel about the work you do.

IAM RoadSmart, are proud to support the **NABB** with their mission and actively support the volunteers who work with Blood Bikes by making sure that their riding is as good as possible. Many local group members, also work with Blood Bikes after completing their Advanced Riding course. In fact, all of their groups require you to have completed an advanced course to ride for them.

Becoming a Blood Biker

Blood Bikers transport a variety of clinical products across the UK and Northern Ireland. This could be blood, platelets, samples, surgical instruments, or donor milk amongst others. Many groups operate 24/7, 365 days a year and all of them provide a vital service to our NHS. Blood Bikes is split into different local groups across the country, allowing them to deliver a 'coast to coast' service. Each group is a separately registered charity in their own right.

One of the main requirements is that you complete an Advanced Riding course to ensure that when delivering these clinical products, your riding is of the highest standard.

IAM RoadSmart offer an Advanced Riding course which will equip you with the necessary skills to begin your journey supporting the NHS to save lives through Blood Bikes.



Blood Bike rider requirements...



Becoming a Blood Biker has certain requirements. These are some of the most common across the groups:

- A minimum age limit applies, usually 21 or 25 depending on the group
- Hold a full, unrestricted motorcycle license
- Complete an Advanced Riding course

If you are currently undertaking your advanced qualification, individual local Blood Biker groups might let you join as a non-rider.

All of the NABB member groups do require you to complete an Advanced Rider course for you to be able to start riding for them.



Our members transport blood, platelets, samples, surgical instruments, Human donor milk and many other clinical products across the UK & Ireland



Our member groups are all staffed by unpaid volunteers, who provide this service to the NHS, free of charge



Our members also work with other charitable organisations such as [The Human Milk Foundation](#) for transporting donor milk used to treat babies that may be in intensive care. or Air Ambulance charities for both routine and urgent replenishment of their 'Blood on Board.



Our Mission

To support our member groups in providing a professional rapid response medical transport service to the NHS, free of charge.

Who are the NABB? – *One day, we may well have the ride of your life*

The Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB) was created back in 2008 to help identify 'best practice' within the 5 operational Blood Bike groups at the time. They had a vision to roll out the concept across the UK by inspiring and supporting the formation of new Blood Bike groups.

Fast forward 14 years and the NABB now represents the collective interests of 34 independently registered Blood Bike Charities across the UK. Their 4,500 unpaid volunteers respond to more than 145,000 requests for transport each year.

The UK now has a 'coast to coast' Blood Bike service and in 2015 was recognised by the government as an integral part of the NHS frontline services.

NABB currently consists of 43 members, made up of 36 member group representatives and a committee of 7 people: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Marketing, Treasurer, Liaison Officer and Group Support Officer. All of the NABB committee are active members of their local blood bike group and most also have a committee role within that local team.

Our mandate is to actively work towards parity with other front line emergency services in terms of legislative support and recognition by various government departments and agencies on national topics. We are also active in promoting the professional activities of our members to the Public and our wider NHS 'clients'.

The service provided by our members adheres to professional standards as defined by the MHRA, NICE, and all road traffic and transport legislation, such as UN3373.

Visit our [YouTube channel](#) to find out more and meet our members.

NABB history

NABB was created in 2008 as a result of a meeting between 4 of the 5 operational blood bikes groups at the time to share 'best practice'. There was a realisation that a blood bike service, operating to professional standards, would be a great benefit to the NHS if it were to be rolled out across the UK, rather than limited to mainly the south of England, as was the case at the time. NABB then embarked on a 5 year plan to rollout the service across the UK, eventually incorporating the Republic of Ireland too. Between 2008 and 2019, the number of active blood bikes groups rose from 5 to over 40, with in excess of 100,000 responses collectively delivered, free of charge, to the NHS & HSE in 2019, by unpaid volunteers.



Blood Bike history

With its roots going back over half a century, the concept of a rapid response motorcycle based charity, run by unpaid volunteers has an impressive track record. More than one of the current NABB member groups can proudly demonstrate in excess of three decades of continual service to the NHS and the wider community. Our riders, drivers, despatchers and fundraisers come from a variety of backgrounds, including Airline Pilots, Paramedics, Plumbers, Builders, Teachers, Vicars, Police officers, Professors and many more. They are all unpaid volunteers.

The earliest documented evidence available, identifies Margaret Ryerson and her husband as the founders of the concept in the early 60's in London, which was built upon later by Des Gibbons in the Stevenage area. In 2018, Yeovil Freewheelers celebrated 40 years of continual operation, under the watchful eye of its founder, Cecil Turner.

