

Christmas - A Festive History



A Presentation by

Andy Thomas

In a fascinating and uplifting presentation, Andy Thomas uncovers the long and intriguing background to the festive season. From the ancient celebration of light in the winter darkness, to the marking of the birth of a messiah, mid-December has long been a time for rituals and rejoicing. Yet the history of Christmas has not been straightforward; its

celebration was banned in Puritan times, and its traditions splintered into many guises before the Victorians rehabilitated the festival into what it has become. Andy shows how, for all the modern commercialisation, we can still find meaning in Christmas today and keep the flame of light alive in the winter darkness.

Andy Thomas

Andy is the author of *Christmas: A Short History from Solstice to Santa*, together with several books on Sussex history and folklore (including the Lewes Bonfire Night festivities). He is also a renowned researcher into unexplained mysteries and cover-ups and is author of the acclaimed *The Truth Agenda* and *Conspiracies*, which explore these. His many other books include definitive guides to the crop circle mystery. Andy extensively writes and lectures in Britain and around the world, and he has made numerous radio and TV appearances. UK spots have included BBC 1's *The One Show*, Channel 4's *Richard and Judy*, BBC 2's *Esther*, ITV's *GMTV*, and Sky 1's *Pineapple Dance Studios* amongst many others.



SHORT PUBLICITY TEXT:

CHRISTMAS – A FESTIVE HISTORY: In an uplifting presentation, Andy Thomas uncovers the long and intriguing background to the festive season. From the ancient celebration of light in the winter darkness, to the marking of the birth of a messiah, Andy shows how we can still find meaning in Christmas today.

Andy is the author of *Christmas – From Solstice to Santa*. He is also author of several books on unexplained mysteries and conspiracies, as well as guides to Sussex history and folklore (including the Lewes Bonfire Night traditions) and is a keen celebrator of the festive season. Andy widely writes and lectures and has made numerous radio and TV appearances.

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