



# 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

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 Mrs Speller on her 100 birthday this Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 here 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

Mini Survey Results

A special thank you to everyone who responded to the recent questionnaire sent out with the last copy of your newsletter.

Just to remind you that the closing date for return was **30.11.07** and all entries received will be entered in to a prize draw, with the lucky winner receiving a Luxury box of chocolates. **Watch this space!**



I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

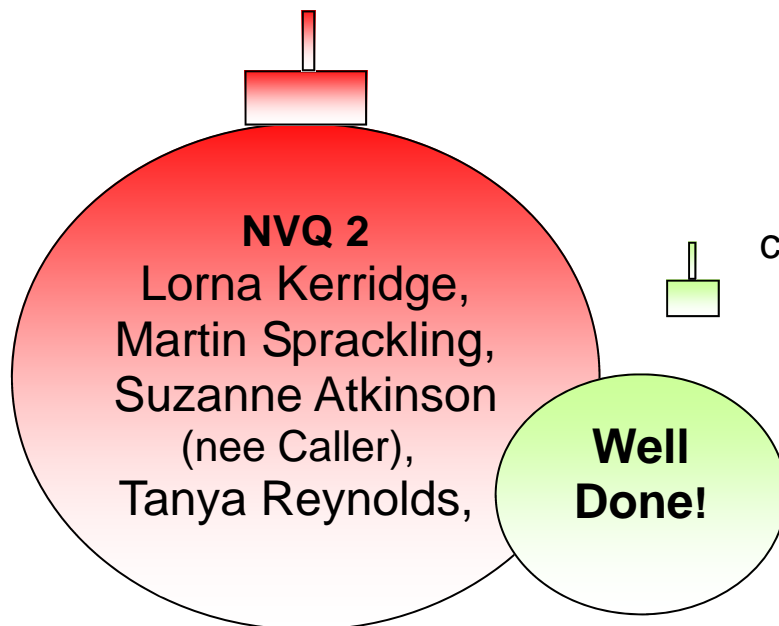
Lyn Wilson, Care Director

# Kent News by Lyn Wilson

I would like to send my best wishes at this festive time to many of our Service Users that are to be celebrating a birthday.

**Presley Butcher, Mrs Elenora Walkling  
Mr Alan Dando, Mr Roy Webb, Fran Bailey, Sam Butcher, Michael Cleary, Francis Venables, Doris Morgan, Carol Ryder, Violet Ridger, Joan Jones, Florence Oliver**

Happy Birthday from Home Choice Care



I would also like to congratulate the following staff who have recently achieved their NVQ Qualifications:

**Congratulations !** To Tanya Reynolds, one of our long standing Care Workers she gave birth to a health baby boy in the early hours of Monday 26th November.



**01474 365594 is our Out of Hours Telephone Number**

We continue to provide care calls as usual over festive period, however the office will be closed on bank holiday days (25<sup>th</sup> December, 26<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January). Should you need to contact us during this time please call the office number, **01474 365594**, where you will be directed to the out of hours telephone which is being manned by **Sukhdeep**.



**Congratulations !** To our very own Suzanne who married Charlie Atkinson on 23rd November. Their honeymoon was in Spain - We're all looking forward to seeing the new Mrs Atkinson back in office soon.

## Your Care Worker Team

I am pleased to announce that we have recruited many new Care Workers whom of which I am sure you may have already meet. Their names are as follows New Care Workers that have joined our team

**Jane Winter, Maureen Sakalli, Suru Forster-Mbacke Modupe Lassey, Sarah Smith, Margaret Tanhamira Maureen Dube, Ganiat Adebayo, Saburdeen Olaloko**

They are all highly qualified and very happy to help with your individual needs. We now have a total of **50** care workers within Home Choice. Should you feel that your care package does not meet your needs and you require some extra time with some one from our team then please contact me at the office and I will be happy to look into it for you.

I would like to share the good news for some of our Care Workers who have this month completed their NVQ Level 2 in Care.



## COMPLIMENTS

Jane Winter, got a compliment from Mrs S saying "What a wonderful thorough careworker she is"

Sarah Smith got a compliment from Mrs C saying, she's very good and very attentive.

Lorna Kerriage and Davina Batchlor, got a compliment from Mrs H's daughter saying how good they were with her mother.