

Light Night celebrates biggest ever opening weekend for Edinburgh's Christmas!

**Edinburgh's Christmas welcomes over 370,000 people over its
biggest ever opening weekend.**



IMAGES HERE

George Street was the place to be on Sunday 19 November when thousands gathered at **Light Night** to celebrate the beginning of Edinburgh's Christmas, one of the biggest and most popular Christmas celebrations in the UK which runs until 6 January 2018.

Stretching from St Andrew Square in the East to Festival Square in the West and into community hubs outside the city centre, 2017 sees the biggest, brightest and best programme of Christmas events and entertainment across the city to date!

This weekend **Edinburgh's Christmas** has welcomed over **370,000 people** into attractions across the centre of town; the ice rink in St Andrew Square, the Festival Square Spiegel tent for La Clique Noel, Princes Street Gardens and the George Street attractions including Ice Adventure: A Journey Through Frozen Scotland.

Light Night's host, **Forth 1 Breakfast presenter Arlene Stuart**, was joined by **Edinburgh's Lord Provost Frank Ross**, and the star of BBC's *Call the Midwife* and *Shrek the Musical* **Laura Main** to mark the beginning of Edinburgh's Christmas with the traditional switching on of the city's lights followed by a stunning fireworks display.

The Christmas Tree on the Mound, a gift to the City of Edinburgh Council from Hordaland County Council in Norway, was also lit as part of the Light Night switch-on.

Light Night also saw fantastic performances from **Little Voices Big Stars, Edinburgh Rock Choir, Edinburgh Ballet** and the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra Junior Chorus** plus a special performance of 'I'm a Believer' from **Shrek** (Steffan Harri) and **Princess Fiona** (Laura Main)!

Edinburgh's Christmas partnered with the NSPCC this year - National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is a leading children's charity fighting to end child abuse – with collectors the length and breadth of Light Night and across Christmas attractions it is hoped that visitors will be generous in supporting this cause.

Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, Directors, Edinburgh's Christmas, said: *"We were delighted to see so many locals and visitors gathered on George Street today enjoying the fantastic performances and spectacular fireworks display, all heralding the start of Christmas in the Scottish capital. Light Night is always a wonderful community event which gets everyone into the Christmas spirit! Here's to another great festive season!"*

/ENDS

Notes to editors:

Follow us:

Facebook: [facebook/edinburghschristmas](https://www.facebook.com/edinburghschristmas)

Twitter: @EdXmas

Tickets for all ticketed events are available from:

www.edinburghschristmas.com / 0844 545 8252

For further information on Edinburgh's Christmas, please contact:

Magda Paduch / The Corner Shop PR / magda@thecornershoppr.com / 0758 316 4070

Edinburgh's Christmas

Edinburgh's Christmas is one of the most popular Christmas celebrations in the UK. 2017 will see the biggest, brightest and best programme of events and entertainment to date. This year the refreshed celebration expands across the city from East to West, North to South and into community hubs outside the city centre. A new feature, *the Ice Adventure* – a journey through frozen Scotland comes to the west end of George Street offering residents and visitors a stunning new attraction made of snow and ice. Another new offering this year is *Edinburgh's Giant Advent Calendar*, this free attraction, created by Double Take Projections, will be projected nightly onto General Register House,

with 24 glimpses of Edinburgh winters from years gone-by, one revealed each day. In a partnership with Edinburgh Trams, Edinburgh's Christmas has invited schoolchildren from across the city to design a special **Christmas and Hogmanay tram** to brighten up the city's streets this winter.

Underbelly

Underbelly is a UK based live entertainment company whose beginnings were rooted in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2000, where its events and festivals division now operates one of the largest operations.

2017 marks their fifth year producing Edinburgh's Christmas for the City of Edinburgh Council, and their first year producing Edinburgh's Hogmanay (also for the City of Edinburgh Council), one of the leading New Year festivals lasting 3 days in Scotland's stunning capital city drawing an estimated 150,000 people from Scotland and around the world.

Elsewhere, Underbelly also produces Underbelly Festival on the Southbank in London one of the biggest multi-arts offerings in London - 2018 will be its 10th year, Christmas in Leicester Square, Underbelly Festival in Hong Kong, West End Live in Trafalgar Square for Westminster City Council and the Society of London Theatre and Pride in London, the second largest annual event in London after the Marathon.

Through its Underbelly Productions arm it produces and promotes live shows in London's West End, throughout the UK and on tour internationally and recently opened its revival of Clarke Peters' Five Guys Named Moe in a specially constructed temporary theatre in Marble Arch, London.

In 2016, Underbelly sold over 1.3 million tickets to its various events. www.underbelly.co.uk