



Christmas spirit in abundance at the Carnival

Introduction by the Editor. Main story from Amanda Thomas.

The Christmas lights were switched on this year by Christmas poster winner Lucy Porter (above centre) following the official announcements by Town Mayor Councillor Rosemary Farmer, who thanked all those involved with the production of the event and wished everyone a happy and successful Christmas. Also on the Heart Radio stage was Chairman of Herts County Council Bernard Lloyd.

Despite the cold damp weather, Harpenden's retailers were in a seasonal mood at the annual Christmas Carnival. **Serena Hart's gift shop**, 10 High Street, has a fabulous range of gifts, including Kenneth Turner scented candles and toiletries, Martine

Wester belts and Rosie Fox jewellery. The shop will be open on Sundays and late night Thursdays right up until Christmas. **Valentines**, 10 Station Road, and **Threads**, 7 High Street, also have lots of wonderful ideas for gifts and home decoration. At **Phase Eight**, 35 High Street, top sellers this year are dazzling cocktail dresses in blackberry, royal blue or scarlet teamed with the highest of heels. What's more, Phase Eight will be having plenty of special promotions before Christmas to ensure you keep within budget. Beautiful fashion can also be found at **Anna**, 8 Station Road. The variety of specialist shops in and around Harpenden High Street is perfect for the discerning shopper. However, when you need to take a break, step into the **Slug and Lettuce** for a coffee and make a booking for a Christmas party with a 'Tastes Like Christmas' menu. At £16.95 and £18.95 per person for two or three courses, who could resist the honey-roasted parsnip and rosemary soup, the slow-cooked beef rib or the creamy profiteroles?

Free Prize Draw with 20 prizes to win. See the back page for details

FANTASTIC FARE AT THE CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Many of the traders at the Harpenden Christmas Carnival Farmers' Market will also be trading at the St Albans Farmers' Market before Christmas.

However, most local traders have their own websites and can either deliver personally or by post. **The Lime Tree's**

www.limetreepantry.com selection of pies is always popular, and for Christmas, their mince pies are also available by post. For speciality cheeses, look no further than **Wobbly Bottom Farm** (www.wobblybottomfarm.co.uk) near Hitchin. The farm has an open barn policy and their gift baskets make unusual and delicious presents. What better to drink with local cheese than locally made cider. **Millwhites**

(www.millwhites.co.uk) is another regular at the Farmers' Market and supported the first Harpenden Beer Festival in the summer. John White makes some of the best cider around from organic windfall apples and no added sulphites; orders can be made online.



The Redbournbury Watermill and Bakery (www.redbournmill.co.uk) makes some of the finest bread in the Harpenden area with organic flour from local farms. The 500 year old mill is well worth a visit, but please check for bakery opening times.

Christmas is a time for traditional treats and gourmet luxuries. **The Pathfinder Ostrich Farm** (www.ostrich-products.co.uk) has ostrich liver pates and ostrich joints which taste like the best beef, but with cholesterol and fat levels on a par with skinless chicken. **Harvest Food** (www.harvestfood.co.uk) has handmade five bird pies containing turkey, goose, duck, chicken and guinea fowl in a fresh cream and white wine sauce.



Manor Farm Game (www.manorfarmgame.co.uk) in Chesham was listed as one of Rick Stein's Food Heroes. Their website is well worth a visit for their fantastic range of game and flexible delivery details.

Gade Valley Game (www.gadevalleygame.co.uk) is located in Great Gaddesden, and has a superb selection of game, including Ashridge National Trust venison and hare. Normally they only supply to butchers but (apparently) their cafe in Ashridge is well worth a visit. **Woburn Country Foods** (www.woburncountryfoods.com) is taking orders now for fresh meat, including turkeys. Seasonal specials include braces of pheasant and partridge, Bedfordshire gammon and ham, sausages and Woburn Estate venison. Their website will

certainly get you in the mood for Christmas, though orders have to be collected.

