



# RAYLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS NEWSLETTER



Rayleigh Town Council is pleased to announce that arrangements for this year's Christmas Lights are well underway. We have purchased new rope lights and have switched all of our lamp post displays to environmentally friendly led bulbs, which we expect to be more reliable and to save on energy costs.

### THE SWITCH ON EVENT IS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER BETWEEN 4.15 and 6.30pm

The High Street will be closed to traffic from Crown Hill to Church Street from 2.45 to 7.30pm and traffic will be diverted along Eastwood Road. Access to the Bellingham Lane car parks will continue up until 4.15pm. Taxis will be relocated to Bellingham Lane and in front of the Holy Trinity Church at the top of the High Street.

**Southend United Football Club** has very kindly agreed to be our main sponsor again this year and they will be switching the lights on at 6.30pm. Further information can be found on their website at [www.southendunited.co.uk](http://www.southendunited.co.uk). **The Rayleigh Chamber of Trade** also sponsors this event. **BBC Essex** will attend and will broadcast on their Drive Time show live from the High Street with presenters Ian Wyatt and Steve Scruton. Local School Choirs and the Mushroom Theatre Company will be providing the entertainment. Other attractions include the Town Crier, Belly Dancers, Father Christmas and Sleigh, Hot Chestnuts, Newfoundland Dogs, Salvo the Clown, Circus Optical the Stilt Walker and Children's Fun Fair Rides. Many of the shops will remain open throughout the event. This should be a fun filled evening to bring the community of Rayleigh together once again to celebrate this very special time of the year.

The Town Council will be running two competitions this year. The 'Best Dressed Shop/Business' and the 'Best School Choir'. The trophy for the Best Dressed Shop/Business will be presented on the night and these will be judged on Christmas displays for shop windows and also for the interior of the premises. The trophy to the Best School Choir will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in April 2009.

The Town Council relies on the generous support of local businesses to help towards the costs of this event and of putting on the lights each year and a separate letter will be sent to request their continued support.