



# Christmas Facts and Trivia



A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.

According to a 1995 survey, 7 out of 10 British dogs get Christmas gifts from their doting owners.

Candy canes began as straight white sticks of sugar candy used to decorated the Christmas trees. A choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral decided have the ends bent to depict a shepherd's crook and he would pass them out to the children to keep them quiet during the services. It wasn't until about the 20th century that candy canes acquired their red stripes.

Christmas trees are known to have been popular in Germany as far back as the sixteenth century. In England, they became popular after Queen Victoria's husband Albert, who came from Germany, made a tree part of the celebrations at Windsor Castle. In the United States, the earliest known mention of a Christmas tree is in the diary of a German who settled in Pennsylvania.

In Britain, eating mince pies at Christmas dates back to the 16th century. It is still believed that to eat a mince pie on each of the Twelve Days of Christmas will bring 12 happy months in the year to follow.

It is estimated that 400,000 people become sick each year from eating tainted Christmas leftovers.

More diamonds are purchased at Christmas-time (31 percent) than during any other holiday or occasion during the year.

Santa's Reindeers are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

The Christmas turkey first appeared on English tables in the 16th century, but didn't immediately replace the traditional fare of goose, beef or boar's head in the rich households.

The custom of singing Christmas carols is very old - the earliest English collection was published in 1521.

The first Christmas card was created in England on December 9, 1842.



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# Open House

CAMBRIDGE DECEMBER 2007

ISSUE 08

**Welcome** to Open House, the Newsletter especially for Service Users. It's our way of letting you know what's happening right now - the latest news and event where you are.

I am delighted to start my Christmas message with congratulations to one of our service users on her 100 birthday on 6th December. Warmest best wishes from everyone at Home Choice Care Ltd – and we look forward to more celebrations for the future.

Meanwhile a very peaceful, happy and joyous Christmas to you all. Remember we will be right here for you over the Christmas period looking to support you if you need us.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.  
**Justin Jewitt, Chairman, 07970 287743**

Welcome to the December service user newsletter - It is with pleasure that I can announce 3 new staff members joining our Cambridge Branch this month.

Thank you all for completing the Mini Survey sent out with last months newsletter. The draw date for that luxury box of Chocolates will take place on 30th November so watch this space.

**Have a great festive time, and a fabulous Gregorian New Year.**



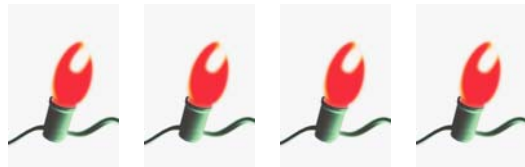
*Jonathan Ludd, Care Director*

# Cambridge News by Jonathan Ludd



Additionally, thank you to all who have returned the 'Festive Grid' for cancellations due to family and friends visiting you over this time. Over the new week, our Field Care Supervisors; Jill Critchell and Julie Woodrow will be making contact to ensure that our services operate at the correct levels throughout December 2007 and into January 2008.

I am aware that some of our staff may 'forget' from time to time to remove their bluetooth handsfree ear pieces when they enter your home. We would be pleased to hear from you if this is happening, as we have asked all our community staff to remove their blue-tooths during care call visits. We do encourage all staff to wear this essential equipment whilst travelling around the counties purely for safety, and all are aware they should leave them in their cars when popping in to see you.



**01223 264944 Out of Hours Telephone Number**

it is with great delight that I can confirm that the Management Team and I have now despatched work rotas to all our staff up to 14th December 2007, so we are currently working two week in advance. By 5th December all our community staff will have received their official rotas up to Saturday 5th January 2008, so in real good time to review what their workload is to be. It would therefore be helpful that any cancellations you wish to make from today are telephoned through to our Community Care Office on **01223 264944**, so to ensure that all are aware.



## Your Care Worker Team

It is with pleasure that I can announce 3 new staff members joining our Cambridge Branch this month.



All the staff have joined Home Choice Care with extensive community care knowledge, have worked with other care providers over many years. This will assist the Cambridge Branch in forward planning the visit allocations for the forthcoming festive event.

**Their names are Jane Macpherson  
Suzannah Ellisson  
and Robert Inwood**

Your feedback on the new staff has been very positive and I am sure that they will all continue to develop and grow in their roles, with your continued support and our commitment to their individual training and development needs.

## Congratulations on the following achievements

NVQ Current registrations  
Level 2

Successful Medication  
Training Passes this