The last 12 years has seen the greatest increase in the number of blood bike groups, meaning that the UK mainland now has a 'coast to coast' blood bike service, provided free of charge to the NHS. It is now fair to

say that the blood bike industry has become an integral part of the NHS front line services, delivering a robust service to professional standards. The fact that it is free of charge is just the icing on the cake.

Over the last decade or so, many 'firsts' have occurred, and several significant milestones have been reached on the road to achieving our goal of being recognised as a professional front line service.

Our members have established a nationwide donor milk collection and delivery service, now moving tens of thousands of litres of Human donor milk each year across the UK & Ireland. This product is considered to be a critical component in the treatment and recovery of sick, premature babies being cared for in hospital Neo Natal Intensive Care Units ([NICUs](#)). Working in partnership with other specialist charities in that sector, such as [UKAMB](#) and the [Human Milk Foundation](#) our members have become an integral part of the NHS distribution infrastructure.

In 2008 Freewheelers EVS, operating in the Avon region, were the first to be awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), which is the equivalent of an MBE for a charity. To date, a total of 15 blood bike charities have received this prestigious award, underpinning and recognising the professionalism and contribution to the community that these groups deliver.

Two other notable NABB milestones were reached in 2015 and 2020 respectively. First, as a result of sustained campaigning at a senior level within government, NABB succeeded in gaining a change in legislation to allow member groups to recover VAT on all costs associated with providing the service to the NHS. The campaign lasted 4 years from inception to finally achieving the objective. This brought us in line with other sectors of health care such as the NHS and Air Ambulance charities. In the first 5 years of the scheme, the NABB member groups have benefitted collectively by around £1,500,000 in recovered VAT.

Secondly, NABB succeeded in gaining another change in legislation, with the government agreeing that the NABB member's dedicated charity vehicles (over 350 as of 2020) should be considered in law as 'Emergency vehicles' and as such, would be eligible for the zero-rated VED (road tax) already available for Fire, Police and Ambulance service vehicles. This change will collectively benefit the blood bike charities to the tune of over £40,000 per annum. The campaign took 6 years to achieve its objective and had to navigate 2 general elections, 3 changes of head of Tax Policy, 3 changes of Prime Minister & government and a Brexit referendum.

Amongst some of the 'firsts' are the launch in 2015 of a national service to provide FMT (Faecal Microbiome Transplant) material, distributed from a specialist Midlands hospital to multiple locations across the country and, on a different topic, in partnership with another charity, the Civil Air Patrol, the first use of private light aircraft in a long distance relay. The latter event being in response to the increase in demand and a diversifying of services to respond to some of the time sensitive challenges arising from the 2020 Corona virus pandemic

Corona virus pandemic

The Corona Virus pandemic has dealt a double edged blow to the blood bike sector. First of all, the volume of requests for transport significantly increased, with many groups opening up their service window from the more traditional night time and weekend service, to full 24x7. At the same time, the primary fundraising avenues dried up overnight, as lock down denied the volunteers the opportunity to fund raise at football matches, outside supermarkets and in giving talks to groups of people, such as the WI and Rotary clubs.

NABB was able to assist in a small way in alleviating some of the increased expense by opening up dialogue with BP, who had offered free fuel to the traditional Fire, Police and Ambulance service vehicles during the pandemic. NABB succeeded in gaining agreement from BP that the blood bike sector would be included in their free fuel scheme. As a result, tens of thousands of litres of fuel was provided to all the UK blood bike charities, free of charge, from BP, over a 10 week period. In 2020, the Government also introduced a zero rate road tax for blood bike vehicles.

The feedback from our client hospitals in response to the blood bike community stepping up to the challenges presented by Covid 19 has been humbling, with one hospital going as far as producing a [thank you video](#).



NABB was delighted to be acknowledged as a winner in the prestigious 'Third Sector Charity Awards' for 2021 in the 'Small charity, big achiever' category. This accolade would not have been possible without the incredible teamwork and commitment from all the NABB members.

So, the next time you see a blood bike on the road, remember that the rider is an unpaid volunteer, working to professional standards and providing the service to the NHS, free of charge.
#it's what we do...

If you are a biker or know someone who is and want to volunteer, you can contact our nearest group which I believe is:
Lincolnshire Emergency Blood Bikes Service
Website: <https://www.lebbs.org/>
Volunteer Roles available.



SCRUMMY
yummy
SANDWICH SHOP
278, Pelham Road, Immingham, North East Lincolnshire



We are a small family run business, serving the whole of Immingham and surrounding areas including the Docks, Offices and Households. All our food is home cooked and freshly prepared daily, making for a very busy environment!

