

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: 29 November 2011**

### **THE NEWBURY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH – ON 25th November 2011**



*Denise Harris with Erin Laverton of our Newbury Young People's Council*

Friday saw the switch on of Newbury's Christmas Lights. Thousands of people attended the event, which is becoming more popular each year.

Denise Harris, winner of the Newbury Sound "Search for a Special Star" competition accompanied Father Christmas on his sleigh, together with her Mum & Dad, which processed from the Methodist Church towards the Market Place. They were joined by our Mayor, Cllr Jeff Beck and the Mayoress. Children from the Speenhamland School Dragon Club and beautiful stilt walking Christmas angels headed the procession. Father Christmas even brought four of his reindeer with him.



*Kate Izzard*

Entertainment was provided by local singer Kate Izzard and local band "South Finesse".

As the crowds anxiously waited for Father Christmas to arrive, St Nicolas Choir, accompanied by Watership Brass kept them entertained with traditional Christmas Carols.

The Mayor and Denise pushed the plunger at 5:30pm lighting up the beautiful Christmas decorations in the Market Place. The 35ft tree was amass with twinkly fairy lights.

Newbury Sound's radio presenter, Chris Wright, compered the evening and our Mayor wished everyone a Happy and prosperous Christmas.

Newbury Town Council would like to thank Newbury Sound for compering the event, GJ Burgess Haulage for providing the stage for the event, Arena Seating for providing equipment and Ken Cornhill for sound & lighting on the stage. 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, Wilkinson, Newbury Market traders, The Corn Exchange & Greenham Common Trust 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.

The evening raised £103 through a street collection for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund.

Cllr Martha Vickers, Chair of the Community Services Committee, said, "It was a pleasure to be part of the event on Friday and see all the happy faces enjoying the evening. The lights make the town look extra special at Christmas and we do hope that everyone can enjoy them whilst Christmas shopping in Newbury"

END

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