

Christmas Events and Festivities 2023



Christmas Lights Switch On

Ice Skating in Somerset

Christmas Steam Railways

Pantomimes, Shows and Concerts

Christmas Markets and Fairs

Festive Fun and Experiences

The following is just a selection of events in Somerset this Christmas.

Please check www.visitsouthsomerset.com for other events.

Pre-booking is often necessary - check with organisers.

 www.visitsouthsomerset.com

 01935 829333

 visitSS@somerset.gov.uk

 VisitSouthSomerset

 VisitSSomerset

 [visitsouthsomerset](https://www.instagram.com/visitsouthsomerset)

South Somerset Visitor Information Centre, Cartgate Picnic Site A303/A3088, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6RA

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

18TH November, from 4.30pm

Yeovil Christmas Light Switch On

Quedam Shopping Centre, Middle Street, Yeovil BA20 1SH

Yeovil Christmas Light Switch on in the Quedam Shopping Centre. Live music and dance from 4.30pm, family friendly creative activities in Yeovil Art Space, seasonal delights at EPS Yeovil and a craft market with local produce and handmade crafts from local artists. Light switch on followed by a Silent Disco. For further information:

<https://www.loveyeovil.com/events>

24th November, 5pm

Crewkerne Christmas Lighting Up

Crewkerne Town Centre, Crewkerne TA18 7LN

Late night shopping. Fairground rides. Craft fair. Charity stalls. Phoenix Brass Band. Carols. Santa's Procession.

<https://www.discovercrewkerne.org.uk/>

24th November, from 5pm

Ilminster Christmas Victorian Night

Ilminster Town Centre, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0AN

Ilminster's brilliant Christmas Victorian Festival and Christmas Lights Switch On. Switch on at 7pm. Music, food and drink with a Victorian theme throughout the centre of town. School choirs. Shop window competition

www.ilminsterexperience.co.uk

24th November, 4pm-8pm

Wincanton Christmas Lights Switch On

Wincanton Town Centre, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9LD

Tel: 01963 31693

Festive market. Marching band. Lantern Parade, Santa and his Reindeer. Snow machine. Facepainting.

The Lantern Parade will start at the Memorial Hall Car Park at 6:30pm and head down to the Market Place for the grand switch on and snow machine!

<https://wincantontowncouncil.gov.uk/christmas-lights-switch-on-festive-market/>

24th November, from 6pm

Minehead Victorian Christmas & Christmas Lights Switch On

Minehead, Somerset TA24 5BG

Lantern Procession from West Somerset Railway Station 6pm

Christmas Lights Switch On in Wellington Square with Queen Victoria 6.30pm

Live music around the town

Cast of Minehead Panto People's Snow Queen at the Regal Theatre

Choirs, dancers and activities. Visit Santa in his Winter Wonderland (£4.50 per child, includes gift

<https://www.mineheadbay.co.uk/point-of-interest/mineheadchristmas-lights-switch-on-3>

25th November

Chard Christmas Lights Switch On

Chard Town Centre, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP

Tel: 01460 239567

Organised by the Chard Town Team there will be a spectacular display across the town. Christmas Craft Fair in the Guildhall during the day in the lead up to the main event in the evening with street entertainment and food vendors.

<https://www.chard.gov.uk/news/autumn-winter-2023-events/>

CHRISTMAS MARKETS & FAIRS

17-19th November, 9am-5pm

Christmas Market at Hestercombe

Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8LG

Tel: 01823 413923

Explore the bustling annual Hestercombe Gardens' Christmas Market near Taunton. Featuring festive stalls bursting with locally-sourced gifts, delicious treats and unique handmade items. Warm up with festive food and drink, including crumbly mince pies, luxury hot chocolate, and mulled wine.

Visitors to the market will receive free admission to the gardens, house and contemporary art gallery – just show proof of your Christmas Market admission at the Visitor Reception desk.

<https://www.hestercombe.com/whats-on/christmas-market>

18th November, 9am-2pm

The Cheese and Grain Christmas Makers Market Frome

Market Yard, Frome, Somerset BA11 1BE

Tel: 01373 455420

A wonderful market for Crafts, Art, Artisan, Homemade items and more

<https://www.cheeseandgrain.com/events/christmas-makers-market/>

18th November, 11am-3pm

Low Ham Christmas Fair

Church in the Field, Low Ham, Langport, Somerset TA10 9DR

Tel: 01458 860827

A unique setting at the beautiful Low Ham Church in the Field, this local Christmas fair features local crafters and traders and the chance to pick up a hot tea, coffee and mince pie.

<https://www.highhamparishlife.org/christmas-fair-low-ham-church>

18th November, 10am-4pm

Antiques & Vintage Christmas Market

Monks Yard, Horton Cross, Ilminster TA19 9PY

Tel: 01460 259286

Brilliantly curated market showcasing over 35 of the best creative, artisan and brocante style businesses in the South West.

https://www.facebook.com/monksyard/?locale=en_GB

21st November, 10am-4pm

Wincanton Christmas Fair

Wincanton Racecourse, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 8BJ

A fantastic Christmas shopping experience! Up to 50 independent stalls selling unique and quality products not usually found on the High Street.

