



IT'LL BE LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS...

Brits dread a singleton Christmas

Christmas is the worst time of the year to be single with 70% of us feeling the “pressure” to be in a relationship. This is according to research published today by Gumtree.com, Britain’s leading community classifieds site.

Conducted among 1,787 adults, Gumtree.com’s research shows that:

- Six in ten (57%) say it is better to be in a relationship over Christmas, while only 13% say it is better to be single. More often than not it comes down to simply wanting to have someone around. Two thirds (57%) of us say that the worst thing about being single at Christmas was having no-one special to share their day with, while 14 per cent dread that mistletoe moment when they find themselves with no-one to kiss.
- When it comes to relationships at Christmas, the basic need for companionship is far more important than the material need for getting presents. Less than one in twenty Brits (4%) say that getting extra presents is a benefit of being in a relationship. However, among the minority who enjoy being single, 10% say that a benefit is not to have to buy too many expensive gifts!
- Christmas parties play a big part in making singletons feel out of place. Over one in ten (11%) of us have asked someone to “pretend” to be their boy or girlfriend at a Christmas party, while 30% of us have considered ducking out altogether because of too many couples being there.

Meanwhile, almost one in ten (7%) have avoided Christmas parties because they were afraid they would snog someone inappropriate!

- So great is the pressure on us to be in a relationship at Christmas that a third of respondents (29%) admit that they actively start looking for new partners around the festive period, while one in twelve (8%) have even gone out with someone for the sole purpose of not being single during December!

To help spread some Christmas cheer amongst Londoners, and maybe even start a few relationships, Gumtree staff will be giving out free sprigs of mistletoe to commuters.

Sophy Silver, Gumtree's dating expert says: "It's a sad truth that Christmas can be really stressful if you're single – you've got all the pressure of facing the family season alone, as well as loads of parties to turn up to as the token singleton. The survey showed that even among people who are happy to be single at Christmas, 43 per cent love the fact that they have the freedom to meet someone new and special!

"Of course, there are arguments for being single at this time of year as well – you get all the benefits of being young, free, and single during the party season. There are endless parties to go to, upbeat people to meet and also the added bonus of saving on having to shell out for expensive gifts. And with all that mistletoe around, it would be a shame to waste it!

"However, if you are on the look out for someone then using a dating site like Gumtree.com can be the ideal way to avoid feeling lonely this Christmas or at any time of the year – you can meet like-minded people, set up loads of festive dates and make the most of the party season."

