



[www.sheptonssnowdropfestival.org.uk](http://www.sheptonssnowdropfestival.org.uk)

# SHEPTON MALLET SNOWDROP FESTIVAL

## 2018

### **SNOWDROP FESTIVAL PLANTING & AIMS**

#### **Planting**

In the autumn of 2016 60,000 *Galanthus nivalis* (common snowdrop) bulbs were planted around Shepton Mallet Town centre and on the 'Rock Flock' roundabout.

The purchase of the bulbs was made possible by a grant from Tesco Bags of Help; funds were also raised through plant sales at Collett Park Day, sales at the Snowdrop Festival and donations at Awareness days.

The autumn 2016 planting was carried out by volunteers from the Shepton Mallet Horticultural Society and the general public who responded to our articles in the press. It was a lovely community event.

In Spring 2017, after the inaugural Festival, we appealed for donations of bulbs from the community; these were planted 'in the green' in Shepton Mallet town centre in March, again by the Horticultural Society and members of the public. We were particularly grateful for the help we had with our 'in the green' planting in the churchyard at the Church of St Peter & St Paul.

In Summer 2017 we put in a bid for funding from Section 106 monies from Mendip District Council.

In approving the Shepton Mallet Horticultural Society's bid the town council has in effect fully acknowledged the significant international role James Allen has played in the snowdrop world.

This means plans are now well developed to plant over 100,000 snowdrop bulbs this autumn. These mass plantings will connect the “Rock Flock” roundabout, which we planted with 30,000 bulbs last year, all the way down Cannards Grave Road to Highfield House, transforming this approach to the town.

Also, in recognition of the 700th year of the Town’s Market Charter, further funds have been released for a 700-foot long river of snowdrops in Collett Park (along the bank on the left as you walk from Whitstone Road towards the pond) – in effect kick starting this special year of celebrations!

### **Aims for 2017/2018**

- a) We are keen to recruit more volunteers to help with planting in the town centre in autumn and spring
- b) We would like to receive more donations of snowdrops 'in the green' (dig up and donate in March 2018)
- c) Local residents to open their gardens to show off snowdrop displays during the Festival weekend, volunteer now!
- d) Local residents to plant snowdrops outside their houses in October (front gardens, areas of lawn etc), we can sell you bulbs if necessary, order now!

### **Public planting sites**

We are concentrating on planting snowdrops in high profile areas within the town centre initially (grass verges, roundabouts, grassy banks...)

Potential planting sites are constantly under review, suggestions are welcome.

Permissions may be required.

### **Secret Snowdrop Sites**

We are creating a map of all the known snowdrop sites in the area. People will be encouraged to visit those that are open to the public. Visits will be available to private sites by arrangement.