Our delicious, Scrummy Yummy Steak Pie is well known throughout the area and beyond and our Sunday dinners are so yummy and so in demand! Our staff and products were featured on Estuary TV and latterly noted by Compass FM in 2018 as one of the best.

Why not come and try us for yourself?
Call 01469 577172 or have a look at our website at
www.scrummyyummy.net



Mmmmmmm....Have you been Scrummy'd yet?



Did You Know? – Government Plans for Novice Drivers to Drive Lorries - 28/11/2022

Government plans that could see novice drivers being allowed to automatically drive lorries have been condemned by the UK's leading independent road safety charity, IAM RoadSmart.

A recent government consultation suggested that drivers who possess a category B car licence *see explanation below, should be instantly entitled to a category C1 licence, **see explanation below, which allows motorists to drive vehicles weighing up to 7.5 tonnes.

This would mean that a driver as young as 18 years-old, who has just passed their practical driving test, could be allowed to drive large trucks without any further training. The controversial new plans come as policymakers try to lighten the load for examiners and get more lorry drivers out on the roads amid ongoing supply chain issues.

Indeed, according to the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) Labour Force Survey, the UK's large goods vehicle (LGV) driver shortage remains chronic, with the number of LGV drivers in employment estimated to have fallen by 30,300 in the first quarter of 2022. (Ref; UK Haulier) This represents an 11 per cent decrease from the 268,000 LGV drivers who were employed in June 2021.

The Office of National Statistics says;

“The Annual Population Survey shows there has been a net fall of 42,000 UK nationals employed as HGV drivers since the year ending June 2017, with 237,000 employed in the year ending June 2021. There were 15% fewer UK nationals working as HGV drivers in the year ending June 2021 than there were four years earlier”

But IAM RoadSmart has warned strongly against the proposal, asserting that lorries pose a larger risk to other road users if proper training is not provided.

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) has revealed that LGVs posed nine times as much risk of death to other road users, compared to cars. They say;

“The risks to other road users from each mode, by distance travelled = Vans have the highest rate of other road user deaths per mile travelled. HGVs are the second most dangerous vehicle type for other road users, per mile travelled” Source: Road deaths in Great Britain in 2019 (DfT, 2020)

Clearly Neil Greig, Director of Policy and Research at IAM RoadSmart agrees, commenting:

“Research has revealed that larger vehicles pose a higher risk to other road users, so it is critical that those who drive them possess the necessary skills and training to drive them safely. And yet, this proposal would allow a potentially high risk 18-year-old to legally drive a lorry, without the necessary training, guidance or experience required to do so safely.

In our view, these plans present a totally unacceptable risk to the safety of all road users and could lead to chaos up and down our road network. To combat the truck driver shortage, we would support steps to expand driver testing capacity, making the industry more attractive to a more diverse workforce and improving the working conditions and infrastructure for drivers. This way, we can ensure that the nation's truckers continue to deliver vital goods, without compromising the safety of other road users.”

***Category B - if you passed your test before 1 January 1997**

You're usually allowed to drive a vehicle and trailer combination up to 8,250kg [maximum authorised mass](#) (MAM). [View your driving licence information](#) to check.

You're also allowed to drive a minibus with a trailer over 750kg MAM.

***Category B - if you passed your test on or after 1 January 1997**

You can drive vehicles up to 3,500kg [MAM](#) with up to 8 passenger seats (with a trailer up to 750kg).

You can also tow heavier trailers if the total MAM of the vehicle and trailer is not more than 3,500kg.

You can drive motor tricycles with a power output higher than 15kW if you are over 21 years old.

Physically disabled drivers with provisional category B entitlement will also have provisional entitlement to ride category A1 or A motor tricycles.

Non-disabled drivers can no longer ride motor tricycles with a provisional category B licence.

****Category C1** You can drive vehicles between 3,500 and 7,500kg [MAM](#) (with a trailer up to 750kg).

Your thoughts on this please.....





IAM RoadSmart Shop



[Shop now](#)



A little bit of what you fancy... Chocolate and Chestnut Parfait

This make-ahead festive dessert is deliciously different and incredibly simple to make, with amaretti biscuits, fresh oranges and double cream

Ingredients

- 200g milk chocolate, melted and cooled
- 2 x 250g cans sweetened chestnut purée
- 100g soft amaretti biscuits, roughly crumbled
- 2 oranges, peeled, segmented and roughly chopped, plus zest 1 orange
- 450ml double cream, softly whipped
- 50g dark chocolate, coarsely grated, to decorate

Method

STEP 1

Rinse a 22 x 10 x 7cm deep loaf tin (about 1.5 litres in volume) with cold water, but don't dry it. Line the tin with cling film, smoothing out as many of the wrinkles as you can.

