



Supporting Our Community

PRESS RELEASE

Community Supports Godalming Fireworks

Hundreds of families filled the streets of Godalming last Friday (3 November) as the Deputy Mayor of Godalming, Cllr Nick Williams, along with the Presidents of Godalming's Rotary Clubs, Heather Pollard and Joani Custance, accompanied by the music of the Reading Scottish Pipe Band, led the torch-lit procession as it made its way through the town to join those waiting for the start of Godalming's Annual Firework display held on the Burys Field. With all the available tickets having been sold, 2,500 people made the night an extremely successful and enjoyable community event.

When the local Lions Club reluctantly decided in 2016 that they could no longer continue to run the annual fireworks display, the organisation of the town's November celebrations was taken over by Rotary in Godalming, The Round Table and 41 Club and Godalming Scouts, supported by Godalming Town Council.

Councillor Williams said, "After the Lions stopped running the annual fireworks, Godalming Town Council approached other leading community groups within the town and a great annual event was saved for the community by the community. To put on a firework display within the centre of the town is a challenging and expensive task, which needs over 70 volunteers for it to be safely delivered and our thanks must go to all those who gave their time to give such a fantastic event to the town. The Town Council is delighted to support the annual fireworks and the fact that all the available tickets were sold in advance is testimony to the support given by the town's residents to local charity groups who do so much for others in our community. I'd also like to say thank you to this year's main sponsors, Seymours Estate Agents and Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce."

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Mr Euan Davison, President of Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce, said of the Firework Display “The Chamber of Commerce is delighted to have been able support the firework display and to have introduced Seymours Estate Agents to the Town Council and its community partners. The town’s annual events not only provide enjoyment, but are important for the economic vibrancy of the town. Whilst being an evening event does make it slightly different in nature from the town’s other annual events, the fireworks display supports the many restaurants, bars, cafés and takeaways the town has to offer. The evening economy provides a lot of local employment and the fireworks night saw packed bars and restaurants, both before and after the firework display, as well a roaring trade for the town’s fast food outlets as people made their way home.”

A Godalming Town Council spokesperson acknowledged that some people who could not get onto The Bury’s Field to watch the fireworks, and others who found it difficult to park in the town, took to social media to highlight their views. However, Councillor Stefan Reynolds, Chairman of the Council’s Policy & Management Committee said “The role of the Town Council is to work with Waverley’s Safety Advisory Group in order that this event is as safe as possible for the spectators who come to watch and the volunteers who help to run it on the night. The location of the fireworks does impose restrictions on the numbers that can safely be allowed onto The Bury’s Field, which is why the number of tickets available is limited and residents were encouraged to buy tickets in advance to save disappointment on the night. Last year was the first time the Council was involved in the town’s annual fireworks and afterwards we looked at how we could do better, which is why this year we made changes to increase the number of entry points to the event and ensured that Crown Court and the Borough Council’s car park at The Burys remained open until just before the fireworks began. Whilst we hope that everyone enjoyed the fireworks, we would welcome suggestions for next year’s event by emailing office@godalming-tc.gov.uk.”

Ends

In case of query please contact:

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