



Hetton Courier

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Let there be

With the click of a Christmas switch a sparkling festive welcome will greet residents and visitors alike to Hetton Town centre.

Hetton Town Council is again making sure residents have a Christmas to remember with its support for the town centre's Christmas illuminations and the erection of its own illuminated Christmas tree.

A free family programme of fun and entertainment is lined up on the night of the big switch on - Friday November 23. There will be guest entertainers including Mr Lidd's magic act, music, fair rides and festive fun. Santa and his reindeers will

make a special appearance and everyone will have the chance to join in singing Christmas songs. There will also be a special Christmas message from Rev. Anne Anderson.

The fun begins at 6pm with the big switch on carried out by Town Mayor Coun. Tony Wilkinson at 7pm.

This year the Christmas spirit will also be spread to Hetton Downs thanks to funding from Hetton Town Council. Residents will see illuminations light up the Market Street area - brightening up the main shops, food outlets and restaurants.

The Town Council is



Last year's tree switched on by Councillor Mrs Anne Rankin and friend Holly.

investing in the illuminations to complement the

environmental improvements underway in Hetton Downs.

Blooming Marvellous

Civic pride in Hetton has received a major boost from the judges of the Northumbria in Bloom competition.

For the area scooped not one but two awards in the prestigious regional competition as part of Sunderland City Council's entry.

The colourful floral displays in Hetton town centre clinched the Bronze Award in

the Large Town Category and Hetton Lyons Country Park was runner up in the Best Conservation Class, earning a Silver Gilt Medal.

Civic leaders are delighted with the results but believe Hetton could do even better if local traders, business folk and local residents got more involved.

Plans and preparations for the

2008 competition are now underway and the Town Council hopes local businesses will sponsor a flower basket or planter to give Hetton an even bigger 'Wow' factor for judges when they visit next year.

Town Clerk John Price hopes to bring interested businesses and competition judges together to discuss

ideas. Anyone interested should contact John on (0191) 553 6600.

