

Children, we need your help otherwise there might not be any Christmas! Look for the reindeer around Middleton Railway and write their names below. Find them all, then look out for Father Christmas on your amazing Christmas ride! He might give you a very special present.

Come on children - find Santa's reindeer for Christmas!

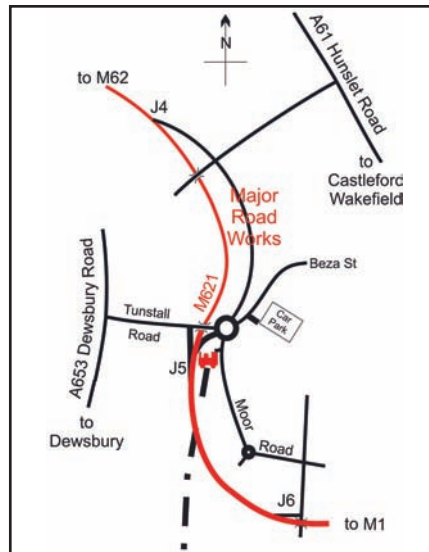
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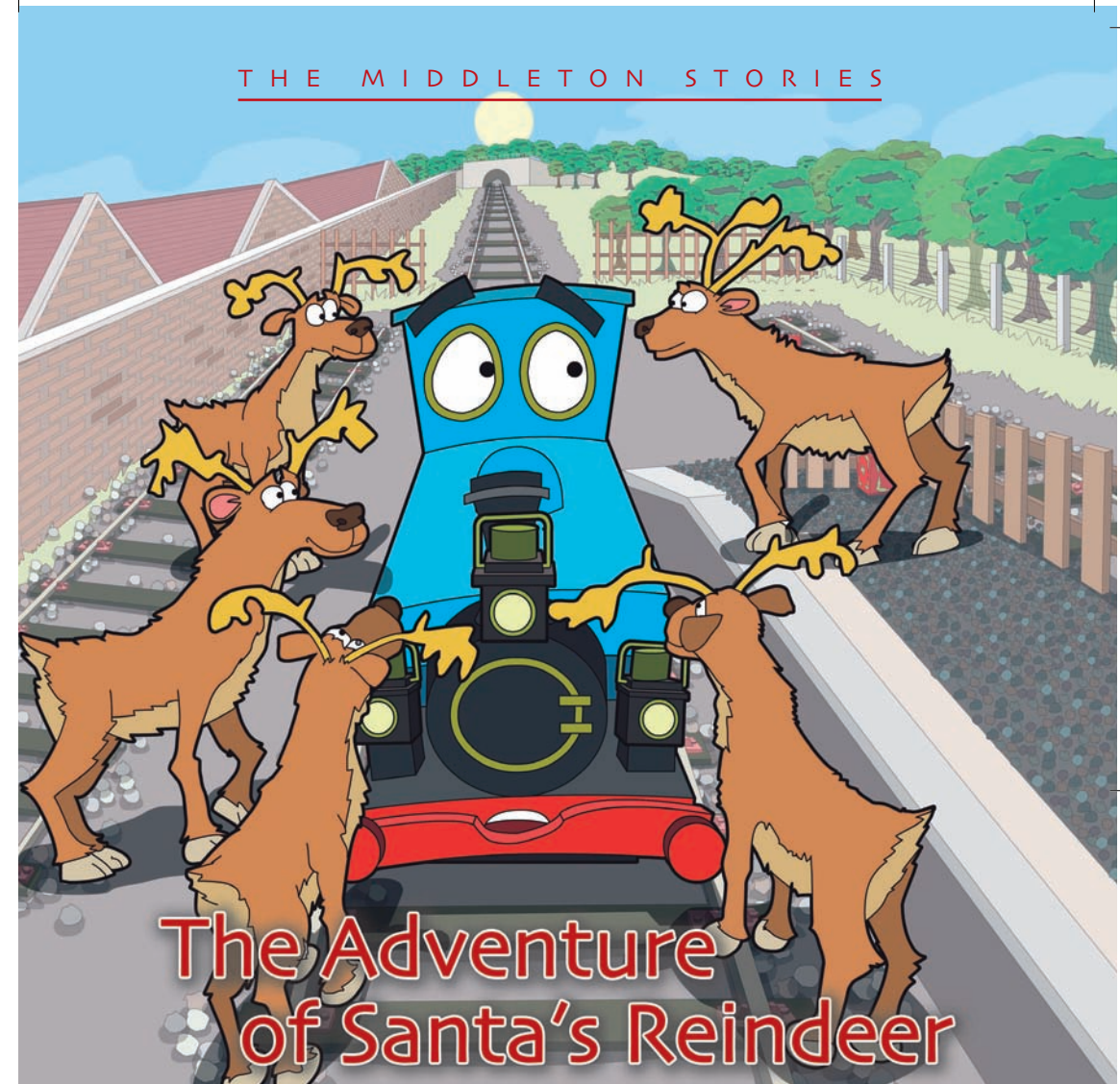
For further information or to make a booking, please contact the Booking Elf on 01904 633906

