



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **Godalming Sparkles at 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Festival and Lights Switch-on**

Saturday, 26 November saw thousands of people flock into Godalming for the Christmas Festival and Lights switch-on. Visitors to the town found a busy market with over 65 stalls selling a wide range of festive goods and delicious street food and drink.

Throughout the day visitors enjoyed a packed programme of entertainment at The Pepperpot that included Moss Lane School's superb Christmas songs, teenage band The Unwanted from Milford-based The Music Works, The Godalming Rock Choir, The Nefarious Picaroons and soloist Emilee Lucia. The day ended with the Godalming Band playing in the lead up to the switching on of Godalming's beautiful Christmas lights by Wishee Washee and Princess Jasmine from the Yvonne Arnaud's Panto Aladdin, along with Godalming Town Mayor, Cllr David Hunter, ably assisted by heroic pups Chase and Skye from PAW Patrol and all brilliantly compered by Simon Rose of Eagle Radio.

In addition to the atmospheric icicle lights that enhance the town centre buildings, Godalming Town Council is delighted to have added sparkling Antari stars and new Christmas trees in the High Street along with Christmas lanterns in Bridge Street.

Festival sponsors Charterhouse Club said "The Godalming Christmas Festival has gone from strength to strength over the past few years and we are delighted to be associated with it as lead sponsors. The market was busy throughout the day but the crowds reached a peak just before 5.00pm when the lights were switched on, so much so you literally couldn't move outside our stand. We had a great day and we hope everyone that visited Godalming throughout the day did too."

Mr Tim Ostle, President of the Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce said "The Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce was delighted to be able to support Godalming Town Council in delivering this fantastic day with special thanks going to Chamber members Dawn Tippet, Holly Parker and Jane Blackwood, who, supported by performers and crew from the Witley Panto, saw over 300 children visit Santa at his Grotto and participate in creative activities at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre." Many children also had the opportunity to ride the Christmas ponies which were sponsored by many of the Church Street Shops and businesses.

The Mayor of Godalming, Cllr David Hunter said This event could not happen without the support of the many people needed to help it run smoothly, we are indebted to them all for their help."

The Chamber of Commerce also sponsored this year's star attraction, Chase and Skye from PAW Patrol giving the children and the Mayor, the chance to have their photo taken with these popular television characters. The combination of the festival market, live entertainment, Santa's Grotto, PAW Patrol and the switching on of the Christmas lights meant a fantastic day was enjoyed by literally thousands of people."

Ends

For more information on this release or for images, please contact Godalming Town Clerk at [townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk)

Release Date: 29 November 2016

Notes to Editors: The first Godalming Christmas Festival combined with the Lights switch-on commenced in 2010, organised by Godalming Town Council and supported by Godalming Chamber of Commerce.