For a wide range of the best jellies and preserves visit **Pep-It-Up** (www.pep-it-up.co.uk) in Croxley Green. The company recently won a Gold Star Award at the Great Taste Awards and is a member of the Guild of Fine Food.



Make sure you visit local retailers to decorate your home this Christmas. **Thorntons**, 11 High Street, has advent calendars and candles. **Wassledine** (www.wassledine.co.uk) in Gravenhurst Bedfordshire, have some stunning traditional arrangements in willow. The company will deliver and it is worth keeping their garden products in mind for the spring. Closer to home, the **Bridge Valley Nursery** (www.bridgevallynursery.co.uk) New Mill End Farm, Lower Luton Road, have traditional evergreens and seasonal flower arrangements.



GIFT IDEAS WITH A DIFFERENCE



Crystal Jewellery and Gemstones

Wendy Jones of Wendy Jones Jewellery Design specialises in making gemstone and crystal jewellery at affordable prices.

Prices range from £5 to £25.

Wendy lives in Harpenden and has been making jewellery for the past four years. She has found her work to be very popular at local jewellery parties and charity fundraising events.

Wendy offers a free design service - fantastic if you wish to have a unique piece of jewellery to complete your look. *Pictured above are: Charm bracelet £15, Amethyst butterfly pendant £14, Catseye toggle pendant £15.*

Find Wendy Jones at the Harpenden Country Market, High Street Methodist Church Hall every Friday morning 9 - 11.30am and Harpenden Farmers Market opposite Sainsburys or book her for your own jewellery party or fundraiser.

Wendy Jones
Jewellery Design,
Enterprise House,
5 Roundwood Lane,
Harpenden,
AL5 3BW
07968 209788 or
wendy_a_jones@hotmail.com



Champagne Club Membership

Membership of Club Cuvee has to be one of the best Christmas gift ideas ever.

As a member you will have ten vines in a family run vineyard in Champagne, fully managed to produce your very own prestige champagne each year. The vines will produce enough grapes to yield approximately 25-35 bottles per year (depending on harvest), all of which can be yours. You can even have your own label if you wish.

When you take delivery you will receive a 25% owners reduction on the release price of the champagne. If you do not wish to take delivery, we will sell your champagne and credit your account with your share of the proceeds.

You will also be invited to the London international wine fair in May. Its a fabulous event where you will meet other members and the French producers including the Club Cuvee team.

Membership costs £60 a quarter which covers the cost of tending your vines and producing your champagne. (Minimum membership 20 quarters) Full details from **Barry Mason** 07766 344266. clubcuvee@live.co.uk

www.clubcuvee.co.uk



Make a gift of Piano Lessons

Harpenden-based International Pianist and sought-after piano teacher Annett Busse offers courses of lessons to HARPENDIA readers as a unique gift idea for friends or for yourself!

A course of ten thirty-minute weekly lessons, normally £175, would be offered to HARPENDIA readers at the reduced rate of £160 for an introductory series. Annett is also offering a 'taster-term' of five weeks at £79.

Annett teaches a wide range of pupils of all ages from beginners wishing to explore the piano to those wanting to brush up on existing skills.

So why not take advantage of the special offer to HARPENDIA readers?

Book the special offer now by contacting Annett:

01582 467911 or
busseannett@aol.com

SCROLL DOWN FOR MORE IDEAS

www.harpendia.com

ARTISTIC IDEAS WITH A DIFFERENCE



Original abstract oil paintings
"Harpenden artist Haydn Dickenson invites HARPENDIA readers to commission a bespoke abstract oil painting. Currently working on a number of commissions for clients in the locality, Haydn would offer discounts to HARPENDIA readers. A canvas of approx 60x50 cm would normally be priced at around £190 - a HARPENDIA discount would bring it down to £170. Similarly a larger piece, normally £300 would be discounted by 10%"
www.haydndickenson.com



