



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

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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 events where you are.

I am delighted to start my Christmas message with congratulations to one of our service users on her 100 birthday this Saturday 1st 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

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to introduce our new Trainee Care Director, Laura Cambray. Laura joined the Home Choice Care team last month – please join me in welcoming her to Oxford
(see inside cover)

Laura has spent the first month in Oxford and will continue her training at the branch.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

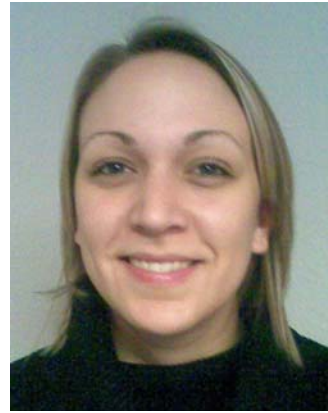
Thank you all for patience whilst we template all the visits. Don't forget if you have any questions about the care you receive please let us know.

Julie Green
Regional Care Director

Oxford News by Laura Cambray



My name is Laura Cambray and I am currently training in Oxford for the post of Care Director. I work from the Oxford branch and can be contacted any time on **01865 770412**.



I would like to wish 'Happy Birthday' to following members of the team that are celebrating this month.

Celia Redknap, Margaret Houlton, Edward Boodell, Carol Constant, Michael Inston Michael Lindsay, Anthea Thomas, Melzeta Teteris



Best wishes from everyone in the Oxford branch.

08165 770412 is our Out of Hours Telephone Number

With the festive season looming I wanted to remind you of the out of hours telephone number in case you need to get in touch with us. Our office is open normal hours throughout the holiday with the exception of Christmas Day and Boxing Day. These days will be covered by our On Call team. All you need to do is call the normal office number, **01865 770412**, and you will be automatically be transferred through to the On Call team member. You can contact them 24 hrs a day. Please feel free to ring us anytime, using the On Call team in any emergency.

Your Care Worker Team

I am pleased to announce that we have recruited several new Care Workers whom of which I am sure you will be meeting shortly. Please make them feel welcome.



Their names are Eva, Dawn, Linda, Emily, Jacqueline and Julie and all are highly qualified and very happy to help with your individual needs.

We now have a total of **20** care workers within Home Choice and we are currently recruiting qualified care workers to cope with everyone's needs.

Should you feel that your care package does not meet your needs and you require some extra time with our ladies than please contact me at the office and I will be happy to look into it for you.

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

We have now received most of your festive requirements. For those of you yet to return them, one of our friendly office staff will be calling you over the next few days to make sure you have the visits that you need over Christmas and New Year.

I am looking forward to meeting you all very soon and would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Laura Cambray
Trainee Care Director*