

MOOSE MAGAZINE

WINTER 2025



Christmas at the Durrant House Hotel



**EMBRACE OUR
COMMUNITY**

Moose International Great Britain
Association

President Report

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT - BRIAN GOULD



Well, a new year has begun already. The recent period has seen the holding of Group Conferences, each of which has been different in its own way.

Group 3 held theirs at Winton Moose Hall. The Lodges in this Group cover a very large area, but there is obviously a lot of visiting and interaction. Reports showed the widely different ways Lodges work but still within the objects of Moose. Next, Group 1 held theirs at Aberavon. The Welsh, of course, hold a complete weekend event with

very good entertainment in the evenings. Again, it was interesting to hear the different ways Lodges operate and interact with each other.

Finally, Group 2 held their meeting at the Beambridge Inn, Wellington. It was another example of the excellent connection between Lodges. Each enjoying Moose but in their own slightly varying ways. The overall impression is of friendliness and fun when members meet. Definitely, we are One Moose. Of course, all of these events held the obligatory draws. In October, I visited Southend. The most distant from me, although I have several friends there. While there, I was able to assist in initiating six new members. Southend is doing its bit to increase membership; they have more in the pipeline. There is a great feeling of friendship there, and the journey was well worth it. Next, Basingstoke, for a Legion meeting, followed by a social event. The hall was decorated outstandingly for Halloween. After a splendid buffet, there was an informal get-together with an exchange of scary ghost stories. Basingstoke members are also doing their bit to gain new members.

I also visited Legion 8 for their Carol Service. A great lunch was followed by a visit to the local church for the Carol service conducted by the local Vicar. Then back to the hall for minced pies and cream, followed, of course, by the draw. Recently, I went to Exeter to present one of their Ladies, Jan Millford, with her sixty-year certificate. It is a great achievement, and she is still a very active member of the Lodge.

I would like to thank the members at each place I have visited for the welcome and friendliness I have received.

I wish all members of Moose a very successful 2025.

Lady President Report

NATIONAL PRESIDENT of LADIES' CIRCLES
GWYNETH MELVILLE



Hello Ladies,

I hope you have all recovered from the hustle and bustle of Christmas and had a happy and peaceful New Year.

I have enjoyed joining you for Christmas Carol Services and, of course, the Christmas lunches. It has been good to talk with old and new friends.

At the moment, I have escaped the winter weather and am enjoying sunny South Africa, where our daughter and grandchildren live. I hope the weather is kind to you back in the UK after all the storms we had in November/December.

I am disappointed I couldn't attend Burnham on Sea Lodge "Burns Night" in January. I would have enjoyed renewing friendships with you.

Pam, I have booked this holiday around Basingstoke Ladies Circle !!! I am looking forward to Ladies Night and chatting with you all.

It is almost unbelievable that the National Conference will be around the corner when I return from South Africa.

I am looking forward to seeing you all before May.
Take care everyone.

Best wishes.
Gwyneth

EMBRACE OUR COMMUNITY



Well, Christmas has been and gone, as have the New Year celebrations, and we find the new year is well and truly upon us. I trust that the festivities have gone well for all of you and that your “Moosing About” has proved beneficial. It is hard to believe that yet another year has passed us all by, and, in what seems to be, “in the blink of an eye”.

As I sit here by the computer, thinking about what we as a Management Committee have done over the past twelve months, I do feel a sense of satisfaction, well, in some cases anyway. We have helped many of our members, we have helped with good advice, we have helped Students, and we have helped other Charitable and Good Causes, and we can only do this with your help.

The Grand Draw for 2024 was not what we would have hoped for. It is the only way that we can ask **All** our members to contribute to the Welfare Funds of the Order (CIO). I find it hard to understand that some of our Lodges did not even sell a ticket let alone a book. So, I ask why is it that up to five Lodges did not sell any tickets? What is the reasoning behind it? Many of you will, like me, find it hard to understand. I will say this though - that we need to continue raising finances for the CIO one way or another. We have Lodge and Legion Donations; we have the 50/50 and we have the Grand Draw. I have stated many times that we need to continue to raise funds to support our Welfare Funds and as such I will ask each of you, what else should we be doing to ensure that all of our members are given the opportunity to be involved in raising funds for Welfare?