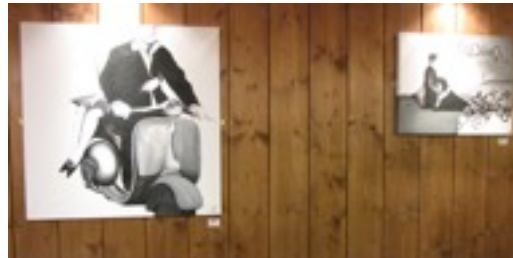
Contemporary figurative artworks with a fluid vitality

Sue Gay is shown at work on a commission for a private collection. The clients had liked several previous paintings, but wanted something larger. Sue has enjoyed the challenge. 'People usually commission a picture of their children - or women get a nude study made as a present for someone. This piece is different because it's a still life for a special place in the home. The clients are thrilled because it should be framed and in place for Christmas.'
www.suegay.com



Signed prints of Harpenden and London

A heavy fall of snow in February 2009 inspired Steve to paint his home town of Harpenden. They are now available as limited edition prints. Each print is checked by the artist, numbered and signed. A maximum of one hundred prints are reproduced to the highest standards, using Giclee printing process on 285 gsm Hahnemuhle Torchon watercolour paper. Prints of London are also available. Contact Steve via:
www.stevparkesprints.co.uk



Iconic images of Italy

There's a gallery of images in Saporito, Harpenden's best coffee bar and restaurant. Painted by Chiara Perano, daughter of owner Sergio, they portray iconic images of Italy and could bring the atmosphere of Italy right into your home. (La Vespa & La Dolce Vita above) Call in to view the paintings and have a real Italian style coffee. The paintings are available from just £35. Ask Sergio for full details.
Saporito
62 High Street, Harpenden.



Life drawings and 'Mindscapes'
As I look out of my studio window, brush in hand, working on my new collection, I wonder what I would like to find under the christmas tree. For those at a loss as to what to give that special person, I have life drawings starting at £150 and vibrant oil on canvas 'mindscapes' from £250. Why not start your collection now? From smaller paintings to canvases that fill walls, there is something for everyone. Instead of watching Vicar of Dibley, why not spend time with your loved one hanging a painting?

julie.maginn@btinternet.com



The Gift that appreciates as It's appreciated

We all know a carefully chosen painting can be one of the most personal and long lasting of Christmas gifts. The extra time invested in picking the perfect painting shows just how much you care. Long after the iPod is outdated, the aftershave run out and fashions have moved on, a piece of art will still be giving pleasure... for ever.

A & K Wilson Gallery
Station Approach, Harpenden
www.akwilsongallery.co.uk

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FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHRISTMAS

