

FYI

Ethical presents, buying eco-friendly trees, and why old toys are top of the present pile

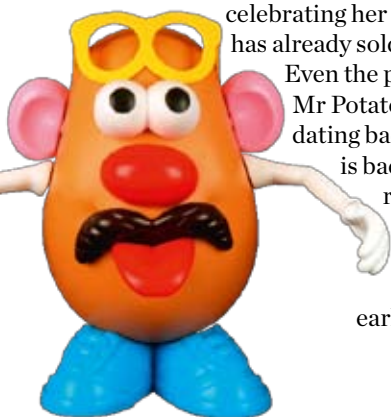
Get a really green Christmas tree

Buying your Christmas tree from a sustainable supplier helps reduce the impact on the environment. The British Christmas Tree Growers Association (BCTGA) ensures that its members' trees are grown sustainably and offers advice about how to recycle your tree when Christmas is over (find your nearest outlet at bctga.co.uk). It's also an idea to buy a tree accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), as these come from forests with strict management standards (visit forestry.gov.uk for your nearest supplier).



The return of the old-school toy

Forget showy gifts and high-tech gadgets – this Christmas is all about traditional toys. According to toy retailer Hamleys, the Slinky, now more than 60 years old, is enjoying a revival and Barbie, currently celebrating her 50th birthday, has already sold well this year. Even the pensioner-aged Mr Potato Head (left), dating back to the 1940s, is back, thanks to his role in the *Toy Story* films, the third of which was launched earlier this year.



NatWest

Helpful Banking

Supporting conservation

NatWest is proud to support BTCV (formerly the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers), the UK's leading practical conservation charity. Find out how you can get involved and support BTCV's community projects by visiting bctv.org.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, JONATHAN HORDREX FEATURES, ALAMY

Just giving

Ethical presents are not just a solution to the problem of what to give the person who has everything, they also have a lasting impact. There are many different types to choose from, including helping to protect a species with the WWF Adopt an Animal scheme, from £3 (charity-gifts.org), and the gift of a goat for a family who can use it to produce milk and fertiliser for crops (£25, Oxfam.org.uk). By paying for the construction of a floating garden – a raft made of water hyacinth – a family in Bangladesh can grow the vegetables they need to survive in the event of their land being flooded. When the growing season ends, the raft can be used as compost. £33 (practicalpresents.org)

CHRISTMAS BY NUMBERS

1 **£50_M**

Amount raised for good causes by charity Christmas cards in 2008

2 **6_M**

Number of British households that bought a turkey over the 2008 Christmas period

3 **547,000**

Number of champagne cases sold in the 12 weeks leading up to Christmas 2008



4 **£342_M**

The total spent on books for Christmas 2008

SOURCES: THE GREETING CARD ASSOCIATION, TNS (8 WEEKS ENDING 28 DEC 08), THE WINE AND SPIRIT TRADE ASSOCIATION, BOOKMARKETING LTD