Please remember that the Grand Draw was set up so that every individual Moose Member was given the opportunity to do their bit to raise funds for Welfare! To take ownership of the fact that our main precept is all about caring and sharing and helping those less fortunate than ourselves! It also gives them the comfort of knowing that, if they ever needed help from National Welfare, they could seek that support secure in the knowledge that they had supported the National Welfare fund raising effort as an individual! Another thing that is important is that we need to carry on with what we do best and that is to continue with our sterling work for our own and “Embrace Our Community” by raising funds for our Local Charities.

Alan Harries

Chairman of the Management Committee



National Welfare

NATIONAL WELFARE OFFICER - GERALD GARDNER



As we enter a new Moose year, I thank everyone for their support during the past twelve months. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as National Welfare Officer.

Christmas at the Durrant House Hotel was very entertaining, and thanks to your generosity, seventeen members had a lovely time where otherwise they may have spent the Christmas period alone. Thank you to our National President, Brian Gould, for spending Christmas Day with us. The Welfare Fund and profits from the Grand Draw support this event. Donations are also given by the Legions and also from the 50/50 monthly draw. This draw costs just £1 a month (£12 per year), so please support this good cause. You could even win one of the three cash prizes drawn each month.

The Vocational Guidance Course will take place on the weekend of 7th March. Please let members know of the benefits of getting more young people between the ages of 15 and 17 who are connected to Moose to experience this excellent opportunity.

This year's National Conference will be held during the weekend of May 9th-11th at the Durrant House Hotel. The hotel made us proud at Christmas with the excellent food and service. I look forward to meeting old friends and hopefully seeing new faces.

Take care and I wish you all good health in 2025.

Kind regards.

Gerald Gardner

National Welfare Officer.





Moose started in Great Britain, at Tredegar on 28th July 1926 and as such a 100th Year Celebration Dinner has been arranged for Saturday 25th July 2026.

The Three-Course Dinner will cost £70 per person and will be held in one of Wales's Premier Hotels, the Captain's Marquee, Celtic Manor Resorts, Newport, just off Junction 24 on the M4.

An invitation will be extended to our Chief Executive Officer Scott Hart to attend.

I am announcing this event early in order to give all of our membership the opportunity to attend, and maybe start a little individual or group savings pot. More details on accommodation will be forthcoming.

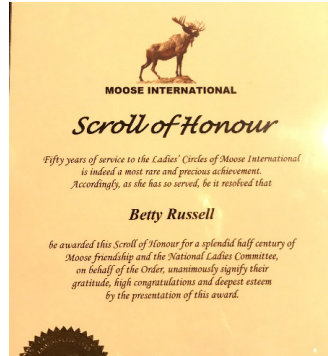
Alan Harries,
Chairman



50 Year Certificate

Congratulations Betty Russell

On Wednesday, September 25th, City of Exeter Lodge President Michael Drewe was pleased to present Ladies Circle member Betty Russell with her 50-year appreciation Scroll of Honour and Pin.



Betty joined Exeter over 50 years ago with her late husband, Ivan, and has been a dedicated member ever since. She has helped in many ways, such as serving meals to sometimes 100-plus brothers of the Lodge. She has held several officer posts, right up to Lady President. We Congratulate Betty on her achievements.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations Christine & Jim



Jim and Christine Hannaford of Yeovil Lodge 28 celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Donations were given in lieu of presents to the Freewheelers charity.

25 Year Service

Congratulations David Jones

Congratulations to David Jones of Tredegar Lodge on receiving his 25-year-service award. Tredegar President Amanda Davies was on hand to Present the award.



Congratulations David Woodland



David Woodland of Tredegar Lodge received his 25-year-service award from Tredegar President Amanda Davies.

Congratulations Malcolm Evans

Tredegar member Malcolm Evans gratefully received his 25-year membership award from Tredegar President Amanda Davies.



