



**TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
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WEEKLY COLUMN – 29 OCTOBER 2020

Last week Shepton was truly on show! Those of you familiar with Shepton on Show will know that it is a unique event organised by the creative team behind the Art Bank. Back for a second year, Shepton on Show turns our town into a live theatre stage as business owners are given an opportunity to showcase their outfits by bringing their shop windows to life. There were suffragettes in vintage outfits demanding the vote, an homage to Sue Ryder typing away to 1950s music, a few ghouls, a mesmerising lady who appeared to have been turned on her head and even a cyclist in the buff – to name just some of the brilliant performances. Hard to do justice to in words, the show is nonetheless a real example of the kind of creativity and originality which seems to be thriving in Shepton these days. One of the last public events in our town before the pandemic was the All the World's a Playground event organised by local organisation Make the Sunshine. The day-long family event involved circus performers, puppeteers, theatre performers and even a cinema inside a giant lizard – and was completely free to the public.

The town council is delighted to support these events and hopes to continue working ever more closely with those organising them. A recent example of such a collaboration is of course the Bird Trail which is still available for all to see around town. There are seven bird artworks which were made by seven different local (women) artists, organised by the Art Bank and commissioned by the town council. Pop in to the Art Bank to pick up a map or visit our website to view one online. As you may have seen from our new Town Plan (available on our website), this council is committed to celebrating and supporting the arts, culture and heritage of our town. These are difficult times for all and the arts are usually one of the first industries to suffer in times of economic uncertainty. We hope that Shepton's artistic, cultural and creative scene will continue to thrive for a long time to come. This will of course require all our support. Recently the Snowdrop Festival sadly announced that the usual festivities will be paused for 2021 given the current restrictions and uncertainty about the next year. That hasn't stopped them braving the weather to plant over 1000 snowdrop bulbs across town in recent weeks. They are however always looking for new volunteers and rely on local support to do their great work. If you can spare a few hours and want to support the Snowdrop Festival team, contact them on admin@sheptonsnowdropfestival.org.uk.

Until next week!

Shepton Mallet Town Council

Shepton Mallet Town Council, Town Clerk – Ms Charlotte Starkie
Shepton Mallet Town Council Chairman – Councillor Edric Hobbs