



# 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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supporting your freedom

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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 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**

Thank you to those of you who have returned the Christmas grids, this allows us to plan staff rota's in plenty of time.

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).

I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the festivities and the many repeats on TV!

Our office phone will be automatically diverted to the Please dial **01480 356219** should you need to speak to anybody. on call manager who is on duty on these days to deal with any queries or phone calls.



Emma Pearson  
Care Director

# Huntingdon News

## 100th Birthday Celebration



Happy **100th** Birthday to **Mrs Speller**. Have a fabulous day with all your family and friends.

Best Wishes from all the staff at Home Choice Care, St Ives.

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

**Julie Pope, Isobel Baker, Dawn Brown, Pat Peck, Trevina Murie, Maria Gunney and Emma Mulligan**



Home Choice Care are keen to develop its staff with over **70%** of its members holding an NVQ qualification in care.

## Emergency Numbers

Huntingdon Office	01480 356219
Huntingdon Out of Hours	01480 356219
SS Duty Number	0845 650 2150
SS Out of hours Duty	01733 234 724
Cambridgeshire Police	0845 5456 456 4

## Your Care Worker Team

We now have over **70** care workers in our local area and we are currently recruiting more staff to enable us to provide a quality care service.

All care workers are trained to meet the common induction standards and continually developed with update training sessions and regular supervisions.

Our youngest staff member is **19** years old our oldest is **78!**

I would like to welcome on board **10** new care workers who have recently started with us:

**Ellen Asiedu, Carol Burrell, Claire Copson, Frances Du Toit, Susan Mangandaire, Shelina Myers, Donnah Parsons, Jackie Plows Janet Thomas and Vanessa Washington**

