



SHEPTON MALLET

### WINDOW WANDERLAND

WHAT:

Help turn all Shepton's windows (houses, shops and public buildings) into a magical nightime gallery. Buildings involved so far include: The Anglo Trading Estate, Local Schools, Tescos, Mendip Council, The Library, The Art Bank and many others!

WHEN:

5-8 March 2020 - with launch events and performers in the town centre on Friday evening as part of 'All the World's Our Playground' programmed by young people in Shepton Mallet.

OIN IN:

TUES 3RD DEC. 7PM, ART BANK Join us for an open meeting at The Art Bank to find out more, get involved and make this a brilliant event for all the community. Bring your ideas! Bring your enthusiasm! Bring your friends! All welcome!















- Community Art Events
- Your Creativity
- Your Arts & Crafts
- Your Writing & Book Reviews
- Your Craft Projects
- Your Photos
- Groups, Workshops & Activities
- Music & Dance Events
- Shepton Mallet Places Of Interest

Send YOUR contributions to the Editor: hello@sheptonia.com

SHeptona

ADVERTISE AND SUPPORT LOCAL

Welcome to the bumper winter issue of Sheptonia - a cultural gazette for the brave and beautiful and just about anyone else who dares to dream

Sheptonia is devoted to arts and culture in and around the town of Shepton Mallet - a bumper hub of creativity that deserves a platform all of its own.

We have combined the months of December and January in a Bacchanalian style mashup. Plus, there is so much to report from last month you will not even notice the shorter days and longer nights. Don't be shy. Say hello.

> www.sheptonia.com hello@sheptonia.com

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SHEPTONIA is published by Polly Hall & Joolz Barker

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Photography: Dimitris Koutroumpas

With thanks

FOR ADVERTISING EMAIL: HELLO@SHEPTONIA.COM





























# WINTER CARNIVAL

Another season of Carnival has successfully passed. But how do you describe the winter carnival to a complete out of town stranger? Erm well, there are these carts pulled by a tractor - A tractor? - Yes and it's decorated with cut-out bits of painted plywood or sculpted objects and a million lightbulbs - Lightbulbs? - Yes and everyone dresses up with too much make-up and about a 100 or so of these large vehicles (carts) move slowly through the town playing extremely loud music.

#### www.sheptonmalletcarnival.org.uk









"Which event sums up community and creativity better than Window Wanderland?"

than Window Wanderland?"

Featured in The Sunday Times. Imagine walking around your streets at night and seeing your neighbourhood in a whole new light.

Window Wanderland is a fun community project that started in Bristol in 2015, with amazing results, and Shepton Mallet will host this unique event in March 2020.

What is it? Window Wanderland invites all residents of Shepton Mallet to make displays in their windows or gardens that will then form a magical trail which can be explored by the whole community. What goes into

the displays is totally up to you: from a string of fairy lights to a spring scene to a caterpillar crawling along a terrace of houses

windows to a band playing in the living room, from simple to spectacular: as long as it's family friendly, anything goes!

It's easy to put your house on the map if you want to make a display, just visit our event here www.windowwanderland.com/event/sheptonmallet-2020/. You can see display ideas here to get thinking about your windows.

The event has been set up by Make the Sunshine, The Art Bank and The Rubbish Art Project and has been funded by Wells Literature Festival and Somerset County Council Improving Lives Fund.

The event is open to all and it would be great to have some local ambassadors keen to spread the word. If you are interested in getting involved either by leading or supporting workshops, helping to share the word on your street or promoting Window Wanderland online you can email:

sheptonwanderland@gmail.com for more info.

The final event will take place 5th – 8th March 2020 and will run concurrently with All the World's Our Playground a festival created and curated by six primary schools in Shepton Mallet.

Window Wanderland was created in 2015 in Bristol by Lucy Reeves, a mum, artist and 'nosy parker' who says: "Everyone has a playful side to them they just need an opportunity to show it. It is a proper grassroots community event and some roads had almost every house participating, using

campervans, top floor windows and even decorating hedges with lights.

Since 2015 we have had over 47 events nationwide. including overseas. You are joining in with a happy family of not-for-profit volunteers who want to brighten their world!"

