

Another Christmas find in the archive collection

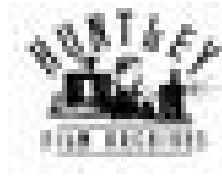
Amateur home movie and Christmas scores 31 hits on our database.

The films range from scenes of an early 1930s wealthy family Christmas, complete with turkey cooking and carving, to a man clearing snow from his front path at Christmastime in 1938 and my personal favourite, a film we've just discovered amongst our collections.

This shows a North London extended family celebrating Christmas 1963. The editing of this colour 8mm film is clever and funny and the film is well-lit. Presents are wrapped in decorative paper and the gift-giving starts when the parents are woken and happily open their presents in bed. A large pink Lullaby blanket brings great joy, and soon the family are tucking into Christmas dinner at Uncle Bill and Aunt Joan's house. More presents arrive and as we see a box with Cowboy printed on it, a five year old in his splendid new cowboy costume, with gun and holster enters the shot. Yet more presents are given and the delight on the face of the woman lucky enough to receive an enormous pair of knickers which she holds up for us is palpable. This was clearly a time for utilitarian gift-giving.

But even happier are the family's lovable mop tops. One is fortunate to receive a copy of **With the Beatles** the group's second studio album released only the month before. It doesn't matter that the film is silent, the boys play air guitar and perform to I Want to Hold Your Hand or I Saw Her Standing There. So good are the Beatles that the girls scream and mob the boys. Even the old folks get in on the act and bop away.

Marvellous, I hope this Christmas will be as much fun as it was in Tottenham in 1963.



The film can be found on our youtube channel at :
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_879IDSphdU

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