

	Events Committee
Date	8 June 2026 14.00
Agenda Item	9

To consider the Christmas Fair 2026

Halstead Events, which has previously run both Summer and Christmas Fairs in Halstead for around 5 years, has decided to give up doing so, and asked the Clerk and the Administrator whether they would be prepared to take on the Christmas fair in 2026. They agreed to do so, but realised very quickly that they could not do this in exactly the same way as it had been run before. To avoid comparison, they intend to give it a different format.

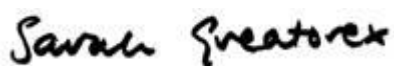
One downside of the Christmas Fair has been that it has been run outside generally in the coldest and often in the wettest weather of the year, so it was agreed that at least part of the Fair should be run inside for a change. Initially Holy Trinity church was approached to see if that could be used as a base for the Fair. There was a good response initially, but then the committee met and decided that they did not want it held there. The URC was then approached, as it has a good amount of space both inside and out, and there has already been cooperation over the CAB and the banking hub. There was interest, but after a pause, they came back and said that they did not like the idea of money being exchanged in the church.

The current possibility is to use the Queens Hall as the base for the Fair. We have noticed a drop in bookings recently, and holding the Fair in the hall might bring into it some local people who are not aware of the hall, and that it can be hired, so this could provide a good piece of marketing. It can also be closely linked with the Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrews church, which is likely to receive more visitors if the Fair is held close by.

So far, the stall holders have not been contacted until we are sure of the location. Santa has agreed to perform his normal act with the children, as well as being part of the Christmas lights event.

As suggested earlier in the year, this could be followed by late night shopping in the town after the switch-on.

Recommendation : that HTC notes the plan to run the Christmas Fair at Queens Hall



Sarah Greateorex
Town Clerk