Christmas Welfare

CHRISTMAS AT THE DURRANT HOUSE HOTEL

Everyone in attendance had a wonderful Christmas at the Durrant House Hotel thanks to the generosity of Moose members to ensure widows and widowers of Moose are not alone over Christmas. May I remind you that the 50/50 monthly draw costs just £1 a month (£12 per year) with the chance of winning one of the three cash prizes each month. Your generosity is truly appreciated. You can contact Moose Head Office for more information.



National President Brian Gould selecting the winning numbers for the Moose 50/50 Draw.



Gerald Gardner - National Welfare Officer
Delwyn Davies - President Blackwood Lodge
Amanda Davies - President Tredegar Lodge
National President Brian Gould.

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Christmas Welfare

CHRISTMAS AT THE DURRANT HOUSE HOTEL



The winners of the Fancy Dress
Contest (L-R):
Winner - Amanda Davies
2nd place - Anita Vaughn
3rd place - Janet Hutton



All packed up and ready for home

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Winton & Wimborne No.397

CHARITY DONATION

Winton & Wimborne No.397 makes Charity Donations at its Christmas Party. As is customary, our Branch Christmas Party was the ideal opportunity.



Taunton Deane No.125

FISH & CHIPS LUNCH

Members of Taunton Lodge were ready for a fish and chips lunch, which everyone enjoyed. This was followed by bingo and a raffle.



Taunton Deane No.125

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Taunton Moose organised a Christmas Lunch at Oake Manor Golf Club on 11th December. All our friends from Exmouth, Exeter, Torquay, and Wheatley St Michael enjoyed an excellent meal. Grand Governor Brian Gould gave a speech, saying he always liked visiting Oake and was pleased to have been invited. A raffle followed a very good lunch, and everyone went home well-fed and happy. Roll on next year.



Neath No.18

WAR MEMORIAL



Evan Morris, Governor of Neath Lodge and Neath Ladies Circle President Rosemary Morris, laying the Lodge wreath at Neath's War Memorial.

Legion 8

CHRISTMAS MEAL AT THE SIDCOT

One chilly night in December, Legion 8, with family and friends, met at the Sidcot Hotel for a Christmas social gathering. Over 30 attended, and the food was ordered from the menu, which included Lasagne, fish pie, gammon steak and much more; some had a three-course meal, some a two-course



meal, but all had a delightful time. The ladies who catered for Legion 8 all year round were treated to a meal as a thank-you for all they do. A Moose raffle was held with lots of lovely prizes. We all look forward to the next Christmas evening meal next year.



Legion 8

CAROL SERVICE

On Sunday, November 17th, Legion 8 held its annual Carol Service at Bleadon Village Hall and Bleadon Church. With over 40 of us, it all began with some of the men serving everyone their lunch of roast beef or roast turkey with all the trimmings and assorted vegetables served separately. Afterwards, it was Christmas pudding or apple crumble served with custard, double cream, or clotted cream.

Well, it was a good job we had to walk to the church, as we could walk down our lunch because tea was to follow after the church service. It was a lovely service, with carols, readings, poems, and addresses from Vicar Tim and Khalil Kattana, Legion 8 President.

National President Brian Gould was with us, as were National Lady President Gwyneth Melville and her husband David. Legion 8 President Khalil presented Gwyneth with a plant during our time together.

When we walked back to the hall, we were all greeted with hot minced pies and tea or coffee—it was a good warmer! At the end, a raffle was held with over 20 prizes, and £146 was raised from this. It was a great social time with plenty of catch-ups from all the lodges that had attended.



Legion 8

ANNUAL BBQ

On a breezy but sunny day, Moose Legion 8 met at Pam Savage's home in Hutton for their annual BBQ. Gareth, Chris and Khalil cooked with the ladies helping with preparation and making delicious homemade puddings. Around 40 attended



from Burnham on Sea, Weston, Swindon and friends of members. With £133 taken from the raffle, the total raised for National Welfare was £443. Khalil, Legion 8 President, thanked all who helped and attended, as well as Pam Savage for using her garden and facilities. A good time was had by all.



