

We asked the following questions:

1. Sprouts – yes or no?
2. Where will you spend Christmas Day this year?
3. What's the best or worst present you ever received?
4. What is your Christmas Eve tradition?

And our community said...

Alex Wolfe, Wolfe Power Club

1. Yes — they're the best part.
2. With my parents-in-law in Wiltshire.
3. Best: Tickets to see Mike + The Mechanics last year (thank you, Harriet!). Worst: A key customer calling at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve urgently needing kerosene. All sorted, but what a classic way to kick off the festive season.
4. Visiting the pubs by the river in Kingston upon Thames.

Alison Sweeney, Worldpay for Business

1. Yes.
2. Home. I'll be feeding the five thousand!
3. Best – my son Andrew born 40 minutes before Xmas Day in 1999.
4. Celebrating my eldest son's birthday.

Andrew Walkden, ESL Fuels

1. Yes – Crunchy.
2. Home with the family.
3. A tape measure.
4. Hot dogs and movies.

Bahvna Mistry, Phillips 66 Ltd

1. Yes, but they must be well-roasted with balsamic vinegar.
2. In Portugal with my family, hopefully having a nice meal and lots of wine.
3. Best: a family heirloom Worst: My husband forgetting to get me a Christmas gift last year.
4. Growing up in South Africa it was going to the beach with loads of family; Now it's what I always dreamt of – watching Christmas movies with my family with the fire lit. I love a cold Christmas.

Ben Firth, Mechtronic

1. Absolutely YES!
2. At home with family
3. Best: Apple iPod when I was about 12. I think I could load roughly 100 songs onto it, which back then was unthinkable!

4. Usually having a nice meal, a few drinks and getting Santa and his reindeers treats ready!

Carrie Marsh, Marsh Fuels

1. Sprouts, hell no! Vegetable of the devil!
2. At the folks, aware there will not be too many left!
3. Worst was a thermal heated 5 finger (single!) glove – turned out to be the best many years later after I met and married hubby Dave (our Transport Director) who finds it very handy for the BBQ and chimenea!
4. Sit back with bacon and pickle, with family, usually in front of carols or a Christmas animation on TV and an early night. We've not managed Christmas Mass at midnight since (how old are the children??) a good 15 years ago!!

Caroline Lombard, Greenery

1. Absolutely not, not even with bacon or chestnuts.... Nothing makes a sprout taste good!!!
2. Home, always at home. The kids refuse to leave the house for Christmas day.
3. The best gift ever is a lay in past 6am, as kids get older and aren't waiting to see what Santa has left for them. Shhh!
4. My mum always makes a fish pie and when the kids were younger we would attend the Christingle service at the local church.

Chris Rickwood, Tank Top

1. Yes yes yes!
2. Family Xmas at my sisters. My partner flies to Melbourne on Xmas day!
3. It sounds ungrateful, but I was 13 and wanted a scientific calculator. All my friends had Casios, mine was Boots – the antithesis of cool. I tried to scratch off the branding – a bad idea...
4. Quiet before the storm.

Claire Foster, Mabanaf

1. Of course – for throwing and for eating.
2. At a hotel – traveling for the holidays this year! Decided nobody needed to be the quote 'host'.
3. Worst was 3 sets of Pick-up-Stix. The gift isn't bad; just not the best when given by 3 gifters in the same year!
4. Chocolate orange and a small present at midnight!

David Blevings, NIOIL

1. Definite no!
2. Home with my family.
3. Worst present – socks! Again....
4. Church service 1130 – 12 – nice way to ease into the festive season.

Dawn Shakespeare, UKIFDA

1. Absolutely yes. Stir fried not boiled, with plenty of seasoning.
2. Home. The family always come to me and end up staying for the majority of Xmas, lots of food, fun and the odd drink or three in the garden bar.
3. Worst – a cordless electric knife, not only do I have a rule of no kitchen appliances for xmas, it didn't even come with the battery charger that allowed it to be cordless!
4. Light meal, bottle of wine and curl up to watch a good old fashioned Xmas film, favourite is a 'It's a Wonderful Life'.

Duncan Lambert, Rix Petroleum

1. Definitely NO – the Devil's food.
2. Always at home, so I can sleep after too much food.
3. The best presents are my Grandchildren coming to us for Christmas.
4. We always go Italian the night before.

Emma Allinson, Mechtronic

1. I will reluctantly have one – although I don't hide them on

my boys' plates like my Mum used to!

