



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 11th November 2008

NEWBURY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON 5pm 28th November 2008



Newbury Town Council is very pleased to announce that arrangements are now finalised for the Christmas Lights Switch-On in the Market Place, Newbury at 5pm on Friday 28 November 2008.

An exciting programme of activities has been established, providing entertainment for all the family.

Ian Grose, Leader of the Council, said, "Newbury Town Council know that the Christmas Lights give enjoyment to lots of people and that they are a key part of the festive period in the town. Newbury is a tremendous town with so much to offer at Christmas-time, so do come to the big switch-on, support our partners, enjoy the lights with your friends, and make a great night of it!"

Watership Brass Band (The Newbury Town Band) will be playing carols in the Market Place from 4:30pm to start the traditional festive evening.

Santa and his sleigh will start the procession along Northbrook Street to the Market Place, leaving the Methodist Church at 4:30pm. The procession will be led by the Town Crier and a group of children from the Dragon Club at Speenhamland School.



Matt Bardock, a well-known actor from the popular Saturday night BBC medical drama, will accompany Santa in his sleigh. There will be charity collectors from Mencap alongside the procession and in the Market Place, so at this time of giving, please bring along your loose change and help to fill the buckets.

Santa and his entourage will be joined by the Mayor and the choir from St Nicolas Church before arriving at the stage, located in the Market Place at around 4:50pm.

After a few words from the Mayor and Matt Bardock, and a countdown from the crowd, Matt and the Mayor will press the plunger to transform the Market Place into a sparkling spectacle, courtesy of the lights provided by Millennium Quest and funded by the Town Council.

The switch-on in the Market Place will be immediately followed by traditional carols

led by the St Nicolas Church Choir. Let's all raise the roof!

At 5:30pm, spectators will be encouraged to disperse from the Market Place to look at the lights in the rest of the town, and to watch the splendid display of fireworks at Victoria Park from 5:45pm. Victoria Park itself will be out of bounds – best vantage points for the fireworks will be on Park Way, the Park Way Bridge approach or the Park Way bridge itself. For additional safety, the bridge and its approach will be closed to traffic from 4:30pm to 7pm.

Newbury Town Council would like to thank Sainsbury's and the Market Traders for sponsoring this year's Christmas Tree in the Market Place. The tree has been supplied by Yattendon Estates. Newbury Town Council would like to thank AJ Black Haulage for providing the stage for the event, and Arena Seating for kindly providing equipment.

And of course a big thank you for the support from the Police, Bridgeway Security, West Berkshire Council and Newbury Town Council who have all contributed in different but significant ways in ensuring a safe event for everyone.

All those involved in the switch-on wish everyone a safe and fun-filled event and a very Merry Christmas. Come on down and join the fun!!!

END

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