

It's a Cracker of a Christmas! – Leader Update 11

With Christmas just a few weeks away, Burgess Hill will be buzzing with Christmas-themed events, starting on Friday 22nd November, when members of our Youth Council will be judging the 'Best Dressed Window Competition'. This is a great way of involving our local shops and businesses in a Christmas challenge and by the look of things, they have pulled out all the stops this year. The winner will be notified on the day and will be invited to join the Mayor, on-stage, at the 'It's Christmas!' show on Saturday 23rd November.



Every year, we illuminate our town with Christmas lights and at 5pm on Saturday the Mayor, Councillor Janice Henwood, will be joined by the winners of the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition, to press the switch that will power-up the lights.

Prior to that, there will be programme of entertainers on stage, various walkabout performers in the town centre and a rousing march through the town by Burgess Hill Marching Youth. There will also be a number of stalls in Church Walk, featuring food,

craft items, local businesses and much more. The Youth Council will also be there with a stall selling planted bulbs, tree decorations and Christmas cards, all in aid of their chosen charity, the Burgess Hill Pantry.

At the same time as all this is happening, Mid Sussex District Council will have their synthetic skating rink open in the 'Martlets Marquee' each Saturday, Sunday, Thursday and Friday from 23rd November to 8th December. MSDC are running one-hour sessions at various times, all free of charge but you will need to book in advance. Follow this link: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/about-us/press-releases-and-publications/get-your-skates-on-for-the-festive-season/>.



**GET YOUR
SKATES ON**

for FREE this festive season!

Come and visit our synthetic ice rink at the Martlets Marquee in the run up to Christmas

Ice skates for all sizes provided

OPENING HOURS

Saturday Nov 23: 10.30am – 4.30pm	Sunday Dec 1: 10am – 4pm
Sunday Nov 24: 10am – 4pm	Thursday Dec 5: 3pm – 6pm
Thursday Nov 28: 3pm – 6pm	Friday Dec 6: 3pm – 6pm
Friday Nov 29: 3pm – 6pm	Saturday Dec 7: 12pm – 6pm
Saturday Nov 30: 12pm – 6pm	Sunday Dec 8: 10am – 4pm

Throughout the town, in the run-up to Christmas, you will find Christmas fairs, markets and shows in every corner of our community, ranging from an Art Exhibition at St.John's Church to fairs at Kings Weald, Cherry Tree and Cyprus Hall, to name

but a few. The Town Council and Burgess Hill Community Crafters Market has jointly organised a Festive Market on Saturday 7th December in Church Walk and The Kiln, with stalls selling festive goodies, seasonal gifts, mulled wine, food and lots more. The ever-popular Rock Choir will be performing from 11.00 – 11.45am, followed by the Sussex Harmonisers at 12 noon and 1.00pm. Be assured, Burgess Hill will be dancing in the street, including Councillors!

	<p>Burgess Hill Festive Market (Church Walk) open from 10am – 2pm</p> <p>Burgess Hill Community Crafters Market (The Kiln – The Martlets Shopping Centre) open from 10am – 3pm</p> <p>Children’s Face Painting – FREE – Burgess Hill Town Council Help Point – 11am – 2pm</p> <p>Rock Choir – 11 – 11.45am at the Bandstand, Church Walk</p> <p>Sussex Harmonisers – 12noon – 12.30pm & 1 – 1.30pm at the Bandstand, Church Walk</p> <p>Synthetic Ice Rink – FREE – 12noon – 6pm, at The Martlets Marquee</p>
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Now, where is Father Christmas/Santa? He should be around somewhere, surely? Well, I am pleased to say he can be found in his Grotto in the former Gadget shop in the Market Place, every Saturday from 23rd November to 14th December. When he’s not there he will be scurrying (but not seen, of course!) to and from other places in town or leaving his elves to demonstrate how to make toys.

Finally, we must not forget the shows and performances that are taking place in the next few weeks: for example, Burgess Hill Symphony Orchestra at St.John’s Church on 23rd November, Burgess Hill Marching Youth Concert, also at St.John’s on 30th November, Burgess Hill Choral Society at St.Andrew’s Church on 7th December and the ‘Snow Queen’ at Cyprus Hall on 14th December.

Have a look at: <https://www.burgesshill.gov.uk/leisure-tourism/whats-on/> or call in to the Help Point for more information on these events and many others.

I will update this ‘Update’ in a couple of weeks’ time. Meanwhile, enjoy yourselves!