For further information:

<https://www.wincantonchristmasfair.co.uk/>

23th November – 10th December

Mon-Wed 10am-7pm, Thu-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 10am-6pm

Bath Christmas Market 2023

City Centre, Bath, N Somerset

Now in its 21st year, the Bath Christmas Market takes place around Queen Square, nestled between iconic monuments. Walk through a winter wonderland in the centre of Bath, which will be lined with over 150 traditional artisan makers in twinkling wooden chalets, as the city oozes festive cheer.

<https://bathchristmasmarket.co.uk/>

24th November, from 9am – 4pm

The Somerset Collective Christmas Pop Up

At the Chapel, 28 High Street, Bruton, Somerset BA10 0AE

The ultimate multi-tasking opportunity. Dig deep for charity buy gifts and catch up with friends over coffee or lunch. All your festive needs under one roof with 20 incredible, independent businesses offering something for everyone.

www.atthechapel.co.uk

24th November, 2pm-7.30pm

Yandles Late Night Shopping and Mini Christmas Market

Hurst Works, Martock, Somerset TA12 6JU

Tel: 01935 822571

Late-Night Shopping Extravaganza!

Experience the joy of late-night shopping, as all the shops will keep their doors open until 19:30. Explore our Tool shop, Timber Self-Selection Centre, Arts & Crafts Shop, Gift & Home Store, and Café, all ready to cater to your late-night shopping needs!

Prepare to be enchanted by the Mini Christmas Market, taking place from 2 pm to 7 pm. Discover 20 hand-picked stalls scattered throughout our venue, offering a delightful array of unique handmade Christmas gifts. Live hands-on demonstrations in and around the Tool Shop.

<https://www.yandles.co.uk/event/179-late-night-shopping-mini-christmas-market>

24th November-24th December

Clarks Village Festive Market

Clarks Village, Street, Somerset BA16 0BB

Tel: 01458 840604

From baubles to bath bombs, crystals to crepes, fudge to Yorkshire pudding wraps, discover festive market stalls, browse hand-crafted gifts, sample foodie treats and hear live musical performances guaranteed to get you in the festive spirit. There's also late-night shopping at the outlet stores from 9am-8pm Thursday, Friday and Saturdays.

<https://clarksvillage.co.uk/terms/whats-categories/events>

25th November, 12am-6pm

Frost Fayre, Glastonbury

Town Centre, Glastonbury, Somerset

Tel: 01458 831769

Celebrate peace and goodwill and enjoy late night shopping and stalls in Glastonbury town centre. Musicians and street performers will be infusing this festive event with the special brand of Glastonbury magic. Find Father Christmas at St Benedict's School between 12 and 4pm.

<https://glastonbury.gov.uk/frost-fayre/>

25th-26th November, 10am-5pm (Sat), 10am-4pm (Sun)

The Rural Living Show

King's College Prep School, Kingston Road, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8AA

The Rural Living Show's annual Christmas market returns to Kings Hall School, to raise vital funds for The Children's Hospice South West.

Hosting a huge selection of local designers, makers, producers and crafts people, as well as a popular food and drink section, the show showcases the best the region has to offer in unique artisan craft and local produce.

<https://rurallivingshow.co.uk/>

26th November, 3-6pm

Annual Christmas Craft Fair

Brewers Arms, 18 St James Street, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5BW

Tel: 01460 241887

Taking place at the same time as South Petherton Christmas light switch-on, you can pop into the most festive of pubs, for a winter pint, browse some crafts, hear live music from Guitarist on Wheels and watch as the pretty village is lit up for Christmas.

<https://the-brewersarms.com/upcoming-events-the-brewers-arms/>

25th-26th November, 12-6pm

Exmoor Christmas Craft Fair

Porlock Village Hall, Porlock, Somerset TA24 8QD

Tel: 01643 863117

A chance to meet the craftsmen and women of Exmoor who make unique and unusual gifts and take commissions for the perfect pressie. Free entrance, free parking. Refreshments available. Charity draw,

<https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/enjoying/events/all-events/exmoor-christmas-fair4>

2nd December, 3pm-7pm

Barrington Christmas Fair

Barrington Village Hall, Barrington Mews, Barrington, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0JE

Tel: 01460 200360

Shop from a selection of local craft and produce stalls. There'll also be hot drinks, mulled wine and Santa Claus will be paying a visit!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/6010752382359865>

2nd December, 10am-2pm

Christmas Craft Market

Caryford Hall, Maggs Lane, Ansford, Castle Cary, Somerset BA7 7JJ

Opportunity to buy locally crafted quality Christmas gifts.

<https://www.brutontown.com/event/christmas-craft-market-at-caryford-hall-castle-cary-10-am-to-2-pm/>

2nd-3rd December, 10am-4pm

Ferne Animal Sanctuary Annual Christmas Fayre

Wambrook, Chard, Somerset TA20 3DH

Join Ferne Animal Sanctuary for some fundraising fun, a variety of stalls, and Santa Claus followed by an animal blessing, Christmas carols and mince pies from 4.30-6.30pm on 2 December.

<https://www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org/about-ferne/events/>

2nd December, 11am-3pm

St Andrew's Christmas Fair

High Ham Village Hall, High Ham, Langport

Christmas stalls, wreaths, decorations and gift suggestions. Christmas food and drink. Tombola, raffle and lucky dip. Free parking.

<https://www.highhamparishlife.org/>

2nd and 16th December, 9am-2pm

The Cheese and Grain Christmas Gift Markets

Market Yard, Frome, Somerset BA11 1BE

Tel: 01373 455420

A market for decorations, gifts, cards, and food. Christmas all in one place and all by independent sellers.

