

# Kids' corner

New ideas for entertaining and educating the kids



## Boxo the Naughty Gnome

Westbourne Park author Jasmine Tye has written a perfect Christmas tale about the adventures of Boxo, a mischievous gnome who steals Santa's sleigh and attempts to wreak havoc on a little boy's festivities, before being put in his place by Big Doris, the good fairy. Boxo's antics are sure to bring a smile to the face of young and old, and the lovable gnome is brought to life by the colourful illustrations of Nikitas Gerakis. A wonderful bedtime read! *Boxo The Naughty Gnome* is available from Bookends, Thurloe Place SW3 and Waterstones Oxford Street W1 (£5.99, p/b, Philomel).



## Watercolour challenge

Popular Chelsea-based artist Charlotte Ashenden paints wonderful watercolours of children, adults, animals and houses, painted from photographs that she takes in your home (or provide your own) - simpler by far than sittings, and the end results are stunning. She promises to capture not only the exact likeness of her subject, but also their personality and sparkle - as is evident by the range on her website. Although soon to offer oil portraits too, she says: "Watercolour is great for capturing the skin's translucency and the clarity of a person's eyes - and with a really fine brush you can paint in every eyelash. The more detail, the better!" For a really special Christmas present, contact her 07876 363096.

[www.charlotteashenden.com](http://www.charlotteashenden.com)

## Charming company

If you are looking for a gift that is a little different, and haven't got all day to trawl the high street, peruse the Pacific Jewels website for sterling silver baby shoe necklaces, and many other cuter-than-cute charms in a variety of sizes. Or why not entertain your daughter with a charm bracelet party, the most talked-about party in the playground! Visit [www.pacificjewels.co.uk](http://www.pacificjewels.co.uk) or call 020 8997 7619



## Reunited and it feels so good...

Mini Marvellous have come to the aid of the children of the nation by launching a website with the aim of reuniting lost toys with their distraught and tearful owners. If you have lost a toy, or indeed have found one that looks well loved, visit [toys-reunited.co.uk](http://toys-reunited.co.uk) to register the loss or log a find of a beloved toy. There you can also read the stories of Teddy Tods and Panda, toys who were missing in action before being found and reunited with their families. We do love happy endings!

## Memories...

Preserve your child's early years with the help of e-Klips Productions, who create individually crafted biographies and family histories from photographs, slides, film footage, video, documents and filmed interviews. e-Klips will produce a permanent record on DVD which you can share with family and friends, either at home or for special occasions. A wonderful present for parents and grandparents. Call 020 7727 9686 for further information.



## Christmas present

Old-fashioned story-telling comes to Fortnum & Mason this Christmas. Every Sunday from 13 November-18 December, Shakespearean actors will narrate an abridged version of *A Christmas Carol* in a celebration of the true values of the season. The illustrious store will invite children to sit around their Christmas tree for the storytelling, before joining their parents for afternoon tea. Grown ups will enjoy full afternoon tea for £22, whilst children's tea will be served for £15, to include sandwiches and cakes and their very own teapot with apple juice. Children will also receive very traditional going home presents. No scrooges allowed!

