

Christmas Memories

My aunty used to go to the service at Scissett church and every year she used to say she'd seen Santa on his sleigh as she'd been going home.

Getting up very early and opening lots of presents in pyjamas. Eating lots and watching television so full I couldn't move. Lovely times.

My Grandma's present was always a variety of small gifts in a brown carrier bag. It was very exciting looking through and opening them.

We were happy to receive a new penny, an orange and either the Dandy, the Beano book and one present. Carol singing with the community was a must. Everyone singing around the piano in the pub. Making paper chains. Sixpences in the Christmas pudding.

I remember being allowed to get up early and choose one present if Santa had actually been, then having to wait until 7am to open the rest. Then sugared grapefruit for breakfast.

When I was a little girl, Santa brought me a dolly and some chocolate and I was very happy.

When I was little, the whole family went to a hotel at the seaside for Christmas. We always went to the pantomime on Boxing Day and enjoyed playing out with all the other children staying there.

I remember one Christmas I got a cowboy suit with sheepskin chaps. Sadly they fell apart and we had to take them back and I got a replacement, but without sheepskin chaps.

My favourite memory as a child is waking up early on Christmas morning, feeling the stocking (one of my father's socks) and the rustle of paper, going back to sleep and then waking to see what Santa had left – an orange, a sixpence, crayons and perhaps a little toy.

Going to the pantomime Christmas Eve and it was snowing on way home from Leeds – panicking if we would get home for Santa.

Some time in the 1950s it was extremely cold, ice on the inside of windows, everyone had the coal fires blazing, we wondered how Santa was going to get down ... "Don't worry, he's from Lapland, he's used to it."

I remember getting up early upon Xmas morning and taking the children into the living room. I remember their faces and cries of "HE'S BEEN!"