



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 12 November 2007

**Newbury Christmas Light Switch-On
5.00pm on Friday 30 November 2007**



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 30 November 2007.

An exciting programme of activities has been established, providing entertainment for all the family, while promoting the local charity Swings and Smiles.

The fun starts with Santa and his sleigh processing 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 Speenhamland School. Santa will be accompanied in his sleigh by Amy Cook, the inspiration behind Swings and Smiles and Graeme Murty, patron of Swings and Smiles, and also captain of local Premier League football club Reading and a Scottish international.

Like at the summer carnival, there will be charity collectors from Swings and Smiles 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 Kick FM Road show, located in the Market Place at around 4:50pm.

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

The switch-on in the Market Place will be immediately followed by a couple of carols led by the St Nicolas Church Choir. Let's all raise the roof!

Pelham's funfair will be operating in the Wharf / Library car park and spectators will be encouraged to disperse from the Market Place to look at the lights in the rest of the town, visit the funfair, or watch the splendid display of fireworks at Victoria Park from 6pm. 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 5pm to 7pm.

Newbury Town Council would like to thank National Westminster Bank and the Market Traders for sponsoring this year's Christmas Tree in the Market Place.

Newbury Town Council would also like to thank the sponsors of the fireworks and Santa's sleigh; Kennet Shopping, Camp Hopson and Newbury Racecourse. Also thanks to Kick FM for providing their roadshow and to their sponsors Swift Couriers.

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!!!

END

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Swings and Smiles is a local charity aiming to build a new playground in West Berkshire for children with special needs, and their families. For more Swings and Smiles information see:
www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk

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