



Dickensian Derbyshire Country Christmas Quiz



Part One: A Walk in the Park

1. What did Mr Mundy give the local poor people at Christmas?
2. On what date / day in December was charity commonly given?
3. What plant commonly used in Christmas decorations was planted at Markeaton Park in the 1820s?
4. What might happen to those taking evergreens for decorations from country estates without permission; and what sentence was commonly given for poaching game?
5. What Christmas sights and sounds from the nearby roads might visitors to the park have encountered?
6. When and why might groups of horse-riders have gathered in the grounds over Christmas?
7. Where might stable-boys have eaten; and slept?
8. What was a popular seasonal greeting of the time?
9. Where do excavations suggest Christmas dinner would have been cooked in the 1820s – 1830s, and why?
10. How much roast beef was used in the mince-meat recipe contained in the guide?
11. Why might 'guisers' have not visited the Hall in the early 1830s?
12. What Christmas carol sang at this time is supposed to originate in Derbyshire?



Do you think you did well? Share your answers!



Part Two: At the Hall

1. How did working people raise money for seasonal celebrations?
2. On what date / day did employers often allow servants to take their Christmas holiday?
3. What gifts, and when, did employers often give to servants; parents to their children; and adult friends and family to one another, when of similar status?
4. What decorations might have been put up in a country house; when were they put up and taken down; and where?
5. When did kissing under the mistletoe become a widespread tradition?
6. What was a Yule log called locally (and elsewhere)?
7. When was a special cake usually eaten over Christmas at this time, and where in the Hall might it have been baked?
8. Where in the Hall were parties for servants likely to have been held?
9. Name some party games played at this time.
10. What were Christmas puddings (as we now know them) then called; and how and where in the Hall might it have been made?
11. Where in the Hall might servants, the Mundy family, and their guests, have eaten Christmas dinner; and where would it have been cooked?
12. When were supernatural stories often told at this time of year; and where did superstitious people at the time believe supernatural spirits entered buildings?



Do you think you did well? Share your answers!

