

Parish Information Bulletin

March 2019



parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk

One Night Can Make a Lifetime of Difference!

See Page 4



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

Mendip Parish Forum Dates For 2019	3
One Night Can Make a Lifetime of Difference !	4
Financial Assistance to Improve Homes in Mendip	5
A message from Avon and Somerset Police on Fly Grazing	6
Election Information from SALC	7
Mendip Landlords Training	8
Mendip Business Awards	9
Great British Spring Clean: Help Clean up our Parks	10
Hearing Support Café – Shepton Mallet	10
Community Funding	11
News from the Monitoring Officer	17
Calendar of Meetings and Dates for your Diary	17

If you wish to submit an item for the Parish Council Information Bulletin, please email it to parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk
Mendip Parish Forum –Dates for this year

The Mendip Parish Forum is for clerks, chairs, elected members and community representatives from across Mendip. The forums are held quarterly in the Council Chamber at the Mendip District Council offices from 6:15pm with the main agenda items beginning at 6:30pm

Dates for 2019 are

Thursday 28th February
Thursday 13th June
Thursday 12th September
Thursday 12th December

Please remember it is **Your Forum – your ideas and agenda items.**
Please tell us what is important to you ... what would items would you like on the agenda for a future Parish Forum or have you got an item for the monthly Parish Bulletin ?

Please contact Emma Plummer - Emma.Plummer@mendip.gov.uk or call 01749 341325





One Night Can Make a Lifetime of Difference!

YMCA Mendip & South Somerset is calling on its community to come together for one night as part of the national YMCA Sleep Easy Week.

What is the YMCA Sleep Easy?

The aim is simple: Sleeping rough so others don't have to.

Challenge yourself, your family, friends or work colleagues to sleep rough for one night and raise money to help change the lives of vulnerable young people. All the money raised goes directly to local YMCA Mendip & South Somerset projects, impacting our community and helping disadvantaged young people build a future.

Last year, a young person was made homeless every hour in England; and hundreds of young people spent at least one night on the streets.

For every rough sleeper in our community, there are dozens more who are sleeping on a friend's sofa, in a car, or on the move night after night.

Young people experiencing homelessness believe the public don't care about them.

Sign up to Sleep Easy today and help YMCA Mendip & South Somerset support more young people find a safe place to stay and access the support and resources they need to rebuild their lives. One night really can make a lifetime of difference.

YMCA Mendip & South Somerset's Sleep Easy event will take place at Frome Youth & Community Centre on Saturday 16th March, from 7pm until 7am the following day. Sleep Easy is a fun and safe event and although is not a genuine experience of sleeping rough, by taking part you will be helping to raise funds for local young people in need.

Although part of the wider YMCA movement, YMCA Mendip and South Somerset is an independent charity and relies on the local community for support. All funds raised during this event will be used to provide much needed local provision.



To take part in this year's Sleep Easy, registration costs £10 per participant (exceptions apply) and participants are then being asked to gain sponsorship and help raise as much money as possible.

Marketing & Fundraising Manager, Michelle Payne said:

"We don't aim to replicate the experience of what some of our residents have been through if they slept rough; instead we wish to raise awareness and generate funds in order to prevent more young people having no option but to spend a night on the streets.

Our ultimate aim is to create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive."

If anyone sees a rough sleeper, they should call the rough sleeper referral line, StreetLink, on 0300 500 0914 or refer online at www.streetlink.org.uk

If you are interested in taking part in YMCA Mendip & South Somerset's Sleep Easy event or wish to make a donation, you can find out more by visiting www.mendipymca.org.uk or by contacting their Fundraising Department on 01749 679553 or fundraising@mendipymca.org.uk

Financial Assistance to Improve Homes in Mendip

The Private Sector Housing team at Mendip District Council has a range of financial assistance available to support Mendip residents.

Safer Home Grants and Loans

Grants of up to £10,000 and loans of up to £25,000 are available to help home owners complete essential repairs to their home. Contact Mendip District Council's Private Sector Housing team to see if you are eligible on 0300 303 8588.

Empty Home Grants and Loans

Grants of up to £15,000 and loans of up to £25,000 are available to help pay for essential improvements to bring empty homes back into use. Contact Mendip District Council's Private Sector Housing team to see if you are eligible on 0300 303 8588.

