

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Preparations for Hailsham Christmas Market**

11 November 2019

Following the success of last year's Christmas Market, Hailsham Town Council is making further preparations for this year's Christmas Market event, which takes place in the town centre on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 9am to 3pm.

The Christmas Market will coincide with Hailsham Farmers' Market, which will hold a special Christmas event at the Cattle Market site in Market Street, selling locally sourced food and crafts. There will also be festive entertainment on-site and Santa's Chief Elf will be in attendance for the children.

The town centre will be home to a range of stalls selling fine food, Christmas gifts, candles, confectionary and other items at the Christmas Market event in December, and various festive refreshments will be on sale including mulled wine to tempt visitors.

The event will also feature entertainment in Vicarage Field, including carol singing by Hailsham Voices (11.30am-12.00pm), live music from The Peter Willson Quartet (9.30am-10.15am and 10.30am-11.15am) and The Sussex Stompers (12.30pm-1.15pm and 1.30pm-2.15pm).

There will also be a concert of carols and Christmas music by Wealden Brass at Hailsham Parish Church at 2.30pm (free entry) and a Best Dressed Elf fancy dress competition for children, judging of which will carried out by Santa's Chief Elf at the Cattle Market site in Market Street at midday.

Santa (provided by Hailsham Rotary Club) will be handing out free sweets to children and Hailsham FM will be playing popular Christmas tunes throughout the event.

Hailsham Parish Church will be open to welcome visitors from 11am to 12.30pm, serving free hot drinks.

"There really is something for everyone to experience in the town during the festive period, from families and couples to those visiting Hailsham for a spot of Christmas shopping," said Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Caira.

"Our Christmas Market programme, combined with that provided by the Farmers' Market, includes quality live entertainment and a range of activities which we hope will enthuse everyone - and help support local businesses during the festive period."

Councillor Nigel Coltman, vice-chairman of the Town Council's Communities Committee said: "We're definitely getting into the Christmas spirit here on the Committee. We received encouraging feedback from both shoppers and stallholders last year and are looking forward to doing it all again this December and making the event an even bigger success."

"We're also excited to have built on the programme of festive entertainment and look forward to welcoming stallholders who can help us continue to make Christmas in Hailsham really magical."

For further information on the Hailsham Christmas Market contact Karen Giddings on 01323 841702 or by email (karen.giddings@hailsham-tc.gov.uk).

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