

Interview

A Sentinel World Exclusive by Marilyn Duffy

A WORD WITH SANTA CLAUS



The Wester Hailes Sentinel has pulled off a World Exclusive Interview - at his busiest time of year - with Santa Claus.

Santa took a well-earned rest from work to answer some popular questions, not only for the children, but for grown-up children whose hearts remember Christmas.....when there was a hush in the air, and the stars sparkled in the sky, and there was a feeling of magic and breathless expectation and wonder....



How do you find your way about in the dark?
Rudolph's red nose shines like a beacon and guides us through the dark sky, that's why he's always at the front.

Has a child ever woken up while you have been putting toys in their house?

Sometimes that does happen, and the next day the children think I was just a dream, then they see their new toys - and know they really did see me!

How do you remember the addresses of all the boys and girls in the world?

Well, I do get a little bit mixed up now and then, but Rudolph and the other reindeer are good at remembering, and they are always eager to get to the homes of thoughtful children who leave them a juicy carrot.

How old are you?

As old as time.

Have you ever been stuck up a chimney?

Many, many times, but the reindeer always manage to pull me out. It happened just last Christmas, and I was sure there was a trace of a smile on Rudolph's face, almost as though he found my predicament

amusing - but surely not - must have been my imagination!

How do you get to everybody in the same night?

We start early and work very quickly. Being able to fly through the sky with the sleigh saves a lot of time.

How do you get into houses that don't have chimneys?

Ho! Ho! Ho! I knew you would ask me that, but that must remain one of Santa's little secrets!

How many letters do you get each year?

Too many to count. Quite possibly millions. I need lots of helpers to answer them.

Do you ever bump into a star?

Frequently. The stardust gets all over my red suit, which makes Mother Christmas cross, so now I try to shake it off before I go home again. I sometimes sprinkle some of the stardust on to a Christmas tree, to make it sparkle even more, and just sometimes, when a child has left me a mince pie and a glass of milk, I shake a little stardust on to the plate in exchange.

Do you have a Christmas Message for all the boys and girls in Wester Hailes?

My message to them is the same as to my children all over the world - be kind to each other - and have a Very Merry Christmas! See you soon!



● Last Christmas, the Sentinel photographer captured Santa Claus flying over Hailesland. Why don't you keep an eye open for him this year. You never know, you might just catch a glimpse of Santa and his reindeers.

Merry Christmas

Smirnoff vodka £7.29p 75 cl.

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