

7th Harrogate Christmas Market success!

The 2018 Christmas Market on Montpellier Hill and St Mary's Walk was very successful from almost all points of view. There were 200 traders, 142 pre-booked coaches and an estimated 80,000 visitors over the four days.

Whilst at times on Saturday some of the aisles were full, the many visitors kept moving along. Most of the stalls were set back further from the footpaths this year so that visitors could stop and talk to traders without blocking the way for the crowds walking past. Visitors and traders praised the organisation and layout of the Market in what was a magical setting when the lights came on each evening.

Beryl Dunsby, Director, said *"the voluntary team of Stewards were repeatedly told by many visitors that Harrogate is their favourite Christmas Market for its variety, quality, ambiance, location and organisation. The focus on Yorkshire produce and the lack of imported mass-produced goods was much appreciated. Most expressed their intention to return again next year. The many coach groups that came from all over the UK also appreciated the closeness to the Town Centre shops, cafes, restaurants and hotels."*

Brian Dunsby, Organiser, said *"most of the Market Traders reported record sales this year, far higher than they achieve at some other well-known Christmas Markets. We went to great lengths to select Traders whom we could rely upon to make an attractive display and provide interesting crafts, gifts, food and drink that were all locally produced - and different from those normally found on the High Street. The Trader Feedback forms confirm that 95% of them wish to have a stall at the Harrogate Christmas Market again next year when it should be on 21st to 24th November 2019."*

Steve Scarre, Chairman, said *"many Town Centre businesses welcome the Market visitors and had their best day's trading for a long time. During the Market, Steve called in to many of the retail businesses in the Montpellier area. On the Sunday he had a deputation from them to say that had had their best period of trading for a long, long time so please keep the Market in the same location. People walk into the Market and out of the Market into the Town and through the Town using various routes and then stop and shop at the local retail businesses in their thousands. So this is the best location for the Market - there is no doubt about that. We have had several people look at it independently including one consultant commissioned by the Council and they all say this is the best place for the Harrogate Christmas Market"*.

Looking to the future, Brian, Beryl and Steve said that the large group of volunteers who organise the Harrogate Christmas Market are determined to do so again next year when the dates will be 21st to 24th November 2019 in order to avoid clashing with other major events in the Harrogate Convention Centre. Rumours that the Christmas Market was moving to a new location are simply not true. Brian said *"the Montpellier location is the only place, both logistically and aesthetically, where a market with all of our merits can be held. It also allows easy access to the Town Centre shops, cafes, restaurants and hotels."*

If someone else wishes to organise a smaller event in the Town Centre pedestrianised area during December then good luck - but it will not be done by our Group."

Issued by Brian L Dunsby, OBE, Managing Director.

Harrogate Christmas Market photographs available on request.

(FOR TYPICAL QUOTATIONS FROM OUR MARKET TRADERS - see 2nd & 3rd pages.

HARROGATE CHRISTMAS MARKET – FEEDBACK FROM TRADERS – Page 1

“We’ve traded at Harrogate Christmas Market for years. One of the best around. Please, please don’t move sites - the market would die.”

Magnetic Healthcare

“Harrogate Christmas Market is the best market I attend, it’s very well organised with all good facilities, friendly helpers and customers. I always look forward to coming here.”

Yorkshire Gourmet Food

“Good position. Plenty of room for the public to browse and buy.”

Voakes Pies

“Out of all the shows I do, this one is the most profitable and most well organised. All the volunteers are marvellous.”

Betty Hula

“A very well run Christmas market with a great support network of helpers. Would definitely return next year.”

Hand Turned Pens

“We’ve been trading at the Harrogate Christmas Market for six years now and have a regular following of customers who seek us out as well as a host of new customers every year. It’s our busiest show of the year!”

Yorkshire Trails

“A really lovely, good size, good quality market to get you in the Christmas Spirit. A wonderful way to support small, local businesses!”

Meghan Earle Design

“The best organised event we attend with excellent footfall.”

Home Foods

“Wonderful Christmas event with a huge variety of stalls and very well organised.”

Pattern Passion Ltd

“As always, the market feels very festive. Certainly marks the start of Christmas! Thank you!”

The Golden Paste Company Ltd

“This is our second year and we look forward to many more. It’s a cracking Christmas Market. Keep it up.”

Claire Waters Glass Artist

“Lovely location, good size and variety of stalls and food.”

Bags and Gladrags

“Really enjoyed our first market of this size – everyone very helpful. Good to be part of a great weekend – look forward to coming back next year.”

Hopton Candles Ltd

“Great market with good footfall. A real success.”

Weetons

“A vibrant market with a wonderful Christmas atmosphere.”

Pepper Bags

“Fantastic Christmas Market, great trading, very well organised. We look forward to it each year.”

Vines Wonderful Wine Bar

“A well attended event with a good variety of vendors.”

Fwootpot Ceramics

“Distinctive Pets didn’t know what to expect, but we have had a great weekend – although tiring. Super event.”

Distinctive Pets

“Thank you to all the visitors of Harrogate Christmas market 2018. We thoroughly enjoyed being part of such an amazing event. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.”

Laura Miles Jewellery

“The best organised event that we attend all year!”

Berber Leather Ltd

“A wonderfully organised Christmas event packed with brilliant local traders, lovely people and a truly festive atmosphere.”

The Yorkshire Candle Company

“Harrogate Christmas Market is lively and interesting. It has a good mix of stalls – a lot of local handmade crafts, food and drink. Live music is good.”

Fangfoss Pottery

“Great atmosphere, looks amazing and a brilliant event.”

Totally Baked

“The Crusty Pie Company thoroughly enjoyed another year at the Harrogate Christmas market. See you in 2019!”

The Crusty Pie Company

“Record year trading at the event. Great market with great organisers.”

Travellers Finds

“From a trader’s point of view, Harrogate Christmas Market is made fabulous by Brian and Beryl and their team of volunteers. So helpful!”

The Little Soap Kitchen

“Superb organisation by really helpful people.”

Orchards of Husthwaite

“We had the privilege of trading at the 2018 Harrogate Christmas Market and it was absolutely fantastic! The organisation was exceptional and this led to everyone having an excellent time. We definitely hope to return next year!”

Little Loaves

(Above selection by Maggie Hall from over 130 Feedback Forms and emails received)