**PRESS RELEASE**

**November 2017**

**Winterval Festival Returns for its 6th year**

Now in its sixth year, Winterval will return once more as the place magical memories are made. Last year 650,000 visitors explored the enchanted streets of Waterford to experience the magic of Christmas

This year Winterval will announce over 20 new events and attractions alongside festival favourites to ensure a sparkling programme. Over half of the exciting activities are free events - as well as a range of ticketed events. This year Winterval will shine brighter than ever with fun for families, couples and groups of friends looking for the happiest of festive experiences.

The special magic of Christmas in Ireland is now live at Waterford’s Winterval Festival with over 45 different fun events and activities for people of all ages to enjoy at Ireland’s biggest, brightest and best Christmas event.

A Christmas festival would be nothing without the man himself*. Santa’s Grotto* is a real treat for all the family with the awestruck amazement in every child’s eye a thing of pure magic. En route to see Santa Claus, families will be able to explore the enchanted streets of Ireland’s oldest city.

Experience the fantastic atmosphere of Christmas in our wonderful Winterval Market. The streets of Waterford will be transformed into a traditional Christmas marketplace, with the spectacular Winterval Illuminates as its backdrop. You’ll find food stalls serving hot delicious treats and will discover a beautiful array of handcrafted items from Waterford’s talented craft designers as you wander through the stalls in search of that perfect Christmas gift.

Try your hand at Winterval on Ice, now coming to a new site for 2017. Explore the Winter Village at the Apple Market, or sit back and take it all in from the Winterval Express Train.

There’s so much to see and do for everyone at Winterval. Booking tickets in advance so weekends can be spent exploring this interactive medieval city as it celebrates this most wonderful time of the year is highly recommended.

Winterval Festival takes place from Friday, November 17th. Over 120,000 attending the opening weekend in 2016, booking tickets in advance is recommended.

**Winterval on Ice**

Winterval on Ice is coming to a new site at Waterside Car Park and this is the first year Cool Running Events will run this event so you can expect the best experience yet! With a large main rink, a separate kiddies rink and a variety of events throughout the season, we have something for everyone, making this quintessential Christmas experience a breeze. All sessions last 50 minutes.

Winterval On Ice has a dedicated kids ice rink for children aged from 3-10 years, which always has a member of our team present. We also have penguin skating aids on hand to help your little ones on the ice! Families can then relax and take in the winter atmosphere after their ice skating session.

[**Waterford Illuminate Christmas Light Show**](http://www.winterval.ie/events/events/waterford-illuminates)

Join us each evening in the Winterval Christmas Market in Cathedral Square for the unique and wonderful Winterval Illuminate Christmas light show.

[**Winter Village at the Apple Market**](http://www.winterval.ie/events/events/the-apple-market-winter-village)

The new Apple Market square will be home to the Winter Village this Winterval

Keep up to date with Winterval news at:

Website: www.winterval.ie

Facebook: /WintervalWaterford

Twitter: @Winterval\_WAT

Instagram: @winterval\_waterford

**Contact:** For further information, interviews and imagery please contact winterval@harrispr.ie or Sonia 087 797 9703 and Alison 086 214 9884.