

## **Press and Media News Release**

### **Mousehole Harbour Lights 2020**

The Trustees and Committee of Mousehole Harbour Lights have given lengthy consideration to the Christmas 2020 Lights display in view of the present Covid-19 emergency and have decided to cancel all of the Lights display this year.

The future situation at the time of this decision, with lockdown and self-isolation very much in place, is still most uncertain and in view of the timescale involved in maintaining, building and erecting the Lights a decision had to be made sooner rather than later. A great deal of work by the team of volunteers, working in groups, must be undertaken to prepare, build and maintain the displays between now and September at which time work would need to begin on the erection of the displays, which would normally continue up until the switch on of the Lights prior to Christmas.

The primary considerations taken into account were the safety of our volunteers, many of whom are aged over 70, and particularly, that of the wider population in the village of Mousehole. It was felt that, notwithstanding any extension of isolation policies, we could not risk bringing into the village 3,000 visitors to the traditional Switch On Night Carolaire and some 30,000 visitors over the 3 week Lights period with the consequent risk of transmission of infection.

Whilst we regret that local businesses may not receive the benefit of their usual increased trade during the period of the Lights, we believe that in view of the general safety considerations, this decision will be welcomed by the wider community of Mousehole.

It is to give local businesses, accommodation providers and potential visitors as much notice as possible that we are making this announcement at the earliest opportunity.

We will actively promote the information that there will be no Mousehole Harbour Lights this year to discourage visitors from arriving in the village to view them and being faced with disappointment at Christmas.

Peter Taylor Chairman of MHL commented,

“It was with heavy hearts that we made the decision not to deploy our main displays this year, for only the second time in our 57 year history, but the safety of the residents of Mousehole overrode all other considerations. We will be back in 2021”

Having made this decision we can look forward to the 2021 Lights in which we hope to be able to include a new display to recognise and give thanks to the NHS and all essential workers who have carried the Country through this emergency.

Any further information may be obtained from:

Peter Taylor Chairman of MHL – 07836 501577

Ian Morris Vice Chairman of MHL – 07932 113262

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