Enjoy family fun at Harpenden Public Halls

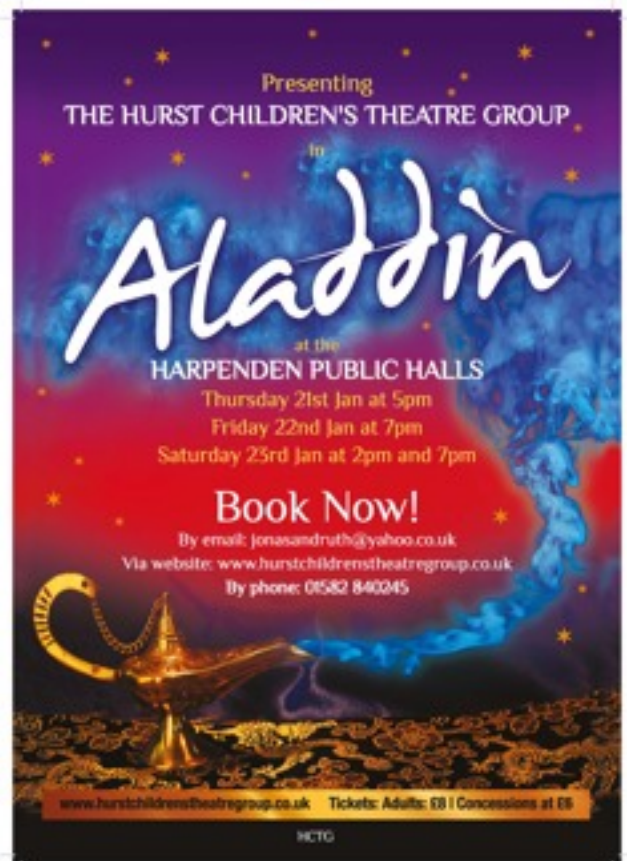
ALADDIN

On in the Public Halls, January 21st, 22nd and 23rd January. With a cast of 100 local children and some great songs like "Happy Talk"™ and "Chinese Laundry Blues"™, it promises to be a great couple of hours entertainment. So why not indulge the family and take some time out from heaving those boxes of tinsel back to the attic, and enter the excitement of the Theatre.

Tickets are on sale now, at £6 for Children and £8 for Adults with 10% reduction for bookings of ten or more.

Ring 01582 840245 or email us via our website:

www.hurstchildrenstheatregroup.co.uk



SANTA IS COMING TO HARPENDEN

Harpenden Round Table will again be touring the streets of Harpenden to collect for charity during December with a Santa's sleigh accompanied by Christmas music.

The three charities which will benefit from this year's efforts are Keech Cottage Children's Hospice, which supports families from Hertfordshire, and also Cancer Research UK and Round Table Children's Wish, which organises special days for children with life-threatening illnesses.

Santa's sleigh will be out and about from 7pm-9pm each

weekday evening from 1st December to Christmas Eve.

Details of which areas of Harpenden Santa is expecting to cover on which evenings can be found at www.harpendenroundtable.org Members of Harpenden Circle

and 41 Club will kindly be assisting with this charity collection effort. Mark Sanders, Fundraising Officer for Harpenden Round Table, hopes that they will be able to raise more than last years £6,900.



ROUNDTABLE



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www.harpendia.com

GIFTS FOR THE LADY IN YOUR LIFE



The ultimate in fine fragrance from Springfield Pharmacy

Choosing the right fragrance for a Christmas gift can be a problem, but not at Springfield Pharmacy. They have the largest selection of all the main brands in Harpenden with something to suit every age and match every personality.

Aramis, Argent Provocateur, Armani, Avril Lavigne, Bronnley, Bulgari, Burberry, Cacharel, Calvin Klein, Chanel, Christian Dior, Chloe, Clarins, Davidoff, Diesel, Dolce & Gabbane, DKNY, Givenchy, Gucci, Guerlain, Hermes, Hugo Boss, Issey Miyake, Jean Paul Gaultier, Lancome, L'Occitane, Le Perla, Marc Jacobs, Nina Ricci, Paco Rabbane, Paul Smith, Prada, Rochas. Thierry Mugler, Valentino, Vera Wang, Vivienne Westwood,

Springfield Pharmacy,
19 High St. Harpenden.
01582 712104
Mon - Sat 9am - 5.30pm



Make it a VIP Christmas from Swanns Travelgoods

Do you have as many handbags as pairs of shoes? Do you change your handbag only to forget your keys, lipstick or mobile? If so, a VIP (Very Intelligent Pocket) could make a super Christmas present.

Made by French company Tintamar, the VIP has been created to hold all the essentials such as purse, mobile, keys and lipstick which can be transferred quickly and easily from bag to bag! Simply lift from one bag and move to another. It is available in a variety of styles and colours. The VIP Basic at £27, the VIP Business at £29.50 and the VIP Deluxe leather at £80. Call into Swanns Travelgoods to see how ingenious they are. You will also find Harpenden's largest range of travelbags and leathersgoods to suit all your needs.

Swanns Travelgoods,
51 High Street, Harpenden.
01582 762364
www.swannstravelgoods.co.uk



Do you want a Lounge Lover for Christmas?