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)

Disabled Facilities Grants of up to £30,000 are available to pay for adaptations so disabled people can live safely in their homes. Works commonly include stair lifts and level access showers. Contact Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 for an Occupation Therapist referral.



Energy Efficiency Improvements

Financial assistance is available for energy efficiency measures from a variety of sources. Contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy on 0800 082 2234 to get free impartial advice on how to access the best funding for you.

All grants and loans are subject to eligibility. For more information look on our website www.mendip.gov.uk/housing; Email: privatesectorhousing@mendip.gov.uk; Tel: the numbers above



A Message from Avon and Somerset Police on Fly Grazing.

Fly grazing as I'm sure you are all aware is the practice of deliberately allowing livestock- particularly horses to graze on land without the owner's permission. We have all seen horses tethered on grassy areas by the roadside in various degrees of neglect. The vast majority are on private land, usually put there by forced entry.

Some of these poor creatures are left uncared for hungry, in poor health and neglected. Of course some are looked after and cared for. How can we not be moved when we see these poor intelligent animals in muddy fields with no grass or sign of any feed looking hungry and in need of veterinary attention.

The problem has grown in recent years as the cost of owning a horse has increased and some owners have fallen on hard times. Forced to just 'dump' their animals.

Horse sanctuaries are at bursting point, and can take no more, leading to them being virtually valueless and ending up being slaughtered for the meat industry.

Fly grazing can be a cruel and costly practise - current legislation putting the onus on the land owner to provide for the wellbeing of the animal and any removal costs. If found on local authority land the costs are ultimately born by the local council tax payers, the authorities being cash strapped and with more pressing needs such as vital services for the vulnerable.

Police and our partner agencies are working together to try and offer solutions and advice. We are attempting to 'gauge' the size of the problem and ask our communities to contact police (PC 4226 Gould- Frome NPT) by the address below if you are aware of such practice

PC 4226 John GOULD

Police Officer

Frome Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team – AE017

Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Phone: 101

E-Mail: john.gould@avonandsomerset.police.uk





Election information from SALC

As the May election approach SALC will be offering some dates for new Councillor training (Councillor Essentials) across Mendip, keep an eye on our website for current dates - <https://www.somerset-alc.org.uk/training/> the SALC website also had a dedicated page for the elections, this has information on how to encourage people to stand of election and what is expected of a Town or Parish Councillor - <https://www.somerset-alc.org.uk/election-2019/>

Council Publicity during the Election Period - Important Guidance on ‘Purdah’

There is statutory guidance for local authorities about publicity and information issued during the period just before local elections. The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity is issued under section 4 of the Local Government Act 1986.

The pre-election period is defined as beginning with the last date for the publication of notice of the election to the close of poll at 10:00pm on polling day, often known as the purdah period, the Council, its members and officers should be aware of the special rules designed to ensure the political impartiality of all Council publicity. This will include the obvious forms such as newsletters, magazines, press releases, posters and leaflets issued by the Council. It also includes websites, public meetings, local consultation exercises, exhibitions sponsored by the Council and press advertising, and can include spoken words addressed to the public or broadcast through radio, television or the Internet.

Generally, the Council must avoid:

- proactive publicity of candidates and other politicians involved directly in the elections;
- publicity that deals with controversial issues that could specifically be linked to a relevant election issue (where this cannot be avoided, the publicity should present issues clearly and fairly with opposing points of views represented); and
- publicity that reports views, proposals or recommendations in such a way that it identifies them with individual members or groups of members directly involved in the election.

However, the Council can respond to events and legitimate service enquiries provided the answers given are factual and not political. It can also comment on a relevant issue where there is a genuine need for a member level response to an important event outside of the Council’s control.

Generally this means that during the election period the Council will:

- exclude all quotes from and photographs of members directly involved in the election in press releases, publications and other published material;
- refrain from organising photo opportunities or events which could be seen as giving candidates, members or other political office holders directly involved in the election a platform for political comment;
- postpone publications, events or promotions until after the election if proceeding could give the appearance of seeking to affect support for a political party or candidate directly involved in the election;



- not comment on matters of political controversy unless to refrain from comment would be harmful to the Council's best interests;
- avoid references in publications to the period the Administration has been in office or to the Council's future; and
- not undertake any other activity which could be seen as designed to benefit a particular political party or candidate directly involved in the election.