For Your Diary

GROUP CONFERENCES 2025

Group 1

Venue: Aberafon Beach Hotel

Date: 17/18 and 19th October

Group 2

Venue: Beambridge Inn, Wellington

Date: 22nd October

Group 3

Venue: Weymouth Moose Lodge

Date: 18th October

Burnham No.123

BAGUETTE & SWEET LUNCH

A very successful Baguette & Sweet Lunch was held in St John's Church Hall, Highbridge, in aid of the President's appeal to the R.N.L.I. in Burnham. Past National Lady President Mrs Margaret Jefferies organised the event. Although only 19 were in attendance, everyone had a lovely time and really enjoyed the lunch, which included a choice of five different fillings for the baguettes and six different homemade sweets. The event raised £213.50 for the appeal, for which Rita thanked everyone for coming and Margaret and the caterers for all their hard work.



Burnham No.123

Christmas Sparkle at Highbridge

On Sunday, 3rd November, at St. John's Church Highbridge, Secretary Jenny Dolan of Burnham 123 Lodge presented a cheque for £100 to Shirley Vickery-Mills on behalf of the Lodge. This money was for a charity named 'Christmas Sparkle Project', which the church has taken on as a facilitator for the public. Money for buying brand new gifts and Christmas wrapping paper for local children living in difficult circumstances are being donated to the church and passed on to Shirley.



Retired teachers started this project in Taunton and Wellington, and it now has many drop-off points in local schools and shops. The Christmas gifts are for children aged between 0 and 18 and will support families in need. The aim is to give a Christmas gift to every child.

Burnham No.123

RACE NIGHT

A brilliant evening was had for a Race Night at Berrow Village Hall. Circle President Sandra and her caterers served us with massive jacket potatoes and a great assortment of fillings with assorted salads before the bets were being placed. All the racehorses lined up as Pete and Jim served the beverages. There was a wonderful assortment of raffle prizes, which raised £96. We all had a very sociable evening with plenty to laugh about, as Clerk of the Course, Martin Eley was extremely entertaining. All money raised will go into our social fund.



THE WAFFLE-HUB

The Waffle-Hub is a community café based in Burnham-on-Sea. The initiative's basis is a safe space to meet friends, make new ones, and eat delicious sweet and savoury waffles. Other initiatives include Citizens Advice Somerset, Homeless & Rough Sleeper Nursing Service, Somerset Sight Support, free cooking classes, Repair Café, and Knit 'n' Natter, to name but a few.



A recent funding gap caused the Waffle-Hub to close on Thursdays and Fridays, and when this was announced, Burnham-on-Sea Moose 123 decided to help.

On Wednesday 21st August with waffle-hub trustee Caroline King, Moose President Rita Harris presented Caroline with a cheque for £500; also in the picture is Junior-Vice-President Terry Cornelius and some of the waffle-hub helpers. The money will help in the long term for everyone.

Photography by Mike Lang.

Burnham No.123

AIR AMBULANCE

On September 14th, ten Burnham on Sea Moose members were invited to Henstridge Airfield, the HQ of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. They were given a tour around the helicopter and hangar and met the aircrew and support staff,



who explained how it all works like clockwork to save lives. This was a thank you to the lodge for all the years of collections they had done, raising around £75,000 in total. There was a hasty retreat when the helicopter actually had a callout during the visit.

HARVEST SUPPER

Burnham Moose members and guests enjoyed a tasty ham salad meal for their Harvest Supper in Berrow Village Hall. This regular event is held to support Moose Ladies' Circle, lodge 123, funds, with catering by Ladies' Circle President Sandra Nicholson and aided by members Carol, Kay, Margaret and Pat. Plus many others, with 54 tickets sold, entertainment by talented local Musician Tim Dean, a charity auction and, of course, the usual raffle; the evening was a terrific success, with Burnham Moose Ladies' Circle President Sandra Nicholson giving thanks to all her volunteers, with further thanks



to Junior Vice President Terry Cornelius for conducting the auction which raised £86. Thanks also went to Liz and Pat for administering the raffle for donated prizes, which raised £136. Photography by Mike Lang.

