

# Parish Information Bulletin

April 2017



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# Register to Vote!

More information on page 3



# What's in your Parish Bulletin this month...?

Somerset County Council Elections	3
Prince of Wales Award	3
Mendip Parish Forum	4
Community Funding	5-7
News from the Monitoring Officer	7
A date for your diary	8

If you wish to submit an item for the Parish Council Information Bulletin, please email it to [parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk)



# Somerset County Council Elections

With local elections for Somerset County Council taking place in just a few weeks, voters in Mendip are being urged to make sure they are registered to vote and are able to take part on polling day, Thursday 4 May.

The call for voters to sign up comes as the Electoral Commission launches a national voter registration campaign to encourage as many people as possible to register ahead of elections taking place this year across the country.

Mendip District Council is now also reminding voters in the district that they need to register by the deadline of Thursday 13 April otherwise they won't be able to take part in the Somerset County Council elections.

Registering to vote online is a straightforward process that only takes a few minutes to complete.

Research shows that young people, students and recent home movers are particularly less likely to be registered to vote.

To register to vote, visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) before Thursday 13 April. You can also contact Mendip District Council's electoral services team on 01749 341590.

## Prince of Wales Award

The Prince of Wales Award is for organisations and initiatives run by the community for the community, and is supported by The Duchy of Cornwall with The Royal Bath and West of England Society.

This ever popular competition offers community initiated projects the chance to win a prize of £1,000, along with the prestige that the endorsement brings.

Intended for projects that are run by the people, for the people, with the option for the whole community to become involved; the Award is open to community organisations, schools, colleges, and groups across Bristol, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. The project which is deemed to play the strongest part in its local community, and that has clear long term viability, will be named winner with the Award presented to them at The Royal Bath & West Show.

Examples of such projects would be;



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- a) The communal buying of a local asset e.g. to preserve a village shop, post office or public house.
- b) The development of allotments by villagers without gardens to grow their own vegetables for their own or village consumption.
- c) The collection and conversion of village waste into compost for the use of the community.

A panel of judges made up of representatives from The Duchy of Cornwall, The Royal Bath & West of England Society and previous Prince of Wales Award winners has the difficult task of compiling a shortlist before visiting each of the finalists.

The winner will be presented with the Award at The Royal Bath & West Show (31 May – 3 June 2017). Finalists will receive complimentary tickets to the Royal Bath & West Show and the overall winner of the competition will receive £1000 in prize money, and a memento from HRH The Prince of Wales, which the winning group must use to further their community initiatives.

Entries for the competition close on 10 April 2017, and can be submitted via [www.bathandwestsociety.com](http://www.bathandwestsociety.com).

For more information, please contact:

Jonathan Hall  
Marketing & Communications Manager  
The Royal Bath & West of England Society  
[jonathan.hall@bathandwest.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.hall@bathandwest.co.uk)  
Tel: 01749 822 210

## Mendip Parish Forum

The Mendip Parish Forum is for clerks, elected members and community representatives from across Mendip. The forums are held quarterly in the Council Chamber at the Mendip District Council offices.

### **Date of next Forums**

Thursday 8 June 2017 – Suggestions for agenda items are now being taken  
Provisional topics include Private Sector Housing and Community Assets

Tuesday 26 September 2017

### **Your Forum – your ideas**

Please send suggestions to Sally Gubb e mail address  
[sally.gubb@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:sally.gubb@mendip.gov.uk)  
or call 01749 341411.



# Community Funding

## The Alan Evans Memorial Trust

Grants up to £1,500 for UK charitable organisations involved in preserving areas of natural beauty or historic interest (applications may be made at any time)

South West based the Alan Evans Memorial Trust aims to fund projects for the permanent preservation of areas of natural beauty or historic interest, including projects involving animal or plant life.

The Trust's charitable objectives are:

*"To promote the permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation of land tenements (including buildings) of beauty or historical interest as regards lands, the preservation (as far as practical) of their natural aspect, features, and animal and plant life."*

The majority of awards are for £1,000 and £1,500, although the Trust will provide grants for higher amounts.

There is no requirement for match funding.

Awards have previously been made to:

- o [Wells Cathedral](#);
- o [The English Hedgerow Trust](#);
- o [The Zoological Society of London](#); and
- o [St. Wilfrid's Church, Leeds](#).

Individuals are not eligible to apply.

**PLEASE NOTE:** the Trust does not maintain a website. Further information is, however, available on the [Charity Commission website](#).

It is a requirement that applicants apply in writing. Applications may be made at any time.

