

## Christmas in Guildford began with a flurry of fun

Guildford town centre was brought to life on Sunday 20 November by a huge programme of free family fun, performances and activities. Under a bright blue wintery sky, our Festive Family Fun Day turned the streets into a wonderland of happy families and laughing children.

The Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Denis Booth, opened the event with a welcome to the crowds. Afterwards a jubilant performance by Guildford Rock Choir raised the roof of Tunsgate Arch. Across the whole town, local artists, community groups and performers entertained crowds all day. Walkabout characters blew bubbles, cracked jokes and brought smiles to the faces of shoppers young and old.

The giant snow globe welcomed hundreds of families wanting to capture that perfect festive photo. The ice cave was popular with adventurous visitors. A selection of fairground side shows had people hooked! Guildford Shakespeare Company held magical and free Snow Queen workshops in the iconic Guildhall. The streets and markets were busy all day with people buying delicious food, beautiful gifts and festive treats.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Julia McShane, expressed her excitement at the success of the day. She said:

'What a truly wonderful day we had on Sunday. And we were really lucky with the glorious weather!

'We wanted to give people the opportunity to have some festive fun and make memories with their loved ones without worrying about the cost. It was fantastic to see families and children enjoying the free entertainment and with the live music and snow machine the atmosphere in the High Street was magical.

'We also wanted to attract visitors to support the town's businesses. Judging by the feedback from visitors, I believe we achieved our goal.

"Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the start of the festive season. Especially all the performers who brought such a wonderful atmosphere to our town.'

The Festive Family Fun Day was the highlight of the opening weekend of Guildford's six-week festive season. It started on Thursday 17 November with live pub music.

Street performers and children's theatre workshops continued the fun on Saturday and Sunday. Experience Guildford will continue providing these free activities until Christmas.

Tunsgate Quarter is hosting its Christmas event on Thursday 24 November. This is just one of many events in our town. A month of markets will also give shoppers the chance to buy Christmas crafts, gifts, vegan and farm produce. Or pop in to see our beautiful Christmas lights sparkling in our historic High Street.

Look out for news about a free festive nutcracker trail. Families can discover different parts of our town from 7 December and will be in with a chance to win great prizes. For information on this and more festive fun and days across the borough, visit <https://www.visitsurrey.com/guildford/events/guildford-at-christmas>.

For a full rundown of the rest of the town centre activities please visit [www.experienceguildford.com/christmas-2022/](http://www.experienceguildford.com/christmas-2022/).