Window Wanderland aspires to bring positivity and warmth into people's lives. It is an inclusive community event, aimed at bringing everyone together to have FUN.

We hope you'll join us in making Shepton Mallet's Window Wanderland the very best yet!

> For further information please contact: windowwanderland@gmail.com

Or Follow Make the Sunshine and The Art Bank Online.





www.makethesunshine.co.uk

facebook.com/artbankcafe



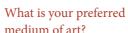


Give a little bit of ART & SOUL... this is your chance to showcase YOUR art in Sheptonia. Are you a local artist who needs the wind beneath your wings? Have you created something so wonderful it can no longer be hidden from the masses? You need to stop being so selfish and share that greatness with others. Show us YOUR beautiful truth, people... Contact Sheptonia and we will showcase it here for our readers to ogle and adore and fall in love with so much they will seek you out to buy it for their boudoir.



This month, the mixed media artist, Jackie Adams, features as our ART & SOUL Artist of the Month.

Heart of Toys by Jackie Adams Buy it @ The Art Bank www.facebook.com/artbankcafe



I love Art in all mediums - I work right across the board in completely different genres. It's really all about the feeling that you get when you create. Sometimes I want to be quiet and calm and so I make something delicate like a beautiful butterfly dome. Other times I jump about to bhangra music and create shell sculptures it's just a privilege to be able to make things!

#### How did you end up in Somerset?

We came for a weekend break at Babington House and ended up staying 17 years!

## the idea?

I walked into the newly opened Art Bank and knew immediately that I would love to be involved. There was so many fantastic sculptures and pictures all made from

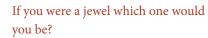
my help and was shown these huge fabulous ex-display wire and foam hearts and was asked to make something of them. They had so many different materials to work with but the broken toys really caught my imagination. I made a small prototype at home and the rest is history.

#### Why do you think it's important to use discarded objects in your art?

For me it is imperative to never look at anything for what it is but always look at it for what it can be. For example my lunch became a sculpture - I was eating muscles and I thought these are far too beautiful to throw away. I'll squirrel away objects until I find a project that fits. All my work is made from throwaway goods so anyone can be inspired to do this.

#### Do you have any superstitions?

(peacock feathers, pearls etc??) I actually think it's superstitious to say anything about my superstitions so let's not go there...



I'd love to say a beautiful faceted crystal blue Aquamarine however I'm more of a large shiny pebble stuck in your shoe.

#### What are you reading?

I always have two or three books on the go at once, which are all generally trashy, happy and easy reading. The Tent The Bucket And Me is my go to book - it's about disastrous camping in the 70s, a real laugh out loud. If I can't sleep I'll read a couple of paragraphs to take my mind from dark places.

#### Where can we find your art?

A2 Gallery in Wells; The Art Bank Cafe in Shepton Mallet; Seed in Frome; The Trowbridge Gallery in Castle Cary and Alchemy in Bruton. For more of my creations and workshop details you can find me on Instagram jacks\_\_jewels\_

#### medium of art?

#### You created the Heart of Toys, displayed at The Art Bank, what gave you

rubbish - I was just blown away. I offered

6 Sie to December 2019 DECEMBER 2019 E C T

# What's going on in SHEPTONA

#### December 2019

Lantern Making Workshop - 10:00-16:00 **Paul St Community Centre** Drop in community Centre www.sheptonlanternfestival.org.uk

> Opening Party - 18:00-01:00 Fox & Phoenix Commercial Road www.foxandphoenix.co.uk

The Secret Bar - 19:00-23:00 The Art Bank Dress Code: Smart www.facebook.com/artbankcafe

Art Bank Voices At Christmas - 1900-2300 The Art Bank www.facebook.com/artbankcafe

> Lantern Making Workshop - 10:00-16:00 **Paul St Community Centre** Drop in community Centre www.sheptonlanternfestival.org.uk

Handmade Soaps Workshop - 19:00-21:00 www.sheptonhive.co.uk

> Meet & Make - 19:00-21:00 The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

Sea Shanties with Neil - 19:00-23:00 The Art Bank www.facebook.com/artbankcafe

Winter Solstice & Yuletide Poetry- 19:00-19:30 **Linda Conners** www.shewolfcoaching.com

