

# Love Shifnal and Shifnal Town Council Newsletter

Issue: 2

December 2024



Welcome to the second Shifnal newsletter – a chance to share news of events and promotions going on in our town as well as have a look back at 2024.

We hope that you and your families have enjoyed all that living in Shifnal has had to offer throughout the year, most latterly the fabulous Christmas Lights Switch On event which saw so many people in our town enjoying the atmosphere and entertainment.

I very much hope to meet you at our various services and events over the festive period; our Civic Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 22 December or joining us for carols in the square at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Wishing you a very happy Shifnal Christmas!

**Cllr Ellen Moore** (Mayor of Shifnal)



October saw the community coming together at St Andrew's for the annual 'Celebrate Shifnal' service, a time when we recognised and thanked members of the community for their outstanding contributions.



Halloween this year saw a highly successful pumpkin trail and, new for this year, a lantern parade and story telling event, organised in partnership with Shifnal Scouts, St Andrews and Shifnal Town Council.

There really was 'something for everyone' amongst these events and promotions and we've had such positive feedback from Shifnal residents – we hope to bring you a good selection of further events and even more reasons to Love Shifnal in 2025.



Funded by Shifnal Town Council, the youth club is going from strength to strength on the junior session for young people up to year 8 with average attendance of 26 per night. This has now reached capacity and there is a waiting list to join the club. There are lower numbers for the senior session, which is for year 9 onwards, and would encourage young people to come and join and see what's on offer.

The youth club meets on Wednesday evenings, to find out more contact [becca@sya.org.uk](mailto:becca@sya.org.uk)

Love Shifnal celebrates all that we love about Shifnal – bringing together community groups and local businesses and working with Shifnal Town Council to put on promotions and events to bring people into our lovely town and make sure residents get the very most out of living in Shifnal, and businesses are supported.

Love Shifnal @loveshifnal

Also on the Love Shifnal App and Website: [loveshifnal.co.uk](http://loveshifnal.co.uk)

To get in touch email: [hello@loveshifnal.co.uk](mailto:hello@loveshifnal.co.uk)



# Lost Christmas Sheep of Shifnal

This Advent, we've got some 'little woolly wanderers' from St Andrews Church who are hiding in the festive shop windows around Shifnal and need rounding up before the crib service on Christmas Eve.



The 'Lost Sheep of Shifnal' will run throughout Advent and aims to bring our community together, provide some fun in the run up to Christmas as well as showcasing the fabulous Christmas window displays around town that businesses work hard to put together whilst promoting the 'shop local' message.

"The lost flock have all been lovingly knitted by congregation members at the church and everyone is invited to identify, through the Love Shifnal Facebook page, which shop or business they have strayed to" commented Rev Chris Thorpe of St Andrews. "They will then be returned to church in time for the Christmas Eve service at 4pm".

Each day throughout advent a 'lost sheep' will be featured in a different shop window on Love Shifnal in a bid to showcase as many festive shop windows around Shifnal as possible.

Sally Themans of the Love Shifnal campaign to promote the town and its businesses said, "Shifnal has a fantastic community spirit and we are hoping residents will enjoy admiring the efforts that businesses go to for their festive window displays, and will see it as a great prompt and reason to support local Shifnal businesses at this important time of year."



# We all... Love Shifnal – the year in pictures !

2024 has been a bumper year for Shifnal and in this edition we look back at some of the wonderful events and promotions that have taken place in the town – organised by Shifnal Town Council, Love Shifnal and Shropshire Festivals as well as the Carnival committee and we look forward to another fantastic year in 2025.

We started the year with a special Valentine's promotion – designed to give customers the opportunity to give a great shout out to the Shifnal businesses they love which was followed by a French-themed Easter Bunny Trail around town organised in partnership with the town's Twinning Association.

The events calendar kicked off with the first Shifnal 10k which was a sell-out event with 350 entries enjoying the scenic route and starting and finishing in the centre of town. The event will be repeated on Sunday 11 May 2025.



The first May Day Bank Holiday saw the centre of Shifnal packed with stalls, entertainment on a stage, games for children and of course, a Maypole. So many people came along to enjoy the day and it was great to see so many youngsters getting involved.



In June a number of Shifnal residents generously opened their gardens to the public for the first ever Shifnal Open Gardens raising funds for local Shropshire charity Community Resource; there was another highly successful Shifnal Carnival and the first ever Heritage Cycle & Motorcycle day – all events which are due to be repeated in 2025.



In August, and throughout the summer holidays, saw Shifnal's history come to life in the Shifnal Discovery Trail, an interactive trail which saw actors highlighting some of Shifnal's high and low-lights with over 600 people participating.



In September, Shifnal's pubs got together with organisers Shropshire Festivals to hold the town-wide Shifnal Ale Trail, attracting visitors, including the High Sheriff of Shropshire Brian Welti, and appreciative locals alike.

Images: with thanks to Bright Gurupira