2. At home with family.
3. I was given a necklace with my husband's and boys' names on it, and I have worn it ever since. I love it!
4. Watch a Christmas film, track Santa, and choose treats for him. As the Elves are going home with Santa that evening, my boys get to cuddle and play with them through the day. I love seeing their faces light up when they can finally have a cuddle with them!

Emma Osborn, Halso Fuels UK

1. Always. I'm basically 40% chlorophyll at this point!
2. My parents house with my wonderful 15-year-old son, watching my mother cook while sipping Champagne! Oooops!
3. Worst was a book on dieting – it was not on my list!
4. My son is nearly 16, so it is not quite the same as when he was little, but I still leave a mince pie out for Santa and a carrot for Rudolph. I like to have some picky bits to eat, some wine, fresh pyjamas and watch Love Actually.

Erick Baron, Otodata

1. Yes.
2. Home with family.
3. The worst was a Christmas fruit basket and no chocolate!
4. A "White Elephant" gift exchange with the whole family – sisters, parents, nieces, and nephews. Lots of fun.

Ethan Halfpenny, Harlequin

1. Absolutely yes! No doubt
2. At home, then a short stint in the pub in the evening!
3. A packet of cable ties. I'll let you decide if that's best or worst!
4. Head to the pub, one occasion where everyone is home and out at the same time!

Fiona Bellairs, Magnus Monitors

1. Yes – fine sliced and pan fried in garlic and butter.
2. Canada with family.
3. What's the best or worst present you ever received? Bayliss & Harding or Dove gift set!!
4. Midnight Mass with my mum.

Gavin Milligan, Strangford Fuels

1. Yes, to sprouts.
2. Home. Hopefully exhausted after a busy December.
3. Best present was a season ticket to Celtic Park. Some might argue that's the worst!
4. Turning my phone on silent mode for a couple of days.

Geoff Henderson, Phillips 66

1. Definitely yes, as no Christmas dinner is complete without a few sprouts.
2. Home. We like to keep it low key and relaxed. Then straight off skiing for New Year to enjoy a proper white Christmas!
3. Spending It at the pub with family and friends – the atmosphere is amazing, the festive cheer is flowing, and it's the best excuse to finish wrapping before the first pint!

Gwyn Lewis, Elminox

1. YES of course!
2. Home with family.
3. Best present was hearing my granddaughter passed her grade 8 piano.
4. Watching The Griswolds Family Christmas or Wonderful Life.

Helen Needham, Callow Oils

1. Yes definitely!
2. Home but hotel would be nice.
3. Best present was my daughter Holly, born on Christmas Day.
4. Tot of Whisky with James in the Office before we shut the doors and head home for Christmas.

Howard Marriott, Barton Petroleum

1. Absolutely Yes!!
2. At home with the family. It is our 2nd Grandson Arthur's 1st Xmas.
3. Worst was a box of initialled handkerchiefs from an elderly Auntie when I was a child. Unfortunately, I told her what I

thought of them and got a good telling off!!

4. Meeting up with the same bunch of friends for the last 20 odd years for a few drinks.

Jacque Davies, Hytek

1. Absolutely yes, I am growing them in the garden... love them every which way!
2. With my lovely mum-in-law, we lost dad-in-law in June, so a massive family get together in South Wales to celebrate his life.
3. Worst was a regifted one from my sister I'd given her the year before. I now buy her something I really like, just in case!
4. Visit all eleven grandchildren across Essex delivering parcels, food and bottles. Home, a walk to our local, then PJs and snacks.

James Spencer, Portland

1. 1,000 % yes. Love them.
2. Hosting my parents at home.
3. Not so much the worst as the one I never received. I must have asked Santa for Domino Rally about 8 years in a row. Never got it. Still rankles.
4. York Market at 6.30am sharp to pick up Christmas Day food.

Joanne Swift, Mabanaf

1. Yes.
2. At home with the family.
3. An iron...
4. All going to friends, then coming home and getting into our Christmas PJs watching Elf.

John Reynolds, Reynolds Training

1. Absolutely yes, the more the merrier.
2. Flying to Canada, to see family.
3. Best: Time with family.
4. Sherry and mince pie for Santa and a carrot for the reindeer.

Ken Cronin, UKIFDA

1. Yes especially on pizza.
2. Home – all the family arriving as usual.
3. The best was being told I was going to be a granddad for the first time.
4. Going to the pub at lunch time with my adult kids and pretending to be sober on the way home and not having a hangover the next day.