How to get to Middleton Railway

By car: The Middleton Railway is situated alongside the M621 about 2 miles from the centre of Leeds. Free car parking is available on site and at the nearby Tulip Street Retail Park.

There is no southbound exit at Jct 5, use Jct 6.

By Bus: From Leeds City Station, take service 61 from Aire Street and alight at Beza Street, or service 2 or 3 from the Corn Exchange and alight at the junction of Dewsbury Road and Tunstall Road.

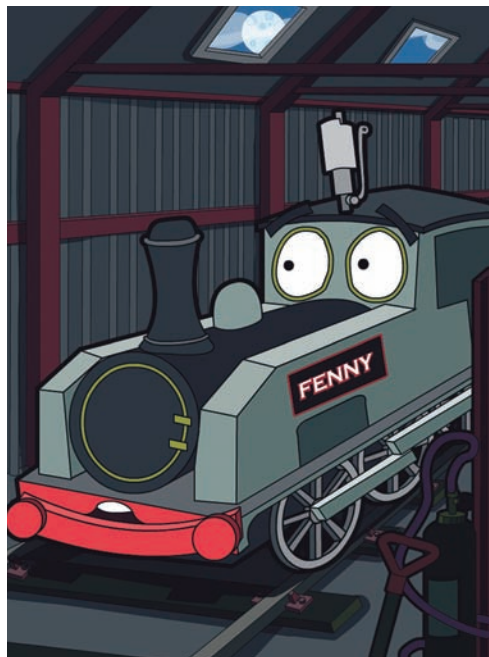


The three Special Engines at Middleton Railway were getting ready for Christmas.

WOODY BRIGHTLIGHT loved Christmas. The owners let her shine her lovely lamps all the time, so she went about her work every day with a smile as bright as her lights. She loved spending Christmas time with her friends in The Engine House telling jokes, playing games and having a happy rest.



FENNY WHISTLE loved Christmas. He could not help himself, blowing his whistle loudly wherever he went. From The Station, he would watch mums and dads carrying presents, chattering away to their children about Father Christmas. Every night FENNY went to sleep even more excited knowing it was one day closer to Christmas Day.



MURRAY BLUEBELL loved Christmas. It's just that he did not want everyone to know. He was the oldest, so tried to pretend he did not care all that much. MURRAY would ring his bell and say "What's the fuss about?" and "Christmas, pah!" but his friends took no notice and talked to MURRAY about Christmas anyway. They thought he was not as excited as they were. Little did they know!



Someone else was very excited. Old Ma Blenkinsop had seen many Christmases; so many in fact that even Father Christmas stopped to talk to her. Ever since then, Santa Claus would pop in, share a glass of sherry, pat Edgar and be on his way. Sometimes when he was very busy, he would ask Old Ma Blenkinsop to look after some of his reindeer. Like this year.



