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Christmas under-the-edge

34 Gazette

www.gazetteseries.co.uk

Thursday, November 26, 2009



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Town's festive fun and frolics

FESTIVE fun for all the family will be in abundance at the Christmas Under the Edge shopping evening.

The event, organised by the Wotton Chamber of Trade and being held on Saturday, December 5, is set to be a sparkly and festive affair with carols,

mulled wine, mince pies and even a flying visit from Santa himself.

It will be the fifth Under the Edge shopping event and is set to be better than ever.

Nicola Brown, organiser of the event, said: "The Under the Edge events have always been very successful. The idea is to attract shoppers to the town for a fun



WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE town crier George Carpenter at last year's parade
GSR1663H08

evening. "We have lots going on this year and it is a great time to

do your Christmas shopping because a lot of the shops will be doing special offers for one night only."

The event kicks off at 4pm with the judging of the children's fancy dress competition closely followed by the parade into Long Street with the Town Crier and Mayor of Wotton leading the children to Santa's grotto.

From 4.30pm-6.30pm

music will fill the streets with performances by Wotton Silver Band in Long Street, Under the Edge Arts, school choirs in the Town Hall, local youth bands in the White Lion archway, plus World Jungle will be in the Town Hall, where you can learn African Drumming, Circus Skills or have your face painted or get a tattoo.

Wotton Chamber of Trade will this year have a beer tent and stand where any members can stand and hand out flyers for their businesses and non-members can visit and find out what the

chamber does.

Alex Wilkinson, president of the chamber, said: "Under the Edge is the day when our local community comes together in the town centre. Wotton is fortunate to have many wonderful individual shops, a variety of organisations and enthusiastic charity support groups, as well as many talented local musicians. I hope everyone has a wonderful time."

Shops are open until 7pm and parking will be available at The Chipping, Civic Centre, Potters Pond and Renishaw in Old Town.



Christmas in Wotton-under-Edge

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Programme of events

- 9am-1pm Farmers' Market, Town Hall in Market Street.
- 10am-1pm Visit the Heritage Centre & 4pm-7pm In The Chipping
- 2pm Family Christmas Film - Electric Picture House
- 3pm-8pm Town centre closed to traffic Church Street, Ludgate Hill, Long Street, High Street and Market Street.
- 3.55pm Children entering the Fancy Dress Competition need to be by the Town Hall so judging can commence
- 4pm Christmas Under the Edge - Plenty to do and see in Market Street, High Street and Long Street 4pm Judging of fancy dress competition
- 4.10pm Parade - Market Street into Long Street. The Town Crier and Town Mayor accompany Father Christmas and fancy dress competitors to the Grotto
- 4.15pm onwards Visit Father Christmas in his Grotto at Chipping Manor Dentist, Long Street
- 4.30pm - 6.30pm Wotton Silver Band - Long Street School Choirs & Bands - The Town Hall Under the Edge Arts - Top of Ludgate Hill A variety of performances from local groups Local Youth Bands - White Lion Archway Youth Dance Groups, World Jungle - Circus Skills & African Drumming The Town Hall
- 6.45pm Grang Raffle Draw - at Four Market Street (tickets available from Four Market Street Hairdressers, Nicola Browns & Chamber of Trade Stand - Profits to local organisations/charities)
- 7pm Christmas Under the Edge finishes



results of the best dressed shop window with Town Crier and Town Mayor

SANTA leading children in fancy dress up Long Street in Wotton-under-Edge at last year's event
GSR1662H08



Shoppers defy a right soaking

RAIN didn't stop play last weekend, as shoppers turned out for some festive fun.

Residents of Wotton-under-Edge are renowned for pulling together in sometimes difficult conditions and Saturday was no exception as the heavens opened for the Under the Edge shop-

ping evening.

As in previous years, the town centre was closed to traffic from 3pm, so that everyone could make the

most of the trade stands and enjoy a fabulous parade along Market Street and into Long Street.

"Considering the weather, it was a fantastic turnout," said event organiser Nicola Brown.

"Nearly all the stall holders turned out and there were terrific performances from the local bands and dance groups. The samba band was a particular highlight, keeping people's spirits up."

"Lots of people wanted to see Father Christmas in his grotto and all the entrants in the fancy dress competition made a terrific effort to dress up for the occasion.

"We'd just like to say a



WOTTON Friends of the Cotswold Care Hospice Margaret Woodall, Joan Derham, Carol Tarry and Marianne Walker at the Wotton Christmas event GSR2217H09



SANTA Claus with Wotton-under-Edge town mayor Cllr Paul Smith walking through the town on Saturday GSR2216H09



LEFT: WOTTON Silver Band braved the rain to entertain the crowds GSR2218H09



WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE town crier George Carpenter leading Santa's Parade down Long Street on Saturday GSR2215H09

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