<https://www.cheeseandgrain.com/events/christmas-gift-market-6/>

2nd-17th December, 9am-5.30pm

Christmas Craft Fair

Fore Street, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1JD

Tel: 01823 340470

Annual artisan craft market which has been trading in Taunton at Christmas for over 15 years. , on Fore Street, in the town Centre near the Christmas tree. So get your winter warmers on to browse unique hand-crafted gifts, textiles, jewellery, fused glass, preserves, ceramics, wood turning, knitted accessories, animal portraits, clothing and lots more!

3rd December, 11am-2pm

King's Bruton Christmas Fair

King's School, Bruton, Somerset BA10 0ED

Christmas Fair.

<https://www.brutontown.com/event/kings-bruton-christmas-fair/>

3rd December, 12-3pm

Kingsbury Episcopi Christmas Market

Kingsbury Episcopi Community Centre, Kingsbury Episcopi, Martock, Somerset TA12 6BG

Festive cheer with craft stalls, a hog roast, bar, mulled wine, luxury hot chocolate and live entertainment from Kingsbury Episcopi Band and Santa's grotto!

<https://www.kingsburycommunitycentre.co.uk/>

9th December

eat:Yeovil Festival Christmas edition

Quedam Shopping Centre, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1EY

Free to attend local festive food and drink festival held in the Quedam Shopping Centre, showcasing over 60 local producers.

<https://www.eatfestivals.org/>

9th December, 10am-4pm

Coates English Willow Christmas Fayre

Coates English Willow, Stoke St Gregory, Taunton, Somerset TA3 6HY

The Festive Fairy is back! Enjoy some entertainment while browsing the many craft stalls. Christmas gifts galore. Shop local this Christmas.

For further information:

<https://www.coatesenglishwillow.co.uk/christmas-fayre.htm>

10th December, 10am-3pm

Bere Cider Company Christmas Fair

Bere Cider Company, Woodpecker Lodge, Bere, Aller, Langport, Somerset TA10 0QX

Email: info@berecidercompany.com

Christmas Fair with craft stands – jewellery, crafts, cakes, candles. Raffle and much more! Music from 'Nevertheless'. Refreshments available.

<https://www.berecidercompany.com/whats-on/2022/12/10/christmas-fayre>

15th-22nd December, 10am-7pm

Yeovil Christmas Market

Yeovil Showground, Two Towers Lane, Barwick, Yeovil BA22 9TA

A week of festive family fun!

Ice rink, UV mini golf, Stalls, live music, food vendors and reindeer!

<https://www.yeovilshowground.co.uk/events/view/yeovil-christmas-market-01-01-1970>

16th December, 9am-3pm

Wells Christmas Market

Wells Christmas Market 2023 will take place in Wells Market Place and on the Bishop's Palace Green. Pick up seasonal gifts, sample local festive treats and Yuletide tipples, and watch live entertainment.

https://www.facebook.com/WellsChristmasMarket/?locale=en_GB

16th December, from 10am

eat: Taunton Christmas Event

Taunton Town Centre, Taunton TA1 1JD

Free to attend food and drink market showcasing over 100 local producers. Held in the town centre. Supported by Greenslade Taylor Hunt, estate agents.

For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/eatfestivalshome>

Credit for information: <https://downsomesetway.co.uk/christmas-markets-in-somerset/>

CHRISTMAS STEAM RAILWAYS

24th November-30th December

'Winterlights' at the West Somerset Railway

West Somerset Railway, Bishops Lydeard Station, Taunton, Somerset TA4 3RU

Tel: 01643 704996

Winterlights returns to the WSR for 2023 At Bishops Lydeard Station.

At Bishops Lydeard Station, the magic begins. A seat aboard an illuminated train awaits, ready to take you on an unforgettable winter journey. Travel along our enchanted track, through woodlands and countryside tracks. Snacks and drinks will be available to purchase before-hand in the welcome marquee before the journey.

Goodie bags are available to purchase with your tickets and will be collected from the marquee when you arrive.

Pre-booking essential. Visit website for times and prices.

<https://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk/events/view/winterlights>

2nd December and 9th December 2-4pm

Lunch with Santa!

West Somerset Railway, Bishops Lydeard Station, Taunton, Somerset TA4 3RU

Tel 01643 704996

Your chance to dine with the man himself, Santa on board our very own Dining Train. The Quantock Belle. The ticket includes return travel from Bishops Lydeard to Norton Fitzwarren and lunch. The train departs Bishops Lydeard at 13:00. Each child will receive a gift from Santa to take home as a souvenir of their magical day.

Pre booking essential.

<https://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk/events/view/dining-with-santa>

2nd December and 9th December 2-4pm

Tea with Santa!

Yeovil Railway Centre, Yeovil Junction, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9UU

Tel: 01935 410420

Come and meet Santa!

Games, music and a buffet included for the children along with a small present.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO TRAIN RIDE WITH THIS EVENT. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-booking essential.

