

Santa to visit Wivey



THE Wiveliscombe and District Rotary Club will be once again organising a wide range of Christmas activities in the Wiveliscombe area as well as organising their splendid Christmas Raffle for a £100 Christmas Hamper and numerous other prizes generously donated by many of Wiveliscombe's businesses.

On Wednesday December 7th Santa will be arriving at The Square in Wivey at 6.00 pm. He will be met there by pupils at Wiveliscombe Primary School, who have won a poster design competition and together they will switch on the town's Christmas lights.

Immediately afterwards all local children will have an opportunity to meet Santa in his grotto in The Square and receive a present from him.

Not only will Santa be in The Square but there will also be entertainment from Professor Popcorn and hot food and drink including roast chestnuts available. The Wivey Town Band will be playing seasonal music during the evening and there will also be carol singing for adults.

A number of local shops and Wiveliscombe House will also be open, so all should come along and make the evening a really special one as in previous years.

Hopefully this year there will also be a running commentary from 10Radio. As in the past few years, there will be a ticket system to visit Santa in his igloo so children won't have to wait for long in a queue.

The following week the Rotary Club will be supporting Santa as he tours Wiveliscombe and Milverton, meeting young and old

alike. On Monday 12th December he will tour Milverton, then on Tuesday 13th he will be in the Plain Pond and Northgate areas of Wiveliscombe while on Wednesday 14th he will visit the south and east of the town.

Santa and the Wivey Band will also be making a special visit to Cotford St Luke Community Centre on Friday 9th December at 5.45pm, with some more present giving to Cotford's children from his igloo.

Santa on his sleigh with Rotary helpers is now a regular feature in Cotford St Luke, making this year's sleigh visits on the 15th and 16th December.

Older people in Wivey will be able to see Santa on Wednesday December 23rd when he visits Pulsford Lodge with members of the Rotary Club to entertain the residents and sing along with them songs that everyone will enjoy.

The aforementioned Rotary Christmas raffle this year will be aimed at raising funds for Wivey Link and other local good causes. Tickets, priced 50p each, will be on sale at most events and the prize draw will take place at the White Hart Hotel on Friday 23rd December at 7.30pm.

On Christmas Day Santa will visit homes to deliver "late presents" personally.

Any presents for delivery should be left at Wilkie May and Tuckwood Estate Agents in Wivey not later than 12 noon, Friday 23rd December. There will be a charge of £1.50 per item which will again go to Rotary good causes.

Over the past five years this scheme has been a brilliant success and to see the look on the faces of children, parents and grandparents when Santa appears on Christmas morning is a wondrous sight to behold.

Christmas services at St Andrew's

17 Dec: Children's Christmas Play at 3.00pm
18 Dec: Carol Service at 6.30pm
24 Dec: Christingle at 4.00pm; Holy Communion at 11.30pm
Christmas Day: Family Service at 10.30am followed by Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 11.30am
St Luke's, Langley Marsh
20 Dec: Carol Service at 7.30pm
Further information from the Rectory: 01984 623309

Make Christmas His Story

THIS was the year of the MAKE POVERTY HISTORY Campaign. Over 225,000 people took to the streets in Edinburgh in July, 26,000 people took part in the Trade Justice Vigil in April and 22,000 people packed Trafalgar Square to hear Nelson Mandela appeal top world leaders to seek to ensure that 2005 was the year when poverty was made history.

The year began with unprecedented giving in the aftermath of the Tsunami which struck on Boxing Day 2004.

Brendan Gormley, Chief Executive for the Disasters Emergency Committee commented: "Since Boxing Day, we've been watching with disbelief the pictures of the tsunami caused by the quake across Asia that wiped out whole communities in minutes.

"Tens of thousands have been killed and millions left without water, food or shelter. Ordinary lives, like ours, have been devastated."

At the time it was said that the Tsunami was possibly the worst natural disaster ever.

And the year has continued with one disaster after another:

March 28: Sumatran earthquake, Indonesia

July: Hurricane Dennis, Caribbean Sea, South eastern United States

July: Maharashtra floods, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Western India

August: Hurricane Katrina, United States (August 2005), estimates of deaths vary between 1,079 and 5,000

September: Hurricane Rita, United States

October: Hurricane Stan, Mexico, Central America, Guatemala

October 8: Kashmir earthquake, Kashmir, Pakistan. This earthquake has wiped out entire villages and at least 74,500 people are feared dead (Reuters), with many more injured and without shelter. Pakistan is worst hit, but parts of India and Afghanistan are also affected.

Christmas Lights

BY the time you read this Wivey's amazing light show will have been switched on in Spring Gardens by a representative from the British Heart Foundation.

As usual the Gadd family have mounted an amazing display and are collecting for the BHF. Please give generously when you pass.

Further details of this programme of Christmas events or other Rotary activities can be obtained from Eddie Gaines on 01984 62465.

The Wiveliscombe and District Rotary President, Chris Weston, and members of the club hope that all local residents have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Jim Laker Fund presents . . .

IF you have called in at Wivey House recently you will have seen two new pub plaques on show.

There is a third nearing completion and hopefully by the time you read this, they will have been fixed to the appropriate walls.

All three were made by local artists, which is something of which we can all be proud. This will bring the total of plaques in the town to fifteen. There may still be more in the future.

We will be having our grand Christmas quiz on Sunday 18th of December. It will be held as usual at The Bear. This is always a very popular event and like last year it will be held in the bar and not the skittle alley. As usual there will be a grand raffle with loads of prizes.

We will be starting at 8pm so please come and join us for a great evening's entertainment.

On Friday 24th of February we will be holding another Auction of Promises. Our last one was a great success as I'm sure this will be. It will be held at The Bear and we would very much welcome promises from

anyone who has something to offer us.

As you know all money raised by the JLF goes to local organisations and their worthy causes

On behalf of the JLF committee may I thank you all for your support and wish you all a very happy Christmas and all that you wish yourselves for the New Year.

The children say thanks to the Jim Laker Fund

We are very pleased to have had letters from two children at Wiveliscombe Primary School expressing thanks for the drum kit the JLF donated to the school last year. We would like to pass on their thanks to all the people in the area whose generosity made the gift possible.

The kit appears to have been extensively used by key stage two pupils. Joe Tipping sparked the children's interest. He volunteered, in his own time and on his own initiative, to give a 'fabulous' assembly, and many lessons.

So, to Daniel Humphries and Sam Vercoe, thank you for the excellent letters and the very nice drawings of the drums you sent to us.



Wivey's finest caught in action by Marian Mann

October: Hurricane Wilma, Caribbean Sea, Mexico, United States

Sadly, in an age taken up with the 'NOW' and with 'Sound-bites', the media spotlight quickly moves on to the next story.

However, the good news is that God, who lives outside time and space, is vitally concerned with what happens here on planet earth and unlike the media, he does not lose interest when the next story breaks.

Christmas is the annual reminder that God 'has done something'. He has seen the suffering and sent his Son Jesus.

Christmas is the story of a child born into poverty, who is forced to flee as a refugee. Christmas is the story of Jesus, the creator of the universe, yet born on earth as a tiny baby. A baby that grew up into a man whose teaching and acts of compassion has changed the lives of countless millions.

Make Christmas His story. The Congregational Church, Silver Street, Wiveliscombe - Carol Service - 7pm, Wednesday 21 December; Christmas Day Celebration, 10.30am 25 December.

Alan and Ursula Millar and the Church Family at Silver Street wish all Wiveliscombe Messenger readers a happy and peaceful Christmas.

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