

## **Taff Martin Chairman of Sherborne's Community Radio Station Abbey 104 writes on putting the finishing touches to the Sherborne Summer Festival**

Music, we all hear it, some love it, some don't, but there is no doubt it's a huge part of our lives.

From the melody on your mobile phone to radio, TV, background music in a restaurant, lift muzak – music just like “love” in that famous song - is all around us.

As I write this I am busy putting the finishing touches to the Sherborne Summer festival along with David Birley, Di Norton, Ken Horswell and my wife Lynda Martin. And the main centre piece of any festival is live music.



This year all the bands are local and we have a good cross section from Folk, to Blues and Pop to Rock all belting it out on the big stage in Purlieu Meadow in Sherborne. There is local Sherborne band The Diamonds, Pop Duo Stevie and the Masquerades, singer songwriter Jordan Lindsay is

back by popular demand and one of Yeovil's top bands, Livewired, will be headlining the event.

As a former musician playing in bands for the last 30 plus years, I loved getting a chance to play on a big stage in front of a large crowd - it's what we all dream of doing. I loved small pub gigs as well, but a festival is when you realise how good you are with other bands playing.

Sometimes they blow you off the stage with how good they are, sometimes you are the better act - either way you learn - and practice to get better. When

you stand there and watch the bands giving their all, you the listener make a huge difference, cheer loudly and the band play better. Ignore the band and talk amongst yourselves and bands can lose confidence and start to make mistakes.



It's so important to show your appreciation, even if you don't like the band or music, just clapping a few times can make the night. Sherborne Summer Festival is not just music it's a place for all the family to go, with a bouncy castle for little ones, a medieval village will also be set up showing archery,

sword fighting and the old lifestyles from the Middle Ages. Food and drink stalls featuring local produce will be available and best of all entry to the Festival is completely free!

We are indebted to local businesses, schools and the Simon Digby Memorial Trust for helping us put this event on for Sherborne, having been so generous with their sponsorship and donations.

There is a gap next year for 2019, but exciting plans are in place for an even bigger festival with more events, more stalls and local interaction for 2020. If you would like to be involved please get in touch.