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# WHAT YOU GIVE IS WHAT YOU GET

Andrew Bullock and Simone Thorogood are getting in the spirit of festive cheer ... and reciprocity

**D**ecember is here and Christmas is upon us! So how will we be celebrating the festive season at *Latest Homes Live*?

**Andrew:** Christmas, to me, isn't just about the actual day. It's about everything that goes on in the run up to the 25th. And then it carries on. My family tend to have about three Christmas Days, because there are so many people to see, to exchange gifts with, to eat, drink and be merry with! But it all starts when I put up my tree. My absolute favourite part of the holidays is the decorating. I just love how festive bushes, the trees twinkling from everyone's living room windows, the wreaths on the



the confines of Driftwood by Sea and to a local nursery, where we will be having a go at being lumberjacks for the day. Then, we'll be back at Driftwood, making sure the tree remains fresh all through December and constructing decorations from nick nacks from the garden. What's more, we'll be doing our thing for the local wildlife too. Those birds and squirrels must get chilly when the frosts start to creep in, so we'll be making christmassy snacks, that double up as festive ornaments, for them to nibble on. And to top it off we'll be making fresh wreaths. All of this to come in upcoming December episodes of *Latest Homes Live*.



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doors. It's all part of the magic of the season, as far as I'm concerned. I always over-do it with my tree. I am one of these people who like to really cram as much onto it as I can! I don't go so over the top that it will buckle under the weight of the glass baubles and dangling icicles, but I do like to give it a busy look. And this year, I get to chop down a tree myself, with Simone. Geoff Stonebanks is taking us out of

**Simone:** Of course, we have already interviewed Leaders estate agents about their Winter Warmer campaign – which is certainly a great way to keep landlords cosy and looked after across December and January – but we will also be checking in with Austin Rees, who are sponsoring the second annual 'Elf on the Twelfth'. On that week's *Latest Homes Live* we'll be welcoming Becky and Katie from Austin Rees into the studio, in their elfin get-up, to talk about the children's charity Rockinghorse for whom their company help raise money for at Christmas. All you have to do, to be a part of it, is to wear red, green or another variation of elfish fashion to work and donate £1 to Rockinghorse. All money raised this year is helping to purchase one special Christmas present for the Royal Alexandra Children's hospital – a portable sensory machine. This will enable children who are too poorly to continue to benefit from vital play sessions.

Christmas, to me, is about giving. Not just giving to those in your life, but generally being charitable and helping others. It can be a sad time for many, and I believe, at a time of year when you want to show your loved ones how much they mean to you, a little extra towards someone less fortunate comes alongside the festive cheer. And how great that we can spread that message whilst learning about property too, on

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