

Don't make a pig's ear of your Christmas shopping this year!

Easter eggs, curried ants and a pig's ear just some of the strangest gifts received

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When opening presents on Christmas Day this year, people should prepare themselves as there could be some very strange items lurking beneath the gift-wrap.

Curried ants, a pig's ear and rather un-seasonal Easter eggs are just a few of the oddest gifts received at Christmas according to new research by **One4all**® Gift Vouchers from the Post Office in the UK.

Six out of ten people (56 per cent) surveyed said they have received a strange or inappropriate Christmas gift in the past, with ten of the oddest being:

- ∴ Curried ants
- ∴ A pig's ear
- ∴ A second-hand toilet
- ∴ A fly swat
- ∴ A rat trap
- ∴ A sheep's testicle
- ∴ A stick insect
- ∴ A robotic yak
- ∴ Easter eggs
- ∴ A squid's tentacle



You can get your Christmas shopping done in one sweep 9

From stick insects to curried ants it shows that there could be some very odd and not so welcome gifts lurking in people's Christmas stockings.

The research also showed that it when it comes to buying gifts, husbands are more likely to miss the mark than wives. Over half of men (51 per cent) said that their wife or partner buys the best present. This compares to only a third (36 per cent) of women who admitted that their other half knows best!

For women, daughters and mums score highly in the best present pole, at 17 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. Though from a male perspective, sons and dads don't fare as well with only 3 per cent of men saying they give the best present.

Aunties clinch the title of worst Christmas shopper with 16 per cent of 18 – 29 year olds citing auntie as the worst gift giver.

One anonymous male recalled a gift from his auntie that left a lasting impression, for all the wrong reasons: "It was a pack of Y-fronts and vest. They were brown with orange piping – and I was 24 years old!"

Whatever your gender and whoever you're buying for, one way to guarantee the perfect gift this Christmas is to give a **One4all**® Gift Voucher from the Post Office.

Unlike traditional gift vouchers, the **One4all**® Gift Voucher is not restricted for use at just one retailer. Instead the recipient can choose from a vast list of participating high street shops, services and leisure activities across Ireland, including Argos, Arnotts, Brown Thomas, Champion Sports, Debenhams, Easons, Great Southern

Hotels, HMV, Roches Stores and Smyth's Toys. From socks to sweaters, facial treatments to parachute jumps – the choice is completely theirs.

Aoife Davey, Marketing Manager for The Gift Voucher Shop said "Choosing the perfect present and finding time to shop can be a challenge. We have now opened up a new outlet in the GPO Arcade that will mean there is no excuse for a gift being the wrong size or colour or not having time to shop! You can get your Christmas shopping done in one sweep. We are open from 8 till late every day right up until Christmas eve and because we are now operating in the UK, you can also buy UK store gift vouchers and the **One4all**[®] for friends and family in the UK."

Ends

Notes to editors:

In addition to the strangest gifts received, the research also revealed some very inappropriate presents:

- :: Balloon flight – to someone scared of heights
- :: Driving lessons - to someone who had been driving for four years, from their grandmother
- :: Maternity underwear - to someone who wasn't pregnant
- :: Hair gel - to a bald man
- :: Chest expander – from a woman's first husband
- :: Car jump leads – to someone who didn't own a car
- :: A girl's pink woolly jumper – to a man from his grandmother
- :: Bath bombs and salts – to people with no bath
- :: Cigarettes – to a non-smoker
- :: A leather jacket - to a vegetarian (from their mother-in-law)

Research carried out by YouGov in October 2006. Results are weighted to the profile of UK adults.

The Gift Voucher Shop Ltd

Established to provide choice and convenience to consumers in early 2002 The Gift Voucher Shop formed a strategic partnership with An Post and launched in Ireland that September selling its Gift Vouchers through 1,000 Post Offices nationwide in addition to its online shop, www.giftvouchershop.ie, its call centre service and corporate sales team. The Post Office channel gives the company a unique national distribution capability unmatched in the Gift Voucher market. GVS has over 600 of Ireland's shops and services with 3,500 outlets across the 32 counties in the Irish portfolio. Leading stores such as Argos, Arnotts, Brown Thomas, Champion Sports, Debenhams, Eason, Great Southern Hotels, HMV, Roches Stores and Smyth's Toys benefit from the service's unique distribution system. The Gift Voucher Shop has extended its product offering since its launch with the most successful product to date being the **One4all**[®] Gift Voucher, launched in October 2004. The **One4all**[®] Gift Voucher is now the leading product both in the consumer and corporate market. This innovative gift voucher can be spent in any of the retail partners in The Gift Voucher Shop portfolio giving the recipient the ultimate choice.

Following The Gift Voucher Shop's success in Ireland, they have begun to develop internationally and the first of its markets was with Maltapost in November 2004. In Malta The Gift Voucher Shop Gift Vouchers are available in all 31 Maltapost branches throughout Malta and Gozo and for over 200 retail outlets on the two islands.

In October 2005 The Gift Voucher Shop and the Post Office Ltd launched in all of the 14,600 Post Office branches across the UK giving the 28 million customers who visit the Post Office every week access to an extensive range of high street retailers including B&Q, Comet, Debenhams, Habitat, Halfords, Goldsmiths, Mothercare, River Island, Woolworths and the Arcadia Group. GVS UK also offers Enjoyment and Experience Gift Vouchers and now the **One4all**[®] Gift Voucher. GVS UK also offer Enjoyment and Experience Gift

Vouchers, all of which may also be purchased from www.giftvouchershop.co.uk
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