

Stress free shopping in Shepley and Shelley

ARE you ready for the Christmas rush – or seeking a less stressful alternative?

If those long queues at the checkout tills, the hassles of town centre traffic and finding a place to park fill you with dread, 'shopping local' in Shepley and Shelley will be like a breath of fresh air. Whether you are stocking up for the festive season or shopping for everyday essentials, save yourself precious time and effort by supporting your friendly local village traders.

With the big name stores dangling the carrot of drastic price-cuts and buy-one-get-one-free offers, helped by high profile adverts everywhere you look, spare a thought for the small, independent shops on your doorstep which will disappear if they can no longer rely on their regular clientele or struggle to attract new customers.

Not only in the weeks before Christmas, but all

THE CASK & SPINDLE, SHEPLEY

Lindsey Makin and Marilyn Makin, would like to welcome customers old and new. Under new ownership, but nothing else changed!!

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KIRKBURTON: Dedicated band of traders spreading the seasonal spirit

KEEN-EYED customers constantly on the lookout for best buys and bargains are the lifeblood of Kirkburton village.

Venturing along the main thoroughfare of shops in North Road, around the corner into George Street and slightly further afield, you will find a variety of retailers specialist traders, essential services and a choice of places to wine and dine.

A small but dedicated band of shopkeepers have for many years been the driving force behind the festive lights which bring much-needed cheer in the run-up to Christmas.

As well as spreading the seasonal spirit of goodwill, their efforts serve to highlight the many strengths of the small, independent outlets which all too often are overlooked in the mad rush to the larger stores. It's a golden opportunity to raise awareness, not only for their quality products and services but also the friendly, helpful and courteous service on which regular customers rely, week in, week out, all year round.

In many ways, shopping has changed dramatically in recent decades but these basic principles of successful local trading have remained constant for literally hundreds of years. Way back in

medieval times, Kirkburton as we know it today was in the shadow of Highburton, the upstart neighbour which had its own market. You can still see the ancient market cross, dating back to the 14th century, a permanent reminder of what was once a hive of retailing activity.

Kirkburton eventually took centre stage with the village church of All Hallows, its western tower rising to 78ft, one of the district's best known landmarks. Although it has undergone many changes, the building today is considered to be the most complete example of a 13th Century church in West Yorkshire.

through the year they provide a convenient, reliable and friendly service, often going 'the extra mile', giving customers the benefit of their specialist knowledge and expertise which in many cases has been built up over many years.

Village traders play their part in maintaining a strong community spirit, which can also be seen in the variety of well established village organisations covering many different interests, across all age groups.

Here are just a few of the events you can look forward to during the run-up to Christmas:

■ Saturday November 21: Shelley Village Hall, 8-11pm, Dearne Big Band playing music to get everyone dancing, from the Glenn Miller swing era to today's hits. Tickets £10, available from Shelley Stores or phone Ann Priestman: 01484 604486

■ Saturday November 28: Shelley Village Hall, 10am-2pm, Emmanuel Church winter fayre, including face painting, guess the weight of the Christmas cake, make a crown and Christmas decorations, pie and peas lunch and a chance to visit Father Christmas. Free admission. Contact

Pat Foster: 01484 609125.

■ Monday December 7: St Paul's Church, Shepley, 7.30pm, WI Carol Service with Shepley Band.

■ Tuesday December 15: St Paul's Church, Shepley, 7.30pm, Shepley Band concert.

■ Sunday December 20: Shepley Methodist Church, 10.30am Village Carol Service.

■ Christmas Eve, Thursday December 24: Shepley Village Green, 7.30pm, carols played by Shepley Band.

THE FARMER'S BOY

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