Kiran Shaw, IFC Inflow

1. Yes, everyone should suffer them at least once a year.
2. At home with family.
3. My worst was a pair of repurposed socks from a wealthy Uncle that he hadn't even bothered to re-wrap!
Best was a weekend for two including a 7-course taster meal at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons.
4. Finish work at lunchtime, stick on 'driving home for Christmas' on repeat until I get home, then have steak and chips with the family and Christmas Carols from Kings college on in the background.

Lauren Cordelle, CTS

1. Yes.
2. Home.
3. Worst: Cat food, courtesy of CTS Secret Santa – it's a longstanding office joke now!
4. Growing up it was going to the cinema, every year without fail. Nowadays I spend it running round like a headless chicken, getting the house and presents sorted for Christmas day – oh to be a child again!

Leanne Hardy, Par Petroleum

1. Mixed in the Hardy house, it's a yes from me but a firm no for Stuart.
2. We're at home. There'll be chaos through to Boxing Day, as we celebrate my daughter's and my Mum's birthdays on 26th.
3. My mother-in-law once bought me a cheese grater, but then we did need one.
4. We try to keep Christmas Eve as light as possible workwise. Once we've seen the drivers off and wished them a Merry Christmas, we head home to prepare lunch. After that, it's off to church, then champagne for the grown-ups while the kids decide which snacks to leave out for Santa and his reindeer.

Luke Nolan, Nolan Oils

1. Yes.
2. In-law's house, Lee On Solent.
3. Best: Motorbike from Dad, Worst: Nolan Oils work uniform, also from Dad!
4. Milk, carrot and cookies out for Father Christmas with the kids, and getting rid of the bloody elf on the shelf for another year!

Matt Ryan, Compass Fuels

1. Absolutely Not! Awful things.
2. This year I am at my girlfriend's family and may head to my sister's house in the evening for drinks and karaoke / games.
3. Best was my first Bike as a kid. Worst: Garlic mayonnaise and pitta breads.
4. We usually go to the cinema or a show with the family, then off to the pub for some beers and a meal then home for an early night, ready for the big day.

Matthew Crockett, Craggs Energy

1. Definitely a yes but spruce them up with toasted almonds, glaze in butter with a bacon crunch.
2. Hosting. Have attempted travels out only once, but it didn't have the same magic, so will be prepping and looking after all the guests, wine flowing, and a spread I hope they enjoy.
3. Worst. Ohhhh that is cruel! It is the thought that counts. (Well so they say). Best is not the gifts, but the people around me on the day that makes me happy. People say I am hard to buy for but the thoughts they put into make them personal to me. Love anything to do with cooking.
4. I love working Christmas eve, never knowing if it will be chaos, busy or slow, but as work closes, I normally get a nice quiet drive back, on lovely, peaceful roads with the Christmas songs on. home for a Christmas Eve spread and a sherry, and await the chaos in the morning!

Mike Hancock, Avioxx

1. Always yes. It would not feel the same without them.
2. With family. Each year a different household host. We have a large family, so plenty of us around the table makes it great fun.
3. The one that stayed with me was a Greyhound bus ticket my dad gave me for a full tour of the United States. It felt like the trip of a lifetime at that age.
4. A quiet evening at home. We bring out a small rotating nativity scene that has been in the family for years and seeing it turn in the candlelight always marks the start of Christmas.

Neil Turnbull, Sentinam

1. Yes please!
2. We've always travelled to our parents' homes in recent years, but this year, we are at home for the 1st time! Cannot wait!
3. I can only say the best as I don't think I've ever received a bad one! From about 7 years old to 16 years old, every year without fail, a mitre delta football!
4. A nice walk out, a few drinks and a takeaway meal.

Neil Wallis, ETCC Associates

1. Yes.
2. At home.
3. A large set of spanners – I'm hopeless at DIY, and these have been unused for years!
4. A late-night walk to see the Christmas lights, followed by a late drink at a country pub.

Paul Craddock, Bedford Fuels

1. Yes. I am a big fan of Brussels.
2. My In-laws who live next door.
3. Worst was an Arsenal Clock (I am a Manchester United Season Ticket holder). Apparently a batch got mixed up at the factory and I am guessing a load of Arsenal fans got United Clocks in return!??
4. Work until lunchtime, Nativity service at the local church, then family meal.

Paul Durham, FAST

1. Yes – but cooked properly, not boiled to death. I spend my working life talking about clean,

efficient combustion, so I can't really endorse anything that leads to uncontrolled emissions after lunch.

