

Parish Information Bulletin

March 2018

parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk



Home is Where the Heart Is

More information on page 6



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If you wish to submit an item for the Parish Council Information Bulletin, please email it to parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk



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.

The last forum on Thursday 18th January 2018 was attended by 20 people representing 14 parishes.

Date of next Forum

Scheduled for 19th April 2018. **Please note a revised start time of 6.15pm.**

Your Forum – your ideas

Please send suggestions to Chris Loughlin – Chris.Loughlin@mendip.gov.uk or call 07816 949449.

Boost your health and your social life!

Age UK Somerset is pleased to extend a warm welcome to new members for their Mature Movers class which is held at The Hub, Coleford at the NEW TIME OF 11am – 12noon on Wednesdays promoting your wellbeing with this health boosting activity to help you age well.

You don't have to worry about keeping up, the moves are easy, the class caters for any ability and the emphasis is very much on feeling happy.

The sessions which are part of the Charity's Ageing Well service, which is run by a fully trained but friendly instructor, Elaine Butler and promises to be great for improving mobility and posture and general well-being.

Not only will you look forward to coming each week, you might enjoy meeting new people too. Julie Bolton, Scheme Co-ordinator says 'it helps you to feel more relaxed, it gently stretches your muscles and strengthens your joints, whilst improving your balance'. 'These classes can help you develop more strength, flexibility, energy and better health in general'.

We are extending a warm welcome to participants to join us on Wednesdays at the new time. Sessions cost £4 on a 'come on the day' basis.

If you want to know more please contact ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk or call 01823 345626.

Community Spirit

The young people of Shepton Mallet continue to contribute to their community and complete another successful project.

After hearing about the "I am not lost" campaign which started in Canada four years ago, husband-and-wife duo Laney and Mark James from Paulton decided to kick off the trend in



the UK. In January they covered Bath City Centre with cosy items of clothing for the homeless. Young people of Shepton Mallet & East Mendip Project Team (YMCA MENDIP AND SOUTH SOMERSET) felt inspired by idea and wanted to follow it on in Shepton Mallet.

The project team met with the young people of Shepton Mallet who decided that this would be a great thing to do for their community. The young people and the project team started by asking for donations of scarves, hats, gloves and other warm items of clothing. Once these had been collected they put a tag on each item saying 'I am not lost. If you are cold, please take me to keep yourself warm'. The items were then distributed around Shepton Mallet by the project team and young people on Sunday 4th March, leaving them on benches, lampposts and in other public places. The young people felt that this would really benefit the people in need in the recent cold weather.

YMCA Mendip are very proud of the young people that took part, proving they do care about their community. YMCA Mendip would like to thank everyone that helped and donated their time and items.



Plastics and Parishes

Parish councils concerned about plastics and interested to see how they can reflect their residents' views should contact Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP).

SWP has a major role in plastics through kerbside collections and recycling sites, collecting millions of plastic bottles and tens of thousands of Tetra Pak-style beverage cartons and single-use coffee cups; a total of almost 3,500 tonnes a year.

It has emphasised how no plastic sent by SWP to be recycled or landfilled today either ends up in China or in the oceans. All Somerset plastics – and 96% of all recycling – are reprocessed in the UK and Somerset landfills its rubbish near Castle Cary and Bridgwater.

SWP plans to divert far more plastics away from landfill and into recycling, including kerbside collections of Tetra Paks and plastic pots, tubs and trays, and to generate electricity from waste.

And it is:

- Trialling taking plastic pots, tubs and trays at five recycling sites for the month of March.
- Acting as Somerset hub for the national Refill project to encourage retailers to offer free water refills.
- Funding 90 school visits on waste issues by a Somerset eco-education charity.

To discuss plastics with SWP, contact Senior Communications Officer Nick Cater on nicholas.cater@somersetwaste.gov.uk



Home is Where the Heart Is

Homelessness Prevention Act 2017 comes into effect in April this year, and it changes the landscape for local authorities and people who are struggling with accommodation problems.

Authorities now have a duty to help everyone who is homeless – not just those who are assigned a high priority. So those who have had trouble paying their rent, or have somehow caused the loss of accommodation can now expect help.

They now have to help when homelessness is likely within 56 days. So if you have a notice from your landlord, they should be able to help you.

Prisons and hospitals now have a duty to notify the local authority when someone who may be homeless is released. This has been a part of the problem in the past.

The law still offers no help if the person concerned is not from the UK.

Citizens Advice Sedgemoor reported recently on a research project on Homelessness, and these provisions are very welcome. They address some of the main causes of sleeping rough.

