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## Christmas Past & Present

### Max's Christmas

“When I think of Christmas I see  
Christmas trees with glittering lights  
The orange candle with sweets on at Christingle  
Funny masks at the dinner table,  
Hairbands with stars on,  
Christmas pudding, with brandy poured over it, set on fire, Christmas cake  
With a snowman decorated by Mum,  
I smell Christmas in the air.

I see presents wrapped with beautiful coloured paper,  
Snow falling and people being happy,  
Our dog bouncing up and down,  
A stocking brimming over with presents for me!  
Warm houses when it's cold outside.

Granny Eileen and Granny Moo sing old songs  
Dad snoozing in the chair  
Pass the parcel with Grandad and Barry doing forfeits  
Church bells ringing  
Scrambled eggs for breakfast  
Our ducks standing on their frozen pond – on one leg!  
I love Christmas.”

**Max Harvey**



## Christmas Snippets

**Vera Case** remembers her grandmother cooking a pig's chine in a fish kettle over the fire. The whole family gathered on Christmas night to enjoy this delicacy. Does anyone remember what a chine was? It is not a cut familiar to modern cooks.

**Joan Townsend** recalls that Christmas was much simpler, there was none of the big build-up of today; preparations only started two or three days before the big event. As her parents were farmers, there was always a turkey and home-grown vegetables for Christmas dinner, but her father missed his tea because he had to go and do the milking. Her mother used to give the children a list from which they could choose one nice present and they also had other small gifts. Her father would allow her and her three sisters to go carol singing just once and they always went to church on Christmas morning. All the children took part in a concert at St Mary's school. The weather then was much colder; if it did not snow, it was very frosty.