Edgar did not understand Christmas. He saw how excited everyone seemed to be, how the owners gave him an extra pat and how Old Ma Blenkinsop left him special treats for no good reason. He knew one thing, though - that reindeer looked good fun to chase!



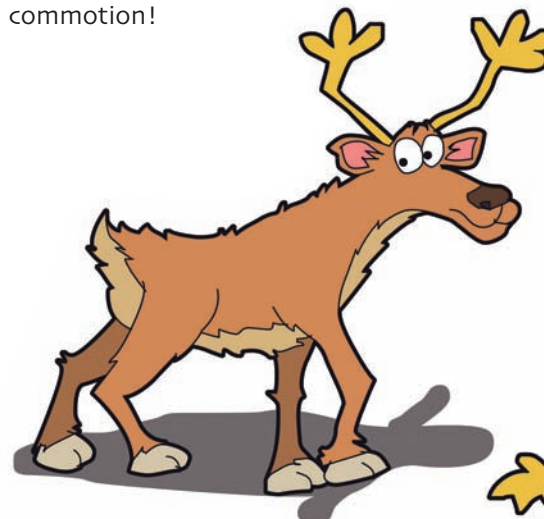
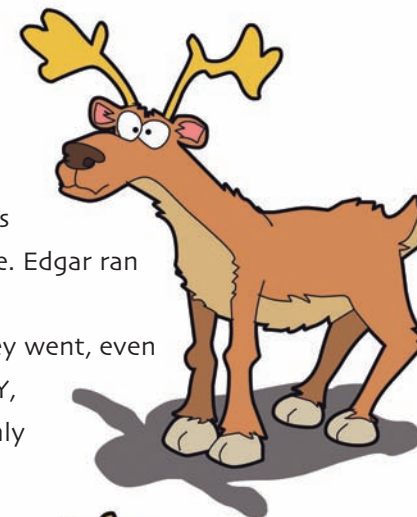
Just before Christmas, Santa sneaked into Middleton Railway and said to Old Ma Blenkinsop, "I've left five of my reindeer in the yard. Can you look after them for me? I'll come back Christmas Eve and pick them up," and he handed Old Ma Blenkinsop a bag of golden bran. "Of course, Santa," she said and watched him slip off into the night. Just like Edgar.



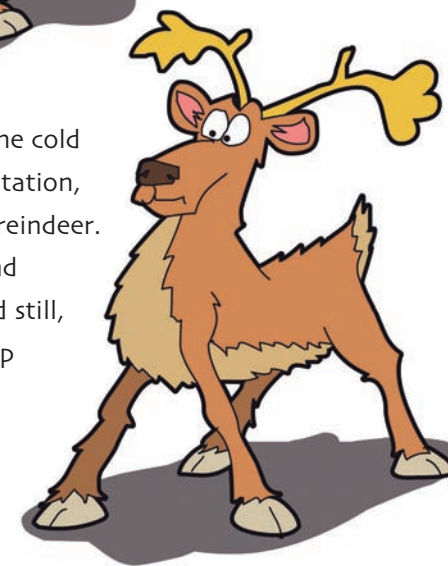
Edgar walked past the pile of coal by The Workshop. He sneaked past The Engine House where the engines were asleep at last. He walked quietly past The Station and up to the reindeer pen just before The Great Tunnel. Silently, he padded up to the gate, gently nuzzled it open, tiptoed forward, and took a deep breath, "GROWL! YAP! BARK! GROWL!"

