

Enjoying a Sherborne Christmas!

Remember that feeling of butterflies in your tummy when you were little and the nights began to draw in and windows started to twinkle with pretty fairy lights? You knew that something good was just round the corner even though you had to wrap up warm to keep out the cold? Well, that's the feeling I still get every year when I see the little Christmas trees hoisted up to their proud positions above some of the shops in Sherborne's Cheap Street. Okay, Sherborne doesn't go in for some of the blowsy, full blown, decoration festooning of some of its near neighbours. Sherborne likes a more subtle approach, but it works because it already has something of a Christmassy atmosphere embedded in the stones of many of its buildings.



Have you ever noticed – some towns just have this Christmas feeling? In Sherborne's case its magnificent Abbey, its glorious hamstone soaking up admiring looks both night and day, makes your ears strain to hear what you know is going to be Christmas inspired melodies seeping out past its stained glass windows and magnificent gothic doors to draw you in to its warm embrace.



Go up the steps towards the Abbey and then turn right towards the town and as you walk past the entrance to Sherborne Museum (definitely worth a visit) you will come to the Christmas tree just adjacent to The Conduit.



The lights were switched on to mark the end of Sherborne's Festive Shopping Day. This takes place every year and is a great way to spend the first Sunday of December as the Town celebrates with brass bands, stalls and dancing in the streets!



Once the Christmas tree has been admired take a walk through The Conduit - this hexagonal 16th-century structure originally stood in the north cloisters of the abbey, where it was used for washing by the monks. It was moved to this site after Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 and now is an interesting talking point, providing the name for an excellent local community magazine (shameless plug as it is edited by yours truly!) and is the annual location for this lovely nativity scene.

Although in recent years there have been a few "bigger" chains moving into the Sherborne High Street, there are still a number of delightful independents to wave the flag including Parsons, The Butchers which supplies me with some truly scrumptious fare for my Christmas table as well as a welcome glass of sherry when I pick up my joint on Christmas Eve.



Also I couldn't help but admire the decorations put up by The Circus this year.



It inspired me to go and buy some greenery of my own! And speaking of greenery, The Cheap Street Church does something rather special, staging its own Christmas Tree Festival every year.



Here's what you can expect to see!

At the beginning I did say that Sherborne doesn't go in for big sparkling decorations, but I have to hand it to Tamburino Gold the lovely Italian restaurant just opposite Sherborne's Tourism Information Office in Digby Road. For sheer exuberance and delight, check out these lights (the pizzas are great too!).



As I said, the Town is full of these unexpected Christmas touches and I love it and I am sure you will too!