2. At home with the family. Christmas Day is the one day I'm not thinking about cold-flow performance or supply chains – just what's in the oven.
3. Best: a decent pair of noise-cancelling headphones. Worst: A scented candle called "New Diesel." I still don't know what they were thinking.
4. Tie up the last few emails, make sure everyone has what they need for the break, then the laptop goes off and stays off. After that it's food, a drink, a Christmas film... and I usually fall asleep before the ending.

Peter Davidson, TSA

1. No!
2. Home.
3. The best recently, is a little Lego love heart keyring; it's the small things that mean the most.
4. My wife insists on opening one present, and spends ages inspecting all before choosing!

Phil Murray, WCF

1. Yes, but with crispy bacon too!
2. There's no place like home!
3. My son was born on Christmas Eve, 11 days before his due date, and we brought him home on Christmas Day. Best present I can remember!
4. Christmas movie night (usually Elf, Home Alone or Die Hard!)

Rory Beath, Rix Petroleum

1. Sprouts are my favourite veg so it's a deffo Yes!
2. Home as always – see next answer.
3. That would have to be (sounds cheesy I know), our son. After being told we wouldn't be able to have children, Alex was born on Christmas day 2000.
4. Spending it with our Polish family (Brothers partner), eating lots of fish and strange fruit soup washed down with Vodka.

Rory Clarke, Rix Petroleum

1. Yes. Sprouts are not just for Christmas.
2. Visiting my Mother and Sister –



- that avoids all the cooking!
3. A night in London Zoo (you could hear the lions nearby!).
4. Opening presents. Something we inherited from my father growing up in Europe.

Rupert Turner, Phillips 66 Ltd

1. Yes absolutely, as many as I can get! There's no sprout about it!
2. Home, as is the norm. Am never invited anywhere!
3. A mankini. Depending on your viewpoint, it could fall into either category!
4. An early night in with the latest edition of FON!

Simon Van Lonkhuysen, Tec

1. Absolutely not, eeeeeeeeeeeew!
2. We always spend the morning visiting family, then all sit down for Christmas dinner in the evening at home.
3. Worst was a cherry blossom tree – Don't ask.
4. Meet friends in our neighbour's house, mulled wine and treats then go to midnight Mass.

Simon Whibberly, EA Projects

1. Yes please – sautéed with bacon.
2. At home with the family.
3. Best: The Palitoy X Wing Fighter and Landspeeder models from the Star Wars films from my parents in 1978. Worst: A burgundy shirt and tie from a relative – also 1978.
4. Walk over the moors in the morning, a couple of pints at lunchtime, frantic run around shops in afternoon for that one present I habitually forget.

Tammy Coates, SBZ Corporation

1. No thanks — they can stay in someone else's bowl!
2. Driving home to Wales with the dog to spend it with family. Can't beat a proper family Christmas!
3. The funniest was when my mum and sister didn't communicate — and I ended up with two chopping boards and two sets

of knives!

4. Walking the dogs on the beach, prepping food, and doing a bit of last-minute baking. Then, lighting the fire, having cheesy Christmas music on, and leaving Mum to last-minute wrapping, while heading down the local for a few drinks with old friends.

Thomas Reissmann, FoxInsights

1. Definitely yes!
2. Home with the family.
3. Best: I always like books. Worst: probably everything that has "gift for the sake of giving" written all over it – scented candles for example.
4. Eating Raclette with the family – a proper kick-off for a week loaded with good food all day every day.

Tom Ower, Compass Environmental

1. Yes! The more the merrier!
2. At my bosses'/parents' house with the first grandchild of the family. No drinking as we'll be on call!
3. As we've got a big family – nearing 40, one Christmas I recreated 'Guess Who' using pictures of everyone and that comes out at every family gathering!
4. Last minute wrapping of course!

Tony Devlin, Unite

1. Yes.
2. Home.
3. Best: Raleigh Chopper and I haven't had a bad present!
4. Dinner with my family.

Zoe Blackhall, BoilerJuice

1. Nooo, no, no – Yucky!
2. At home, there's no better place.
3. I'm grateful for any gift, even the new steam mop my other half believed I would love.
4. Collect the food shop in the morning (you can never have too many Quality Streets), then baking for Santa with my girls, with Christmas songs blaring. Snuggle up in matching jammies, pop on a Christmas film and enjoy a fancy hot chocolate... just as my littlest announces she hopes for something NOT on her list!