

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@arcant.co.uk

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.

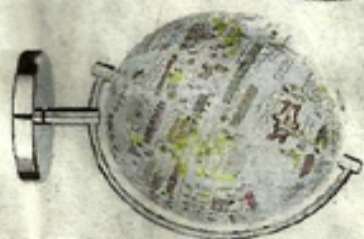
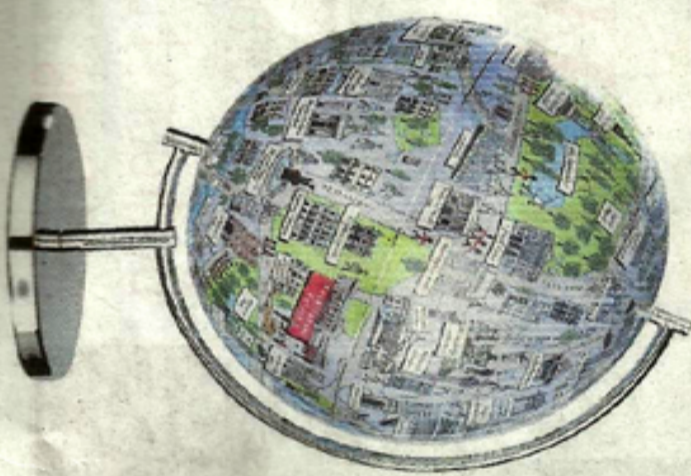
Among them so far are the likes of Rome, New York, San Francisco, London and Edinburgh.

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. Globes are both educational and fun and what better way of keeping your memories alive."

➔ 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."