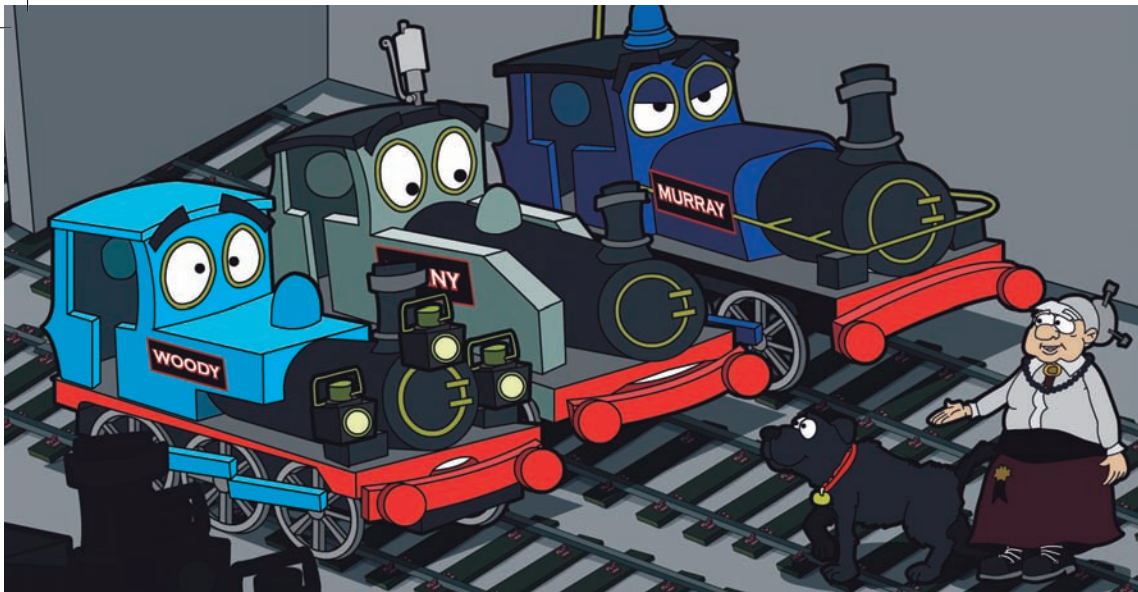


The frightened reindeer ran for the gate and raced into The Station, their bells tinkling as they tried to find places to hide. Edgar ran after them, a big smile on his black face. This was such fun! Round The Station they went, even into The Engine House, waking up FENNY, WOODY and MURRAY. There was suddenly whistling, clanging and flashing lights. What a commotion!



Old Ma Blenkinsop walked out into the cold air, just as Edgar raced out into The Station, his tail wagging as he looked for the reindeer. "Enough," said Old Ma Blenkinsop, and there was instant silence. Edgar stood still, unable to move, as Old Ma Blenkinsop walked over to him with a terribly stern look.





“Edgar,” she said. “Have you been chasing the reindeer?” She tried to be angry with him, but one look at his worried face, and she burst out laughing. “Come on,” she said, and Edgar ran after her.

They walked around The Station, The Workshop and finally The Engine House, where the engines were talking quietly to each other.

“Anyone seen the reindeer?” she asked.

“No,” said the engines together.

“Are they important reindeer?” asked FENNY.

“Important? They belong to Father Christmas. Unless we find them, there won’t be any Christmas at all!”

The very next morning, Old Ma Blenkinsop gathered the engines and Edgar together.

“Listen, everyone. Santa will be here in a couple of days, and we have to find his reindeer. Keep a look out for them.”

MURRAY clanged loudly. “Let’s ask the visiting children to help,” he said.

“With their help, we are bound to find them.”

“That’s an excellent idea,” said Old Ma Blenkinsop, “and we will give them a present too.”



Old Ma Blenkinsop decided to tell Father Christmas what had happened. Using her magic red telephone, she got straight through.

“You must find them,” said Father Christmas, when she had finished.

“I will. I am going to ask the children to help.”

“That’s a good idea. And as a reward, I’ll give every child their present myself.”

“Oh, thank you, Father Christmas, the children will love that. And I’ll get some food and drink for the mums and dads, too,” said Old Ma Blenkinsop.

“Very good,” said Santa. “I’m sure we’ll find them with so much help. Let me know when you do.”

Old Ma Blenkinsop went to the engines and told them the plan.

The engines felt very excited.

They told Old Ma Blenkinsop they would do their very best. If they found them, FENNY would give an extra peep on his whistle, WOODY would flash her lights even more brightly and MURRAY would ring his bell louder than ever. And so, off they went.

Good luck, engines!