<https://yeovilrailway.yapsody.com/event/index/776489/tea-with-santa-2nd-december-2023>

<https://yeovilrailway.yapsody.com/event/index/776491/tea-with-santa-9th-december-2023>

2nd-23rd December

Santa by Starlight

East Somerset Railway, Cranmore Railway Station, Cranmore, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4QP

Tel: 01749 880417

As if visiting Santa wasn't exciting enough, seeing him under starlight gives that added sparkle to your festive fun at the East Somerset Railway. The Starlight train departs from Cranmore at 4:30 each day. On arrival, our young guests will receive a goody bag (*containing festive themed colouring sheets, crayons and a Santa based family quiz for you all to enjoy*). Then, your party will embark our Special Santa steam train for a delightful 30 minute trip to the North Pole. At the end of your journey, you will make your way across the line to the North Pole Station. Santa's elves will be there to greet you. Whilst you wait to see Santa there will be festive refreshments of mulled cider and warming hotdogs for you to enjoy. Then you get your special time in Santa's grotto where you can tell him how good you've been and receive your gift (if you have been good, of course!).

For full information and to book please visit website:

<https://eastsomersetrailway.com/events/view/santa-by-starlight-2022>

2nd-23rd December

Christmas High Tea and Train Ride

East Somerset Railway, Cranmore Railway Station, Cranmore, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4QP

Tel: 01749 880417

Enjoy a festive steam train ride followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea served in a static luxury dining carriage.

For full information and to book please visit website:

<https://eastsomersetrailway.com/events/view/christmas-high-tea-train-ride>

2nd - 24th December

Santa Express from Bishops Lydeard

West Somerset Railway, Bishops Lydeard Station, Taunton, Somerset TA4 3RU

Tel 01643 704996

Make memories to treasure for a lifetime on our family favourite - the Santa Express. Step aboard our festively decorated heritage carriages, filled with Christmas cheer and excitement and take a wonderful journey through West Somerset's winter woodlands. Santa's presents and refreshments will be waiting at your table and he'll be along for the ride to ensure you have received them! A round trip to Williton means there will be plenty of time aboard to soak up the experience, get in the festive spirit or relax with some refreshments whilst enjoying the journey.

Pre-booking essential. Visit website for times and prices.

<https://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk/events/view/santa-express>

2nd – 24th December

Santa Specials

East Somerset Railway, Cranmore Railway Station, Cranmore, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4QP

Tel: 01749 880417

East Somerset Railway is really excited to be welcoming Santa again this year - and offering their Santa Special train rides. You will have a 30 minute ride on the Santa Special train first, then cross the line to the North Pole Station where you can visit Santa and receive a gift (if you have been good, of course!) There will be a Goody Bag for every child to take onto the train which will contain colouring sheets, crayons and a family Santa quiz sheet.

There will also be a balloon modeller on the train. Refreshments will be served at the North Pole - including mulled wine and mince pies. For full information and to book please visit website:

<https://eastsomersetrailway.com/events/view/santa-special-2020>

3rd-23rd December, 10am-4pm. (Please check website for days).

Santa Specials

Yeovil Railway Centre, Yeovil Junction, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9UU

Tel: 01935 410420

The Santa Specials at the Yeovil Railway Centre are an enjoyable experience for everyone from ages 1 to 100. You start your visit with a train ride behind one of the steam locomotives and travel in a decorated heritage carriage. The track is about 1/3rd mile long, so the train ride is full of fun for the children but not long enough for them to get

bored. Visitors then make their way to the ex GWR Transfer Shed, where Santa will be ready to receive his visitors. Visit the shop (located on the platform) where there is a large selection of books, DVDs, Model Railway items (second hand) and much more.

Pre-booking recommended. For prices and times please visit website.

<http://www.yeovilrailway.freesevers.com/santabooking.html>

17th December, 6.30pm

Carol Trains from Minehead and Bishops Lydeard

The Carol Train meanders through the Somerset countryside, steaming through the cold December evening from Bishops Lydeard OR Minehead at 18.30 and travels to Williton.

The service stops at each station on the way where you can alight and accompany the band singing popular Christmas carols.

This enjoyable event really ignites the festive cheer and is one not to be missed.

We have limited number of seats available and we anticipate these will sell out fast.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU SELECT THE CORRECT TICKETS FOR YOUR START STATION EITHER MINEHEAD OR BISHOPS LYDEARD.

<https://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk/events/view/carol-train>

19th December, 10.30 am and 1.30pm

Minehead Santa Express

West Somerset Railway Station, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5BG

Tel: 01643 704996

Step aboard our festively decorated heritage carriages, filled with Christmas cheer and excitement and take a wonderful journey through the West Somerset countryside and along the coast.

Santa's presents and refreshments will be waiting at your table and he'll be along for the ride to ensure you have received them! A round trip to Williton means there will be plenty of time aboard to soak up the experience, get in the festive spirit or relax with some refreshments whilst enjoying the journey.

Additional snacks and drinks will be available from the Cafe.

Tickets for each train are limited and must be booked in advance.

<https://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk/events/view/minehead-santa-express-services>

PANTOMIMES, SHOWS AND CONCERTS

17th November

A Christmas Carol

Old Town Hall, Market Place, Somerton TA11 7NB

Tel: 01458 273008

Take a journey with us to the past, present, and future this festive season as we host a reading of the Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol.

Read by local actor and poet Mark Freestone this story will fright and delight audiences.

Two shows 4 - 6pm & 7 - 9pm

Festive drinks will be available from our licenced bar.