Purchase the latest trend from Oui, Lounge Lovers. A beautiful collection of cashmere, alpaca, wool mix knitwear. Cardigans, jumpers and dresses that are ideal for lounging out at home in front of a roaring fire, reading the papers, playing with the children or meeting friends for Sunday lunch.

Oui offers contemporary ladies fashion from sizes 8 to 20. The collection has many different faces that enables our customers to buy into an individual capsule wardrobe or just the one off WOW pieces. Complete the look with Dyrberg/Kern jewellery and a luxurious leather handbag from Osprey.

Oui have Christmas gifts for all ladies and all budgets from just £10. A warm welcome awaits you, and there's a gift wrapping service too.

Oui,
14 Bowers Parade,
Harpenden.
01582 766142.
Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30

GIFTS FOR THE MAN IN YOUR LIFE



More than just great clothes at Purple Menswear

The Gant Time Collection has been carefully developed by a dedicated team located in Stockholm, Sweden. Gant is already well-known in the fashion industry. We have gathered the best of Gant and put all of these aspects together into one Gant Time Collection!

Purple Menswear has now been open for four months and has become well established as the first Harpenden menswear store to have an authorised stock list of; Hugo Boss, Armani, Gant, Ralph Lauren, Nicole Fahri, Mulberry, Simon Carter and Puma Black Label. With all this on your doorstep there is now no longer the need to travel to other towns, as there is an independent menswear store just off the high street tucked behind Strutt and Parker, that offers more than just your average clothes shop.

Purple Menswear
49a High street
Harpenden
AL5 2SJ
Tel. 01582 763791
www.purplefashion.co.uk



Car Accessories from Milehams

Milehams Discount Car Care, sells car parts at keenest prices, including golf trolley batteries, exhausts, tools, etc. Stocking major brands, NGK, Mobil, Castrol, etc supplying most parts for most cars. Two great gift ideas as shown above:

Car-2-Car DC Charger
SAVE £5.00
Ring Automotive Car2Car Charger, boosts vehicle batteries up to 1.6l in under 15 minutes. Charged through the cigarette sockets of the two vehicles, includes nylon case, has 5m cable. Only £19.99

Sat Nav Holder
High grip, non-slip rubber base is placed on top of dashboards. No 'tell-tale' signs on the windscreen. Simple to use. Can be combined with most models of navigation system. Only £9.99

Milehams Discount Car Care.
133 Southdown Road,
Harpenden AL5 1PU
01582 765678
info@a1milehams.com



The essence of male fragrance from Springfield Pharmacy

Choosing the right after shave or cologne for a Christmas gift can be a problem, but not at Springfield Pharmacy. They have by far the largest selection of all the main brands in Harpenden with something to match every personality

Aramis, Argent Provocateur, Armani, Bronnley, Bulgari, Burberry, Cacharel, Calvin Klein, Chanel, Christian Dior, Chloe, Clarins, Davidoff, Diesel, Dolce & Gabbane, DKNY, Givenchy, Gucci, Guerlain, Hermes, Hugo Boss, Issey Miyake, Jean Paul Gaultier, Lancome, L'Occitane, Le Perla, Marc Jacobs, Nina Ricci, Paco Rabbane, Paul Smith, Prada, Rochas. Thierry Mugler, Valentino, Vera Wang,

Springfield Pharmacy,
19 High St.
Harpenden.
01582 712 104
Open Mon-Sat 9am - 5.30pm

SCROLL DOWN FOR MORE IDEAS

www.harpendia.com

GIFTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY



THREADS have it all!

"We are always busy" says Cheryl Clements of Threads.

"Our best selling gifts at the moment are probably our Mr Men mugs at just £6.50 they are just the thing for teachers, office secret Santas and hard-to-buy for relatives.

Another fast seller has been football club metal street signs (90cm x 15cm), which make fantastic Christmas presents for boys (and their dads!).

We are also selling lots of Christmas decorations, quite a few lines have already sold out, which is unusual in November.