Late Night **Christmas Shopping** Shops in Shepton Mallet

> Crafternoons! Gift Wrapping Masterclass 14:00-16:00 - The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

Live Music: The Legendary Snake Snake Snake - 19:00-23:00 (£3 entry) The Art Bank www.facebook.com/artbankcafe

10th Shepton Mallet Lantern Festival - 17:00 Collett Park Bandstand www.sheptonlanternfestival.org.uk

> True Rhythms - Conscious Dance Practice 10:45-12:30 - Paul St Community Centre catherine@catherinellewellyn.co.uk

Christmas Floral Workshop - 14:00-16:00

www.sheptonhive.co.uk

Art Bank Christmas Party 1900-2300 The Art Bank

www.facebook.com/artbankcafe

The Shepton Experience - 10:00-15:00 Victorian Favre Market Place, BA4 5AZ

> Solstice Music - 12:00- 15:00 (cafe open for the Xmas Market) The Art Bank

www.facebook.com/artbankcafe

True Rhythms - Conscious Dance Practice 10:45-12:30 - Paul St Community Centre catherine@catherinellewellyn.co.uk

> LGBTQ Rainbow Night - 19:00-23:00 The Art Bank www.facebook.com/artbankcafe

Art Bank NEW YEAR Party 19:00-00:30 The Art Bank www.facebook.com/artbankcafe

#### January 2020

Lego Club - Drop In **Shepton Mallet Library** 1st Saturday of the Month

Meet & Make - 19:00-21:00 The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

Intro to Sewing - Week 1/3 1400-1600 The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

> Crafty Saturday - Children Drop-In **Shepton Mallet Library** Second Saturday of the Month

#### January 2020

Meet & Make - 19:00-21:00 The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

Meet & Make - 19:00-21:00 The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

Meet & Make - 19:00-21:00 The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

> Mexican Themed Raw Food Night 1900-2200 Fox & Phoenix www.foxandphoenix.co.uk

Floristry Workshop 10:00-12:00 The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

> Intro to Sewing - Week 3/3 14:00-16:00 The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

Meet & Make - 19:00-21:00 The Hive www.sheptonhive.co.uk

#### First Nativity Play by Temple Cloud

It's the day before Christmas, and - well, here I am, With my dressing-gown on, and a woolly toy lamb. We've got a new game that we've practised all day, And now all the grown-ups are watching us play. There's Joseph, who's pushing a push-along donkey, Which can't go too fast, 'cause the wheels are all wonky, And Mary is growing fed-up with the ride, Jumps off its back, and then runs alongside. Now some of the people are starting to cry At being onstage, but I've no idea why; I'm having the time of my life with the 'snow' -It's white polystyrene, and great stuff to throw At Mary, who grabs it and hurls it straight back, And then throws her dolly, which lands with a crack. We sing the 'Glad tigers', and then it's all done. The grown-ups say 'Thank-you,' - they've had so much fun!

Now Mummy and Daddy can take me away. We walk through the meadows of mangers of hay, And I wonder if Mary and Joseph were able To come to the shelter of even a stable, Or was Jesus laid in his rough manger bed In a cold, muddy field, with just stars overhead?

First published on; https://templecloudsomerset.blogspot.com/ November 26th 2019.

#### You Could Advertise here!

We are happy to list your community arts events for free whether it is a workshop to make paper lanterns, a poetry festival or an open mic night in town.

> Event listings in the "WHAT'S GOING ON IN **SHEPTONIA?**" section are free subject to space and also regularly updated on the website.

www.sheptonia.com hello@sheptonia.com



Charlie Bigham's

Children under 16 must be supervised

+ Be a part of it - get in touch via:

m sheptonlanternfestival.org.uk

We're very generously sponsored by

f facebook.com/sheptonlanternfestival

COXLEY

workshop on the day of the parade

and very kindly supported by



# Caught on Camera Caught on Camera Shepton on Show Photographs by Dimitris Koutroumpas

























Apart from religious celebrations and giving to good causes, most of us have things that make us feel festive at Christmas, and these usually have less to do with buying lots of new stuff than listening to (or performing) our favourite Christmas music, rewatching favourite films, and re-reading favourite books.

