

Warrington

# Christmas Gift Guide

The best presents for all the family



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# Warrington Christmas Gift Guide



## Perfect presents for



CHOOSING the right Christmas presents for your loved ones used to be, well a gift. It was a tough chore making sure you got it right when making your choices. But now the stores are fighting for your custom by putting it on a plate. There's no more hunting around the regular shop stock for something that will make it a memorable Christmas morning for your loved one or the children. Every single item seems to scream out at you –

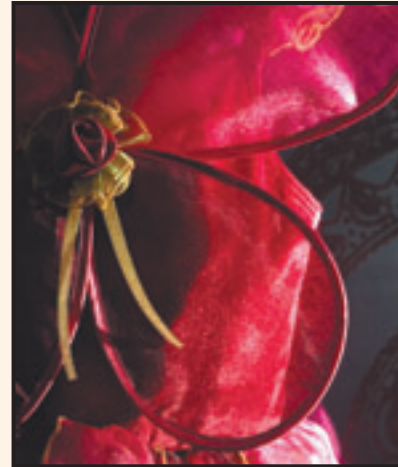
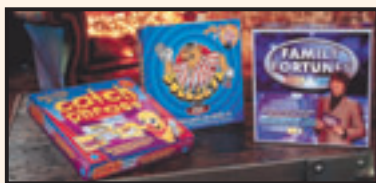
“Buy me...I'm the perfect present” as even the most mundane item is made to look tantalisingly attractive. We are even encouraged to do our shopping in one place, with special ‘three for the price of two’ offers imploring us to venture no further than the store nearest the multi-storey car park. So with that in mind you might want to spend a bit of time planning your big shopping expedition by narrowing it down a little and we provide a quick guide to the sort of things you

can pick up for him, her and the children with a pictorial guide to a small sample of what might catch your eye. For her, items that will either make her feel a million dollars or give the impression that you've thought carefully about her desires are top of the list. Things that say ‘get back in the kitchen’ are definitely out. Clothes are great, as long as you've done your homework on colours and size. Taking the trouble to choose items that blend with an existing wardrobe or



Gifts designed to please, from top left:

Scary stuff, N.S.E.C.T from Tyco is a robot spider that stalks, creeps and seizes, all for £89.99  
 Flavour of Italy gift set from M & S, £39.50  
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# Warrington Christmas Gift Guide

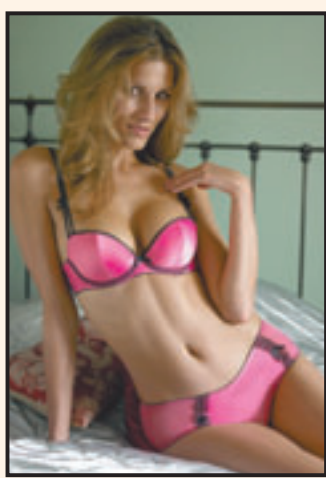


## the whole family

accessories will reap rewards. You'll score extra points for phrases such as: 'I thought it would go with your...' as you present your gift, but those Brownie points can just as easily be lost if her comeback is: "Mmmm...is the receipt in the bag still?" Chocolate won't go down well if she's on the verge of starting a diet (diets always seem to start 'after Christmas' or 'tomorrow') but they'll be OK if she's confident enough to indulge without piling on the pounds. A luxury collection could be just the job or some-

thing unusual such as a mini chocolate fountain. Accessories can be subjective so again do your research and the same is true of perfume. If she enjoys MSN-ing or surfing, she's just as likely to appreciate a geeky gadget, so don't be afraid of looking for something unusual in that respect. As far as blokes are concerned, socks and underwear are not the no-no they once were, but go for something luxurious or something cheeky to show that a bit of thought has gone into it. There are plenty of boys' toys to choose from, too, for

grown-up lads who haven't, so don't be afraid of going all out to take him back to his youth with something that will give him hours of fun. As long as you make sure he helps load the dishwasher or clear the table before putting the batteries in! For the kids, dressing up as a superhero is always fun, but by the same token don't underestimate the pleasure they'll have in finding you've gone for something a little more grown-up than they might expect, but temper that with a toy that's specially aimed at their age group - never anything from below it.



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# Warrington Christmas Gift Guide



## The two sides of winter fashion



Above: Red coat £65, ivory coat £75 - Evans

**W**HETHER it's winter warmth or glitz and glamour you're after, Golden Square has got it covered. As the nights draw in and Christmas fast approaches, there are two fashion elements that dominate the clothing rails in Golden Square, Warrington, this winter. On the one hand there are coats, jumper dresses, chunky knitwear, scarves and hats to keep you wrapped up warm for winter, and on the other hand there are little black dresses, killer heels and accessories galore, for the abundance of parties that take place over Christmas and New Year. The question is, how do you pinpoint the key looks for both styles? The answers, fear not, are here.

