



August 2015

Welcome to the Autumn Thatch Newsletter. CCS has had a busy few months running a number of events across Somerset including our AGM and Rural Conference.



CCS AGM & Rural Conference

Last month we held our Annual General Meeting at Edington Village Hall followed by our Rural Conference.

The Rural Conference covered three main topics, Housing, Transport and the Services CCS offers to communities.

Guest speaker Lord Cameron of Dillington was first to present and discussed 'The Challenge of Change in the Countryside', an update on the reality of rural growth, covering topics: broadband, access to training for business, access to housing and transport.



Next Steve Watson and Alison Ward of the Wessex Community Land Trust Project, explained the project and how communities can get involved.



Liz Mauder gave an inspiring example of Norton sub Hamden Community Land Trust; showcasing what a community can do when working together, building affordable housing, running the village shop and soon to be running the post office.

Success for 24 Community Buildings across Somerset

CCS proudly awarded 24 Community Buildings the Hallmark Quality Standard at the annual Training and Networking event held on the 15th October at Edington Village Hall.

Since 2002 Hallmark has promoted the delivery of effective and well-managed community buildings. The standard recognises their achievement in managing their hall to a nationally recognised standard endorsed by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and acknowledged by the Charity Commission.

There are three standards of recognition. This year:

- ★ 21 achieved Hallmark One – focusing on charity administration and management
- ★ 14 achieved Hallmark Two – focusing on health, safety, security and licences
- ★ 9 achieved Hallmark Three – focusing on community, social awareness, forward planning and development.

CCS also annually awards a District Hallmark Award (of the halls entered in 2015). The peer visitors who carry out the visits take note of distinctive halls, which have really shown hard work and commitment to their community.

The District winners were:

- ★ Mendip - Chilcompton Village Hall
- ★ Sedgemoor - Edington Village Hall
- ★ South Somerset - North Cadbury Village Hall
- ★ Taunton Deane - Langford Budville Village Hall
- ★ West Somerset - St Audries Village Hall

Digital Community Training Event

CCS are running a FREE training event on 'How digital technology can help your community'. Working in partnership with Get Up To Speed.

Open to all, targeting beginners and improvers.

Aimed at Community Buildings, Parish / Town Councils, Community Groups and anyone interested in technology to improve communications within your committee, community and with other organisations.

The Digital Training covers:

- How you communicate within the committee / group / councillors
- How you communicate with the residents / parish
- How you communicate with other organisations / neighbouring parishes and beyond

We showcase tools, useful programs and ways to save you time and money – doing more for less.

- 5th November 2015
- Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory
- 1:30pm – 4:30pm
- Complimentary Tea and Coffee will be provided

If you would like to host this event in your community please get in touch with CCS
info@somersetccc.org.uk

Or if you would like to hold this event in your community please contact CCS on 01823 331222.

Taunton Heritage Trust

HOUSING CHARITY OPEN MORNING – TAUNTON DEANE

The Taunton Heritage Trust is an almshouse charity dating back to 1635 and provides sheltered accommodation for the over 60's who have a connection with Taunton and who are living on a low income.



We have 67 self-contained almshouse flats for people who must be capable of independent living. Our Almshouses range in age and style from Grade I listed built in 1635, to purpose built 1980's. We provide part time Warden assistance as well as a 24 hour piper alarm system. The Trust provides white goods and flooring to each flat as well as communal laundry rooms and community rooms for our Residents.

We are holding an OPEN MORNING to enable people to come along to see one of our available flats and talk to Staff and Trustees about what the Trust offers. If you think you, or a family member, may be interested in an almshouse, please come along between 10am and 12 noon on THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER and find out more about us. We are based at Huish Homes, Magdalene Street, Taunton TA1 1SG.

www.tauntonheAnchorritagetrust.org.uk

Tel: 01823 335348 (9am – 12 noon)

E: info@tauntonheritagetrust.org.uk

Young British Villager of the Year

The Prince Countryside Fund are working with Country Living magazine on developing a series of potential features called 'Young British Villager of the Year'.

This feature is aimed to show vibrant rural life and help to celebrate the wide range of people living in the countryside as an alternative to the considerable media focus given to the ageing rural population.

Country Living is looking for people who have done something to bring together or support their community, improve resources or add benefit to village life.

If you have someone to nominate, please a few paragraphs about your impressive young villagers to Jennifer from Lemon Zest. jennifer@lemonzestpr.co.uk

Do you have an enthusiasm for digital technology and the internet? Become a Digital Champion!

Get up to Speed is a support service designed to help businesses and communities across Devon and Somerset boost their digital skills to harness the benefits of superfast broadband.

We are on the lookout for volunteers keen to help their area make the most of faster broadband.

What will the role involve?

As representatives of the Get up to Speed service, Digital Champions form an important contact point within the community, signposting residents and local businesses to the support available and promoting events running in the area. Champions may be individuals or representatives of businesses, organisations or community groups.

To become a Digital Champion, find out more about the programme, or just register your interest, please contact CCS info@somersetccc.org.uk

Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation (BFEF)

Grant assistance for young people

The aim of The Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation is to promote the education of young people through a grant scheme. BFEF trustees have awarded £55,000 in educational grants since April 2015.

The next grant application deadline is 16th November 2015.

For more details on the scheme visit: www.somersetccc.org.uk/bfef



North Sedgemoor GP Pilot update

CCS is excited to pilot this extension of our Village Agent Project, which supports patients with long-term health conditions. We encourage clients to access and take up support from local groups and facilities as part of a care plan. It is expected that patients supported by our team will improve their confidence, knowledge, skills and improve their quality of life.

Our Village Agents receive referrals from health care professionals and then arrange to meet clients at home or in any environment they are comfortable with. From the work already carried out we can see that patients supported are benefitting from our referrals to other organisations and agencies. This is reducing the pressure on our GP practices.



WE ARE A CHARITY PLEASE DONATE

CCS like other charities relies on fundraising to deliver work across Somerset. You can help us do this in a number of ways:

Recycle your stamps

Raise money for FREE when you make purchases online with 'Easy fundraising' - simply follow the guide and support Community Council for Somerset

Make a one off Donation - online or by cheque

Become a Friend of CCS

Donate in Memory

To find out how you can support CCS [click here](#)