#### The Oxford Book of Christmas Poems edited by Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clark Publisher: OUP Oxford; Reissue edition (10 Sept. 2009) ISBN-10: 0192782436 ISBN-13: 978-0192782434

Beautiful anthology of poems, ranging from traditional ballads like the Cherry Tree Carol through to the twentieth-century poetry of Charles Causley and Ted Hughes. It's a good balance of famous pieces like:

T. S. Eliot's 'Journey of the Magi' and less well-known gems like Miroslav Holub's explanation of how to paint a perfect Christmas. The book is divided into thematic sections:

the onset of winter; the story of the Nativity (not glossing over the horrors of the Massacre of the Innocents); the way we, and our ancestors, celebrate

Christmas; and, finally, the New Year, and the coming of spring. The illustrations by a wide assortment of artists with very different styles reflect the different moods of the poems, and sometimes link them. For example, the background illustration on the first double-page spread neatly bridges Theodore Roethke's depiction of rural winter and Gareth Owen's pithier evocation of winter in the

#### The Hogfather by Terry Pratchett Publisher: Corgi (6 Jun. 2013) ISBN-10: 0552167584 ISBN-13: 978-0552167581

The Hogfather (the Discworld equivalent of Father Christmas) has been kidnapped, and someone is mind-controlling the children of the Disc to stop them believing in him. So, another anthropomorphic personification -Death – has to take over his job in order to keep faith in the Hogfather alive, while Death's granddaughter Susan goes to find and rescue the real Hogfather. For the Hogfather is not just a kindly old gift-giver, but an ancient and important god, and if he dies, the sun will never rise again. Death quite enjoys trying a job where he can actually give

people things and where they want to see him, but he is indignant at the gulf between rich and poor – he is, after all, the great leveller - and sets about righting wrongs.

This Hogswatchnight, the Little Match Girl gets warmth and shelter and the chance to survive. and smug kings get a telling-off; tramps get a gourmet meal and the diners in the posh restaurants are eating old boots.

So, while this is obviously a book of the secular, the pagan, and the possibly-invented-by-folklorists side of Christmas, it is also the place where the Lord of Misrule meets Mary's hymn to the saviour who will fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. And if this is Magnificat, the Hogfather's ultimate fate is pure magnificence. Like most of Pratchett's work, this novel is an exuberant mixture of the intentionally ridiculous - the God of Wine's counterpart is the Oh God of Hangovers; a computer running the ELIZA program is driven mad by its patient and has to have medicine typed into it for the rest of the night and the sublime.

Note: First published on https://templecloudsomerset.blogspot.com on 26/11/19

# Power of Three by Diana Wynne Jones

In 1978 I was eleven years old and applying for a place at Wells Cathedral School. I remember little about the exam, but one question I was asked was what was my favourite book? Lanswered Power of Three, by Diana Whynne (sic) Jones.

Diana Wynne Jones (1934 - 2011), whose middle name I am still embar rassed at having misspelt, is to my mind one of the greatest ever writers for children and young adults. Her style of fantasy - always recognisable across her extremely diverse oeuvre - makes magic look like an everyday occurrence, coming in and out of her characters' lives when they least expect it; her

characters, whether humans, animals (Dogsbody, 1975), ghosts (Time of the Ghost, 1981), or other (Year of the Griffin, 2000) are portrayed with warmth and insight.

Power of Three was completed at about the time Jones moved from Oxford to Bristol, in 1976. The landscape seems to be based on Otmoor, in Oxfordshire, where there was concern that the moor might be destroyed by the building of a motorway. Jones's moor is threatened by a plan to turn it into a reservoir; she fills it with the mound-dwelling "People", long at war with the water-dwelling Dorig, but who must sink their differences and work together with the mysterious and unapproachable

Giants to preventtheir homes being flooded.

