My Tree My Community
Each year our site hosts some unusual Christmas decorations, giant chicken pies with barbie doll legs, recycled vintage books, and shakeable snow globe baubles...

They are designed by cornish children who work with older residents in the neighbourhood for inspiration.
The project

• Running since 2007, 400 participants a year
• Young people along with an artist invite elders into their school for a teas party to share stories of Christmas past and present
• Young people and an artist then use the stories they have uncovered as inspiration for the Christmas trees at Eden.
• Each tree tells a unique story of community, a lifetime of memories and knowledge to be passed on for future generations
The process

• Artists and Eden staff run two days of workshops in local schools with one class of children (approx 30)
• Day 1: works with children to receive their tea party guests, practising interesting questions to ask – how to interview, being a good host, ways to record information. In the afternoon they hold the tea party and discuss what they have found out.
• Day 2: They make the decorations
An invitation

Dear Tottenham,

I am inviting you to school on Tuesday 8th November at 1.15. I would like to ask you about what Christmas time was like when you were a child. We are working with the Year 1 class to decorate a tree for Christmas. The decorations will include stories, memories and pictures of Christmas long ago with your help. We will be working together.

I hope you will be able to come with best wishes.

From,

James Redish
Objects and Memories
in Braden's respecs for a happy
Christmas

Slammy of 6
Present's
gift box crown's
game's
toy's
Rabbit

Vik the Slammy
rap up the present
cooke the dinner
play the game's
open the present's
cookie the rabbit
by George
Thanks and celebrations

• Everyone is invited to Eden for the lighting of the trees
• A chance to reconnect and see how their conversations have been valued and translated.
Artists and Trees
The Street