I think it's a combination of people shopping earlier and the lovely ranges we found for this year"

**Threads can be found at
7 High St, Harpenden,
next to the Slug and
Lettuce.**

**Open every day until
Christmas.**

01582 766113

DeAngelis Chocolate Pure Dark & Italian

DeAngelis chocolate is a totally new experience, once tried you'll be hooked for life! Try it at the end of a meal with espresso coffee or a medium bodied red wine and you'll discover why.

It is crumbly and coarse, unlocking its aroma in your mouth, leaving a long lingering taste from the Classic, Chilli, Pistachio, Orange or Almond flavours.

Hand made in Italy using only two ingredients, Fair Trade Cocoa and Organic Cane Sugar. It has no bitterness and contains no artificial colours, flavours, preservatives, emulsifiers, or 'E' numbers.

DeAngelis chocolate has its origins in Aztec times, being hand made, stone ground and cold pressed

Like any premium product, the cost reflects the quality ingredients and the artisan production. Prices start at £12.50 for a single bar. Buy direct from the shop in Station Road, Harpenden or on line:

www.deangelis.uk.com

Great reads and more for all the family

Corbett's Bookshop has to be THE place when it comes to choosing what to buy for Christmas. Why not step through history from the Big Bang to the making of modern Britain. Tour the world to see rare species and far away places without leaving the comfort of your home. All with the help of the amazing range of books we have on offer.

If you feel like fun and games why not try *Bananagrams* (quicker than *Scrabble*) and suitable for all ages. Or choose a pen/roller ball set and make a New Year resolution to write to friends and family, not just e mailing.

And to carry it all home buy a Fizzbag, big enough to carry loads but small enough to fit in your pocket

**Corbett's Bookshop
11 Bowers Parade
Harpenden
01582 715199**

SCROLL DOWN FOR MORE IDEAS

www.harpendia.com

PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN



Beautifully made wooden toys

Beautifully made wooden toys for active imaginations. The perfect Christmas gift for boys and girls right up to 15 years of age and even young hearted adults!

But why wooden toys?

There have been quite a few studies on the effects of the types of toys we give our children. Flashing lights and pushing buttons, does very little to stimulate the brain or to activate imagination in a child.

The toys sold by Woody's create a world into which a child can explore and enjoy their childhood without growing up too quickly. They have an extensive range of toys on display in the shop, easily recognizable by its colourful exterior. Call into the shop to find out more.

**You can find Woody's at
8 Leyton Road, Harpenden, AL5 2TL.
Telephone 01582 715694.
Opposite Waitrose**



Books, Pens, Soft Toys and more

Corbett's Bookshop has to be THE place when it comes to choosing what to buy children for Christmas. They stock a wide range of pop up books for children of all ages. They also have collections of classic Fairy Tales and other children's stories and for the very young there is a range of board or rag books, plus soft toys of characters from their favourite books.

Not forgetting their range of pens which may encourage them to write their 'thank you' letters. If you need help choosing something then their experienced staff are on hand to give you advice on what's the best gift idea.

And if you still can't decide then they have Gift Tokens at various denominations.

**Corbett's Bookshop
11 Bowers Parade
Harpenden
01582 715199**

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www.harpendia.com

LUXURY BESPOKE GIFT HAMPERS

LET'S GET THE PARTY STARTED



Create your own hamper for Christmas at the Silver Palate

Like every year, we have sourced some of the finest Christmas products from around the globe to satisfy your festive cravings:

Fantastic cheeses such as Vacherin Mon Dor & Colston Bassets Stilton;

Charcuteries such as Terrines, Pates and Rilette;

Sweet treats, including Belgium Chocolates, Luxury Biscuits, Confectionery and Preserves

Seasonal favorites like Marron glace & Glace fruits, Gift Panatone & Panforte, Christmas Stollen,

So come and pay us a visit and create your own gift hamper from our fantastic product range.

