



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 23rd November 2022**

**Festive Light & Lantern Parade, Christmas Lights Switch On Event  
and Spectacular Firework Finale – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

This year's Christmas event began with vocal performances on the outdoor stage from Morehall, Martello and Folkestone Primary Academy combined choirs, FESI choir (Folkestone Ethos Primary Schools) and St Mary's Primary Academy Choir each of which sang confidently and beautifully, delighting the crowds.

A series of musical, comedy and dance acts followed with performances from 'Bodger's Badger', local vocalist Duncan Moris singing Christmas swing songs, Folkestone Secondary Academy Band & vocalist, Chloe Scott's Dance for Fun Group, Miss Holiday Swing and Studio Six.

There was much excitement at the lantern & light parade with festivities at the Clifton Hotel before the procession, led by the Town Mayor followed by Rentadinosaur with 'Santasaurus' & Dino Babies, Leas Cliff Hall Pantomime Cast of Aladdin, children's animated Disney film themed characters and Folkestone Rotary's Christmas float with Santa, set off down Sandgate Road to the precinct to be welcomed by the large crowd.

Santa made his way to the stage where he delivered a special Christmas message to children and residents.

The Academy FM team with 'Folkestone Fox' working with Paul Reynolds, who once again provided brilliant sound and technical support, continued to professionally present the main stage event in a fun-filled manner, introducing and engaging with performers and spectators respectively. The entertainment programme wowed the crowds and the final act, Santasaurus & Dino Babies certainly did not disappoint, bringing something a bit different to proceedings!

Members of the crowd were invited on to the stage for fun competitions with prizes and gifts, generously donated by Tesco Supermarket and Folkestone Town Councillors, presented to winning recipients.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Nicola Keen was accompanied by Bodger's Badger 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 to consider developing and extending it even further for 2023 and beyond.

Special thanks must go to the following that supported the event, Keith Craig (Party Bar) who very kindly supplied a generator FOC as a backup in case of emergency and Chaos Cards who generously provided sponsorship.

The event culminated with the spectacular fireworks grand finale display delivered by A J Pyrotechnics at the East Cliff, a location chosen this year to enable residents of Folkestone to view and enjoy the amazing show from as far as away as Capel! This impressive display was welcomed with attendance numbers in their thousands across various sites in Folkestone Harbour and East Cliff areas.

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

**ENDS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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