Burnham No.123

WIDOW & WIDOWERS LUNCH

On the first Sunday in September, around 30 widows and widowers from Burnham-on-Sea, Swindon, and Weston-super-Mare, along with other lodge supporters, joined together for a scrumptious Sunday lunch at the Beachlands Hotel Weston-super-Mare. We were served a superb three-course meal followed by tea or coffee and finished with the famous Moose raffle.

Terry Cornelius thanked everyone for coming, especially the members who supported the Sunday lunch to boost numbers. The next lunch has already been booked for the first Sunday in April. We look forward to this.



PLOUGHMAN'S AND SWEET LUNCH

Burnham members enjoyed a well-attended 'Ploughman's and sweet' lunch in Highbridge Community Hall. Organized by Sandra, President of Burnham's 'Moose International Ladies Circle,' the objective of the day was to raise ladies' circle funds. The well-stocked raffle table raised £141, and thanks are due to all who helped set up and serve tables, etc.



Blackwood No.11

FUNDRAISING EVENT

Blackwood Lodge raised more than £1,000 for Greenhill Primary School in Gelligaer. The fundraising event was hosted at the Square Royale, Bargoed. Live bands from the local area performed at the event to raise money for school equipment. Blackwood Town councillor Delwyn Davies thanked the Square Royale for hosting the fundraiser, adding: "Each year Blackwood Lodge raises money for local initiatives, charities and projects and them raising money for Greenhill Primary School is another worthy cause". A cheque for £1,050 was handed over to the school. They were extremely grateful.

Dear Moose International and the bands,
Thank you for raising so much money for our school and for the amazing music you played for us for free. We really appreciate you doing a fundraiser for our school and for everything else you have done. The money you have raised for our school is so incredible that we can't even put it into it's own words.

From,
The children at Greenhill



Group 1

PORT TALBOT COASTGUARD

Group 1 President Philip Evans (National Vice President) with Gary and Joe from Port Talbot Coastguard Station, who attended the conference to give a talk about the work of HM Coastguard, which was very well received. You could tell that everyone enjoyed the talk because people asked lots of questions.



Tredegar No.1

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Tredegar Lodge held an Afternoon Tea on Saturday, September 14th, in support of Action For Children. The food was plentiful, and the Blaenau Gwent Rhythm & Ukes band entertained with music from the '60s and '70s. The afternoon was rounded off with the usual Moose raffle.



Tredegar No.1

RNLI DONATION

On Monday, 11th November, Tredegar President Mrs Amanda Davies presented a cheque for £1500.00 to Mr Clive Morris from the RNLI Port Talbot/Aberavon lifeboat station. The money donated is only possible through the work of our volunteers, Social 1 Committee and Ladies Circle combined. A letter of gratitude, along with a postcard (pictured below), was received by President Amanda Davies.



Tredegar No.1

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Brian Meredith, Vice President, laid a wreath at the War memorial at Bedwellty Park, Tredegar, on behalf of Tredegar Lodge. We will remember them.

CEFN GOLAU TOGETHER CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tredegar Lodge hosted the Children's Christmas Party for Cefn Golau Together.

Cefn Golau Together is a community organisation set up to support and improve the well-being of the residents of Cefn Golau and surrounding areas of Tredegar. The organisation encourages local action and offers residents volunteering opportunities in a wide range of activities. It is also committed to improving the environment and teaching skills to support sustainable food production.



Story of Maurice the Moose

There was only a month until Christmas Eve when Santa Claus set about getting his reindeer together for their annual pre-Christmas delivery practice. He called for the herd to gather at the corral to give them their final instructions. This year, it would be hard work as a blizzard was forecast for Christmas Eve, and the rooftops would be very slippery.

The first reindeer to emerge from the forest was Dasher. He was always very fast and reacted to Santa's call at a moment's notice. He immediately set about his yearly task of sewing the jingle bells onto the reins of the other reindeer, as he was very good at sewing and always did a good job of it.

Second to arrive was Dancer, a total extrovert who was always a little over the top due to the excitement that delivering all the Christmas parcels for the children could bring. He would celebrate every delivery with a little impromptu dance like footballers do when they score a goal.