STEP 2

Stir the chocolate, chestnut purée and amaretti biscuits together, then stir through the orange and zest. Gently fold in the cream until combined, then spoon the mixture into the tin. Smooth the top and cover with cling film. Freeze for 3-4 hrs until just firm.

STEP 3

Take the parfait out of the freezer 20 mins before serving. To serve, dip the tin briefly in hot water, then turn out onto a serving plate and remove the cling film. Scatter over the grated chocolate and slice.

Taken from BBC Good Food Site



Christmas Laughter is the best medicine.....

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? A: The Christmas alphabet has Noel. 🅁

What do you call an elf who sings? A: A wrapper!

Elves use what kind of money? A: Jingle bills!





Caught My Eye – The Legends of Santa & Christmas

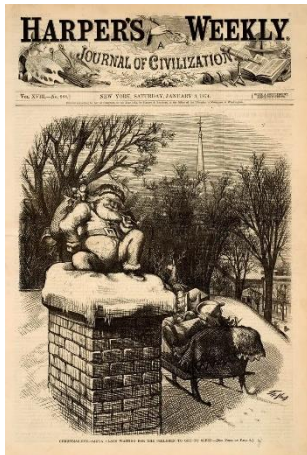
Santa Claus—otherwise known as Saint Nicholas or Kris Kringle—has a long history steeped in Christmas traditions. Today, he is thought of mainly as the jolly man in red who brings toys to good girls and boys on Christmas Eve, but his story stretches all the way back to the 3rd century, when Saint Nicholas walked the earth and became the patron saint of children.

The Real Santa Claus

The legend of Santa Claus can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas. It is believed that Nicholas was born sometime around 280 A.D. in Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey. Much admired for his piety and kindness, St. Nicholas became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and travelled the countryside helping the poor and sick. One of the best-known St. Nicholas stories is the time he saved three poor sisters from being sold into slavery or prostitution by their father by providing them with a dowry so that they could be married. His feast day is celebrated on the anniversary of his death, December 6. This was traditionally considered a lucky day to make large purchases or to get married. By the Renaissance, St. Nicholas was the most popular saint in Europe. Even after the Protestant Reformation, when the veneration of saints began to be discouraged, St. Nicholas maintained a positive reputation, especially in Holland.

Within a century of his death, the much-admired Nicholas had become the centre of a series of folk legends. He was credited with stopping a violent storm to save doomed sailors and restoring to life a trio of boys who had been dismembered by an unscrupulous butcher. Today, Nicholas is considered the patron saint of sailors, children, wolves and pawnbrokers, among others—as well as the inspiration for the figure of Santa Claus.

By the Middle Ages, Nicholas' fame had spread to much of Europe, thanks in large part to the dissemination of parts of his skeleton to churches in Italy, where they were venerated as relics. St. Nicholas' popularity eventually spread to northern Europe, where stories of the monk mingled with Teutonic folktales of elves and sky-chariots. In the Netherlands, St. Nicholas took on the Dutch-friendly spelling



Sinterklaas. He was depicted as a tall, white-bearded man in red clerical robes who arrived every December 6 on a boat to leave gifts or coal-lumps at children's homes. Stories of Sinterklaas were likely brought to the New World by Dutch settlers in the Hudson River valley, USA. In his satirical 1809 "History of New-York," Washington Irving portrayed St. Nicholas as a portly Dutchman who flew the skies in a wagon, dropping gifts down chimneys. In 1823 another New Yorker, Clement Clarke Moore, penned the poem "A Visit from Saint Nicholas," which traded the wagon for a sleigh drawn by "eight tiny reindeer." Beginning during the Civil War, cartoonist Thomas Nast published the first of a series of popular depictions of a rotund and jolly St. Nicholas. (see illustration left) In 1879 Nast was the first to suggest that St. Nicholas lived not in Turkey, Spain or Holland but at the North Pole. Nast continued to contribute to Harper's Weekly and other NYC-

based publications until the 1880s. Despite his political activism, Thomas Nast is better known for something else – changing Christmas forever by creating the modern-day image of Santa Claus. Nast's images provide the first known references of Santa Claus having a toy workshop and living at the North Pole. Over the years, he portrayed Santa making toys, separating the naughty children from the nice, stealthily delivering presents, and more. Later images even showed him interacting with children. Nast's work gave Santa Claus a life and personality, rather than just using him as a symbol. His other Christmas illustrations showed children writing Santa letters, tracking his route and even calling him on the telephone. Nast's Santa Claus lives on into the present day. More recent images, from Norman Rockwell's Saturday Evening Post and Haddon Sundblom's illustrations for Coca-Cola to ubiquitous shopping centre Santas and Christmas ornaments, all trace their appearances in part back to Nast's vision. Filled to the brim with inviting warmth and vivid detail, it's really no wonder that Thomas Nast's Christmas illustrations have been so influential and enduring. Even more than a century after Nast's death, they beautifully evoke the magic and joy of Christmas to many people.



