



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 9th November 2021

The Big Christmas Lights Switch On Event and Festive Lantern Parade

Folkestone Town Council would like to thank the thousands of people that attended the 'Big Switch On' event in the Town Centre on Saturday 6th November. There was much excitement to see the lantern parade that saw festivities commence at the Skuba Bar & Restaurant down Sandgate Road to the Town Hall and it is with thanks to local school children and their parents, Rentadinosaur, Chloe's Scott's Dance for Fun Group, The Grinch, Angels Allstars Guard & Baton Corps, Studio Six and many more for creating a fantastic spectacle and start to events.

Academy FM provided another amazing outside broadcast, introducing and engaging with performers and spectators respectively. The entertainment programme wowed the crowds with performances from many including Morehall Primary Academy, Martello Primary Academy & St Mary's Primary Academy school choirs singing popular Christmas songs beautifully and in lovely festive costume. Folkestone Secondary Academy Band delivered an amazing and very professional musical performance, crowds were treated to fresh and exciting dance performances from The Chloettes and Studio Six, Rentadinosaur wowed with Santasaurus & Dino Babies, an exceptional performance from local vocalist Duncan Moris with Christmas themed swing songs created much festive cheer and a Q & A slot of fun and laughter with the cast of this year's Leas Cliff Hall pantomime, Cinderella did not disappoint!

Members of the crowd were invited on to the stage for fun competitions with prizes generously donated by Sorting Gifts (Guildhall Street), The Leas Cliff Hall and Folkestone Town Councillors.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Michelle Keutenius was accompanied by Father Christmas, The Grinch and pantomime cast to turn on the lights to sounds of gasps and wonder at the eagerly anticipated display.

This year sees new and updated additions to the existing lighting scheme with Folkestone Town Council hoping to continue developing and extending even further in 2022 and beyond.

1,500 festive goody bags were handed out to children and young people at the event with Asda, McDonalds, Morrisons and Tescos all very generously donating fruit to be included with the contents.

The continued support of local businesses / retailers, residents and local organisations is a testament to our amazing community.

A very merry Christmas is wished for all from everyone at Folkestone Town Council.

ENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Vicky Deakin, Communities and Events Officer

Folkestone Town Council, The Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1DY

Tel: 01303 257946 Email: vicky.deakin@folkestone-tc.gov.uk