

## Celebrate A Traditional Chilterns Christmas 2 October 2015



Winter is the perfect time to see the rolling Chilterns' fields glisten with crunchy frost and mist drifting through the trees. Christmas in the Chilterns evokes images of mulled wine and minced pies in a snug countryside pub after a hearty walk, exploring Bruce Munro's Field of Light, shopping for special gifts at a Christmas market, Christmas panto and buying a tree from Christmas Common.

Located in London's Metroland and boasting superb scenery, intriguing attractions, tucked-away villages and market towns, there's always something more to

be discovered this festive season with ideas and inspiration for new experiences and things to enjoy in the days between Christmas and New Year.

### Waddesdon Manor

The artist **Bruce Munro** is best known for immersive large scale light based installations, inspired largely by his interest in shared human experiences. Following the success from last year's, Winter Light at Waddesdon trail, Bruce Munro continues his residency and for his final year will create a large piece of immersive and imaginative light art, situated in the Gardens, that during the festive season, will be illuminated from 4pm. The outside of the House will also be bathed in light from our colourful Son et Lumière, as it changes from one vivid colour to another and the amazing candlestick sculptures by Artist Joana Vasconcelos will be lit from within.

For more information about opening times, group admission rates and events please see [www.waddesdon.org.uk](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk) or call 01296 653226.



The **nearby town of Aylesbury** offers a good selection of Christmas and Farmers markets over the festive season including the 'Off the Wall Art Fair at the Bucks County Museum.

Christmas would not be complete without a visit to enjoy a pantomime and this year the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury presents the magical **pantomime Dick Whittington!**

For more information please see [www.atgtickets.com/venues/aylesbury-waterside-theatre/](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/aylesbury-waterside-theatre/)

Christmas shopping gets underway with the **Buckingham town centre** artisan's market on Saturday 28th November and again on Sunday 20th from 10am - 2pm.

### Amersham & Chesham

Accessible on the Metropolitan Line from London for those looking to escape the city for fresh air and beautiful countryside, with plenty of inviting places to pause for refreshment, shopping is a relaxing pastime both in **Old Amersham** and its more modern counterpart on the hill, which grew up on the arrival of the Metropolitan Railway.

Find out how the Tudors celebrated Christmas, what decorations they made and how they feasted at the Amersham Museum, located in the oldest domestic building in Amersham, part of a Tudor hall house. For more information please see [www.amershammuseum.org/whats-on/](http://www.amershammuseum.org/whats-on/)

**Chesham Christmas lights** will be switched on on Friday 27th November from 6pm in the High Street. The event includes funfair rides for children, music, market stalls, food stalls and late-night opening of the town centre shops.



You will find at the nearby **Hazeldene Farm** begins their Christmas celebration early with a Turkey Tasting day on November 1st, which is your opportunity to taste local free range Bronze birds. For further information please see [hazeldenefarm.com/events](http://hazeldenefarm.com/events)

Enjoy a traditional Christmas weekend in the lovely setting of the **Chilterns Open Air Museum**. Special winter opening 5th - 6th December from 11am – 4pm. Watch Father Christmas arrive on his horse and carriage then meet him in the Toll House Grotto. Carol singers, traditional folk singers, costumed re-enactors making preparations for a Regency Christmas, watch the Blacksmith at work and lots of craft stalls and magical decorations. Kids can get stuck in and make their own Christmas decorations and Christmas biscuits. Tickets can be pre-booked on <http://www.coam.org.uk>

### Tring & Ashridge Forest

Located in the pretty market town of Tring, **Tring Brewery** has made a name for itself offering Christmas seasonal beer and Mash Up tours. They'll be brewing Santa's Little Helper, their annual Christmas Seasonal beer as well as the December monthly special - Robin Red Breast and a well stocked shop full of beer-related presents and of course huge amounts of beer to help celebrate the season of goodwill. For more information [tringbrewery.co.uk/brewerytours](http://tringbrewery.co.uk/brewerytours)



On Friday 27th November, **Tring Christmas Festival** sees the High Street turn into a magical place for a winter's night. From 6.30 - 9.30pm tickets are free. [tringtogether.org.uk/events](http://tringtogether.org.uk/events)

Enjoy a scenic post-Christmas walk through a lovely Chilterns forest at this magical time of year with a guided Christmas walk on the **Ashridge Estate** on Saturday 27th December at 10.30am. For more information call the Ashridge Visitor Centre Tel: 01442 851227.

With open log fires, smart decorations, mulled wine and a warm hint of spice in the air, you can't doubt how much your hosts at the Alford Arms enjoy celebrating the Festive season. In fact, from seasonal robust cooking through to Carols on Christmas Eve, it's not only Good King Wenceslas who has cornered the market in hospitality!

## **Henley & Marlow**

**The Kenton theatre** will be featuring pantos and ballets, including Jack and the Beanstalk, a delightful family show. **Hobbs of Henley** will be running their ever popular Santa Cruises on the River Thames featuring Fred in the Shed along with the star attraction, Santa Claus himself.

Marlow is a lovely Christmas shopping alternative, with many independent shops offering clothing, shoes and food; try the Sarah Hughs gallery, Plume, Mooch or the Bakery on the causeway.

Set high above the Thames with far-reaching views, **Cliveden's impressive gardens** and majestic woodlands capture the grandeur of a bygone age. Open between Christmas and New Year (closed Christmas Day), on every weekend before Christmas, a fun-packed seasonal activity trail will lead you around the gardens to find some early stocking-filler gifts (£5 plus usual admission).

For more Christmas ideas and inspiration book [VisitChilterns.co.uk](http://VisitChilterns.co.uk) and share your experiences with us on @VisitChilterns

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## Notes for editors

- This release has been distributed by the Chilterns Tourism Network, a not-for-profit group of over 250 local Chilterns tourism suppliers who have the collective aim of promoting this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- The Chilterns stretches from the Thames in Oxfordshire through Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire to Hitchin in Hertfordshire, north-west of London Chiltern Railways, London Midland and the Metropolitan Line on the Underground.
- For Chilterns; events @VisitChilterns and <http://pinterest.com/visitchilterns/>
- High-res images are available on the website. [visitchilterns.co.uk/gallery](http://visitchilterns.co.uk/gallery)
- A Chilterns press pack is available on request.
- For further information or to discuss press trip opportunities, please contact Mary Tebje Chilterns Tourism Network info [@visitchillterns.co.uk](mailto:@visitchillterns.co.uk)