



Supporting Our Community

## PRESS RELEASE

### For immediate release

### Godalming Dazzles at Christmas Festival and Lights Switch-on

Despite the damp weather, Saturday 24 November saw thousands of people flock into Godalming for the Town Council's Christmas Festival and Lights Switch-on. Visitors to the town found a festive market with over 65 stalls selling a wide range of street food, drink and Christmassy gifts.

A packed programme of entertainment at The Pepperpot began with an enchanting performance by children from Moss Lane Infant School singing Christmas songs. Sterling performances continued with the Godalming Rock Choir, Emilee Lucia and Claudia Stark. Ed and Harry Forbes from Changing Colour were in fine form and the Godalming Bulgarian Dancers in their colourful national dress gave an energetic performance for the crowd.

Godalming Museum played host to the town's special guest Paddington™ and children enjoyed riding Dexter and Merla the Christmas Ponies in Church Street.

The Santa's Grotto at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre was once again organised and run by The Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce, ably assisted by the Witley Panto Company. Godalming Junior School's tea and cake concession and Busbridge Infant School's crafts and activities on the go kept the little ones entertained whilst waiting to see Father Christmas.

The Godalming Band played for the crowd in the countdown to the lights switch-on and the dazzling icicle lights were lit up in a sparkling ceremony helped by the Town Council's special guest Paddington™, Eagle Radio DJ Simon Rose, Father Christmas and the Yvonne Arnaud's Cinderella Panto Stars, Georgie Leatherhead (Cinderella) and Cameron Burt (Prince Charming).

Mr Tim Ostle, Commercial Director of the Charterhouse Club, sponsors of the Christmas Festival said "Charterhouse Club was delighted to be the sponsor for this fantastic community event which saw thousands of people visit Godalming on Saturday. The market was busy with a huge range of stalls selling Christmas gifts and lots of lovely food to sample. The atmosphere throughout the day was great, particularly when Paddington™ showed his face to help switch the lights on. We love being involved with this event which brings so many people together at this special time of year."

For more information on this release or images,

please contact: Suzie Gortler

[community@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:community@godalming-tc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01483 523075

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Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Nick Williams said “This was a great occasion. The residents, especially the young members, had great delight seeing our special celebrity switch-on the Christmas lights. The combination of the festival market, live entertainment, special guest Paddington™, Santa’s Grotto and the Christmas Ponies in Church Street meant a fantastic day was enjoyed by literally thousands of people. As with all events within the town the Christmas Festival simply could not happen without the many volunteers who help the event to run smoothly and we are indebted to them for all their help.”

Ends...

Notes to editors: Images attached

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