### Jumper Dresses

This winter's must have is the jumper dress. Whether you wear it with knee high boots and opaque tights, leggings and ankle boots, or over jeans, there are styles and colours to suit everyone.

### Coats

When stepping out this winter, keeping warm is inevitably a huge factor when it comes to

deciding what to buy. Short mini-coats have made an impact this season, while knee-length coats remain as popular as ever. Whatever the length, the trend leans towards a 60s A-line, an empire line, or a combination of these elements. While this winter's palette is predominantly dark, red is a strong colour, while grey offers a restrained chic edge to your wardrobe.

### Boots

Ankle boots have made a return to fashion with actress Sienna championing their cause. As a result they have been selling out fast and look set to continue well into 2007. When it comes to boots, it's difficult to go wrong with a pair of knee-highs — they are a staple purchase for every girl.

### Party clothes

While wrapping up warm is essential during the long, dark winter months, there comes a point when the layers come off and the party clothes come out. With an abundance of social gatherings pencilled in on the calendar in the run up to the New Year, every girl has to have at least a few outfits in mind to add that bit of glitz and

glamour to their lives. As usual, the LBD (little black dress) plays its part.

This year, if buying a dress stretches the budget, accessories are here to save the day. Clutch bags are a must, as is bling jewellery, with the more diamantes the better. LBD will always have a place in girls' hearts, but there is still room for variety.

Bows are also playing their part, on both clothes and bags, adding that little something extra to an otherwise ordinary outfit. While the gold has made a comeback, shimmering metallic fabrics and sequins are proving just as popular.

### Shoes

No party dress is complete without the perfect pair of shoes. This season, shoes are there to be noticed. Whether they are dripping in gemstones or adorned with a little diamante, shoes are making their own statement this winter. Flat shoes provide the ultimate in comfort but can look just as stylish, while wedges provide comfort and height at the same time. For those who are prepared to forsake comfort for glamour, there are a myriad of killer heels to choose from.



Gold glitter shoes £35 - Wallis



Grey ankle boots £64.99 River Island



Black lace clutch bag £10, Dorothy Perkins

Sequin halter dress, £40 Miss Selfridge



All the clothes pictured are available at Warrington's Golden Square.

For more information, go to [www.goldensqureshopping.co.uk](http://www.goldensqureshopping.co.uk).

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday: 9:00am - 5:30pm, Sun: 10:30am - 4:30pm.

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# Warrington Christmas Gift Guide



## How to delight your loved one



**W**HAT's the worst kind of Christmas present? One you have to buy yourself — and as many women will sadly testify, that's exactly what they have to do every year.

Somehow, just being handed cash to do your own shopping doesn't quite capture the spirit of the season.

But for some men, it seems the only sensible thing to do.

Many blokes would prefer never to go shopping, and feel totally lost when it comes to buying that certain special something to delight their loved ones.

It's not that they don't care quite the opposite. It's just that they haven't a clue. So this is the year it's going to be different, lads.

We've come up with some great ideas to delight the woman in your life, and make buying her present not only a joy this year, but in all the years to come.

You know it makes sense...  
 First of all, don't be afraid to be traditional. Perfume, flowers and chocolates may not be the most original ideas in the world, but they are constantly popular because women do actually like them.

Take a peek in her bathroom cabinet (or handbag, if you dare...) and see what kind of perfume she uses. Not only will this make you a smart kind of boyfriend/husband who will impress her with your observational skills, it also means you can nip down to the local shop and get her something to match.

You don't have to buy her another bottle of perfume; most scents come in ranges that include luxury body lotions, bubble bath and talcs.

Buy her something that goes with what she already has and she'll think you very clever and thoughtful — which, of course, you are!

Flowers are good for any occasion, but you DO have to be careful when buying chocolates.

You're bound to know if she's watching her weight (even though — of course — you'd NEVER tell her she needs to), and if she is, she won't want huge, lavish boxes of chocs that she can't resist.

Instead, buy tiny boxes of very lavish Belgian chocolates, beautifully wrapped and presented — a little bit naughty but nice.

And speaking of which, lovely lingerie is always a great gift, but it needs to be done

right. You might fancy her in red lace, but is it really what she wants? Take a look in her knicker drawer when the moment is right and see what she buys for herself — and what size it is.

Then, armed with that information, hit a lingerie shop. Don't be afraid to ask for advice - the assistants are well used to dealing with embarrassed blokes and will make you feel comfortable!

For further ideas, you don't have to be brave and venture into the shops. Instead, browse through catalogues and the internet — go to Google and put in the name of her favourite stores to see their ranges, but don't forget you need to allow time for delivery.

What if you want to be really different? Look further afield - check out antique shops for necklaces, vintage silk scarfs and beautiful vases, market stalls for hand-made soaps and scented candles, and charity shops such as Oxfam for decorated jewellery boxes, wooden figurines and soapstone animals.