For further information and to book:

www.acearts.co.uk

1st December, 7.30pm

Tidings of Joy – Music Celebrating Winter

St Andrew's Church, Preston Grove, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2BQ

Music Celebrating Winter including music by Gardner, Joubert, Lauridsen, Owain Park, Rachmaninov, Tavener, Tchaikovsky, Vaughan Williams, Victoria and Warlock.

For further information and to book:

www.yeovilchamberchoir.org

1st-3rd December

A Christmas Carol

Queens Hall Theatre, Queens College, Trull Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1QS

Hailed as one of the greatest works of English literature, is there any story that better captures the true spirit of Christmas than this masterpiece by Charles Dickens?

Queen's College is proud to premiere this brand new production, featuring merry songs, breath-taking magic and... snowballs!

Performances Friday & Saturday 7pm- 8.30pm and Sunday 3pm to 4.30pm

To book please visit website:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/46812>

2nd December 7.30pm

Amici present Mass in B Minor

King's College Chapel, King's College, South Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3LA

Tel: 01823 340470

Amici will be performing what is arguably the greatest choral work of them all – J.S. Bach's monumental Mass in B minor, with an orchestra and prestigious soloists.

Tickets available from Taunton Visitor Information Centre or:

www.amicichoir.org.uk

3rd December, 5pm-6.30pm

Advent Procession with Carols

Wells Cathedral, Cathedral Green, Wells, Somerset BA5 2UE

Tel: 01749 674483

A service of readings, traditional congregational Advent carols, and music sung by the Cathedral Choir. A retiring collection will be taken at the end of the service in aid of Wells Cathedral.

All are welcome, and no booking is required. The congregation is asked to be seated by 4.45 p.m.

<https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/your-visit/whats-on>

7th-16th December

Elf the Musical

Merlin Theatre, Bath Road, Frome BA11 2HG

Tel: 01373 465949

Based on the cherished 2003 New Line Cinema hit, this modern-day classic Christmas musical is sure to make everyone embrace their inner elf.

For further information and to book visit:

<http://www.merlintheatre.co.uk/>

8th December-31st December

Cinderella

Westlands Main Hall, Westlands Entertainment Centre, Westbourne Close, Yeovil BA20 2DD

Tel: 01935 4228884

Once again, this fabulous, festive production will be written by PAUL HENDY and produced by Evolution Productions, the same award winning team behind the smash hit, Dick Whittington!

Come and see all your favourite faces at Westlands Entertainment Venue this year whilst The Octagon Theatre is closed for redevelopment. We've bought the same pantomime team over to Westlands!

The Octagon Theatre and Evolution Productions scooped the prize of Best Contribution to Music (Emma Fraser) at the UK Pantomime Awards 2023 and were also nominated for three other awards for the production of Dick Whittington, including Best Pantomime (500 - 900 seats), Best Choreography (Josie Lee) and Best Lighting Design (Kathryn Monkton) - so you know you're in safe and very good hands when coming to see Cinderella!

For full information and to book:

<https://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk/whats-on/all-shows/cinderella/9074>

8th-21st December

Robin Hood

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, School Road, Monkton Heathfield, TA2 8PD

Tel: 01823 414141

Joined by his merry band of men, Robin steals from the rich to give to the poor and battles against the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham. Can Robin save Nottingham? And will romance be in the air for him and Maid Marion? Expect all of the usual characters in this spectacular panto packed with magic and music, and lots of comedy fun!

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre are thrilled to continue our excellent relationship with the brilliant professional theatre company [Reamba Productions](#) as they bring us another pantomime extravaganza! Following the success of last year's Sleeping Beauty, join us and celebrate this December with the adventure panto... Robin Hood!

For full information and to book:

<https://www.tacchi-morris.com/robin-hood-panto/>

9th and 16th December,

Performances 1pm-2.30pm and 3pm-4.30pm

A Christmas Carol (Wells Theatre Company)

Wells Cathedral, Cathedral Green, Wells, Somerset BA5 2UE

Tel: 01749 674483

An illuminated costumed reading of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* with live music, performed by Wells Theatre Company in the medieval Vicars' Hall (access via Vicars' Close).

Admission: FREE; collection in aid of Wells Cathedral; register in advance via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/wells-cathedral-7889020267>

9th-16th December

Puss in Boots

Wells Little Theatre, Chamberlain Street, Wells, Somerset BA5 2PS

Tel: 01749 672280

The famous feline with boots gets the Wells Little Theatre panto treatment. Vicky Orman has once again penned the script for this pantomime where you can expect lots, of jokes about, hairballs, pussy...cats, fancy boots and licking yourself!

<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/wellslittletheatre/>

15th December, 7.30pm

Christmas Concert Under Concorde

Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HW

The popular Christmas carol concert under the wings of Concorde returns this year at Yeovilton's

Visitors can join the HMS Heron Royal Navy Volunteer Band under Concorde 002 in the Yeovilton museum.

For further information and to book tickets:

<https://tickets.historicdockyard.co.uk/webstore/shop/viewitems.aspx?cg=faam01&c=xmasconcorde>

19th -21st December, 7pm-8.30pm

Carols by Candlelight

Wells Cathedral, Cathedral Green, Wells, Somerset BA5 2UE

Tel: 01749 674483

Experience the enchanting and highly-acclaimed 'Carols by Candlelight' Concerts this Christmas at Wells Cathedral with three captivating performances on Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20, and Thursday 21 December. Immerse yourself in a world of choral classics sung by the renowned Wells Cathedral Choir. Let their angelic voices, accompanied by festive readings and poetry from a special guest, transport you to a realm of beauty and joy.

