



# 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 Clarion Futures as Sponsors for Spectacular Christmas Event in the Heart of the Surrey Hills

#### For Immediate Release

**22 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://dorkingtowndpartnership.co.uk/meet-our-very-dorkensian-christmas-sponsors/>

The Dorking BID extends its heartfelt gratitude to Clarion Futures, the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group which owns and manages thousands of homes across Mole Valley, for the organisation's generous support of our Christmas Festival.

"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.

Matt Parsonage, Head of Communities at Clarion Futures, said: "We're delighted to be sponsoring this year's Dorking Christmas Festival which will be a great chance for local people to come together to celebrate the festive season. Working with partners like the Dorking BID means we can make an even bigger difference for our residents and communities and we're excited to see how the event comes together."

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](mailto:kathy@dorkingtowndpartnership.co.uk) or 07377 096 892.

### **About Clarion Futures**

Clarion Futures is the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group, the UK's largest provider of affordable housing. We work together with partners to make a positive difference to the lives of people living in Clarion homes and communities.

Our work is centred on providing our residents with the tools and support to help overcome any challenges they face. Every year we support thousands of people into work and provide people with help in managing money, gaining and developing digital skills and contributing to the life of their communities.

We're a partner of choice for organisations ranging from FTSE companies and government departments to local charities and social enterprises. With more than 350,000 residents, our size and reach gives us a presence that few other charities can match.

[www.clarionhg.com/charitable-foundation](http://www.clarionhg.com/charitable-foundation)

### **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