Then Prancer arrived, jumping into the corral with a zest that told the others he was there. Prancer was a vain reindeer who loved himself but also loved all the other reindeer in the herd. He knew he was the fittest of them all and showed it by continual prancing and a desire to get the practice underway.

The fourth reindeer to arrive was Vixen, who was already practising her magic by making all the antlers of the other reindeer soft and floppy so they would not stand up properly; all the rest of the herd regarded Vixen as slightly tricky because they never knew what magic trick she would get up to next.

Then, out of the forest came Comet, the best-looking of Santa's reindeer. All the female reindeer loved Comet because although he was handsome and easygoing, he was also really good with children and had no trouble relating to them at all.

Comet was closely followed by Cupid, who showed affection to the others by nuzzling up to them and sharing her warmth and ability to bring them together as a team.

Bringing up the rear came Donner, who announced himself with a loud bellowing sound just to let the others know he had arrived. He immediately started to get the others in the right frame of mind for Christmas with a couple of carols, as he loved singing.

His Partner was Blitzen, fast as a bolt of lightning and the reindeer who imparted to the herd the speed needed to deliver all the presents to the children in one night. He possessed the ability to electrify the others to fly as one in the sky, and he always got it right.

The tenth reindeer in the herd was Olive. She was always playing hide and seek, and because of this, she usually missed roll call as she was hiding. Tonight

Story of Maurice the Moose

was no exception, and she did not turn up. However, she always admits when she is wrong and would have to apologise to Santa later for not coming. Olive had a precarious start when she joined the herd. You may recall the line from Rudolph's song, "All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names..." Well, many people heard "Olive, the other reindeer..." Well, it's true; Olive is the other reindeer. She did, in fact, laugh at Rudolph with his shiny big red nose, but it was only because she thought Rudolph was an amazing asset to Santa's team, and she really wanted to be part of it. So she started out by mocking Rudolph but then later realised that was not becoming for a reindeer, besides, everyone knows that when you tease your friends, it's because you really like them. She shyly apologised to Rudolph and they have been best friends ever since.

The last to arrive was Rudolph himself. You could see his big red shiny nose coming through the forest for a full minute before he actually broke cover. Rudolph was the most important Reindeer in Santa's herd, especially at Christmas time, as he was the only reindeer that could remember all of the routes they had to cover to deliver the presents to the children on Christmas Eve. He even knew some shortcuts to avoid the horrid children who had been naughty all year round. Rudolph used to miss them out on Christmas Eve as a punishment and go back and leave their presents the next day when it was not such a rush. So remember children, if you want your presents from Santa to be there on Christmas morning, you have to be good for Mummy and Daddy.

So, with the herd assembled, less Olive, who was still playing hide and seek in the forest, Santa set about briefing his reindeer. Rudolph was to lead as always because he knew the quickest route, followed by Dasher and Dancer, to give speed and enthusiasm to the front five, with Prancer and Vixen at four and five to add pulling power and a little magic if needed. Six and seven were Comet and Cupid, their job was to keep the set together and to ensure they all had fun on the sleigh ride. At the back and nearest to the sleigh full of toys came Donner and Blitzen, Donner bellowing encouragement and singing Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer at the top of his voice, and Blitzen adding the extra ounce of power needed to get the sleigh travelling really fast.

The first stop was Lapland. Rudolph thought that as the blizzard was looking really windy and cold, they would go there first. It proved to be both a good and bad decision. The Lapland rooftops were already covered in snow and ice each time they landed. The sleigh lurched on the uneven ice and, in some cases, slid down the roof. Santa and Rudolph were worried that the sleigh would fall off the rooftops, spill all the presents, and bring the reindeer that were coupled together crashing to

Story of Maurice the Moose

the ground. As this was only a practice, Santa decided it was too risky to carry on. They decided to do two more landings and call it a day, hoping for better weather tomorrow.

The first landing went well, and Santa was able to deliver the presents. Still, the landing of the second house was very slippery indeed. Rudolph managed to somehow put his front foot down the chimney and badly sprain his ankle. The whole episode was going from bad to worse.