Christmas Decorations

Many of us decorate for the holidays without really thinking about what each Christmas symbol means. When we were growing up, mums used to participate in an annual wreath competition with their garden club; each member would construct a beautiful holiday door decoration on an agreed-upon theme and win ribbons based on creativity, adherence to the motif, and overall excellence. The children loved their mums' creations, but never gave much thought to why Christmas wreaths existed in the first place. The same goes for the ribbons that are meticulously curled around gifts each year, the pretty silver tinsel we hang on our tree, or even the tree itself. While giving presents is a normal part of Christmas celebrations around the world, very few countries actually give and receive gifts on the 25th December. In many other European countries, it is custom to give gifts on the 24th and in Spanish speaking countries it is often custom to give presents after Christmas. The United Kingdom is one of the few countries where gifts are opened on Christmas Day itself.

Especially where the holidays are concerned, it's so easy to fall into a habit and just pull the same decorations out year after year without stopping to consider why we celebrate the way we do. Christmas celebrations are actually rife with tradition and symbolism. Let's dig deeper, to find out the background behind the Christmas symbols we all know and love, to inject a little extra meaning into the holiday.

Christmas Wreaths



In Northern Europe, the pagans believed the sun was a wheel that rolled away from the Earth during the winter and decorated their homes with wheels festooned with greenery and lights to coax the sun back toward them during winter solstice. As they began to convert to Christianity, the wreaths took on new symbolism. The evergreens and unbroken circle reminded them of God's eternal love and the salvation that Jesus brought to the world.

Candy Canes

Candy canes allegedly first came about to keep kids quiet, so if you still use them that way, you've got history on your side. In 1670, a choirmaster at the Cathedral of Cologne couldn't keep the choir members from talking during rehearsal for an upcoming live Nativity Scene presentation, so he wanted to hand out peppermint sticks (a popular treat at the time) to keep them busy. He asked a local candy-maker to bend them into the shape of a shepherd's hook, to remind the children that Jesus is the "good shepherd" who keeps his flock safe. The crook-shaped candies spread across Europe and are still in use today.



Christmas Trees



While many different cultures have used evergreens to decorate during the long, cold winter, 16th-century Germany likely popularized the light-draped Christmas tree as we know it today. As the story goes, Martin Luther went walking in the woods one night and was struck by the beauty of the stars filtering through the evergreens. He cut one down, brought it home, and decorated it with candles to recreate the scene for his family. The idea spread, and now Christmas just wouldn't be the same without a tree.

Star Tree Toppers

Many people top their Christmas trees with a shining star, and others incorporate the design into their decorations in other ways. The star may be one of the most directly biblical Christmas symbols that has made its way into even secular celebrations. It represents the star that appeared in the sky after Jesus was born, which then led the Three Wise Men to visit him in Bethlehem. It also reminds Christians to follow Jesus like their own guiding light.



Christmas Crackers



Crackers were first created in the mid-19th century by a sweet maker called Tom Smith who tried selling sweets around Christmas time with a small motto or riddle included in the packaging. Later, he decided to add the 'crackle' element after seeing logs crackle on a fire.

Above article research by Jan Burditt and information taken from various internet source





WIN! 1 of 10 Fortnum & Mason Hampers with Cornmarket Insurance -

We've teamed up with Cornmarket to give you the chance to **WIN one of 10 Fortnum and Mason Hampers**. Entering couldn't be easier! All you need to do is complete the form on the link below by the **9th of December 2022** to be in with a chance of winning.

Cornmarket will contact you when your insurance is due, to discuss the best possible price for your renewal.

[ENTER NOW](#)



New Series — The Pembroke Corgi”

“We all know our late Queen Elizabeth loved her corgis and indeed had at least one for over 30 years”



The Pembroke Welsh Corgi is a dog breed that has quite a rich history. Originally, the Pembroke was a herding dog. Meaning, the Corgi was working as a cattle herder. The Pembroke Welsh Corgi is a northern-Spitz ancestor. The most similar dog breeds to the Corgi are the Dachshund and the Pomeranian.

