

# A CELEBRATION OF ILLUMINATION

INVITATION FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS TO GET INVOLVED WITH

THE GREAT DOORSTEP SWITCH ON!



This year our Christmas Light Switch On is heading to your homes, from Redcar to Brotton, Marske to Guisborough, Saltburn to Loftus, wherever you are in the borough we need your help to keep Redcar shining bright! We are encouraging all the residents, community groups and schools across Redcar to take part in the very first Great Doorstep Switch On, on Thursday 3rd December. We would love your group to get involved with activities in advance of the switch on and help spread the word about the opportunity. This is a great way for you to play a part in a wonderful community celebration – without having to go anywhere!

We have created some resources which are included in this pack to help your group get involved and we hope you will encourage as many people as possible to take part and help us spread the light around the borough!

## INCLUDED IN THIS PACK:

- Lightbulb template and instructions
- Lantern instructions
- The Doorstep Switch On Guide



Redcar's virtual switch on will take place on Thursday 3rd December at 7pm and the link to the event can be found at

[www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas](http://www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas)

## BACKGROUND

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone – lockdown and the ongoing restrictions in relation to Covid-19 continue to have a huge impact on our daily lives. We can't celebrate together in groups as we normally would, but there is no reason why we can't create a sense of community with residents across our borough. It is more important than ever to stay connected, celebrate the small things and continue to support each other through this difficult time. The Great Doorstep Switch On aims to spread some festive joy and retell the story of why the Christmas lights have to be turned on at home this year (and it isn't because of Coronavirus!). We have also created some special characters which will tour around parts of Redcar for three nights in December as part of the switch on activities, gathering light and helping to inject a little magic into our lives at this difficult time.



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## THE STORY

Never before has the role of the simple lightbulb been so important, we need you to come together and generate enough power to make the borough shine! You see there is something you don't know about the Christmas lights, their secret guardians and how the power is created ...

Ray & Flash need your help, they are our festive friends who work year-round to make sure enough power is collected to switch on our festive illuminations. Normally their work is top secret but this year they have run into a spot of bother and they need your help to save Redcar's lights - you will know them when you see them so look out for the giant glittering bulb and listen for the music! Ray & Flash, created by Pif-Paf Theatre, will be in the borough for 3 nights, 3rd - 5th December and will be travelling past houses, visiting some of the streets in the Borough and collecting enough bulb power to make our magical Christmas lights glow!

No matter whether you are lucky enough to see the characters or not, your part in the switch on and making Redcar come together as a community is really important. Group get involved and we hope you will encourage as many people as possible to take part and help us spread the light around the borough!

## HOW YOUR GROUP CAN GET INVOLVED

The resources included in this pack will help your group get involved. All of the resources can also be found out

[www.redcareleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas](http://www.redcareleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas)

## WE ARE INVITING YOU TO:

- Decorate light bulbs to display in your homes or public buildings across the borough - ask group members and their families to colour in and decorate the template included in this pack, then display them in your windows
- Follow the instructions provided to create colourful recycled lanterns which can be displayed in windows or front gardens
- Hold your own Community Switch On! Encourage group members and your local community to take part in a doorstep switch on - use the Doorstep Switch On Guide included as inspiration - decorate your houses, get people to nominate someone in their street to be in charge of the countdown and join together on your doorsteps on Thursday 3 December at 7pm to turn on your lights
- Share! Share photos of your group's light bulb and lantern decorations or video clips of your switch on with #LightUpRedcar
- Share information about the Great Doorstep Switch On with group members so that they are able to take part at home. We want as many families as possible take part in the Switch on event on 3rd December.



Please remember to follow social distancing guidelines at all times.

**#LightUpRedcar**



Get ready for the Great Doorstep Switch On - we need more lightbulb power to help the Festive Lights shine bright this year! Colour me in, add some sparkle and then cut me out and hang in your window ready for the Doorstep Switch On 3rd December. We need as much power as we can get so feel free to make as many as you like and why not string them together in your window to create your own unique Christmas lights!

Share your photos with [#lightupredcar](#)

Please remember to follow social distancing rules and local restrictions at all times.



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# PLASTIC BOTTLE LANTERNS



**Wash and dry your plastic bottle**

**Snip off the top with a pair of scissors**



**Cut out lots of different shapes and colours of tissue paper**

**When you are ready, cover your plastic bottle in glue and start covering in tissue paper.**

**Let it dry.....**





.....Apply a second coat of glue all over,

When dry pop in a battery powered tea light.

You can easily add a handle or just pop them on your windowsill



Watch our 'how to make' film at for more ideas on how to decorate your lantern!

Share your creations with #LightUpRedcar

[www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas](http://www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas)



Make your lanterns ready to light up and join The Great Doorstep Switch On happening December 3rd 7pm



More details on how to get involved can be found at

[www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas](http://www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas)

# A CELEBRATION OF ILLUMINATION

## THE GREAT DOORSTEP SWITCH ON!



Join us on Thursday 3rd December to make Redcar shine bright with The Great Doorstep Switch On! We are inviting the residents of the borough to help create a magical atmosphere and switch on the festive lights - and the best thing is that you can do it from the comfort of your own home! We have some tips below to create the perfect stay at home switch on...

## THE GREAT DOORSTEP SWITCH ON GUIDE

### IN ADVANCE:

Get your house switch on-ready! Time to get your decorations out and use your imagination to create something lovely to display in your windows to help spread some festive joy. We encourage you to make some decorations - you don't need any special materials, we have some ideas and templates on our website to help and inspire you at [www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas](http://www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas)

Food is at the centre of any good celebration - plan some treats for switch on night that will help get you in the festive mood

Plan activities for the night - pick a film or prepare some party games to do at home

Get the whole street involved with the switch on celebrations - make sure everyone has some lights displayed in their windows or gardens, nominate someone from your home or street who will have responsibility for the countdown to turn the lights on in your home



### SWITCH ON NIGHT:

**FROM 4PM** Play some festive music, get your Christmas jumpers or comfy PJs on. Make sure your decorations are looking good and that you have lights in windows or lanterns in your front gardens ready for the switch on!

**4.30PM** Play some party games or write your letter to Santa

**5PM** Festive food – the perfect excuse to indulge in all your favourite party treats

**5.30PM** Time for a Christmas story or a festive film

**6.55PM** Get yourself a glass of mulled wine or a mug of hot chocolate and go to your doorsteps ready to light up Redcar!

**7PM** The Great Doorstep Switch On - either join in with your street or watch online at [www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas](http://www.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/christmas) and make sure your lights are turned on at 7pm

**7.05PM** Sing-along-a-street - why not end the evening with a few festive tunes to really get in the Christmas spirit!