Silver Palate, Vaughan Road, Harpenden
01582 713722

www.silverpalate.co.uk



Superb wines for all your Yuletide needs from Rollings Wine

With the festive and party season drawing near we have put together some selections of wine for all your yuletide needs. From a dozen easy drinking Chilean varietals which are ideal for parties at under £50 for 12 bottles, to a case aimed to give you the perfect selection to enjoy through Christmas day itself, comprising of 2 bottles each of Cava to start the celebrations; a classic Chablis and claret to accompany the Christmas lunch; a bottle of Late Bottled Vintage port and half bottle of Muscat dessert wine and a Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc and Rioja crianza for the evening, all for under £120. We also have a range of gift boxes and wine accessories for the stocking!

For further information please call in to our shop – Rollings Wine Company, 95 Luton Road, Harpenden, AL5 3BB, telephone us on 01582 769538 or visit our online shop www.rollingswine.co.uk



SCROLL DOWN TO THE FREE PRIZE DRAW

www.harpendia.com

FREE PRIZE DRAW FOR CHRISTMAS

What better way to celebrate the festive season than with the first ever HARPENDIA Christmas Prize Draw. A big thank you to all the local businesses and organisations who have kindly supplied the prizes worth more than £600. The draw is open to HARPENDIA readers over 18 years of age who live within a 10 mile radius of Harpenden town centre. The draw will take place on Dec 19th to enable all prizes to be distributed in time for Christmas.

THE PRIZES

- 1) A Kipling Travel Bag from Swanns Travelgoods.
- 2) A £50 gift voucher from Oui.
- 3) £30 gift vouchers from Threads
- 4) A Clarins Skin care kit from Springfield Pharmacy
- 5) A Clarins skin care kit from Springfield Pharmacy
- 6) A Clarins skin care kit from Springfield Pharmacy
- 7) Rick Stein's 'far eastern odyssey' from Corbett's Book Shop
- 8) Top Gear 'Where's Stig?' from Corbett's Book Shop
- 9) A bottle of vintage Champagne 2000 from Club Cuvee
- 10) A bottle of Saint Clair Sauvignon Blanc from Rollings Wine
- 11) A £20 gift voucher from Purple Menswear.
- 12) A Christmas Hamper from Silver Palate
- 13) A charm bracelet from Wendy Jones Jewellery Design
- 14) A catseye toggle pendant from Wendy Jones Jewellery Design
- 15) Two tickets to see Aladdin on January 22nd from The Hurst Children's Theatre Group

- 16) A bottle of Chanel Platinum Egoist men's eau de toilette from Springfield Pharmacy
- 17) First Play Picnic Basket Fill and Spill set from Woodys toy store
- 18) A Car 2 Car DC Charger from Milehams
- 19) A Sat Nav Holder from Milehams
- 20) A triple pack of DeAngelis super premium chocolate from DeAngelis.

HOW TO ENTER

Send an e mail with your name, full address and contact phone number to info@harpendingia.com Type 'FREE PRIZE DRAW' in the subject line. Closing date for entries is 10pm on Dec 19th 2009. Prizes will be drawn on 20th Dec.2009. Winners will be notified by 21st Dec. 2009.

RULES.

1. All entrants must be over 18 years of age with only one entry per reader.
2. All entrants must reside within 10 miles of Harpenden town centre.
- 3) The winners names (No address details) will be published on the HARPENDIA web site after the Christmas break.
4. Closing dates for entries 10pm December 19th 2009.
5. There are no cash alternative to the prizes and prizes can not be returned to the donating company and exchanged for cash.
6. Members of staff of the donating companies are not eligible.
7. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



"Thank you to everyone who has helped to establish HARPENDIA during 2009. Next year promises to be even better with more editions and a wider range of subjects, but designed in a more structured format. The Winter edition will be published mid February with a focus on Home Entertainment, then onto the Spring edition in mid April. The web site will continue to feature up to the minute news and information." Ron Taylor, Editor.

HARPENDIA WISHES ALL ITS READERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

www.harpendingia.com