Contact details for the Alan Evans Memorial Trust are:

Royds Withy King  
The Alan Evans Memorial Trust  
Withy King LLP  
34 Regent Circus  
Swindon SN1 1PY  
Tel: 01793847777  
Email: [aevans@withyking.co.uk](mailto:aevans@withyking.co.uk)



## The Rank Foundation Pebbles Small Grant Programme

Grants for charities and churches for projects that benefit UK residents and communities (applications may be made at any time)

The [Rank Foundation Limited](#) is a registered charity (no. 276976) with the following charitable objectives:

*“(1) The advancement and promotion of the Christian religion and Christian religious education of the public, advancing public knowledge of other world faiths with significant communities in the United Kingdom; and  
(2) Encouraging and developing leadership amongst young people and supporting disadvantaged young people and those who are frail or lonely through old age and disability”.*

The Foundation generally awards grants in the following categories:

- o Encouraging and developing leadership;
- o Promoting enterprise and innovation;
- o Caring for the disadvantaged and the marginalised; and
- o Promoting the understanding of the values, traditions and practices of the Christian faith, from a perspective that respects those of all faiths and those of none.

The Foundation allocated almost £5,000,000 in support of its charitable objectives during the year ending 31 December 2015 through a number of initiatives, one of which was its "Pebbles Small Grant Programme".

The [Pebbles Small Grant Programme](#) provides funding to charities and churches for projects that benefit UK residents in UK communities, and in particular:

- o Specific projects for which the mainstay is capital costs - building work, refurbishment or the purchase of long-term equipment; and
- o A one-off short term activity, such as an annual respite break or holiday for disadvantaged young people.

No minimum or maximum grant levels are available. However, potential applicants should note that this is a small grants programme.

Grants are available for projects which are costed at under £1 million. Organisations must have an annual income of less than £500,000 and are expected to have confirmed funding to the value of 33% of the total project cost.

Funding is not available for:

- o Running costs or salaries;
- o Any projects that take place outside the UK;
- o Projects that benefit visitors to the UK;
- o Projects that are for the benefit of only one ethnic or religious group - facilities must be open to the wider community;
- o Causes supported elsewhere by the Rank Foundation (this includes hospices, mainstream schools, specific individuals and film-making); and
- o Areas that are under the provision of state aid, such as medical requirements.



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Applications may be submitted at any time via the application form available on the

[Foundation's website.](#)

Contact details for the Foundation are:

The Rank Foundation

12 Warwick Square

London

SW1V 2AA

Email: [contactus@rankfoundation.com](mailto:contactus@rankfoundation.com)

## News from the Monitoring Officer

### Standards Committee

The Standards Committee has an important role in seeking to ensure high standards of behaviour amongst Members of the District Council as well as Parishes.

Contact details for SALC and SLCC	
<b>Somerset Association of Local Councils</b>  Edgar Hall Somerton Business Park 8 Cary Court Somerton TA11 6SB Telephone 01458 270922	<b>Society of Local Council Clerks</b>  The Society of Local Council Clerks Main Office No.8 The Crescent Taunton TA1 4EA  Telephone: 01823 253646 Fax: 01823 253681  <a href="http://www.slcc.co.uk">www.slcc.co.uk</a>

### Parish Declaration of Interest Forms

Guidance for completing the Parish Declaration of Interest Forms can be found on the website following the link <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/2321/Parish-Councils>



# A date for your diary

## **Audit Committee, Wednesday 5 April 2017**

Starting on 05 Apr 17 at 17:30 for 3 hours until 20:30

[Wednesday, 5 April 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 5.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

## **Cabinet, Monday, 10 April 2017**

Starting on 10 Apr 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 10 April 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

## **Planning Board, Wednesday, 19 April 2017**

Starting on 19 Apr 17 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

[Wednesday, 19 April 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 6 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

## **Scrutiny Board, Monday, 24 April 2017**

Starting on 24 Apr 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday 24 April 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

## **Licensing Board, Wednesday, 26 April 2017**

Starting on 26 Apr 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Wednesday, 26 April 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

## **Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG), Tuesday, 9 May 2017**

Starting on 09 May 17 at 15:00 for 3 hours until 18:00

[Tuesday 9 May 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council at 3pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

## **Planning Board, Wednesday, 10 May 2017**

Starting on 10 May 17 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

[Wednesday, 10 May 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 6 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

**Contact details for the committee officers are as follows:**

Claire Dicken

[claire.dicken@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:claire.dicken@mendip.gov.uk)

01749 341341

