



NEWS RELEASE

1 November 2021

Christmas Lights Switch-On and Festivities **in Weston-super-Mare**

Weston-super-Mare will come alight with festive lights on Saturday 27th November when the official Christmas Lights Switch-On takes place to commence the start of a range of celebrations and events in the town.

This year the Town Mayor, Cllr James Clayton, is pleased to announce he will be joined by Weston's own Jake Cornish from the reality TV show Love Island and 15-year old Nicholas Nikiforou from Weston who is an award-winning motivational speaker for the switch-on ceremony at 5pm.

[Weston Town Council](#) and the [Business Improvement District](#) (BID) organise the Christmas tree and official lights switch-on event annually, with this year seeing a range of post-pandemic festivities supported by the BID, partners and businesses.

Facilitated by North Somerset Council, a two-day outdoor Festive Fayre in the Italian Gardens will take place with local producers selling a range of crafts, gifts and seasonal favourites from 10am-10pm on Saturday 27th November and 10am-8pm on Sunday 28th November. Father Christmas and Nanny Christmas will be in attendance both days, with story time slots and pre-bookable visits for children available via the [Weston Festive Fayre Facebook](#) page.

Sunday 12th December sees the return of [Eat Weston](#) with a special Christmas event with over 70 food and drink producers at the Winter Gardens from 10am-4pm with free entry, entertainment and another visit from Santa himself!

Christmas starts in [The Sovereign Shopping Centre](#) with a Santa Trail from the 27th November to 3rd January in and around the Centre, plus the installation of their Christmas tree and a Tree of

Light in the foodhall for Weston Hospicecare. There will be late night shopping until 7pm, plus free parking in the Centre car park after 3pm each Thursday throughout December and the car park will remain open until 9pm Sunday to Thursday and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

Exclusive Brainiac 'Mission to Mars' family workshops will be taking place five times daily in the Centre from Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd December inclusive. It's an immersive and fun 'edutainment' activity to coincide with the start of the Christmas school holidays, with suggested donations to Weston Hospicecare.

To coincide with the lights switch-on, [The Stable](#) will be holding an indoor Artisan Christmas Market with lots of wonderful local producers within their buildings on Wadham Stree, from 5pm to 8pm on the 27th November.

Cllr James Clayton, Mayor of Weston and also a BID Warden said: "This year, despite the pandemic continuing somewhat, we really want to celebrate Christmas this year in Weston-super-Mare. I'm delighted to be able to mark the start of our festivities with the Christmas lights switch-on alongside Weston residents, Jake Cornish who featured in Love Island and the inspirational Nicholas (Nick) Nikiforou.

"Nick, who has campaigned for kindness and equality for many years after being born with a facial disfigurement and is the youngest ever recipient of the Diana Legacy Award (awarded by His Royal Highnesses Prince William and Prince Harry) amongst his other accolades, will mark for a great occasion this year and I urge everyone to come and celebrate with us all this year in Weston."

Steve Townsend, Town Centre and BID Manager added: "The Christmas Lights Switch-On is always one of the highlights of the year for the BID Team and with last year's event being cancelled due to the pandemic, this year we will be offering free mulled wine and mince pies and enjoying carols around the Christmas tree accompanied by Weston Brass Band to celebrate what I hope will be the start of a great festive period for all town centre businesses, residents and visitors to Weston."

For more information and the latest news on all of the events and festivities in the town centre, you can follow Weston BID on Facebook www.facebook.com/westonbid, where any announcements will be made should anything change nearer the time.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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Image 1: Weston's last Christmas Lights Switch-On event in 2019. Photo credit: Archant

Image 2: Weston resident Nicholas Nikiforou who will be accompanying Cllr James Clayton, Mayor and Jake Cornish of Love Island, to switch on the lights this year.

About Weston Business Improvement District (BID):

The **Weston BID** is funded by the local business community in a designated area of the town centre and sea front of Weston-super-Mare, as part of the Business Improvement District (BID), a scheme introduced by the UK government in 2004 to strengthen and regenerate town centres.

The BID in Weston-super-Mare is managed by the Town Centre Partnership commenced in 2012 with the objective of enhancing and improving the trading environment in the town centre and sea front areas to attract more business and investment as a result of profile-raising campaigns and other initiatives.

The BID was renewed in 2017 following a majority 'yes' vote that took place with all businesses within the BID area to continue with projects and services that were identified as a priority by, and for, businesses. The Weston BID will come to an end of its current term on 31st March 2022 and is currently during a consultation phase regarding a renewal of the BID for a further five years, subject to a ballot by levy-paying businesses in the area. More information can be found at <https://superweston.net/westonbid>