Did you ever wonder why we wink? What does a wink mean? Winking is a sign of mutual understanding between two people. The winker and the winkee use this gesture to imply a shared secret or a private understanding of a public situation. Closing the eye suggests that the secret is aimed only at the person being looked at. The other eye is kept open for the rest of the world, who are excluded from the private exchange.

Where did ties originally come from? Ties were first produced in Western Europe. The original ties in Western Europe were made of white linen. These ties were known as Croatian neckpieces. The word cravat comes from the proper name Cravate, for Croatian. The French adapted the style from the Croatians in the seventeenth century. The tie used to be a symbol of uniqueness. Today the tie symbolizes conformity. These days successful men must wear ties, and ties of a particular pattern and hue. In modern times the necktie has become an instantly recognizable badge of status.

Now you know why we wink and why ties are more than just a fashion item. Check this space next month for more Curious Customs.