

County's big switch-on

BEN WILKINSON looks at where and when the county's Christmas lights will be turned on

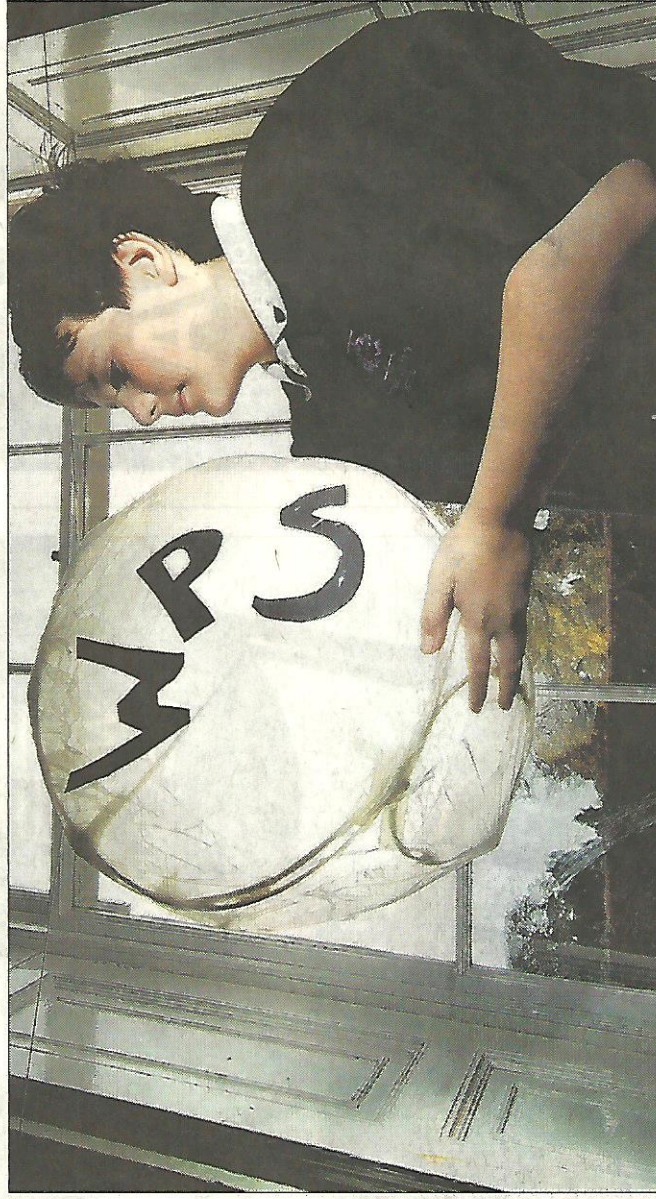
PLACES across the county will switch on their Christmas lights in the next few days.

In Oxford, thousands of people are expected to join the Christmas Light Night celebrations — an evening of processions, lights, dance, art, live music and street performance.

The event, being held tomorrow, will see more than 200 children from schools across Oxford walk through the city with paper lanterns, with the Christmas lights going on behind them as they walk.

There will be a stage in Broad Street with performances from dance groups and choirs from 4pm until 10pm, and stalls selling hot drinks, food and Christmas presents. Many of the city's museums, galleries and shops will be open until 10pm. The lantern procession starts in Bonn Square at 6.15pm and the Christmas lights switch-on in Broad Street is at 6.45pm.

In Abingdon the town's Christmas lights will be switched on by BBC Oxford's Louisa Hannan on Tuesday. The parade starts at



ILLUMINATING WORK: Wheatley Park School pupils have been making lanterns to carry in the Oxford Christmas parade. Pictured is 13-year-old Freddie Mead with his lantern

Picture: Jon Lewis

at 7.10pm, with celebrations starting at 5.45pm. Woodstock's celebrations are being held on Saturday with events from noon and A Night of 900 Candles from 6pm.

Burford hosts an Advent Fair on Sunday. In Wallingford, mayor Bernard Stone, will switch on the town's new Christmas lights on Thursday, December 2, at 6pm.

Chipping Norton has a Christmas shopping event on Friday, December 3, with a fun fair, hog roast, carols and stalls. For Thame's event, on Friday, December 3, an ice rink is planned for the High Street car park. Carterton's switch-on and street fayre is being held at 6pm on Friday, December 3. Wantage is holding its Dickensian evening on Friday, December 3, with a 6pm opening. See *Christmas Light Night* supplement in *Weekend*

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on in the Market Square tomorrow