The Code does not affect the ability of local authorities to assist charities and voluntary organisations which need to issue publicity as part of their work, but it requires local authorities, in giving such assistance, to consider the principles on which the Code is based, and to apply them accordingly.

In conclusion

Councils are obviously permitted to serve their electorate in the way they feel best. Common sense and a little caution is wise in ensuring that public funds are not used to seek the promotion of individuals or groups of councillors.



Mendip-Landlords Training



On the 28th March 2019, from 9:30am – 16:00pm at

Mendip District Council, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BT (Council Chamber)

Covering the following areas:

- ✓ HMO Management Regulations
- ✓ Fire Regulations in HMOs
- ✓ HMO mandatory licensing
- ✓ Gas and Electrical Regulations
- ✓ Retaliatory Eviction in force
- ✓ Fitness Standard
- ✓ Tenant Fee ban update
- ✓ UC - Lucy Martin at Wells Job Centre

This training is aimed at experienced landlord and agents who want to keep up to date with legal changes as well as landlords new to the business.

- Full price £30
- Early birds discount £25 (book by 15th March 2019)
- Booking in advance is essential.

To book your place please ring 01749 341490
or email PrivateSectorHousing@mendip.gov.uk

Or Carol Plenty on 01749 679553- ext 2208
or email CPlenty@mendipymca.org.uk

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Please note there are no parking facilities on site.
However there are public car parks within walking distance of the venue on Commercial Road Shepton Mallet.

B MENDIP BUSINESS Awards 2019

Mendip Business Awards 2019

The Mendip Business Awards are back! This year is the fifth anniversary, so it's the perfect reason to celebrate with the best businesses in Mendip. There are 11 categories, with the new addition of 'Market Trader of the Year'. This category celebrates the art of market trading in Mendip towns throughout 2018 and is sponsored by Mendip District Council. The remaining 10 categories are:

- Business of the Year – Sponsored by NFU Mutual, Well
- Small Business of the Year – Sponsored by Burton Sweet
- New Business of the Year – Sponsored by Killens
- International Business of the Year – Sponsored by Swan Hotel, Wells
- Family Business of the Year – Sponsored by Wainwright & Co. Ltd
- Taste of Mendip Award – Sponsored by Old Mill
- Customer Service Excellence Award – Sponsored by 3 Solutions Ltd
- Apprentice of the Year – Sponsored by Strode College
- Retail / Hospitality Business of the Year – Kilver Court Designer Village
- Community Enterprise of the Year – Sponsored by Aster Group

This year, we are delighted to welcome Clarks Village as one of the key sponsors, along with Mendip District Council and The Royal Bath and West Show. The Mendip Business Awards also work in partnership with Mendip's Chambers of Commerce.

The awards evening will take place on Thursday 30 May at the Bath and West Showground, where we will be joined again by Ben McGrail, from ITV News West Country as he takes the reins as host of the awards.

This year's guest speaker will be Helen Lacey, Managing Director of Red Berry Recruitment. With over 18 years' experience in the recruitment market, Helen will share her knowledge gained from running a successful business in Mendip along with her various other roles with Somerset Chamber of Commerce, Heart of the Southwest LEP, Inspire to Achieve and the Somerset branch of IoD.



To enter into the Mendip Business Awards or to learn more about the categories, criteria or the event, visit: www.mendipbusinessawards.co.uk



Great British Spring Clean: Be part of the pick - #LitterHeroes

We are calling on Mendip #LitterHeroes to help improve the environment on your doorstep. Mendip District Council are supporting the Keep Britain Tidy 'Great British Spring Clean' campaign which runs from 22 March to 23 April 2019. There are three ways you can get involved, visit www.keepbritaintidy.org and:

1. [Sign up to host a clean-up](#)
2. [Join a clean-up near you](#)
3. [Pledge your support](#)

If you are planning a clean-up in Mendip, let the council know so that collection of your items can be arranged. Mendip District Council are working with contractors IDverde who can provide the necessary equipment to make your clean-up a success. Visit www.mendip.gov.uk/litterpicks.

Hearing Support Café- Shepton Mallet

This monthly café is hosted by Health Connections Mendip alongside voluntary sector organisations that will be available to offer support and information. Come along for a cup of tea or coffee to meet other people who are in a similar situation



to you. Drop in anytime between 1-30 -3pm. Held at Shepton Mallet Community Hospital alongside the hearing aid maintenance service.

