**District Dispatch**

It’s hard to believe we are already heading towards the end of November and that Christmas is just around the corner! If you are like me, you will already be busy preparing.

I love shopping in the district and finding unique gifts to buy family and friends. Supporting local businesses is really important to me and I’m sure it is to you too.

To support local businesses, we are introducing a number of parking offers. You can park for free in our Avenue de Chartres car park on Saturday 23 November from 4pm for the Chichester light switch on ‘after party’. You can also park for free on Sundays in December 2024 in our Avenue de Chartres car park in Chichester. Customers can also benefit from a further offer which can be used in the majority of council-owned car parks across the district. When you select two hours using the MiPermit app during weekends in December 2024, you will receive the third hour for free. Find out more about the app at: [www.chichester.gov.uk/mipermit](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/mipermit)

We were all looking forward to this weekend’s Chichester light switch on event, food pop-up event, and Cross, Market & More event, and so I’m very sad to let you know that these will not be taking place due to the high winds and heavy rain forecast for this weekend. These decisions are never taken lightly by the organisers and people’s safety must always come first. However, we have been informed that the ‘after party’ events will still be taking place in various venues across the city and so please do support these. On the same day, our Novium Museum will also be holding its Starlight Trail between 2.30pm and 4.30pm, where you can make a paper lantern and festive crafts. You can book at: [www.thenovium.org/starlight](https://www.thenovium.org/starlight).  And on Saturday 30 November between 10am and 5pm, our Novium Museum will also be holding an Indoor Christmas Market [www.thenovium.org/christmasmarket](https://www.thenovium.org/christmasmarket).

Midhurst are holding their light switch on event on Friday 6 December, with their event running from 5pm until 8pm; including live music, fairground rides and late-night shopping. While Petworth’s Christmas Cracker event takes place on Saturday 7 December from 11am until 7pm with a variety of stalls and musical entertainment throughout the day, with the light switch on taking place around 6pm. Selsey is holding a Community Christmas event in the High Street on Saturday 30 November from 2pm until 6pm, including a parade at 3pm. The East Beach Christmas Party at the Orchard Parade shops, will also take place on the same day between 2.30pm and 5pm.

We are also making Christmas magical in Chichester’s Priory Park, with a special programme of events to coincide with the city’s Christmas market, which is running from 7-15 December on East and North Street. It will also be operating later on Thursday 12 December, until 7pm. Families will be able to enjoy a specially commissioned pantomime in The Guildhall from 13-15 December. You can also get your dancing shoes on for two Silent Discos, taking place on Thursday 12 December. There will be a family-friendly disco at 6pm and then an over-18s event which will celebrate the 80s at 8.30pm. We are also dressing up The Guildhall with an eco-friendly Christmas tree and our Culture Spark partners are organising family arts and crafts activities and music performances across the nine days. You can find details of all of these events and book tickets at: <https://chichesterboxoffice.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows>

We have lots more festive events listed at [www.chichester.gov.uk/whatson](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/whatson) and on our social media pages. And don’t forget to sign up to our monthly email newsletter at: [www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts) which is always packs with news, activities and events from across the district.

Best Wishes

Cllr Harsha Desai

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Communications and Events at Chichester District Council

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| A logo with text on it  Description automatically generated | **Terri Foster**Senior Communications OfficerCommunicationsChichester District Council |

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| East Pallant House opening hours: 9am-4pm Monday to Friday |
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