The report is available at <https://sedgemoorcab.org.uk/research-campaigns/>

Help that is offered under the new Act may be about preventing the person from being evicted, or advising them about finding accommodation.

In the end the simple fact is that there is not enough housing for local people, and many people are unable to afford what there is. Most benefits claimants need 1-bed property and demand is far greater than the property that is available. Housing Benefits have been frozen since 2012 but rents are rising. This is worsening in our area as workers building at Hinkley Point are arriving and they need accommodation.

Last year Citizens Advice Sedgemoor saw 150 people who reported that they were homeless – so this is a problem in Somerset and it has been growing in recent years. Many of these people feel hopeless and desperate.

Chief Executive Amy Jones says “We began with the greatest respect for those working in Sedgemoor... they are honourable people working as hard as they can... All the “players” mentioned... builders, landlords, agents and tenants play a vital part.”

Raising awareness

The East Mendip Project Team (YMCA Mendip) have been working with young people in Frome for last six weeks at the local parks. Young people were concerned about the use of drugs in their community and wanted to make people aware of the dangers and risks involved in taking drugs. They also wanted to provide their community with helpful information on where to seek advice and help.



Young people were asked how they would like to provide this useful information and through consultation, they came up with some great ideas. Over a few weeks they collected information on drugs and young people from all around Frome (including young people from Routes, Frome Foyer and Frome Youth Club). They all worked on creating some really great boards in their own time. The boards were full of advice on drugs and where to seek help. These boards were put up all around Frome on Thursday 8th March 2108.

YMCA Mendip are very proud of the young people that took part, proving they do care about their community.



Digital Drop in Sessions for local businesses

Informal, drop in sessions & open discussions with field experts. Get to the bottom of your queries with our friendly advisers



Digital drop in sessions The Sherston	Digital Marketing workshops SS&L
1 st March – Marketing Automation Made Easy https://easyautomation.eventbrite.co.uk	3 rd May – Digital Marketing Masterclass https://digitalmarketingmaster.eventbrite.co.uk

Shepton Sessions

A programme of FREE & informal, drop-in advice sessions with field experts to help you to improve your business's digital performance.

Discuss Digital

20th Mar - Planning your Social Marketing

19th April - Xero & cloud bookkeeping apps

3rd Tuesday of the month, 4-6PM @ My Coffee Stop

More info / bookings: www.mendip.gov.uk/growwithdigital 01749 341345

Somerset Social Entrepreneurs Programme 2018

The Somerset Social Entrepreneurs Programme 2018 is a eight day action learning programme over four months plus webinars, allowing and encouraging participants to implement changes between sessions and providing time and space to reflect on their learning. The programme will consist of a blend of modes of delivery and learning methods for personal and organisational development. These will include: day-long intensive study sessions, interactive webinars, workshops, action learning sets, and business review sessions where you will be looking at your organisation's specific challenges and opportunities with the support of experts. We complete with a final progression and celebration event.

16th April

20th April*

2nd May

4th May*

16th May

* Participants will be invited to attend a Business Review Panel on only 1 of these days

How to apply

Apply for the programme by downloading the application form via the below link. You can save the form to your device, fill it in offline and then submit it via e-mail.

<https://www.the-sse.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Somerset-Social-Entrepreneurs-Programme-Application-2018.docx>

For more information, email mandy.heard@dartington.org or call 01803 847067



Community Funding



Spark can support groups to get themselves ready to apply for funding; writing a constitution, getting any relevant policies and procedures in place and ensuring you have the right management structure.

We have a funding database to search for any new funding opportunities and for groups who need a bit more support we have recently employed a funding officer. For more information email Sharon.blyth@sparksomerset.org.uk

WOMEN'S VOTE CENTENARY FUND SMALL GRANTS SCHEME - Grants up to £2,000 for community organisations, schools, colleges, and universities in England for local activities that mark the centenary of women gaining the right to vote (application deadline 18th May 2018).

Applications for Round 2 of the Fund opened on **15 March 2018** and will close on **Friday 18 May**. **PLEASE NOTE:** activities for Round 2 must start by 31 August 2018. **Round 3** applications will be accepted from **Thursday 12 July 2018 to Friday 14 September 2018**. Guidance notes and an application form can be found on the [Government Equalities Office website](#). Groups must apply through the [application portal](#).

JEAN SAINSBURY ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST - Grants up to £35,000 to registered charities for projects or activities which benefit, protect and encourage a greater understanding of animals (next application deadline 01st May 2018).

