



A Very Dorkensian Christmas

Sunday 3rd December
12 - 6pm

Hello
Dorking

PRESS RELEASE

DORKING CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SUPPORTED BY LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

A Very Dorkensian Christmas Festival Announces newly opened Kuoni Dorking as Sponsors for Spectacular Christmas Event in the Heart of the Surrey Hills

For Immediate Release

15 NOVEMBER 2023: The Dorking Business Improvement District (BID) is hosting a free Christmas celebration on the first weekend in December. Beginning on Small Business Saturday UK and culminating on Sunday 3rd December from 12 to 6pm, the Dorking BID is hosting a festive celebration for all.

This year's Christmas event will feature award-winning talent, promising to be a magical celebration filled with community spirit, giving, joy and fun, thanks to the invaluable support from our generous sponsors, who may be found on the Dorking BID website: <https://dorkingtowpartnership.co.uk/meet-our-very-dorkensian-christmas-sponsors/>

The Dorking BID extends its heartfelt gratitude to Kuoni, which has both its head office and a new store in the town, for the travel company's generosity.

"We are deeply grateful to our sponsors for their support, goodwill and collaborative spirit. The BID is a self-funded organisation, whose voluntary BID Board and local businesses work hard to raise the profile of this hidden gem of Surrey. With the help of our sponsors, we will be able to host this event, further spreading the joy of the holiday season in our community and beyond. These contributions enable us to create a festive atmosphere, provide entertainment for children of all ages, and organise various activities and entertainment for everyone," said Andrew Fuller, Chairman of the Dorking BID.

Worldwide travel company Kuoni has opened the doors of its new travel shop after a long-standing connection with Dorking, the home of the company's operations for almost 50 years.

Kuoni's new store is located on the ground floor of the modern, dynamic offices on Station Road in the heart of Dorking, overlooking a bright courtyard. Customers will be able to book an appointment and discuss their travel plans with an expert over a complimentary drink from their bar menu.

To celebrate the opening within the local Surrey community, Kuoni is giving a £500 Kuoni Holiday Voucher to use if you book your holiday in the Dorking store before 31st December.

From Africa to the Maldives and Italy to Thailand, Kuoni has become synonymous with premium travel experiences all over the world and the friendly team in the new Dorking store are able to create personalised itineraries to suit different budgets.

Manager Sue Eaton says, “The team love to spend time getting to know what you love, where you’ve been, and what you’re planning to do and see. Because it’s only then that we can combine this with our expertise and knowledge from travelling the world, to help you plan your perfect holiday. “

A Very Dorkensian Christmas welcomes the return of the popular Community Spirit Awards, where we celebrate the generosity, kindness, and creative spirit of our local organisations. Welcome the 2023 judges and learn more about their background on our dedicated webpage: <https://dorkingtowndpartnership.co.uk/meet-our-community-spirit-award-judges/>

- Mark Carter, Deputy Managing Editor (BBC South and South East) and Presenter (BBC Radio Surrey)
- Wendy Varcoe, Executive Director - Surrey Hills Enterprises
- Clare Davies, Community Spirit Award Winner 2023 - Volunteer Award

The BID Community Spirit Awards celebrates the independent spirit that helps to make Dorking a wonderful place to visit, live, work, and enjoy.

The Very Dorkensian Christmas Festival will feature:

- Dorking businesses offering specials and activities
- Music and Entertainment
- Christmas Grotto, sponsored by Dorking Travel
- Festive Market Stalls
- Fun, friendly competitions with brilliant prizes
- Multi-award winning Ms Ballooniverse
- BBC Surrey Live Broadcast
- Award-winning Food and Drink
- Victorian Carol Singers
- Volunteer Village and Sustainable Market
- Children's Activities
- Toy donation point
- Father Christmas
- Singing ‘Mother Christmas’

In addition to this spectacular line up, the Dorking BID is proud to host the following all-ages competitions:

- Best Vintage or Victorian Outfit
- Best Christmas Tree (vote for your favourite tree decorated by Dorking’s primary schools)
- Best Window Display
- Best Decorated House (or garden), sponsored by Seymour's Estate Agents

Everyone is welcome in Dorking and all are invited to join us in celebrating the Dorkensian spirit. Learn more about the event by visiting the dedicated webpage: <https://dorkingtowndpartnership.co.uk/christmas-festival-2023/>.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

Interviews and images are available on request. For more information, please contact Kathy Kyle at kathy@dorkingtowndpartnership.co.uk or 07377 096 892.

About Kuoni

Kuoni Travel UK is part of DER Touristik, one of Europe’s leading travel groups. Kuoni has continued to set the pace in luxury worldwide travel in the UK market for over 55 years and is

regularly voted one of the best holiday companies in the country by readers of national newspapers and travel industry titles. The company excels in creating tailor-made holidays and honeymoons around the world. Since 2008 Kuoni has grown its retail network across the UK and can be found in 27 locations on premium high streets and in selected John Lewis department stores. Each store is unique in design and showcases Kuoni's Personal Travel Experts and personalised customer service.

Learn more: <https://www.kuoni.co.uk/>

About the Dorking Town Centre Partnership

The Business Improvement District (BID) for Dorking celebrates and champions businesses, culture and community in the historic market town of Dorking. The business led organisation is committed to raising the profile of Dorking and bringing economic prosperity to the town. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram at @HelloDorking. Tag us to be featured at #HelloDorking. Learn more about the Dorking BID at <https://linktr.ee/hellodorking>

Social Media: @hellodorking