

PRESS RELEASE

Actor Ben Miller will turn on Cirencester's Christmas Lights

Organisers of Cirencester's Advent Festival are delighted to announce that comedian, actor and director Ben Miller will be their special guest this year to switch on the Christmas Lights.

Ben is well known for the award winning comedy sketch show *Armstrong & Miller* and the long suffering sidekick Bough to Rowan Atkinson's *Johnny English*. He has also enjoyed success in *Primeval*, *Dr Who* and disgruntled detective Richard Poole in crime series *Death in Paradise*.

Ben lives just outside Cirencester. He says he loves the town for its fabulous restaurants, glorious shopping, and ever-friendly locals. He is also a fan of the Love Lane industrial estate, where he likes to browse tractors and outdoor clothing of all shades and varieties.

The event, which is being organised by Cirencester Town Council, will take place on Saturday November 26th from 9.00am to 9.00pm culminating with the traditional switch on ceremony from 6.30pm with the lights on and a display by Cotswold Fireworks at 7.00pm.

What's more, there will be lots of fun and surprises throughout the day as shops and businesses are being asked to help make Cirencester Sparkle by entering into the spirit of the day with special themes, entertainment and special promotions.

Nick Brook, one of the organising team said "We are really pleased that so many shops this year are so keen to be part of making Advent Festival Day such a special one. We have some volunteers who have come forward to provide entertainment throughout the town during the day with busker style performances, street magic and colourful costumes and of course, we would welcome more. .

We are also looking for volunteers from the local community to help us make the day run as smoothly as possible, even if you are only able to spare a couple of hours, we'd be grateful, as the event relies heavily on community input. .

It is not too late to get involved, just contact me to let me know what you are doing or would like to do by email at nick@cirencester.gov.uk or call 01285 655 646.

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Nick added “We still have a few I’s to dot and T’s to cross before we can announce the full line up for the day and we need to see the exact layout of the “new” Market Place.”

This will be the first event the newly refurbished Market Place will be hosting for the Christmas Season and it will be closely followed by a special Christmas Market on the weekend of December 3rd & 4th that will include high quality traders and craftsman.

Cirencester Market and Events Officer Suzie Lew, said: “These markets provide the perfect opportunity for Christmas shopping. There’s no need to worry about lunch on these days as there will plenty of delicious food and dining options available, plus some great Christmas shopping to be had.”

The Cirencester Farmers’ Market for December will take place on Saturday December 10th and 24th where there will be locally sourced and produced products available. The weekly Charter Market will also take place every Friday.

INFORMATION FOR EDITORS

Advent Farmers Market will be held between 8am – 1pm

Advent Market 2pm – 7pm

Road Closures for the Market Place with effect from 9am to 9pm

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