

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

MEET PEPPA PIG™ AS GODALMING LIGHTS UP YOUR CHRISTMAS

Godalming Town Council is delighted to host this year's magical Christmas Festival on Saturday 30th November. Our Christmas Festival starts at 10am and runs throughout the day in the town centre, culminating in the switching-on of the Christmas lights at 5pm at The Pepperpot.

As the Town Mayor Councillor Tom Martin puts it: "I am very much looking forward to the Christmas Festival and lights' switch-on this year. The Festival is a high point in Godalming's calendar and there is sure to be something to do for everyone."

There are over 60 stalls up and down the High Street, Crown Court and Angel Court to help you with all your Christmas gifts, other goodies, and food. New to the Christmas Festival will be a French market in Church Street with wines, soaps and candles from Provence and more; the Dobby Horse Carousel will also be in Church Street.

No Christmas Festival is complete without a visit to Santa in his grotto. His Winter Wonderland will be found along with the crafts station at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre. There will be lots of fun, Christmas games and sparkly activities including Christmas card-making, face-painting, raffles and competitions all organised by the Godalming Chamber of Commerce. Witley Panto and the girls from Priorsfield School will be helping Santa and his Reindeer on the day, and Moss Lane School PTA will be serving yummy cakes and refreshments.

The Christmas Festival is again delighted to welcome a very special guest into Godalming – Children's Favourite Peppa Pig™! You will be able to see Peppa at intervals throughout the day so do come down and say hello.

Christmas entertainment at The Pepperpot is always a treat and this year is no exception featuring a packed, varied and exciting programme of sparkling entertainment. We welcome back Jackie Rawe one of the original singers with Jazz funk band Shakatak and our very own Godalming Rock Choir with Tom George, Danny Gortler Andy Hart (Britain's Got Talent) and the Music Works Choir and so much more. The Riverboat Shuffle Jazz Band will be playing at Crown Court.

Drive Time's Wes Venn and presenter Simon Rose from Eagle Radio will be on hand to help festivities really get off to an exciting start. Say hello to them at the Charterhouse Club stand at 1.30pm. Be

dazzled at 5.00pm as, accompanied by the Godalming Band, the Christmas lights will be switched on at a special ceremony at The Pepperpot. Godalming will again be aglow not only with Christmas cheer but with glittering icicle lighting illuminating the whole town.

Godalming's unique shops, hostelrys and restaurants will be open throughout the day and free parking is provided courtesy of Godalming College (subject to availability) and a free Hoppa Shuttle bus will run continuously between Godalming College and the Borough Hall from 10.00am to 6.00pm.

Godalming's Christmas lights are arranged and funded by Godalming Town Council which remains grateful for the significant financial contribution of many independent traders and this year's festival has been sponsored by the Charterhouse Club and The Star public house.

Visit Godalming for a simply spectacular start to your Christmas. For a full listing of stalls at this year's festival and the entertainment line-up please visit www.godalmingchristmasfestival.com.

Ends

In case of query please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

Godalming's Christmas Lights and Festival is a joint initiative by Godalming Town Council and the Godalming Chamber of Commerce, Godalming came to world attention in September 1881, when it became the first town in the world to have installed a public electricity supply which made electricity available to consumers and that's how we can light up the town this Christmas!