



# Whitchurch Town Council

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## **Whitchurch Christmas Lights Switch On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**The town's Christmas Lights Switch On event will be a busy day for Whitchurch...**

The morning will start with an outdoor Christmas Market running all day from 10am – 6pm, with a mixture of hot food stalls, fresh coffee, Christmas gifts and crafts. Live music will accompany your family day in Whitchurch along with a children's mini fairground on the Bullring, Whitchurch Alport Football Club's 'Beat the Goalie' competition and free children's crafts and games in the market hall from 10am with Beacon Church. Whitchurch Library is holding an hour of games and activities for children under 12 years old, from 10am – 11am. The session is themed around "*The Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" so come along in your Wimpy Kid costume and join in the fun. This is a free library event but booking is essential, tickets are available at the library.

St John's Church will be holding their annual Christmas Fair in our Main Hall from 9.30am – 12 noon. St Alkmund's Church will be hosting their crib festival all day on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Father Christmas will be in the High Street throughout the day in his annual Rotary float. In the week leading up to the switch on and throughout the Saturday, children can complete the town's Robin Trail (forms available from Book Shrop), with a prize for the winner, kindly donated by Whitchurch Chamber of Trade. The Whitchurch Masonic Hall is also partnering with us this year and opening their building with Christmas themed stalls, a chocolate tombola, with an opportunity to meet Mrs Claus and decorate gingerbread!

Throughout the day, two local dance schools will be showcasing their skills; this includes two sets of performances from Glo's Cheerleaders and Maggie May's Performing Arts. Glo's Cheerleaders will perform in Green End at 12 noon and outside the Civic Centre at 3pm. Maggie May's will be performing at 11am and 2pm in the town centre.

Blackberry Fair's Steve Chapman will transform the front of the Civic Centre into a fabulously festive scene with his hot mulled wine stall and decorations. From 1pm – 6pm enjoy Fairtrade refreshments and a hot drink in the Civic Centre's pop up foyer café, kindly being operated on the day by The Whitchurch Fairtrade Group.

There will be a Frozen themed fancy dress competition, where children of all ages can dress up as their favourite character and enter our competition to win some fabulous prizes. Judging for the competition will take place at 4pm in the Civic Centre.

At 4.30pm the town's annual Frost Forest lantern parade will begin at Green End Parade and lead up through the High Street to the lights being switched on outside the Civic Centre. The lantern workshops are being held every Saturday in the run up to the switch on, in the Civic Centre's Market Hall, including the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> November.

At 5pm the lights will be switched on by our local celebrity, Diana Beard, who appeared on this year's Great British Bake Off. The winning children from the 'Frozen' dressing up competition will be invited to ride on the themed Frozen sleigh which will glide into the town centre. Watch out for a couple of big surprises when the lights come on! Stay and play once the Christmas lights are on when Frozen characters will be outside the Civic Centre for photographs with the children.

Shropshire Council has kindly granted free car parking in the town on the switch on day from 2pm – 6pm. The shops will be open late until 6pm to tie in with the event. The town will also be decorated with lovely real Christmas trees from Somerville Trees at Ash.

Following the Christmas Lights Switch on Whitchurch Town Council and Whitchurch and District Lions Club are hosting a Christmas Charity Concert at the Civic Centre, from 7.30pm. The evening concert will feature the Fauls Singers and special guests. Tickets are just £6.00 and include a mince pie and a glass of hot mulled wine. Civic Centre ticket hotline: 01948 665761. Tickets also available at Sentiments. Proceeds to the Mayor's Charities.

*Town Centre Manager Zoë Dean said "This year's Christmas lights switch on event will be a wonderful day in Whitchurch for the whole family. I am thrilled that so many sections of the community are involved with the event including the Chamber of Trade, Whitchurch Fairtrade Group and the Masonic Hall. Whitchurch Town Council is working hard to put on a great show. This year's switch on is one not to be missed!"*

