

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 15th November 2010

THE BIG NEWBURY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH – ON 26th November 2010 5:30PM



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 5:30pm on Friday 26 November 2010.

The actual switch on is scheduled half an hour later than in previous years as there will be live entertainment in the Market Place from 4pm with local musicians Lucy Davey and Ian & Mel Collins.

The Newbury Carnival Queen for 2011 will be crowned on the stage before Santa's arrival and then Watership Brass Band (The Town Band), together with St Nicholas Church Choir will be playing carols in the Market Place to welcome the arrival of the parade.

An exciting programme of activities has been established, providing entertainment for all the family with a few surprises in store too!

The lights in Northbrook Street will be lit up before the procession and accompanying our wonderful stilt walking Christmas Angel will be the Mayor of Newbury, Cllr Ian Grose and his entourage. A group of children from the Dragon Club at Speenhamland School will follow with children from Naomi House Hospice and Santa on his sleigh, leaving the Methodist Church just after 5pm.

The procession will arrive at the Market Place at around 5:20pm.

Newbury Sound's radio presenter, Chris Wright, will be compering the evening and after a few words from the Mayor and a countdown from the crowd, the Mayor and the children 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 and Watership Brass Band. Unlike previous years, when the event has moved on to the Wharf and Victoria Park, everything this year is centered around the Market Place and the Christmas Tree. It's such a wonderful space for an event such as this. Look out for the snow and our amazing "Aquabatics" light and water show.

Father Christmas has even brought two of his reindeer with him. Come and see them in the Market Place during the evening. There will be hot food and drinks, sweets, candy floss and doughnuts available to keep you warm in the Market Place.

Newbury Town Council would like to thank Newbury Sound for compering the event, GJ Burgess Haulage for providing the stage for the event, and Arena Seating for kindly providing equipment. We would also like to thank the Newbury Rotary Club and Newbury Lions for kindly supplying their time for marshaling to help make this a safe and special event. Thanks also go to Town Centre Partnership, Waitrose supermarket and our Newbury Market traders for their sponsorship of the event.

And of course a big thank you for the support from the Police, Bridgegate 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!!!

Ifor Sheldon, 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!”

Cllr Ifor Sheldon – Leader of the Council (ifor.sheldon2005@ntlworld.com 01635 827415)

Granville Taylor – Services Manager and Safety Manager (servicesmanager@newbury.gov.uk) 01635 35486)

Caroline Edmunds – Operational Manager for the event (caroline.edmunds@newbury.gov.uk) 01635 35486

Eric Stokes – Millennium Quest Managing Director – (eric@millenniumquest.co.uk) 01622 737 727

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury RG14 5AA
Tel: (01635) 35486 Fax: (01635) 40484
towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk www.newbury.gov.uk