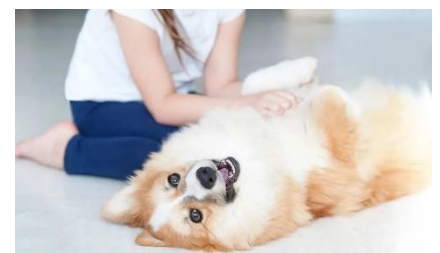
This breed has existed since the 11th century and was brought to Wales with Flemish Weavers. The best weavers lived in Flanders, which is located in Northern Belgium. Kings and Queens from Europe used to host talent rides to find the best Flemish weavers and ask them to move to their country. So, in the year 1107 AD, Henry I made a master weaver community and relocated them to southwestern Wales. As they accepted, they brought with them everything they might need to live the agrarian life in the country of Wales. They brought sheep and the dogs they bred to herd the livestock. The dogs they brought with them had short legs, they were surprisingly agile, and they are now known as the Pembroke Welsh Corgi.

The Corgi has a rather small build – when fully grown, the male reaches a height of 12 inches. The female is a little shorter, at 11 inches. Their weight ranges somewhere between 20 and 30 pounds and they shouldn't exceed that weight. For competitions, this little pooch should be medium size, and correct posture, so it weighs around 27 pounds for males and 25 for females. The oversized or toy-sized Corgis don't do very well in competitions.

The unusual proportions make this beautiful fur baby eye-catching. The fox-like head with the intelligent expression makes him attractive, especially with the round cheeks. The ears are erect and pointy, and they react when the dog hears a sound. Usually, they have dark, brown eyes, but rarely the dog could have light, blue, or black eyes.

Pembroke corgis may have small, short legs but it's a surprisingly agile and active dog breed. After all, they were cattle herders! Generally, these little dogs are full of energy and very resilient. They also have a long life expectancy – up to 15 years!

A very good characteristic of the Corgi is the waterproof fur. They have a double fur coat, a long outer coat, and a shorter, inner coat. The long outer coat is more coarse and is a great protection from cold weather.



The inner coat is waterproof and protects the Corgi from rain and snow – keeping him dry. As a consequence, this is a very clean dog and doesn't get dirty easily.

The Pembroke Corgi usually has a very small tail called a bobtail. And if by any case, he has a tail, it's short and curly. Often, the Pembroke's tail was shortened with docking, but since that method is banned, breeders tend to breed Corgis that naturally have a short tail.

The Welsh Corgi exists nowadays as two separate breeds: the more popular Pembroke Welsh Corgi and the Cardigan Welsh Corgi. Both Corgi breeds' names came from the ancient region in Wales.

The Pembroke lived in Pembrokeshire and the Cardigan lived in Cardiganshire. Only centuries later, on the brink of the 20th century, did the dogs start living in different regions of the Kingdom.

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi was typically a working dog and was bred almost exclusively for herding cattle. The unusual, long, and short body of the Corgi works to its advantage when herding.

The Corgi does have short legs, but he runs fast and he's surprisingly agile. The Corgi is a heeler herding dog. Corgis didn't only herd the cattle, they also protected the cattle from predators and various wild animals.

The heeler dogs get the cattle to move by nipping at their heels. You would think that the cattle fight back – and it does. Thankfully, since the Corgi is rather short but fast, he escapade successfully, every time.

The Corgi was a very cherished part of every household back then because Corgis protected the estate and the wealth of farmers. Not only did they herd the cattle, but they also kept the cattle safe from predators that want to eat the livestock.

Having a Corgi meant your farm animals are safe at all times. So, it was no surprise that the Corgis were very expensive. Furthermore, laws were protecting Corgis.

The punishment for harming or killing a Corgi was often very harsh. The laws speak how cherished and crucial Corgis were to the farming household.



It wasn't until the beginning of the 20th century that the Corgis were kept as pets. They were officially recognized as a breed in 1925., by The Kennel Club in Great Britain with the Cardigan and the Pembroke as the same breed. Consequently, The Corgi Club was founded in December of 1925, in Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, Wales.

The Pembroke Corgi was always the favourite, but a separate club for the Cardigans was founded not too long after that. Both groups worked hard to make the breed was carefully bred, and that the appearance was standardized.

The Cardigans and the Pembroke Corgis were recognized as two varieties of the same breed in 1928 by the Kennel Club. It wasn't until 1934 that the two apparent varieties gained recognition as two separate breeds. Then, Corgis began to participate in competitions and various dog shows. Before that, Corgis were exclusively bred for their abilities as herders, but in the 20th century, they were bred for their looks.

Their popularity as pets arose only after the Second World War and we have Queen Elizabeth II to thank for that.

One of the more important things, when you're looking into a certain dog breed, is checking out the temperament and personality of it. It may seem redundant, but different dog breeds have different personalities. For small dogs, it generally holds that they are spoilt rotten and similar to small children. However small, the Pembroke Corgi isn't spoilt, due to its herding history.