As night falls, witness the Cathedral aglow with over 3,000 twinkling candles, creating a timeless and sacred atmosphere that embraces the true spirit of the season. Don't miss this opportunity to share in this treasured tradition, where the power of music, spoken word, and candlelight unite to create an unforgettable celebration of Christmas within the awe-inspiring walls of Wells Cathedral.

To book tickets:

<https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/your-visit/whats-on?event=10833892>

ICE SKATING

7th November – 7th January

Undercover Winter Ice Rink

Icescape Tropicana, Marine Parade, Weston Super Mare BS23 1BE

Email: tropicana@n-somerset.gov.uk

Visit the nation's biggest undercover winter ice rink 'Icescape'. Skate on real ice with your friends and family, enjoy the thrill of our festive rides, indulge in festive treats and beverages and meet the beloved mascot, Pippin the Penguin!

For further information and to book:

<https://tropicana.icetickets.co.uk/sessions>

9th November-7th January

The Clarks Village ice rink!

Clarks Village, 12 Farm Road, Street, Somerset BA16 0BB

Create Christmas magic in an enchanting winter wonderland

Featuring real glittering ice, the custom-built rink is set within the stunning grounds of the historic Alfred Gillett Trust – a captivating setting for making Christmas memories. Quiet sessions, in addition to parent and toddler sessions for wobbly starters are available, plus skating aids and clip-on bob skates on hand to ensure mini skaters stay steady as they skate.

Exclusive discounts for ice rink customers, so you can enjoy a spot of Christmas shopping, before taking to the ice to skate to your heart's content!

For further information and to book:

<https://clarksvillage.co.uk/ice-rink-2023>

17th November-3rd January

Bath On Ice

Royal Victoria Park, Bath BA1 2NR

Email: iceskate@bathonice.com

Glowing in atmospheric lights, Bath on Ice is back for its 11th year and is the perfect place to practise your skating and show off some moves. With wintry music, a cosy bar, and seasonal drinks, you'll be transported to a dreamy winter wonderland! Whether you're a Dancing on Ice champion, a total newbie or just about anything in between, you can be sure to find some festive euphoria on the surface of our real, genuine ice.

For further information and to book:

<https://bathonice.co.uk/>

Festive Fun and Experiences

23RD November – 30th December

Illuminate 2023

Hestercombe, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8LG

Tel: 01823 413923

'Illuminate' will transport you on a magical journey of colour, light and sound to bring festive awe and wonder to the gardens. New water features and musical accompaniments will make your 2023 journey even more special. The natural features and views of the Landscape Garden come to life at night, with spotlights, lit trees and coloured paths drawing you up towards the Great Cascade, down past beautiful dynamic fountains in the Pear Pond and through a 'Christmas tree' grove below the Formal Garden, before finishing with a show-stopping display in front of Hestercombe House.

For further information and to book tickets visit:

<https://www.hestercombe.com/whats-on/christmas-illuminations>

24th November, from 5pm

Ilminster Christmas Victorian Night

Ilminster Town Centre, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0AN

Ilminster's brilliant Christmas Victorian Festival and Christmas Lights Switch On. Switch on at 7pm. Music, food and drink with a Victorian theme throughout the centre of town. School choirs. Shop window competition

www.ilminsterexperience.co.uk

25th November – 1st January, 10am-4pm

Christmas Reindeer Round-up

Montacute House (NT), Montacute, Yeovil, Somerset TA15 6XP

Hidden around the house and garden discover nine specially designed reindeer – you'll spot each unique, larger-than-life character as you've never seen them before. Have a boogie with Dancer and fall in love with Cupid. This event is free, but normal admission charges apply.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/somerset/montacute-house/events/2342ad18-c9cd-4578-b5e6-d6b8bd2c03af>

25th November - 1st January

Winter Wonderland at Wookey Hole

Wookey Hole Caves, The Mill, High Street, Wookey Hole, Wells BA5 1BA

Tel: 01749 672243

Winter Wonderland tickets encompass a comprehensive Wookey Hole experience, including a journey into the caves and all other attractions on site. Each child will have the special opportunity to meet Santa and receive a gift from Santa's Elves in the Wookey Hole Toy Factory.

For further information and to book tickets:

<https://www.wookey.co.uk/winter-wonderland/>

30th November, 6.30pm

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Yeovil Country Park, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1QZ

Get into the Christmas spirit with the Countryside Rangers during an evening of wreath making at Ninesprings Café. Booking essential.

For further information and to book:

<https://www.visitsouthsomerset.com/account/login?returnUrl=%2Fevents%2Fnature-and-wildlife%2Fchristmas-wreath-workshop.htm>

1st -2nd December

Friday 1st 5pm-9pm, Saturday 2nd 4pm-9pm

Dunster by Candlelight

Dunster, Somerset TA24 6SE Tel: 01643 821835/01643 706355

The medieval village of Dunster is probably one of the best conserved in the country. It is the setting for the wonderful Dunster by Candlelight event which takes place on the first Friday and Saturday of December every year. Overlooked by Dunster Castle whose origins go back 1,000 years. Dunster village has a wealth of history to discover, including the iconic Yarn Market, the remains of a Benedictine priory, a Working Watermill, Packhorse Bridge and Iron Age settlements. (Please note there are no cashpoints in the village)

For more information:

<https://www.dunsterbycandlelight.co.uk/>

1st December

Christmas Craft Day at Chard Library

Chard Library, Holyrood Lace Mill, Holyrood Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 2YA

Join the Chard Reservoir LNR Ranger team getting Christmas Crafty!