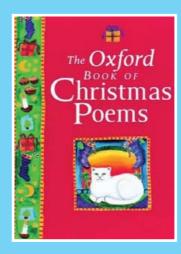
Jones often tells how, on moving

to Bristol, she found herself living in a house uncannily like the setting of one of her early novels. In the case of Power of Three, this seems to have happened again. The landscape may be based on Otmoor, but to me it has always conjured up the Somerset Levels: flat, criss-crossed with drainage ditches, dotted with occasional stands of trees, and interrupted by low hills just like the mounds of the story. Whenever I go past Fenny Castle or Nyland Hill (to name but two), I am transported back to Jones's story and expect Dorig to emerge from every ditch. Unless it is protected by thorn trees, of course.

You can find many titles of contemporary and out of print novels, non-fiction, autobiographies and more at The Shepton Community Bookshop, 15 High Street, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5AA.

#### About the Reviewer

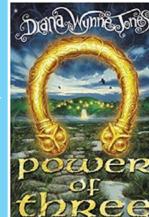
Philip Belben grew up in Frome and Wookey, but moved to Leicestershire in 1989 when he got a job in the electricity industry. He returned to Somerset in 2015. He now lives in Nettlebridge with his wife Elizabeth and a large collection of old computers.















# great Cance

Red Brick Building, Glastonbury BA6 9FT

Entrance £10, concessions £7

Each 2 hour dance session is led by a specialist ecstatic dance DJ playing inspirational music to get your body moving.

A safe place to let go of and heal physical and emotional blocks.

The dance floor is a place of joy for all levels of dance and fitness.

There will also be a short meditation around the Glastonbury Peace Flame.

# tood porn

### Fox and Phoenix Chai-spresso Martini

#### Ingredients

30 ml Chai Spiced Vodka (infused with Helen Rideout Chai Spice Blend) 20ml Spiced Rum 40ml Espresso 2 teaspoons of Maple Syrup 50ml Oat Milk

Star Anise and Ground Cinnamon to decorate

#### Make the Spiced Vodka

Make the Spiced Vodka 2-3 weeks in advance. Decant the vodka into a wide-necked jar, if you leave it in the vodka bottle the spices will expand and it can be difficult to get the vodka out. Add one packet of Helen Rideout Chai Blend. Let the mixture infuse for 2-3 weeks. although you can keep it infusing for up to a

#### Make the Martini:

Make the espresso, stir in the maple syrup and set aside to cool slightly

Place all the ingredients in a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice.

Shake vigorously for 20 seconds.

Strain into a martini glass and garnish with the star anise and cinnamon.

Double the ingredients to make 2 at the same

#### About Fox & Phoenix Café Deli

From hand-blended herbal teas to ethical coffee and scrumptious cake, no waste food shopping and delicious home-made light lunches. Fox & Phoenix source ethical, local and organic products wherever possible and offer a range of therapies and treatments to create a truly holistic well-being experience. www.foxandphoenix.co.uk

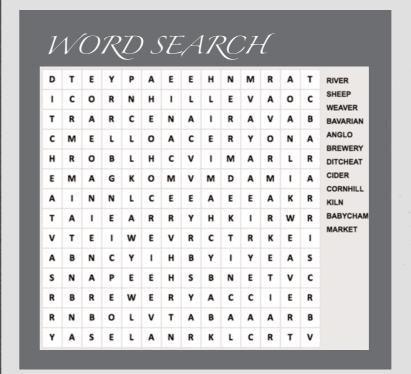
Helen Rideout, resident professional Medical Herbalist, who creates a range and medicines is available for over the counter advice. www.kindnature.com