The Pembroke Corgi is very energized, playful, and loyal. Those are the main traits of this dog breed, but the Corgi can also get a little stubborn. The Corgi enjoys being a part of a family, and it loves to be in the centre of attention. As a pet, it will try to make every day a live-in show for those around him! Do keep in mind the energy of the Pembroke when you're thinking of adopting. The Corgi needs a good amount of time outside and playing each day. You don't need a backyard for the Pembroke to play in, but frequent walks to the park will certainly be useful. Corgis are adaptable and can live very easily without one.



The Corgi is also very smart and needs to be stimulated to live his best life. You can teach him to help you with mundane daily tasks and he will be happy to do it!

Furthermore, the Pembroke can be a little stubborn and he needs some independence; he can be trained to be obedient, but he still needs to be given some independence, or he will fight for it!

Also, keep in mind that the Pembroke may not need to be spoiled rotten, but he needs attention. You have to play with him and walk him every day if you want him to be happy. If he isn't happy with his life, he will let you know, and it won't be good!

However, the Corgi does need to feel like a fair member of your family. Keeping your furry baby an equal part of family activities will make every activity more fun and he will stay happy, too. If he feels excluded, his stubbornness may peek out.

A firm hand will keep the stubborn trait at bay, but you should sometimes go out of your way to make your dog feel appreciated, too. Dogs have feelings, too – and you can hurt them by excluding them from certain events.



Since the Corgi is highly energized, that means he needs a lot of play to tire out. It can be a hassle until you get the hang of it, but you and your best friend will soon learn to live together in peace.

The Corgi can be difficult to train at first, but if you do it right, you will have no problems later on. On the other hand, the herding instinct may come up at all stages of the Corgi's life. He may become anxious if the family is scattered across the entire house, so he will try to herd you all together. The Pembroke does that so he can keep an eye on you at all times!

Also, beware of the Corgi's keen sense of hearing. He will respond to all kinds of unusual noise and mostly see it as a threat. If he does hear something, he will bark, and he will bark loudly at that.

You will need to train him early or you will never get rid of it completely, but you can reduce it to an acceptable level. Because of the herding instinct, the Corgi can get protective, and he could attack other animals he sees. That's one of the reasons why he shouldn't be left out while you're at work.

He might escape running after a cat or he could hear something he deems a threat. If he does, he could bark for hours, driving your neighbours insane in the process!

This is an important question if you have small children or other pets. If you do, you must think first about how your dog is going to fit in with other members of your family?

This breed can be difficult to fit in with others, but usually only if other members arrive after him. If you get a Corgi puppy, he will adjust to other pets or people easily. If it were the other way around, it could be far more challenging. For the best results, you should socialize with your Corgi from the very beginning. Taking him to the park to play with other dogs will go a long way to helping him make life-long friends.

The Corgi can be difficult to fit in with others, but usually only if other members arrive after him. If you get a Corgi puppy, he will adjust to other pets or people easily. If it were the other way around, it could be far more challenging.

For the best results, you should socialize with your Corgi from the very beginning. Taking him to the park to play with other dogs will go a long way with the Corgi.

To conclude, the Pembroke Welsh Corgi is the ultimate pet out there. If you want a pet that will give you lots of attention and do goofs all afternoon – this is the one.

Originally a herder dog, this pup with a rich history is very loyal and full of energy. Sometimes, the Corgi will be tough to train, but it will all pay off!

Choosing male or female is not easy, because the differences are not that obvious. Whatever gender you choose, make sure to give them enough exercise and proper nutrition. A happy puppy makes the family happy, too!

Article taken from corgicare.com



Tip of the month



Darker Evenings: How to be prepared for night driving

On Sunday 30th October the clocks went back - good news for those of us who got to enjoy an extra hour in bed! However, it also means we're going to be travelling to and from work in the dark a lot more.

[Continue reading...](#)



Motorists most likely to call insurance firm first after a minor road accident

Research by [IAM RoadSmart](#), has revealed that British motorists are most likely to call their insurance provider first, rather than the police, a family member, or a friend, after a minor road accident.

[Continue reading...](#)

Motorists delaying tyre repairs as cost of living crisis bites

In the wake of a worrying new piece of research revealing that potentially millions of UK motorists are delaying critical tyre maintenance, [IAM RoadSmart](#) is calling on drivers to get a grip of their tyre safety.



You can email, tweet or post a letter to the following addresses; Terry Heath, 48, Vicarage Ave, Wrawby, Brigg, North Lincs. DN20 8RY Email: terryheath@sky.com Twitter: @ANDGRIMSBY



20% Discount on Advanced Driver & Rider courses with:
Lincoln IAM, Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists &
Scunthorpe & Grimsby Advanced Motorists.



