

## ***Christmas Press Diary 2009***

Issued on behalf of Thanet District Council

### **THANET TAPS INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT**

**The big countdown to Christmas has begun early on the Isle of Thanet as Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate tap into the Christmas spirit and prepare to party!**

**Christmas at Westwood Cross, Broadstairs, November 21:** Santa arrives at noon where he takes up residence in his magic grotto throughout the run-up to Christmas. Christmas lights switch on at 4pm with a grand parade and family entertainment. The centre's Christmas Market runs from November 23 – December 23. Call 01843 867273 or go to [www.wetwoodx.co.uk](http://www.wetwoodx.co.uk)

**Victorian Christmas at Quex, Quex House, Museum and Gardens, Birchington, November 28 & 29:** step back in time for this enticing line up of Victorian-themed festive goodies including culinary delights, crafts stalls, Santa's Grotto, readings, carol singing, venison roast and re-enactments. Adults £7; concessions £5; students £4; families £20. Pay once for both days. From 11am – 4pm. Call 01843 842168 or go to [www.quexmuseum.org](http://www.quexmuseum.org)

**Margate Christmas Lights Switch On, December 4:** traditional carols with the Salvation Army set the scene in the Market Place followed by a lantern procession along Duke Street where the mayor, Cllr Ted Watt-Ruffell, and his nominated guests switch on the lights at 6pm. The cast from *Oliver* at the Winter Gardens will perform excerpts from the show and the ceremony finishes with a firework display. Call 01843 221704 or go to [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)

**Margate Christmas Market, December 4 – 6:** classy gifts, mulled wine and other treats at this popular event in the historic Market Place organised by Margate Old Town Action Group to coincide with the Christmas lights switch-on. Before you head for home pop into the Mayor's Parlour to see Santa in his grotto. From 11am – 7pm. Call 01843 299055 or go to [www.margateoldtown.co.uk](http://www.margateoldtown.co.uk)

**Santa at the Shell Grotto, Margate, December 5 & 6; 12 & 13; 19 & 20:** visit Father Christmas at the magical Shell Grotto where you'll also find more than four million shells and 2,000sq ft of mosaic. No-one can explain who built this amazing underground treasure trove with its 70ft of

winding passages but since its discovery in the 19<sup>th</sup> century it has attracted visitors from all over the world. Admission is £5.50 per child (adults free!) which includes a gift from Father Christmas. Shop (selling a range of unusual gifts) and café open from 11am to 5pm. Call 01843 220008 or go to [www.shellgrotto.co.uk](http://www.shellgrotto.co.uk)

**Broadstairs Christmas Parade, December 6:** events start from 1pm with the parade at 3.45pm and the big switch on at 4.15pm round the Christmas tree in Pierremont Park. Brass band and radio show. Call 01843 601620 or go to [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)

**The Snow Queen, Theatre Royal, Margate, December 10 - 27:** a new musical adaptation of the classic Hans Christian Andersen story with the requisite festive fun and audience participation. Call 0845 130 1786 or go to [www.theatreroyalmargate.com](http://www.theatreroyalmargate.com)

**Santa at Crampton Tower Museum, Broadstairs, December 19 – 24:** Santa has promised to do his very best to see every child during his visit but he's asked if you can book in advance! (From November 1). Children £5; parents free! From 1pm – 4pm. Call 01843 871133 or go to [www.cramptontower.co.uk](http://www.cramptontower.co.uk)

**Cliftonville Farmers' Market, December 20:** voted 'best farmers' market in Kent for the last three years, this is definitely worth a visit. Just about everything you're ever likely to want in the culinary line plus seasonal music and a visit from Father Christmas. Oval Lawns, Cliftonville, Margate from 10am 1pm. Call 01843 600999 or go to [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)

**Oliver, Winter Gardens, Margate, December 20 – 30:** consider yourself in for a treat with Lionel Bart's much-staged but hugely popular adaptation of the Dickens classic. Call 01843 296111 or go to [www.margatewintergardens.co.uk](http://www.margatewintergardens.co.uk)

**Children's Christmas Party, Jungle Jim's, Quex Park, Birchington, December 21:** parties at Jungle Jim's have something of a reputation and Christmas is the icing on the cake with a disco and fancy dress! From 6.30pm – 8.30pm. £10 per child including a party food box, unlimited drink and a gift from Santa who will arrive on a horse-drawn sleigh. Call 01843 846305 or go to [www.jungle-jims.co.uk](http://www.jungle-jims.co.uk)

**New Year's Eve Fireworks, Broadstairs, December 31:** celebrate the new year with a *free* firework spectacular over Viking Bay - weather permitting! Call 01843 600999.

For further information on Christmas events in Thanet go to [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)

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**October 2009**

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