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## BUSINESS

# Entrepreneur sets the world spinning with his global idea

By Chris Britcher

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THEY are being touted as one of this Christmas' biggest sellers – and now the entrepreneur behind them is hoping his innovative idea delivers on its promise.

Former chartered accountant David Sinclair, who was born in Biggin Hill and now lives in Westerham, is the man behind Globees.

But rather than conventional globes of the world, they are illustrated globes depicting some of the great tourist cities in the world.

Among them so far are the likes of Rome, New York, San Francisco, London and Edinburgh.

The idea sprang, one night in October 2008, from a flash of inspiration to put a city map onto a globe – and after realising no-one else had come up with the idea he set to work.

He now has intellectual property design rights on 25 globes and patents pending. Meanwhile, retailers around the world are snapping up the Globees with hopes they could become a big festive smash.

Explains Mr Sinclair, who developed the idea along with his wife Harriot: "Globee has gone from strength to strength. I am delighted there has been such great interest from a number of major retailers who are now selling them."

Retailers stocking the product in the UK include the likes of Waterstone's, John Lewis and WH Smith. It also has stockists from as far afield



**STOCKING FILLER:**  
Globes could prove big hit this Christmas in stores

as North America, Asia, Europe and Australia.

The products range in price from £15 to £30.

Mr Sinclair has no intention of standing still either. He is already putting the finishing touches to soon-to-be-launched Talking Globees – which will have talking sensors giving audio information about historic and tourist sites. He's also working on Braille versions of the talking globe and a range of spin-offs such as money

boxes, puzzles, umbrellas and children's books.

"I believe they are proving so popular because they have such a wide appeal for children and adults alike. Globees are both educational and fun and what better way of keeping your memories alive."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## ▶ Olympian cuts ribbon

FORMER Olympic gold medallist Sally Gunnell officially opened a new state-of-the-art physiotherapy gym at The Horder Centre in Crowborough on Tuesday. It forms part of a major multi-million pound development scheme at the hospital in St John's Road which serves NHS, private and self-funding patients. Ms Gunnell won gold in the 400m hurdles in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona and bronze in the 4x400m relay during the same Games.

## ▶ Festival fun in town

THE first ever Cranbrook Music Festival takes place this weekend - with more than 40 local bands and artists performing in the town centre. Organisers hope the event will become an annual fixture on the calendar. Money raised will go towards supporting local charities including the NSPCC, the Holly Eatwell Trust and Cranbrook Christmas. The event has secured performers via social media with all donating their time free of charge.

## ▶ Bank celebrates 175th

STAFF at NatWest's Tunbridge Wells branch celebrated its 175th birthday this week with a special birthday cake at the Mount Pleasant Road building. It first opened in 1836 as one of the newly formed Surrey, Kent and Sussex Banking Co's first branches before a number of bank mergers led to it eventually becoming NatWest. Manager Nick Hunt said: "We are proud of our close association with the town."

## CRIME

## Asbo extended from Cornwall

A MAN who has been repeatedly arrested for alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in Tunbridge Wells has had his ASBO extended to ban him from drinking in the town.

Paul John William Starbuck, 47, of no fixed abode, has been banned from drinking or possessing an open container of alcohol in Tunbridge Wells town centre.

He was originally handed a five-year ASBO by Truro Crown Court for similar alcohol-related offences back in March 2009, as well as being prohibited from having a dog called Mr Fudge dangerously out of control in a public place. The dog must now be muzzled in public.

Starbuck then decided to move to Tunbridge Wells, where he continued to create a nuisance.

In a bid to stop his offending, on September 16, officers from Tunbridge Wells sought a variation from Truro Crown Court to extend his ASBO to cover Tunbridge Wells' alcohol zone.

The court heard how Starbuck had been abusive, violent, and had even spat at someone

while drinking, and granted the variation to his ASBO, which prohibits him drinking in Tunbridge Wells' alcohol control zone. Starbuck was handed the order on Monday.

Chief Inspector Simon Wilshaw of Kent Police, who gave evidence against Starbuck, said: "We want to enforce acceptable levels of behaviour in Tunbridge Wells and take action against the minority of people who are intent on intimidating or harassing others."

"Should anyone witness Starbuck breaching the conditions of his ASBO, until it expires in March 2014, I would urge them to contact the police straight away."



## CHARITY

## Beluga Bar to host tsunami charity fundraiser

A CHARITY ball to help raise money for orphans in Japan following this year's tsunami in Japan takes place at the Beluga Bar on October 27.

The event – the Bucks Fizz and Canapes Charity Ball – will raise money to help provide long-term support to orphanages in Tohoku and other areas affected by the devastating earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

Organiser Maria Julius said: "Since the tsunami even more children have been put into orphanages as relatives cannot afford to care for them."

The evening will include comedians and live music. Tickets for the event cost £15 with the event running from 8pm to 1am.

For more information see <http://bit.ly/pZIGiv>.

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