And if you're still drawing a blank, go hunting for a bear — a teddy bear, that is. All the ladies love them — and that means she'll love you too!

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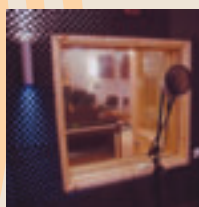
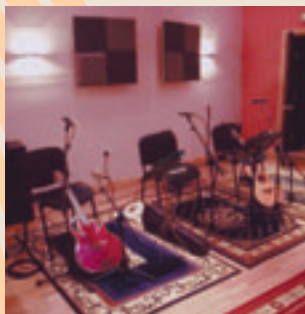
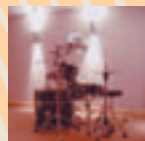
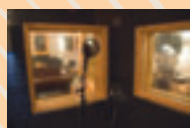
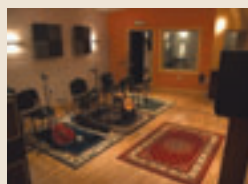
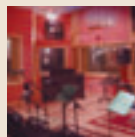
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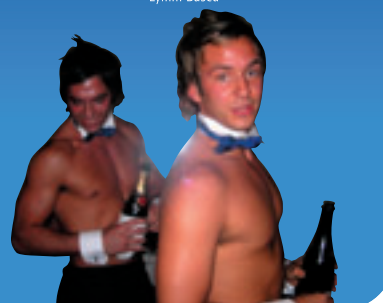
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# Warrington Christmas Gift Guide



## Father Christmas is coming!

While adults may be groaning over looming Christmas shopping duties, kids are squealing with delight that they can draw up their long-awaited lists for Santa. But you don't have to revert to the old favourites on the Toy Retailers Association's top 10 for inspirational gifts for Christmas morning. We've compiled some innovative gift ideas guaranteed to create a big smile, whether you want a stocking filler or something to fill Santa's sack in one fell swoop.

### Cheap and cheerful

Bags of fun for younger brothers and the boys, Lush's festive Rudolph, £9.50, contains treats to keep little men smelling sweet. With an effervescent Mr Butterball and Green Wing Ballistic, he'll be hogging that bathroom. Young ladies keen to glitz themselves up for the festive season will love B's Glitter Pots, £7.50 each. Available in 10 dazzling shades, the pots are a serious dose of glamorous sparkle. Available from www.bnevertobusytobeautiful.com or 01202 493 789. Fashionistas in training will love wrapping up this winter in New Look's colourful woollies. The rainbow scarf is £8 and matching funky armwarmer, £6. Little ones may be more interested in the wrapping paper but once that's cleared up, tots should be entertained for hours with Lloyds Pharmacy's super-soft Farmyard Skittles, £5, complete with pigs, ducks and a ball to knock down a strike.

### Under £20 treats

Babies might not be old enough to write to Santa Claus but let them gurgle through their first festive season in Blooming Marvellous' oh-so-cute My First Christmas Playsuit,

£12.99, complete with hat, £4.99. Available at www.bloomingmarvellous.co.uk or 0845 458 7400. Fun for all the family - board games should stop them getting bored over the festive happy holidays. Next Directory has a fantastic selection of games including Catch Phrase, Bullseye and Family Fortunes, from £19.99. If they're keen on amateur dramatics or just love dressing up, young girls will love spreading their wings in Adams' festive fairy or angel costumes, from £12, suitable for ages 3-10 years. Young boys can prepare to battle in knight or soldier dress-up outfits, £10 each, from Marks and Spencer. Everyone loves a bear to cuddle up to at night and Jojo Maman Bebe's beautiful mohair bears make the perfect bedtime companion, from £17. Available from www.jojomamanbebe.co.uk or 0870 241 0451. To keep his head toastie warm in the winter months, cheeky monkeys will love Tansen's funky monkey hat complete with pom poms, £13.50, from www.tansen.co.uk.

### Nifty under £50

If your little darling is inspired by the X Factor stars, turn them into a mini musician with Paramountzone.com's electronic guitar, £26.95. Features include both stand-alone and interactive mode to let your child take centre stage for Christmas Day entertainments. Exterminate, exterminate! Doctor Who fans will relish playing the part of sidekick with Woolworths' radio-controlled Dalek, £39.99. There might be a few puppies and kittens on Santa's lists but the non-fluffy variety shouldn't cause too much chaos on Christmas morning. Try the interactive pink iDog, £30, from Debenhams. If your child fancies themselves as a dab hand at DIY when you're decorating the house, cultivate their young talents with the Black & Decker kids' workbench, £29.95, from John Lewis.



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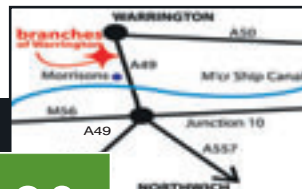
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