Santa and the reindeer returned home without making any more stops, but as they landed, Rudolph's ankle took another twist, and he shouted out in pain. Santa looked at Rudolph's foot and decided it was too swollen for him to lead the reindeer on Christmas Eve. Rudolph was heartbroken. He was thinking about all the hard work the Elves and Gnomes had put into making the toys. Santa was very worried that the presents for all the children would not be delivered in time.

Olive was nowhere to be seen. She was still playing hide and seek in the forest, and she did not know the route, so she could not stand in for Rudolph.

Santa decided it was time to talk to Mrs. Claus about what they should do, and as was normally the case, she came up with a really good suggestion: "What about getting in touch with Maurice the Moose? He is a big guy, a real leader, very clever, loves the children, and when you have needed him in the past, he has never let you down."

"What a great idea," said Santa.

And so, Santa Claus contacted Maurice the Moose and asked him if he would lead the reindeer on Christmas Eve to deliver all the children's presents.

Maurice, being a typically friendly Moose, agreed but said, "How are we going to stop the sleigh sliding down the rooftops?"

"Ah, yes," said Santa. "Small problem there."

"I know," said Maurice. "We can use some of the children's toys to keep the sleigh up in the air. How about using a drone at each corner of the sleigh? Vixen can use her magic to keep the reindeer up in the air, and we can use the drones to keep the sleigh up."

"Great idea," said Santa. "But how will we manage to stop at each roof?"

"I know," said Maurice. "I will get in touch with Metrognome, who lives on the London Underground. He's always looking for something to do at Christmas. I'll get him to throw a hook out of the sleigh at each stop. That should slow us down quickly at each house as it will catch on the roof edges, and the sleigh will not actually have to land as it can hover."

"OK," said Santa. "But how will I be able to get down onto the rooftops with

Story of Maurice the Moose

a sleigh that is hovering?”

“That’s easy,” said Maurice. “You will have to abseil down the chimneys!!”

“Owwkay,” said Santa, Somewhat hesitantly, and went off to practice.

So, Maurice took over Rudolph’s role as Leader, and they kept in touch through their new phones that Santa had given them so that Maurice knew the route. Rudolph gave Maurice a red searchlight to strap to his antlers so that all the elves at stations along the way where Santa had to restock with presents could see that the sleigh was coming.

On Christmas Eve, all the reindeer were eager to go and deliver all the presents, so with Maurice at the front, they took off and hovered, hooked and abseiled their way round all the world’s houses that contained children and delivered all the Christmas toys. Not one was missed. Even the naughty children were visited. Santa was overjoyed that Maurice had come to his rescue and got on well with all the other reindeer.

The Moral of this story is that whatever misfortune might befall you, you can always rely on a Moose to respond compassionately to a call for help and come up with a solution to the problem, whatever it might be.

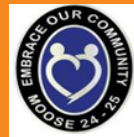
To everyone who reads this story, please be assured that Rudolph recovered fully from his bad ankle. Olive eventually responded to the call after being sought out by the elves and stayed to keep Mrs Claus company while Santa was away. Metrognome eventually had enough sense to tie the hook to the back of the sleigh so he did not get pulled out at each stop. However, it took him three houses and several unscheduled exits from the sleigh to get this right.

Maurice led the herd and really got Santa out of a very tricky situation at a moment’s notice, but that is what we at Moose do on a daily Basis.

Thank you for reading, be kind to each other, and I hope you had a wonderful Christmas.

The story of Maurice courtesy of Southend.

EMBRACE OUR COMMUNITY



**Thank you to everybody
who has raised money on
behalf of Moose International**

**Please remember the importance
of signing new members**

**Once you have read your magazine
why not pass it onto a friend or
colleague to help raise awareness
of Moose International**

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**Please can all information be sent to our central office:
Moose International
The Lighthouse Suite
Manor House
Manor Road
Burnham-on-Sea
Somerset
TA8 2AS**

Email: admin@mooseintl.org.uk / Tel: 01934 842112