The remaining application deadlines for 2018 are:

- Tuesday 1 May (for the Trust's summer meeting); and
- Saturday 1 September (for the Trust's winter meeting).
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There is no formal application form. Applications should be made in writing to the Trust after reading the [Trust's guidelines](#) which can be found on the [Trust's website](#).

WOMEN FIRST INNOVATION FUND – Grants up to £10,000 for projects which enable women on low incomes to access new skills, training, confidence building and employment opportunities (application deadline 11th May 2018).

The deadline for applications is **5pm on Friday 11 May 2018**. Successful applicants will be announced in July 2018. An application form, guidance notes and further details are available on the [Smallwood Trust website](#). Details of other funding schemes available through the Smallwood Trust are also available at this link.



FUNDING FOR FIELD MONUMENTS - Grants for landowners and tenants in England who wish to make improvements to monuments in their fields; including ruins, scattered remains, earthworks or standing structures (applications may be made at any time).

Further information is available on the [Historic England website](#).

POST OFFICE COMMUNITY BRANCH FUND – Grants of £10,000 or more to support a wide range of branch improvements to help grow business and improve customer service (applications may be made at any time).

Interested parties are required to complete an [application form](#) including details of their investment idea and how much they'd like to apply for. If the application is successful, the funder will send confirmation of the investment within 28 days. Further information is available on the [Post Office Community Fund web page](#).

ARTS COUNCIL NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS - Grants up to £100,000 for arts, museums and libraries projects in England that engage people with arts and culture (applications may be made at any time).

Further information and details about how to apply can be found on the [Arts Council website](#), where an [Eligibility Quiz](#) can also be found.

THE NORMAN FAMILY TRUST - Grants up to £10,000 for registered charities and other non-profit, voluntary organisations working in South West England, particularly in certain areas (applications may be made at any time).

An application form is available from the [Norman Family Charitable Trust website](#). The completed form should be submitted by post to the Trust. Applications for over £5,000 will be considered at quarterly meetings of trustees while grants of less than £5,000 are delegated to a sub-committee which meets every 6-8 weeks.

THE GREGGS FOUNDATION LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND - Grants up to £2,000 for local not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects or provide equipment to people in need at the heart of their local communities (application deadline 22 June 2018)

The second and final deadline for the Local Community Projects Fund this year is **midnight on Friday 22 June**. Successful applicants will be announced by Friday 17 August 2018. Further information and an application form (which can be completed online) is available on the [Foundation's website](#).

Further funding opportunities - The following link could also prove useful for groups seeking further funding opportunities: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/virtual-authority/opportunities-bulletin>



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	
Somerset Association of Local Councils Edgar Hall Somerton Business Park 8 Cary Court Somerton TA11 6SB Telephone 01458 270922	Society of Local Council Clerks The Society of Local Council Clerks Main Office No.8 The Crescent Taunton TA1 4EA Telephone: 01823 253646 Fax: 01823 253681 www.slcc.co.uk

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>

Calendar of meetings 2018-2019

Mendip District Council has prepared a draft calendar of its public meetings to be held in 2018/2019. Please contact committee_services@mendip.gov.uk if you wish to have a copy.

It should be noted that this calendar is a draft, and subject to change. However, any changes will be because of the timetable for Council business - it will not be possible to make changes to suit individuals.

The calendar will finally be agreed by annual full council in May 2018.

A date for your diary

Standards Committee, Tuesday, 6 March 2018

Starting on 06 Mar 18 at 14:00 for 3 hours until 17:00

Tuesday, 6 March 2018

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 2 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Cabinet, Monday, 12 March 2018

Starting on 12 Mar 18 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 12 March 2018](#)

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

Standards Committee, Tuesday, 13 March 2018

Starting on 13 Mar 18 at 14:00 for 3 hours until 17:00

[Tuesday, 13 March 2018](#)

This meeting will be held in the Committee Room, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 2 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Planning Board, Wednesday, 21 March 2018

Starting on 21 Mar 18 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

[Wednesday, 21 March 2018](#)

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, 26 March 2018

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

[Monday 26 March 2018](#)

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, 28 March 2018

Starting on 28 Mar 18 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Wednesday, 28 March 2018](#)

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.

Audit Committee, Wednesday, 4 April 2018

Starting on 04 Apr 18 at 15:00 for 3 hours until 18:00

[Wednesday, 4 April 2018](#)

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.

Contact details for the committee officers are as follows:

Claire Dicken claire.dicken@mendip.gov.uk 01749 341341