Dates for 2019: 28 Jan, 25 Feb, 25 Mar, April – no clinic, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 12 Aug, 9 Sept, 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec, 30 Dec

(Please note the café will meet on a Tuesday if the monthly Monday falls on a Bank Holiday)

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.Hale@sparksomerset.org.uk

THE SYLVIA WADDILOVE FOUNDATION - Grants up to £12,500 to UK registered charities, CICs and registered societies for projects in the fields of the visual and performing arts, the relief of disability and severe illness, the accommodation of those in need, the preservation of buildings of architectural or historical significance, education about animal welfare and organic farming, and medical research.

Application deadline: application round scheduled to open shortly (check the Foundation's website for details) – applications may be made at any time. The Foundation considers applications in January, April, July, and October.

An application form and more information is available from the [Foundation's website](#) .

THE LADY NEVILLE CHARITY - one-off capital grants up to £1,000 for UK grassroots organisations in the fields of local heritage, local community, performing arts and visual arts.

Registered charities and not-for-profit organisations based in the UK whose total annual income is less than £100,000 per year may apply for a one-off capital grant of up to £1,000. Please note the project applied for must have a budget of £10,000 or less.

The Charity's 2019 application deadlines are:



- o **Friday 22 March**; and
- o Friday 13 September.

Further information, guidelines and an application form is available on the [Charity's website](#).

THE WOODEN SPOON CHARITY - Grants for organisations working to support disadvantaged and disabled children in the UK.

Application deadline: **none** – applications may be made at any time and are considered in March, June, September and December.

Further information, together with an application form is available on the [Wooden Spoon Charity website](#).

THE NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST - Grants up to £10,000 for unlisted and listed Christian places of worship in the UK for projects that develop churches. Any denomination may apply.

Application deadline: Thursday 9th May 2019.

The online application form is available through the [National Churches Trust's website](#).

CHILDREN'S SUMMER PLAY SCHEME GRANT (THE WOODWARD CHARITABLE TRUST) - Grants up to £1,000 for small-scale, locally-based UK registered charities to support children's summer play schemes. It supports small scale organisations that provide children's summer play schemes for children aged 5-16 years old. Funding is for projects that run for a minimum of two weeks or 10 days across the summer holidays.

Application forms are available from the [Trust's website](#). All applications must be supported by a detailed project budget. The Trustees will consider applications in May.

THE ERNEST COOK TRUST - Grants up to £12,000 for UK registered charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest in the countryside and the environment.

Application deadline: **none** – applications may be made at any time.

Further information, together with an online application form, can be found on the [Trust's website](#)

WARBURTONS FAMILIES MATTER COMMUNITY GRANTS - Grants up to £250 for local projects, activities and organisations for initiatives that benefit families in England, Scotland and Wales.

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Next application deadlines: **Wednesday 15 May and Thursday 15 August 2019.**

Warburtons Families Matter Community Grants are intended to support projects, activities and organisations that will benefit families and have a direct and tangible social impact on people's lives. The Community Grants scheme can be used for something specific that will assist the cause the organisation supports, such as buying equipment or supporting a community day.

Further information about the programme can be found on the **Warburtons website**, while an application form can be accessed via this LINK to the Charities Aid Foundation website.

COMMUNITY LED HOMES START-UP SUPPORT PROGRAMME - Revenue funding for voluntary and community organisations at the early stages of exploring options for community led housing in England.

Application deadline: **February 2020** (contact the funder for details of the precise deadline)

Community Led Homes is a rolling programme. It is open for applications from mid-February 2019 until mid-February 2020, or until all funding is committed, whichever is the earliest.

The guidance document and the online application form are available on the **Community Led Homes website**. Please note that potential applicants will be required to complete an online Eligibility Checker in the first instance.

THE SWIMATHON FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANTS - Grants up to £2,500 for local charitable organisations in the UK for projects that help promote swimming in local communities.

Application deadline: **Tuesday 2 April 2019.**

Further information about the scheme, together with an application form is available on the **Swimathon Foundation's website**.

THE HODGE FOUNDATION - Grants generally up to £10,000 for UK registered charities for general charitable purposes, with a preference for education, religion medical care and medical research.

Application deadline: **none** – applications may be made at any time.

Applications may be made at any time, but should initially be made by a brief introductory letter or email. This should include any estimates, quotations or annual



project costs, together with any additional information about the work or project in question.

