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## **WEEKLY COLUMN – 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

The town council was delighted to consider applications from a number of local organisations which are active in the community, offering a range of services and activities to locals, but are in need of financial assistance to continue to make their offer. Over the years the council has supported many groups and has made a commitment to continue to do so, with the provision of a general fund of £10,000 per annum. Donations have been given to five organisations and there will be another opportunity for other organisations to apply for a donation by 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, for consideration at a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The Rusty Road to Recovery uses the skills required to repair cars to support individuals with mental health concerns. The demand for this service is increasing and extra funds will ensure that they continue to offer the services to others. They were awarded a donation of £250.

The Anglo Boxing Sports Club is providing affordable boxing lessons to a wide range of the community, ranging from 8 to 60 years of age. Due to the pandemic they have had to reduce the number of clients at any one time, but are still ambitious with their plans and wish to invest in a new floor. They were awarded £1,000.

The much loved Lantern Festival will still have a presence this year but have had to move away from the annual parade into a static display of the lanterns across town. They have requested funds to assist with the materials that are provided in the lantern making workshops which will still continue, unless government guidelines prevent this. They were awarded £250.

The Shepton Mallet Ukulele group are known to many as they entertain you at events and festivals. During the pandemic they have turned to teaching and learning on zoom and gained new members. Their application was for funds to improve their sound system and also the provision of a gazebo for the occasions where they are exposed to the elements. They were awarded £450.

The Community Council for Somerset are expanding their offer to teach English to those where English is not their first language, in order for the students to develop skills that allow them to access work with confidence. The council had agreed to contribute to further English lessons with a donation of £608.

Sadly, with the ever changing status of the pandemic and the need to adhere to regulations that are aimed at keeping us safe, event planning is a challenge. In consultation with the Royal British Legion, this year's Remembrance Day event will be very different. The sombre event will still be given its due respect, but with a limited audience and no parade or church service. Further details will be provided in due course, but those organisations that usually lay a wreath will still have the opportunity to do so, but in a scaled back and staggered event.

And its expected that any event associated with celebrating Christmas will all be scaled back. However, this gives you an opportunity to be creative at home to celebrate, but in a different manner. It's the new normal that we are all having to adapt to.

Shepton Mallet Town Council

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Shepton Mallet Town Council, Town Clerk – Ms Charlotte Starkie

Shepton Mallet Town Council Chairman – Councillor Edric Hobbs