

Picture: MATTHEW USHER



FIREWORKS: Fakenham Christmas lights switch-on.

‘Green’ start to festivities

More than a thousand people gathered in Fakenham Market Place as celebrity chef Chris Coubrough flicked the switch for the town’s annual Christmas lights switch-on at 5pm on Saturday after an afternoon of entertainment and fun.

The Flying Kiwi, from North Norfolk, got the crowds shouting and cheering and though the fairground amusements were cancelled as a result of the weather there was plenty to keep people of all ages occupied, with charity stalls, stands and hot refreshments all on offer.

This year the town centre is lit up with new, brighter LED lights which last longer and use one 10th of the power of filament lights. They were bought with money raised by the Fakenham Area Partnership (FAP), with the support of other organisations including Kickstart Fakenham. A grand raffle held on the night raised £700 for FAP.

Picture: COLIN FINCH



FESTIVE COUNTDOWN: Amelia Reynolds and David Whiteley, with their daughter Annabel, turn on the Christmas lights at Wells yesterday.

WELLS

Television couple help light up the night in their second home

The festive spirit was alive in Wells last night when local television couple David Whiteley and Amelia Reynolds turned on the town's Christmas lights. BBC Look East presenter Mrs Reynolds and her presenter and producer husband live in Norwich, but have been regulars in Wells in recent years. They brought their seven-month-old daughter Annabel to last

night's switch-on. Mr Whiteley said: "Wells is like a second home to us. We love the place. "There is a great community spirit here. But we have not been able to come as regularly recently because we've been busy with work and looking after our new daughter. "It's great to be invited here to perform the switch-on and to see our friends again."

The switch-on was held on Staithe Street and was organised by celebrity chef Chris Coubrough, and well-known local businessmen, butcher Arthur Howell and fish-and-chip shop owner Marcus French. They raise more than £5,000 each year by holding dinners. A fund-raising dinner was held last night at The Crown in Wells,

owned by Mr Coubrough, after a second switch-on took place, at The Buttlands. Mr Coubrough said: "We've had a lot of help from people around the town and that is the great thing about Wells, if something needs to be done the community comes together to do it. "It's a great town with a great community spirit."