At a time where we buy way too much plastic, and need some connection to the trees around us, why not join us to celebrate Christmas the natural way! Great creative and make a Christmas wreath and star. We'll supply all the materials. Why not have a sip of some mulled apple juice and a chomp on a mince pie while you're there?

Aimed at adults only. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

<https://www.visitsouthsomerset.com/account/login?returnUrl=%2Fevents%2Fnature-and-wildlife%2Fchristmas-craft-day-at-chard-library.htm>

2nd December, 12pm-2.30pm

Chard School Christmas Fair, Santa's Grotto and Elves Workshop Experience

Chard School, 59 Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1QA

Join us for a Magical Christmas Experience at Chard School. Christmas Fair (free entry) with festive refreshments, fun stalls for children, face painting, tombola and raffle

Step into a winter wonderland and create cherished memories with your family this Christmas. Our enchanting Christmas event brings the community together for a 30 minute session of pure joy.

Meet Santa Claus: Meet the jolly man in the red suit himself! Share your wishes, take photos, and receive a gift from Santa. Elves Workshop: Immerse yourself in the magic of the North Pole! Visit our Elves Workshop, where you'll write a letter to Santa, decorate your very own Christmas tree decoration, and craft magical reindeer food to sprinkle on Christmas Eve. Ticketed 30 mins experience – book tickets on:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/721311210247>

2nd December

Charity Santa Abseil at Cheddar Gorge on behalf of St Margaret's Hospice

The Cliffs, Cheddar, Somerset BS27 3QF

Take on our charity Santa Abseil challenge at Cheddar Gorge. For its second year, you can take on our much anticipated and thrilling Santa Abseil challenge, tackling a 60ft drop over the breath-taking views of Cheddar Gorge. The challenge, abseil one of Britain's most spectacular natural landmarks, all while dressed as Santa! This year there will be two abseil ropes, to give more people a chance to take part and enjoy supporting their local hospice, as well as give you the fun opportunity to abseil next to a friend! Places are limited, so book now to avoid disappointment. No previous abseil experience necessary.

PLACES ARE LIMITED – PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL. For more information and to register:

<https://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/santa-abseil>

2nd December, 7pm

Christmas Dinner & Dance

Westlands Entertainment Venue, Westbourne Close, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2DD

Tel: 01935 4228884

Come and celebrate the festive season with us as we present a delicious three-course Christmas meal followed by a live DJ and music in the Lounge Bar. Dance into the night at the perfect Christmas party for friends and family. Tickets include a glass of prosecco, a three-course dinner, coffee and mince pies.

For further information and to book:

<https://www.westlandseyeovil.co.uk/whats-on/themed-nights/christmas-dinner-and-dance-2023/9259#tickets>

2nd December

Langport Fireworks and Christmas Tree Celebrations

Cocklemoor, Langport, Somerset TA10 9PG

Local food and drink market in the shopping centre. Carols and live music. Christmas tree. Fireworks at 5.30pm (pet friendly). Proceeds to Cocklemoor Community Trust.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lhecommunitygroup/>

2nd December

Santa's Grotto at the Museum of Somerset

The Museum of Somerset, Taunton Castle, Castle Green, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4AA

Tel: 01823 255088

Arrive at the Museum and you will be greeted by Santa's friendly elves. They will guide you to the magical grotto where you can meet with Santa, for a small additional charge you can enjoy a visit to the Museum following our fun Elf Trail. (£1). The café will be open serving hot drinks and seasonal treats.

For further information and booking details:

<https://swheritage.org.uk/events/>

2nd-21st December

Magical Christmas Experience

Somerset Reindeer Ranch, Orchid Stud, Oakley Lane, Ilchester Road, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8RF

Tel: 07800 914437

One hour magical Christmas Experience which includes Story Time with Santa with a gift for each child under 16yrs (no charge for under 18mths), a luxury hot chocolate for you to make and enjoy at home, a magical Elf led guided tour to see real reindeer. You will also take a journey through the magical wardrobe, where everyone's favourite Unicorn can be seen and photographed.

Pre-booking essential.

For further information and to book:

<https://www.somersetreindeer.co.uk/2023-magical-christmas-experience.php>

2nd – 22nd December

Christmas Sculpture Trail

Coates English Willow, Stoke St Gregory, Taunton TA3 6HY

Tel: 01823 490249

Christmas Sculpture Trail with willow sculptures to find and a quiz with a prize at the end.

For full information:

<https://www.coatesenglishwillow.co.uk/christmas-sculpture-trail.htm>

2nd – 24th December

Father Christmas at Hestercombe

Hestercombe, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8BL

Tel: 01823 413923

A unique opportunity to meet Father Christmas in a magical setting

When you arrive, you'll be greeted by one of the friendly Hestercombe elves, who will keep you entertained in the grotto as you wait to meet Father Christmas.

When the time comes you'll wander through the winter gardens to the man himself. In his sweet little garden folly, the log fire will be roaring, lights will be twinkling on the Christmas tree and sacks of presents will be waiting...

After seeing Father Christmas, children can enjoy taking part in our Christmas trail.

