

Tips from previous participants

“Do it! It was so much fun and really worthwhile.

We enjoyed making the window together and assembling it, and we got to meet lots of neighbours we never knew we had.”

“It was easy-peasy and great fun! **We loved it!**

For some reason we didn’t really believe people would turn up – but they did! We ran out of mince pies, but nobody minded.”

“I’d recommend getting a **timer for your lights.**

We got one for a couple of quid, and it was a lot easier than remembering to turn them on every night. It also worked a good security feature when we went away to visit family.”

“It’s hard to guess how many people will come, so **move your car** so that you have extra space in front of your house. That way, if there’s no room on the pavement people will have somewhere to stand.”

“Take a tour of the lights as a Christmas/New Year walk.”

“It will be quite dark on the street, so **nobody will notice if you serve shop-bought** sausage rolls, or shop-bought mince pies 😊”

“**Don’t feel under pressure** to make a massive effort. Our 12 year old designed and made our window on her own – it was lovely and she was really proud. It didn’t matter that it wasn’t “perfect-perfect”. “

“Talcum powder makes lovely fake snow!”

“Watch out for radiator heat – it played havoc with our window design.”

“**Do a count-down** to the switch-on! It added a bit of drama and made a good focal point.”

“When we did mulled wine from one big pot with a ladle, people were too shy to help themselves. Next time we will serve mulled wine in individual cups that people can take from a tray.”

“Think about how your window display will affect **the light in your front room.** We were accidentally made our front room really dark. It looked great as a window but it wasn’t so nice to sit in during the day.”

“**Go along to events that are not your own** – you’ll have more chance to talk to people properly, and see how varied the windows are.”

“If you have **big bushes** that you don’t want to trim back, do an upstairs window instead.”

No 1 Tip:

“It’s not Christmassy to be stressed about Christmas decorations, so don’t feel like you have to go the nth degree.

Just do whatever you would enjoy doing, relax and have fun.”