As a current member of any of the above groups, you will receive a 20% discount when you sign up to an Advanced Driver or Rider Course in Lincolnshire.

HOW TO CLAIM - Contact us on the details below, quoting the group name of your choice and we'll sign you up - A.D. Course, Lincoln IAM: Tel:0300 365 0152 or lincolniam@gmx.com

A.R. Course, Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists: Tel: 01427 616864 or lincs-am-sec@pobroadband.co.uk

A.D. Course, Scunthorpe & Grimsby Advanced Motorists Tel: 01652 655601 or terryheath@sky.com

Dates in December 2022

Advent Begins

1st Dec 2022

Advent is the 24 days leading up to Christmas, when Christians prepare for Christmas. It is often celebrated by lighting Advent Candles and opening the doors of Advent calendars.

Elf Day

2nd Dec 2022

Elf Day is a festive fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Society designed to get you in the Christmas spirit whilst raising money to help beat dementia. Unleash your inner elf by dressing up - as much or as little as you like.

[Website](#)

International Day of People with Disabilities

3rd Dec 2022

A day to recognize and value the diversity of our global community, and to cherish the role we all play, regardless of our abilities. The aim of the day is to break down barriers to inclusion and advocate for the rights of people with disability.

International Cheetah Day

4th Dec 2022

The world's fastest land animal is racing against extinction. This day is about raising awareness of the cheetah's imminent extinction.

St. Nicholas Day

5th Dec to 6th Dec 2022

Celebrated across mainland Europe, St. Nicholas has reputation as a bringer of gifts. Children will often receive a small gift, such as their shoes will be filled with sweets.

Saint Lucia Day

13th Dec 2022

St. Lucia (St Lucy's) Day, which is celebrated on many European countries, but mainly in Scandinavia. It is a festival of light celebrated with a ceremony where a girl is chosen to represent the saint wearing a white dress and a crown of candles.

Jane Austen Day

16th Dec 2022

Jane Austen's birthday, and a day dedicated to celebrating her life and achievements, and to telling as many people as possible about her amazing works.

Hanukkah

18th Dec to 26th Dec 2022

The Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire.

National Robin Day

21st Dec 2022

An annual nationwide event raising awareness of small birds and other wildlife in winter and how you can help them through this tough time of year.

[Website](#)

Winter Begins

21st Dec 2022

The winter solstice represents the beginning of the astronomical winter and is the shortest day - the day with the least daylight.

Christmas Eve

24th Dec 2022

Looking forward to Christmas!

– [What Do I Put in A Christmas Eve Box?](#)



Christmas Day

25th Dec 2022

The Christian festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, which is celebrated around the world in a more secular way to bring some festive cheer to the cold winter months and dark nights.

[Everything Christmas - From Gift Guides to Crafts, Movies and Books](#)

Boxing Day

26th Dec 2022

The day after Christmas, where traditionally servants were given a 'Christmas box', usually a gift or money for good service throughout the year.

Kwanzaa

26th Dec to 1st Jan 2022

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African heritage.

New Year's Eve

31st Dec 2022

Look forward to 2023 and celebrate the new year.

– [Free Printable 2023 Calendar](#)

[New Year 2023](#)



Christmas

WORDSEARCH

V Y I S Z P V L C A J G B F A
 V J T P W Q E Q W A L H U A N
 E A L L O S N Z Z Z R Y Q I E
 R R I D N S U S E J T O U R R
 B X F I S R I B B O N X L Y D
 V A T L S A N T A U W L S S L
 B C U N E P T J R W O T C F I
 A Q Q B I P P I I R N X A J H
 C C P V L T H T A E R W N F C
 S V J Z Q E U Y S R S E D H F
 J H L F F K S E A B Q U Y K W
 U T R E E T R N R Y W W I F W
 C I K W I P C K C I P R S U Y
 K J C C Y O T H M A G C G T S
 L H K Q F N K R C B B R A I M

BAUBLE

CANDY

CAROLS

CHILDREN

ELF

FAIRY

JESUS

PRESENTS

RIBBON

SANTA

SNOW

STAR

STICK

TINSEL

TREE

What am I



No matter how little or how much you use me, you change me every month.

Last Months' Answer - A Chick in an Egg

Finally.....don't forget to look us up on the links below:



Group Website

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/scunthorpeandgrimsby>



SAGAM can be found on Facebook at: [@SGAMG1](#)



You can Follow us on Twitter: [@ANDGRIMSBY](#)

