

The Willows Whisper



Happy New Year

January 2024

How do we welcome the New Year around the world?

Big fireworks display

One of the most popular ways to celebrate seeing in the New Year is with big fireworks display.

These take place all over the world, as different countries hit midnight.



An amazing fireworks display takes place at Auckland Sky Tower in New Zealand
In New Zealand, Auckland Sky Tower is usually part of an impressive fireworks

display, and the same happens in Sydney Harbor in Australia.

In Toronto in Canada, it's in Nathan Phillips Square, while in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, it's the city's famous Copacabana beach where the sky is lit up by fireworks.



Here is a picture of a display at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro

Smashing plates in Denmark

If you came out of your front door to find a load of smashed plates, you might be a bit confused.



If you were celebrating New Year in Denmark, it would be a good thing if you found this on your doorstep. But that's exactly what people in Denmark hope to find after midnight, as it means good luck. So, if you were Danish, you might go and smash a plate on a friend's doorstep to bring good luck over the next 12 months.

Eating lentils in Brazil

In Brazil, there is a tradition to eat lentils at New Year, as these represent money - meaning good fortune for the year ahead!



Dropping things in New York

In New York in the US, Times Square is the center of the countdown to midnight. But the thing that everyone is looking forward to is called the ball drop, which is when a glowing ball is lowered down a big flagpole, to signal the start of the new year.



Eating grapes in Spain

When the clocks hit midnight in Spain, you'll find people reaching for grapes. This is because there is a tradition to eat one grape each time the clock strikes at midnight.



Dressing up as bears in Romania

In Romania, there's a tradition for people to dress up as dancing bears to chase away any evil spirits.



Romanian children can be seen dressing up as bears to celebrate New Year. This is because bears are special according to old Romanian stories and can protect and heal people.

Ring bells in Japan

Some countries, like Japan and South Korea, ring bells to start the New Year.



This man is helping his three-year-old son to ring a bell in Tokyo on 31 December

In Japan, the bells are rung 108 times, so you can expect it to be quite noisy!

Walking with an empty suitcase - yes, really!

In some South American countries, you might see some people on New Year's Eve walking around with an empty suitcase.



If you want to have adventures in the year ahead, in some parts of South America there is a tradition to try to make this happen. Some believe that taking what is called a "suitcase walk" means they will have a year full of adventures ahead.



Last memories of 2023...

It all started with decorating our home for Christmas.



We celebrated Santa's Day!



We invited several wonderful singers and entertainers to keep our spirits bright throughout December.



Serenades Community Choir caroling for our residents



Live entertainment with Pete aka "Music Man" brought plenty of joy and laughter to our home.

Andy Wells' Christmas show was a very special one!



Eleanor Matley, was our "Xmas Special" this year.



We had a lovely visit from Diane Dowell and her fabulous pony dressed as Santa...

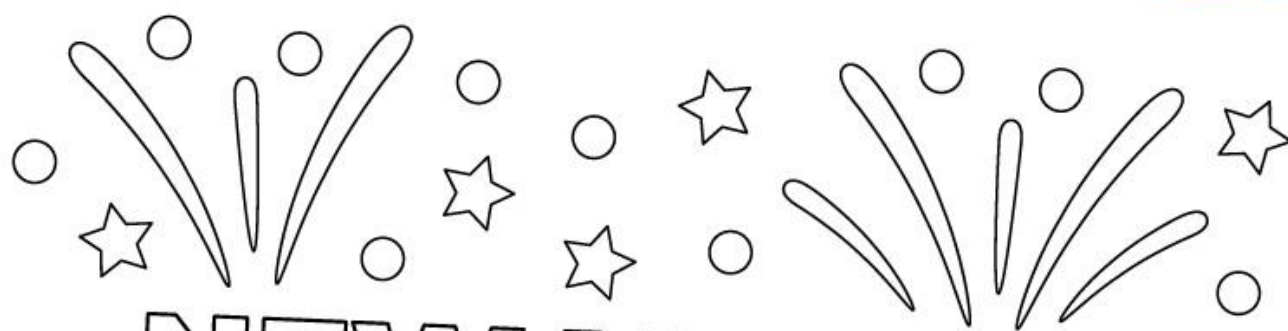


We ate fabulous cakes that were prepared by our amazing kitchen team!



And Christmas Day finally arrived!





NEW YEAR'S

WORD SEARCH



CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CHEERS
CLOCK
CONFETTI

COUNTDOWN
DECEMBER
EVE
FAMILY
FIREWORKS

FRIENDS
HAPPY
HOLIDAY
JANUARY
MIDNIGHT

NEW
NOISEMAKER
PARTY
RESOLUTION
YEAR

The New Year is already here, and we are gearing up to make new promises and new beginnings for 2024.

It's time to make New Year's resolutions that will help us all achieve our goals.

We wish you all a Happy New Year!

Take care of yourself and stay healthy in these uncertain times.

Old out, new in! We send you our best wishes for better days in 2024!

