

# Christmas shopping in Wiveliscombe

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CHRISTMAS shopping shouldn't have to be undertaken with the same grim determination as an assault course through the steamy swamps of some alien terrain; with a bit of planning and the application of the following magic formula it could be a reasonably enjoyable exercise: Location + Inspiration + organisation + treats for the shopper.

Location = local in this case; there is a huge range of interesting, affordable and original goods within the 10 Parishes area and we hope to inspire you with some of the ideas we've had. We've also come across a few websites which may help in buying gifts for those hard-to-please people.

Milverton (December 2nd) and Wiveliscombe (December 9th) Community Markets are a source of excellent homemade cakes, biscuits, jams and local honey which are all useful as small individual gifts or ideal as part of a hamper of local produce, which could also include some Somerset Cider Brandy.



Thornes, The Larder and West Somerset Farmed Venison all provide quality food for your own Christmas cooking, as well as pates and cheeses for gifts. Coteigh and Exmoor ales also make great presentation packs of bottled beers.

You could buy delicious local ingredients, cook a special dinner, and wash up, as a gift.

Make flavoured vodkas by adding chilli, lemons, fruits or even rhubarb and custard sweets (it works!) and decant into an interesting bottle.

Find an attractive new or 'vintage' tin and fill it with home made fudge, truffles or treacle toffee (Google for recipes).

Wivey Hardware has a wide range of kitchen gadgets, including garlic presses,

tiny whisks, lemon zesters, storage boxes and very reasonable champagne glasses; an ideal hunting ground for gifts for cooks or student flat dwellers.

If you fancy giving something arty the recent Somerset Arts Weeks showed what a tremendous range of talented craftspeople and artists we have in the area; potters, ceramicists, textile artists, stained glass artists, print makers, painters and jewellers. Many of them would be pleased to discuss commissions or sell from their current body of work. Look them up on [www.somersetartweek.org.uk](http://www.somersetartweek.org.uk).

Or for a truly personal gift, commission a pencil drawing portrait, from John Alder ([john@artfoyer.co.uk](mailto:john@artfoyer.co.uk)).

David Bond at Wiveliscombe Post Office has photographed and produced a 10 Parishes calendar for 2007.

Carousel Pig is a goldmine of gifts; scarves, shawls, jewellery, decorated bags of many designs, mugs, jugs, stocking fillers, candles of all colours and sizes, potpourri, throws, and the all important glitzy party frock or outfit to make a real impact.

The Courthouse has many decorative items to give that French or Country House look, including tiny ceramic boxes, candlesticks, and oriental rugs. Or buy some fabric and fabric accessories to custom make a cushion. Treat yourself, or someone else, to a stylish leather bag or wallet and then reward self with a scrumptious coffee and cake.

The Pharmacy has traditional English soaps and toiletries, which would delight friends at home or abroad.

The North Street Garden

Shop has items for gardening friends; new secateurs, gardening gloves, a trowel or small fork. Buy someone a magnificent bouquet of flowers, a Christmas door wreath, a pot of bulbs or buy a bowl and plant up some hyacinths.

Don't forget Christmas treats for pets, that can also be used to bribe Bonzo when you don't want to take him for a walk in the rain.

Younger drivers would probably appreciate motoring accessories or a tank of petrol from Jones' Garage.

Or what about driving lessons from Matt Reid.

Take friends or family out for a meal at a local pub or restaurant, dress up and make an occasion of it, hire transport so you can all enjoy yourselves.

And if you still need some more ideas, how about giving some hours of gardening or car valeting, aromatherapy treatments, yoga classes, a session at the hairdressers, some good hair products, tennis coaching or membership of Cinema Obscura - look in the Messenger for contacts.

Theatre vouchers, a magazine subscription, a trip on the West Somerset Railway, cinema vouchers, National Trust

membership or a day of country sports would all be a delight to receive.

Buy someone a novel, anything that they'd enjoy from the Mann Booker prizewinner to the latest blockbuster, and a box of really good chocolates to munch at the same time as they read.

If you still need more ideas, then these two websites have some intriguing retro-style finds from cushions made of silk scarves to enamel milk pans - [www.re-foundobjects.com](http://www.re-foundobjects.com) and [www.labourandwait.com](http://www.labourandwait.com)

John Lewis is a really good quality departmental store with an excellent online ordering and delivery service - [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com)

So, as you sit beside your Langford Lakes Christmas tree ticking off your gift list, with your own 'reward' safely purchased, you find that there is just one person for whom all our suggestions fail, and that it really is down to the box of hankies; look at [www.Atishoo.co.uk](http://www.Atishoo.co.uk) for the most wonderful wild designs in presentation boxes of 3 for £18.

Merry Christmas shopping.  
*IA and HM*



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Not only famed brands like Emma Bridgewater mugs and jugs plus her best-selling tinware (boys money boxes only £1.95) Simon Drew aprons and witty books (good for men) but many individual items that are harder to find elsewhere incl. one-off scarves and jewellery personally selected in India Wonderful aromas from our range of toiletries and candles 100s of cushions and practical draught excluders plus loads of innovative stocking fillers for all ages

Glorious Xmas decorations and ribbons by Gisela Graham - from traditional garlands to the outrageously kitsch large selection of cards inc. religious images, family and charity

Huge choice of Pilgrim Jewels featuring Swarovski crystals sumptuous embroidered and beaded accessories inc. carpet-style weekend bags with leather trim Costume and silver jewellery for all ages and pockets

Look stunning for the special day in our Adini Velvets or walk the dog on Boxing Day in a cosy Pachamama Cardi

Don't forget to look for larger gifts upstairs (via clothes) inc. Spectacular new chandeliers, lamps, vases and much more

or buy Jellycats online @ [www.stores.ebay.co.uk/Carousel-Pig](http://www.stores.ebay.co.uk/Carousel-Pig) and Pilgrim @ [www.carouselpig.co.uk](http://www.carouselpig.co.uk)



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