

Welcome to the latest version of know your District Council.

Christmas spirit

I'd like to say a special word of thanks to everyone involved with planning and staging the events leading up to Christmas in the Bassetlaw District. The festive Christmas lights switch-ons in Worksop and in Retford might have been the most spectacular, but they were by no means the only ones. Parish councils, schools, cultural and volunteer groups throughout the district have involved themselves in time and effort to organise events focusing on the less privileged, such as the many Operation Christmas Child collections of present-filled shoe boxes.

Perhaps the most heart-warming of all is the Christmas Day lunch arranged by the Carlton Tenants and Residents Association with financial support from our partners A1 Housing. The remarkable thing about this event is that the organisers are giving up their own Christmas dinners to give 50 lonely older people dinner on Christmas Day itself. Now that's community spirit!

Supporting local business

5th December saw the 1st anniversary of the opening of the new Priors Centre and by all accounts it is enjoying great success. A number of projects are on the go to help businesses at the market place end of Bridge Street to take advantage of the detectable trend for people to shop in Worksop rather than going further afield.

This includes providing free parking after 3:00pm in some Council car parks up to and including Christmas Eve.

There are some exciting plans afoot to provide a brand new shopmobility facility alongside the Town Hall car park and smart new public toilets in the Market Place. This project is in the early planning stage and will hopefully be completed early next year. It is intended to greatly improve the flow of passing trade down the hill to benefit existing shops and any new businesses, including barrow-based operations that are being planned.

Christmas Greetings

As this is the last of my columns for 2008 it is fitting to wish everyone living and working in Bassetlaw everything they wish themselves for the festive season. May all your Christmases be joyful and blessed. Mindful of the troubled times in which we live, my sincere wish is that the New Year will bring with it the positive hope, trust, peace and prosperity we all wish for.

Mike Quigley