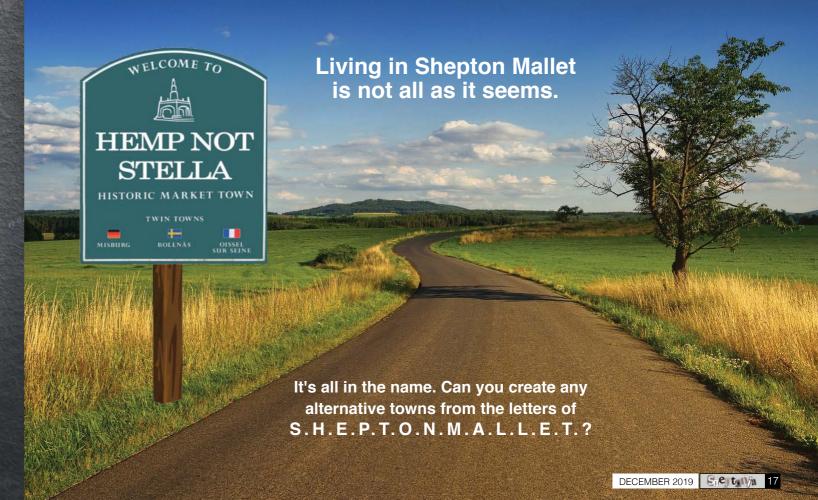














#### **Sheptonia Needs You!**

Do you run a regular group that fires the creative spirit whether it's writing. music, crafts, performing arts or heritage?

Do you run a business or work in **Shepton Mallet?** 

Sheptonia supports local. We are passionate about arts & culture and the far-reaching positive effects of community activity in and around Shepton Mallet.

Your New Year Action List:

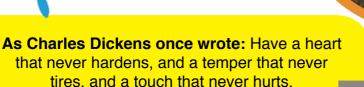
Let us know your future events, projects & news.

Promote yourself with targeted advertisements in our free monthly magazine.

If you are an artist, writer, musician or performer- get in touch. We feature interviews & can get you seen!

Happy New Year 2020!! From Polly & Joolz - The S-Team





Sheptonia needs ewe!

and ewe!



# Na Nu's





#### **Man Eats Artwork!**

A work of art costing a lip-smacking \$120,000 was eaten by another artist at Galerie Perrotin in Miami. The original banana, ahem, artwork, was replaced 15 minutes later. Maurizio Cattelan, the original artist said the man 'did not destroy the artwork' because 'the banana is the idea'.

This conceptual art has been recreated by the Sheptonia team. We will be auctioning this bespoke artwork to the highest bidder. Please send your closed bids to: hello@sheptonia.com.

### **Xmas Quiz**

- 01) How many reindeer are named in the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas"?
- 02) In the story "The Littlest Angel", what was the box turned into?
- Who wrote the poem "Old Santeclaus" in 1821?
- Which Beatrix Potter book is set around Christmastide?
- 05) The children's book "The Snow Bear" was written by whom?
- 06) Who wrote the story of "A Child's Christmas in Wales"?
- 07) Which famous author wrote the first Christmas broadcast for King George V?
- 08) Which Scottish author wrote the Christmas poem "Behold, as Goblins Dark of Mien"?
- 09) How many years elapsed between Jacob Marley dying and appearing as a ghost in Dickens "A Christmas Carol"?
- 10) Who wrote the book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"?
- 11) In "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" What was the name of the Grinch's dog?
- 12) "Baboushka" is a traditional Christmas story from which country?
  - "If music be the food of love", comes from which Shakespeare play?
- 14) "It is always winter and never Christmas" is a quote from which book?
- 15) Who wrote the book "Paddington Bear and the Christmas Surprise"?
- 16) What type of bear featured in the book "The Christmas Bear" by Henrietta Stickland?
- 17) In the book "The Polar Express" what transports the characters to the North Pole?
- 18) What is the name of The Pumpkin King in "The Nightmare Before Christmas"?
- 19) In the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" where were the children?

#### **Answers:**

In Bed.	(6
חשרע אספר	(0

17) Steam Train. 16) A Polar Bear.

15) Michael Bond. the Wardrobe

14) The Lion, The Witch and

13) Twelfth Night.

บร) หกรยเชา

11) Max. 10) Seuss.

60) کے 08) R. L. Stevenson.

07) Rudyard Kipling.

06) Dylan Thomas. 05) Miriam Moss.

04) The Tailor of Gloucester. 03) Clement C. Moore.

02) Star of Bethlehem.



#### Paradise Lost by Denise Nevill

This was Paradise

And we trashed it

Plastic tipped by the ton into shimmering seas; gathering together in open waste whorls miles across wide; lying in toxic wait across the ocean floor; flung onto beaches repelling grains of sand; fed to chicks by doting mothers; bloating whales bellies with Coca-Cola and crisps

This was Paradise

And we trashed it.