For further information and to book tickets:

<https://www.hestercombe.com/whats-on/father-christmas>

9th December

Christmas Children's Experience

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1PP

Tel: 01460 239567

Event to raise money for The Mayor's charities. The event will appeal to a range of children from age 2 and upwards.

As well as meeting Santa there will be a variety of activities on offer in the auditorium to keep children engaged.

There will be representation from local groups such as, Guides, Scouts, schools, Army Cadets and Kelly Leigh School of Dance.

For further information and ticket details:

<https://www.chard.gov.uk/news/autumn-winter-2023-events/>

9th December, from 10am

eat: Yeovil Christmas Event

Quedam Shopping Centre, 10 Ivel Square Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1EY

Free to attend food and drink market showcasing over 60 local producers.

Held in the Quedam Shopping Centre. Supported by Greenslade Taylor Hunt estate agents & Yeovil Town Council

For more information visit

<https://www.facebook.com/eatfestivalshome>

9th – 24th December, 9.30 am – 14.30pm

Christmas Decoration Making

Barrington Court, Barrington, near Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0NQ

Wrap up warm and make your way down to the Design Shed where there will be various Christmas decorations to make, with choices suitable for all ages. Once you have finished your masterpiece, you can hang it on our Christmas tree.

This event is free, but normal admission charges apply for the venue. Check website for times.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/somerset/barrington-court/events/>

9th – 31st December, 10 am – 14.30pm

Mrs Christmas' Cookie Cutter Trail

Barrington Court, Barrington, near Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0NQ

Mrs Christmas is trying to get her baking done. Look around her Christmas kitchen to find the ingredients that she needs for her delicious biscuit recipe. But what's this?! The naughty elves have hidden her cookie cutters...can you follow the trail around the grounds and help her find them..?

This event is free, but normal admission charges apply for the venue.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/somerset/barrington-court/events/>

10th December, 5pm

Illuminated Christmas Tractor Run

Middlezoy Football Club, The Aerodrome, Westonzoyland, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 0ES

Christmas Tractor Run in aid of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. £10 entry per tractor. Refreshments available.

For further information and route details:

www.facebook.com/events/1058202142017540

13th-23rd December, 6pm-8pm

Winter Lights

Frogmary Green Farm, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5DJ

Tel: 01460 242775

Visit Frogmary Farm for a winter evening filled with colourful lights

December - Wednesday – 13th, Friday – 15th, Saturday – 16th, Wednesday – 20th, Friday – 22nd, Saturday – 23rd

Open – 6 to 8pm

Every year, the gardens and arboretum are decorated with lights! Wrap up warm this December and share an evening stroll around Frogmary's Winter Trail.

Farm and Field Café will be OPEN for takeaway winter warmers, festive treats and hot drinks!

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.

For further information and to book:

<https://www.frogmarygreenfarm.co.uk/winter-lights/>

15th-22nd December

Christmas Extravaganza

Yeovil Showground, Two Towers Lane, Barwick, Yeovil BA22 9TA

A week of festive family fun!

Ice rink, UV mini golf, Stalls, live music, food vendors and reindeer!

For further information and to book tickets:

<https://yeovilfestivals.com/book-tickets/>

16th December – 1st January

Christmas at the Museum

Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7LH

Tel: 01963 440804

Get that festive feeling in our glorious red room, it really is as red as Rudolph's nose! Keep an eye out for the cheeky elves throughout the Museum whilst marvelling at some of the world's most iconic cars. There's lots to keep the whole family entertained...and don't forget your Christmas jumpers!

Elf on the Parcel Shelf

The Museum has been inundated with some very mischievous Christmas elves and we need your help keeping an eye on them over the Christmas Holidays! From having snowball fights and tinkering under the bonnet to driving a car and a pint-size pit crew, can you spot all of the elves on your visit?

For further information and booking details:

<https://www.haynesmuseum.org/events/christmas-museum-0>

https://tickets.haynesmuseum.org/#category_1

17th – 24th December, 11am – 11.30am

Christmas Storytelling.

Barrington Court, Barrington, near Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0NQ

Wrap up warm in your winter woollies and head down to the farm yard to listen to some festive stories in the History Shed. This event is free, but normal admission charges apply for the venue.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/somerset/barrington-court/events/>

26th December

Wincanton Boxing Day Races

Wincanton Racecourse, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 8BJ

There's no better place to be than Wincanton Racecourse on Boxing Day! It's without a doubt the most popular fixture at Wincanton Racecourse

For further information and to book:

<https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/wincanton/events-tickets/boxing-day/>

1st January 2024, 9am

New Year's Day Dip

Minehead Beach, Minehead, Somerset TA24 6GQ

Tel: 01935 709182

Email: events@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk

St Margaret's Hospice New Year's Day Charity Dip proudly sponsored by Wilkie May & Tuckwood. Are you brave enough to take the plunge and do something amazing for St Margaret's Hospice Care? Start 2024 off in the best way possible and join us for our New Year's Day beach dip, and why not dust off your favourite dressing up outfit to! Pre-booking essential.

For more information and to book:

<https://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/new-years-day-charity-dip>

The following websites also provide further information on events in Somerset:

www.visitsouthsomerset.com

www.whatsonsomerset.co.uk

www.visitsomerset.co.uk

www.downsomersetway.co.uk

Disclaimer: This information has been compiled by Visit South Somerset and is believed to be correct at the time of compilation – November 2023