The Willows
PRIVATE NURSING HOME

ISSUE 12 Part 1, December 2020

Whispers from the Willows NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our BUMPER DECEMBER Christmas & Holiday newsletter from The Willows Private Nursing Home. This latest newsletter is so BIG that we've had to split it into TWO. Please remember to click on BOTH attachments to get all the news and fun filled goings on in a Holly Jolly month!
Previous newsletters can be found on our website at:
https://www.thewillowsprivatenursinghome.co.uk/latest-news/latest-newsletters/

OUR PHILOSOPHY

To provide optimum health care and rehabilitation in an environment which respects the dignity and human rights of residents. We will achieve this by a given with compassion, care, love and encouragement with every consideration for privacy, comfort and the independence of our residents.

FOR OUR RESIDENTS ONLY

Hidden in this Christmas newsletter are 8 Santa's. The first resident to find them all and let Karen know where you found them - will receive a box of Christmas chocolates. If you are not first in line then don't worry, there will be more Christmas chocolates to go around.
HAVE FUN!!

This is what he looks like:

FROM THE ADMIN DESK

Wow what a big year it has been. We started the year with big plans to repaint and give The Willows an upgrade and then were put on lockdown for COVID-19 shock. I want to personally thank all our residents, their families and our staff for showing valience and support to The Willows as we maneuvered through this unknown and unchartered territory. I think we have come through it fairly unscathed and it is with relief we see restrictions being eased and a sense of calm and normality being restored to our residents, families and staff members.
I hope to use only all the good bits to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, but I'm not one, my wish is that you all have a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, enjoy the break and bask in your loved ones. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.
Maryann Irbeil - Financial Controller

FROM OUR DIVERSIONAL THERAPIST

Hello and welcome to the last month of 2020. As we busily get down to decorating the Willows, the Christmas tree is up and the festive music is playing.
The Willows looks very festive and everyone is excited about Christmas, although I expect it will be very different this year.
Despite the ongoing pandemic, residents are now being taken to Ashfield Park for a walk, to see the herbs and vegetables that are being grown there, and while there, they can also see the white roses blooming.
Until next year on behalf of myself and the residents, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Cynthia Rossiter - Diversional Therapist.

FROM OUR RESIDENTS

What Are the 12 Days of Christmas?

The Twelve Days of Christmas, also known as the Twelve Days of Christmas, is a Christian season celebrating the Birth of Jesus. In 567, the Council of Tours "proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a festive season and ordained as established the duty of Advent fasting in preparation for the feast." Christmas Day is the first day of the Christmas season, and Epiphany is in order to solve the longstanding problem for the Roman Empire as it tried to reconcile the solar Julian calendar with the lunar calendars of its provinces in the year.
Why were these 12 days important? These dozen days were tied to more than just Christmas. In the early days of the Church, Christmas was sometimes celebrated in the 12 days of Christmas. Some denominations celebrated Christmas in January and began to count the 12 days from. But whenever they began, the number of the days was considered an important number, each holiday season. Even in the Dark Ages, in some Eastern European churches, the 12 days of Christmas were considered a time of feasting and celebration, particularly in a country this extremely difficult up to the 12 days were a time of celebration and renewal. It was also a period when small, simple, and usually symbolic gifts of faith were given to children. Thus, in both coded poems and public worship, the twelve days were considered a holy period.

Twelve Days of Christmas - Christmas Carol

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol that lists a group of increasingly superb gifts given on each of the 12 days of Christmas. The carol is sung in the period between Christmas Day and Epiphany (Twelfth Day). The song published in England in 1780 without music as a short or rhyme, is thought to be French in origin. The melodies of collected versions of the carol vary throughout history. The standard tune now associated with it is derived from a 1909 arrangement of a traditional folk melody by English composer Frederick Pierce Arnold. The carol is cumulative, meaning it uses a new "line upon line" phrase usually sung "four partridges, three hens, etc." Though a host of modern interest sites and some magazine articles have tried to ascribe "The Twelve Days of Christmas" to a deeper meaning than a silly Christmas carol, most scholars of the Catholic Church deem it a very important surviving piece of Catholic lore. Because Christmas was a forbidden holiday for many teachings, Christ was given written by Catholic clerics, this song was transformed into a carol at a time when celebrating the 12 days of Christmas was one of the most important holiday customs. In Elizabeth's reign, the meaning the clerics chose the 12 days as wrapping for their poem, the full impact of the tradition of the 12 days of Christmas can be understood.

12 Days of Christmas - Gifts and Meaning

1. On the First Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
A Partridge in a Pear Tree.
In the Christian tradition, Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a father partridge, he is the bird that will die to protect his young.

2. On the Second Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Two Turtledoves.
These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Jesus Christ and God's plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

3. On the Third Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Three French Hens.
These birds represent faith, love, and lows. This gift hearkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the Apostle Paul.

4. On the Fourth Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Four Calling Birds.
One of the most famous of the song's code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

5. On the Fifth Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Five Gold Rings.
The gift of five rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.

6. On the Sixth Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Six Geese a-Laying.
These birds represent the six days of creation in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was "hatched" or formed by God.

7. On the Seventh Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Seven Swans a-Swimming.
It would take someone familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, rule, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for the spirit gifts.

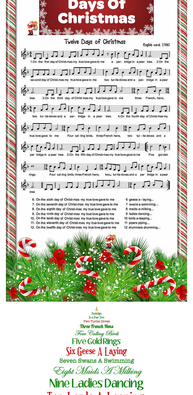
8. On the Eighth Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Eight Maids a-Milking.
As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who are the lowest of the low in society. In the Middle Ages, the maids were the ones at the very bottom of the social ladder in England during this period. Most could conceyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The gift of eight maids milked included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

9. On the Ninth Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Nine Ladies Dancing.
Nine ladies represent the nine gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

10. On the Tenth Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Ten Lords a-Leaping.
This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Catholics.

11. On the Eleventh Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Eleven Pipers Piping.
This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of the seven. But when Jesus chose his twelve disciples, he chose twelve. Here were only eleven men who carried out the original mission.

12. On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me:
Twelve Drummers Drumming.
The final gift is tied closely to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."



Be sure to read Part two of our bumper Christmas newsletter, attached in this email.