Further information is available on the **Foundation's website**.

THE DAVID AND RUTH LEWIS FAMILY TRUST - grants for registered charities in England and Wales with an emphasis on supporting projects in the areas of education, child care and medical research.

Application deadline: **none** – applications may be made at any time.

The **David and Ruth Lewis Family Charitable Trust** is a general grant-making trust that considers requests for grant support for most causes. However, in recent years the Trust has chosen to focus its grant-making on the following areas:

- o Child and social care;
- o Support for the elderly;
- o Education;
- o General charitable funding;
- o Medical research; and
- o Jewish religious support.

Please note: the Trust does not maintain a website. Further information is, however, available on the **Charity Commission website**.

Applications may be made at any time in writing to the address below. Potential applicants are advised to contact the Trust directly before applying to ascertain whether an application would be invited.

Contact details for the Trust are:

The David and Ruth Lewis Family Charitable Trust

Chelsea House

West Gate

Ealing

London

W5 1DR

Tel: 0208 991 4502

(The Trust does not advertise an email address.)

THE BIRKDALE TRUST FOR HEARING IMPAIRED - Grants generally up to £2,500 to advance the education and welfare of profoundly deaf children and young people in the UK.



Application deadline: **none** – applications may be made at any time.

Applications may be made at any time. The Trust considers applications for grant support every two months.

Application forms are available to download from the **Trust's website** and should be submitted by post.

THE HOBSON CHARITY TRUST - Grants up to £100,000 for charitable organisations in England and Wales working in the areas of education, the relief of poverty, social welfare, recreational activities, the support of older people and the support of people who are disadvantaged.

Application deadline: **none** – applications may be made at any time.

Please note: the Hobson Charity Trust does not maintain a website. Further information is available, however, on the **Charity Commission website**.

Charitable organisations that intend to apply should contact the Hobson Charity in the first instance by letter, including full details and costs of the project in question.

Contact details for the Trust are:

Mark Turner
The Hobson Charity Trust Limited
PO Box 57691
London
NW7 0GR
Tel: 020 3880 6425
Email: post@hobsoncharity.org.uk

THE KATHLEEN LAURENCE TRUST - Grants for registered charities in England and Wales for health and/or social welfare activities.

Application deadline: **none** – applications may be made at any time.

Please note: the Trust does not maintain a website. Further information is, however, available on the **Charity Commission website**.

Applications may be made in writing at any time.

Contact details for the Trust are:



The Kathleen Laurence Trust
Trustee Department
Coutts & Co.
6th Floor
Trinity Quay 2
Avon Street
Bristol
BS2 0PT
Tel: 020 7663 6825
Email: couttscharities@coutts.com

THE SCREWFIX FOUNDATION - Grants up to £5,000 for registered charities and not-for-profit organisations in the United Kingdom to fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities for those in need across the UK.

Application deadline: **none** – applications may be made at any time.

Local and national charitable organisations may apply at any time. Applications are considered in February, May, August, and November annually.

Further information, together with an application form, is available on the **Screwfix Foundation website**

THE YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAMME - Grants for music projects in England that increase the number of children and young people participating in high-quality musical activities, particularly those who face barriers to music making. There is a match funding expectation

The 2019 application deadlines are:

- o **Fund A** – 5pm on Friday 5 April, Friday 2 August and Friday 6 December.
- o **Fund B (Stage 1)** - 5pm on Friday 17 May and Friday 8 November .

Application forms for Fund A and Fund B are available to complete online at the **Youth Music website**

THE CENTRAL SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL TRUST - Grants up to £1,000 for youth clubs and sports organisations in England for recreational and leisure activities that benefit disadvantaged children aged 21 and under.

Application deadline: **none** – applications may be made at any time.

Further information, together with an application form, is available on the **Trust's website**. Applications may be made at any time.



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 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 may be 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 was agreed by the meeting of Full Council in May 2018.

A date for your diary

Standards Committee, Tuesday 5 March 2019

Starting on 05 Mar 19 at 14:00 for 3 hours until 17:00

Tuesday, 5 March 2019

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.

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Cabinet, Monday, 11 March 2019

Starting on 11 Mar 19 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 11 March 2019](#)

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.

Planning Board, Wednesday, 20 March 2019

Starting on 20 Mar 19 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

[Wednesday, 20 March 2019](#)

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

01749 341341

