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Event Date: Friday 29th November 2024

Heart of Sidley Brings the Community Together for a Magical 2024 Festive Lights Switch-On

The Heart of Sidley Festive Lights Switch-On and Free Family Event has once again brought joy and festive spirit to the community, attracting over 1,000 visitors for a night of festive fun, warmth, and togetherness.

The evening featured the unveiling of a stunning Christmas tree, sourced from Littledown Christmas Tree Farm, which was generously sponsored by Colours Decorating Ltd.

Also unveiled were Sidley's stunning festive lights adorning the high street, installed by Light Angels, creating a magical atmosphere for all to enjoy right up until the 5th January.

Visitors were treated to heart warming performances by the Sussex Brass Band and All Saints School Choir, adding a soundtrack of festive cheer to the occasion.



Festivities continued with Heart of Sidley's free family event held at Freedom Church, where over 800 "winter warmer" gift bags were handed out, 500 to children and 300 to adults, generously sponsored by SureServe and Checkmate, ensuring everyone felt the festive spirit. Children were also able to meet Santa, as well as the mischievous Grinch!

Hot food and drinks were served to all for free, adding a warm touch to the chilly December evening. Community groups and organisations played a vital role in the celebration, offering a variety of free festive activities for families to enjoy. From crafts to games, there was something for everyone, making the event truly inclusive and engaging for all ages.

"This amazing night reflects the heart and soul of Sidley," said Jay Carroll, Heart of Sidley Chairman. "It's incredible to see so many people coming together to celebrate, connect, and create lasting memories. We're grateful to everyone who made this event possible, all of our amazing sponsors, and to the Sidley community for their ongoing support."



Heart of Sidley's two staff members, Tanya and Jess, who are employed by Southern Housing for the project, were joined by a fantastic crew of Southern Housing Contractors on the day, who generously volunteered their time to help with this event.



A huge thank you to the teams from CPM, Thakeham and Niblock, who were invaluable in loading vans, setting up tables, decorating the venue, marshalling the crowds of visitors and so much more!