

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

GODALMING LIGHTS UP THE TOWN!

Godalming's Christmas Festival and Lights Switch-on took place on Saturday 30 November on a clear and dry day. Thousands of people flocked into Godalming from early in the morning to enjoy the festive Christmas market, delicious street food and seasonal entertainment. There were sparkling performances from everyone who entertained at The Pepperpot. A large variety of Christmassy stalls offered tempting goods; new to the Festival this year was a delightful French Market in Church Street selling traditional French wares.

Reporting on the commercial impact of the event, John Taylor, President of Godalming's Chamber of Commerce said: "The early feedback from most retailers is that the Christmas Festival was a big success for them and the footfall was greater than the footpaths could take! Everyone is now looking forward to the Easter and Food Festivals to carry on the positive feel in the town. The future of Godalming is looking better than ever!"

Echoing John Taylor one of the delighted shop keepers, Carol Murray from Pavilion in Church Street said: "It was a brilliant day, the atmosphere was buzzing and it was one of the best days we have ever had. It was like going back to the days before the recession. It was fantastic to have so many people come into Church Street and we're looking forward to the next one".

The Christmas Festival sponsors, Charterhouse Club and The Star public house, were thrilled too. Tim Ostle, Commercial Director at Charterhouse said: "The atmosphere in Godalming throughout the day was fantastic, culminating with literally thousands of people cramming the High Street to watch the lights being switched on with Peppa Pig at 5.00pm. I am delighted that the Charterhouse Club, as the main sponsor, was able to be a part of such a great, well-organised event to get the Christmas spirit going". Ian Thomson, landlord of The Star in Church Street said: "It was great to see the Christmas Festival in its fourth year going from strength to strength".

Godalming's Mayor, Councillor Tom Martin said: "I thought this year's Christmas Festival and Lights switch-on was a fantastic community event. It was great to see so many people in town enjoying everything that was on offer. I hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as I did and the Christmas lights look spectacular yet elegant; a real triumph for Godalming." Tom officially opened proceedings in the morning and spent the day visiting the many stalls.

Santa saw hundreds of children throughout the day in his magical grotto and children were well-occupied at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre with the variety of activities on offer there. There was something for everyone at Godalming's Christmas Festival and Lights switch-on this year.

The festival organisers would like to thank everyone involved in helping on the day and behind the scenes. Thanks also to all the visitors that came from far and wide to enjoy their day in Godalming. Don't forget the sparkling lights will be lighting up Godalming until the end of December.

Ends

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