

July 2016

Welcome to the Summer edition of Thatch.

Below we have Village Agents job opportunities, events, project updates and funding opportunities.



CCS celebrates 90 years of service to Somerset

This June CCS celebrated our 90th anniversary in style at Cheddon Fitzpaine Village Hall, there was a mini Farmers Market showcasing local produce. A large number of invited guest attended throughout the day and there were treated to locally donated refreshments and a tasty Somerset Cream tea or cakes kindly donated by the Albemarle Centre. In the 90 years CCS has maintained its services through a world war, many recessions, social upheaval and seen many trending themes affect our rural communities including funding, rural housing developments and cutbacks resulting in a reduction of services.

CCS has adapted and modernised to ensure that we can support, promote and embrace all that Somerset has to offer its rural communities enabling them to thrive and flourish.



We ran a fantastic raffle with prizes including Tea for Two at the House of Lords, a case of wine, a hamper of treats, a Numatic "Henry" vacuum cleaner, local shopping vouchers and dinner for 2. The raffle raised £585 which will help CCS continue to work with rural communities across the Somerset.

Thank you to all those who attended and those who have continued to support us.

Village Agent Vacancies

3 Positions available

Village Agents offer free, confidential practical support, signposting and referring people to appropriate help and advice. Candidates will need to be committed to helping vulnerable people, live in or close to the below cluster of parishes, be able to communicate effectively, be non-judgemental, self motivated and have use of a reliable car. We are looking for 3 Village Agents to work within the following clusters of parishes:



Closing date for applications midday 18 July, interviews to be held 21 July

To download your application pack and to find out more click [here](#)

Bishop Fox's Educational Grants

2016 DEADLINE DATES FOR FORTHCOMING GRANT PANEL MEETINGS

The meetings will be held two weeks after the deadline dates, as detailed below, and you will be informed of the Trustees decision within a week of the meeting date.

5 September 2016
14 November 2016

To find out who can apply click [here](#)



AVE THE DATE

Come along to our Community Buildings Networking Training Event and AGM



THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER 2015

Edgar Community Hall Somerton

To register your interest email: communitybuildings@somersetcc.org.uk

Join the CCS Oil Scheme and save ££s this summer!

Get prepared for the winter months and SAVE ££s on your heating oil. Summer is the ideal time to top up or fill up your tank whilst the prices are relatively low. With the UK's exit from the EU prices are expected to rise over the coming months.



Everyone pays the same price per litre regardless of how much they order. So far this the scheme has saved our members saved our customers over £208,000 on their orders.

The next order deadline is 6th July or 3rd August.

Click [here](#) to join the scheme.

**Calling all Community Buildings Volunteers
Join the New Community Buildings Network Forum**

Following the end of the National Village Hall Forum a new online network has been started. It is FREE to join and allows you to contribute to discussions on issues affecting village and community halls by email and through telephone and video conferencing

The Village and Community Halls Network provides an opportunity for members to air their views and consolidate them in the development of policies in support of village halls and similar rural community buildings.

Members consist of volunteers managing community facilities, County-based village hall associations, representatives of organisations with an interest in village halls such as NALC, and others who appreciate the role of village hall and community halls in the provision of facilities for the delivery of services across rural England.

To join click [here](#)

CCS Membership

Have you renewed your CCS membership?

All community buildings members that have not renewed will no longer have access to the online information sheets.

For access to over 80 information sheets and support from CCS for this financial year visit:

www.somersetcc.org.uk/join-us

3D printing now available to all in Somerset

Somerset County Council's Taunton library, home to the Glass Box is now offering an exciting and innovative 3D printing service.

Following the successful launch of the Glass Box in Taunton Library last week, local companies, entrepreneurs and members of the public in Somerset are now able to create and print their own 3D objects within the library.

Recently, there has been a huge growth in 3D printing within the business and education fields, and by placing 3D printers in the Glass Box the library service has provided a way for many more children and adults in Somerset to have the opportunity to experience how this technology works.

In the Glass Box you can print a design from an online website or use the 3D computer-aided design packages available in the Glass Box, to design your own 3D creation. Following a 3D printing induction session, you can go on to print your design on one of the two 3D printers available in the Glass Box. Staff or volunteers will be on hand to guide you through the process, and there will be a very minimal charge to cover the cost of the materials.

Somerset County Council (SCC) - Listening, Learning, Changing

SCC - 2016 Listening Learning Changing initiative is now underway, seeking the residents' views on some of the key issues affecting the County Council.

Like all local authorities, SCC income is falling and demand for Somerset services rises. Last year funding from government fell by £15m and it is expected to fall by a further £42m by 2020 at the latest.

At the same time:

Somerset has a rapidly ageing population and more people needing social care Costs are going up, because of inflation and the National Living Wage more jobs in Somerset to bring prosperity
SCC need to make around £15m of savings to balance the budget next year. This means making difficult decisions and they want to know what's important to Somerset residents.

But SCC also want to be ambitious and look how they can help Somerset's long-term prosperity and sustainability, through projects like the push for Devolution and Vision for Somerset.

How can you get involved?

Complete the survey now

For more detail and information on the roadshows visit: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/listening/>

WE ARE A SMALL CHARITY WITH A BIG JOB TO DO!

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](#)