



» Calling all job seekers! Be proud to care.
See page 5



» Find out more about fostering.
See page 7



» Preparing Somerset for climate change.
See pages 8 and 9

A SOMERSET CHRISTMAS

Somerset residents urged to shop local this Christmas.

With only a few shopping days to go before Christmas local residents are being urged to remember the support local shops and businesses gave to their communities during the pandemic.

Nigel Muers-Raby, of Shop Somerset, said: "There are now only a few shopping days to Christmas, so I hope everyone looking to get some final presents or stocking fillers hunts them out in some of Somersets fantastic local shops."

🍷 Locally produced food and drink in particular can be exceptionally good in Somerset. 🍷

County Council Leader, Cllr David Fothergill echoed the sentiment. "We all have stories of how local shops and businesses went above and beyond during the pandemic – shops making sure vulnerable local people received food, or cafés providing food for key workers.

"Now is our chance to pay back that support and shop with local businesses in the run it to Christmas. As Nigel says we have some fantastic local produce in Somerset that anyone would be happy to find underneath a tree.

"Shopping with a local business will spread a lot more cheer than using the internet to order in goods from elsewhere."



Pictured: Alex and Calum, who work in a newly opened social enterprise shop in Taunton, called Bold & Brave. This new shop on Riverside Place in Taunton not only sells high quality products designed and ethically produced by young people, but it also aims to help young people boost their employability and life skills.

Find out more on page 3.



Somerset
Waste
Partnership

Latest Christmas updates:

Waste less this Christmas, festive collection day changes and Recycle More progress. See centre pages



DRIVING VACANCIES



If you have a current PCV (Passenger Carrying Vehicle) licence, or are interested in training to get one, come and join one of our local passenger transport operators and help keep Somerset's school and transport services on the move.

Due to a shortage of drivers across the county, the following operators have both full-time and part-time opportunities available right now.

Pay rates and hours vary from operator to operator, with term-time only options also available.

Get in touch now and start your 'journey' today.

WANTED

Bakers Dolphin Coach Travel*

Bridgwater/Weston-super-Mare
01278 458661 (Option 4)
derek.forbes@bakersdolphin.com

Berrys Coaches*

Taunton/Ilton/Bridgwater
01823 340178
james@berryscoaches.co.uk

Davis Minibus Hire*

South Petherton
07939637473/ 01460 240475
geoffreydavis903@btinternet.com

Hatch Green Coaches

Hatch Beauchamp, Taunton
01823 480338
info@hatchgreencoaches.co.uk

Isle Valley Transport*

Isle Brewers, Taunton
01460 281213
Islevalley@gmail.com

Knight Brothers Travel Ltd*

Taunton
01823 442205
info@knightbrotherstravel.co.uk

P&V Minibuses

Shepton Mallet/Evercreech
08004 488852 / 07828 984699
petercombat@aol.com

Ridlers*

Williton/Dulverton
07456 162589
info@ridlers.co.uk

South West Coaches*

Yeovil
01935 475872
jobs@southwestcoaches.co.uk

Taunton Minibuses*

Taunton
01823 257180
info@tauntonminibuses.co.uk

Taylors Coach Travel Ltd*

Sparkford, Yeovil
01935 423177
info@taylorscoachtravel.co.uk

Upton Coaches Ltd*

Wiveliscombe
01398 371271
info@uptoncoaches.co.uk

Vale Cars Ltd*

Stalbridge
01963 363000
office@valecoaches.com

***Full training available for non - PCV holders**

Somerset County Council is supporting local bus and coach operators.

Contact us
Visit www.somerset.gov.uk

If you can't find what you need on our website:

Phone 0300 123 2224
Phone lines are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am until 5.30pm.

Write to us at
Somerset County Council,
County Hall, Taunton,
Somerset, TA1 1DY

For all coronavirus related support, phone 0300 790 6275, seven days a week, 8am until 6pm.

Please phone the numbers below for the following services:

- Fostering enquiries
0800 587 9900
- Adopt South West
0345 155 1076
- South West Heritage Trust
(01823) 278805
- Somerset Road Safety
(01823) 423430
- Somerset Waste Partnership
(01823) 625700

- Other useful numbers**
- Citizens Advice Consumer Service Helpline
03454 04 05 06
- Street Lighting Faults
0845 601 0939
(office hours) and
0845 795 9639
(for out of hours emergencies)
- Student Finance Direct
(Higher Education Students only) 0845 607 7577
- Wellington Community Office
(01823) 663379

- District Councils**
- Mendip District Council
0300 303 8588
- Sedgemoor District Council
0300 303 7800
- South Somerset District Council
(01935) 462462
- Somerset West and Taunton Council
0300 304 8000

Please recycle



IN MY OPINION

You'll see a theme across this issue of Your Somerset - that of the County Council working with local communities to make life better for the people of Somerset.

You can see this in our work with what we call micro-providers on page 5. This is a very Somerset solution to a national problem. Finding people to support older people living in their in their own home is a challenge across Britain (find out more about our recruitment campaign on page 5). The use of locally based micro-providers is a new way of providing this support and I am delighted that this work by our carers was recently recognised with a prestigious national award.

Last year we set up our Climate Emergency Fund to support community-based actions that support our commitment to a carbon neutral Somerset by 2030 – that theme of countywide and community driven work again. Climate change is the ultimate 'think global, act local' issue. And while we all need to change or moderate our behaviour, much of what Somerset can do will be driven by our communities. You can see some examples of this great work we have supported on page 9.

And on page 21 you can see how this model of providing public services on a very local basis – with decisions taken in communities - will be at the heart of the new Unitary Council for Somerset. This will be a very new sort of council and you can see how we are taking the first steps towards it on page 21.

Last Christmas, I know many, many families were not able to meet up to celebrate together. And indeed, some of you will be missing loved ones this year. At the time of writing (and I hope I don't jinx anything) it looks as if it will be easier to have a full family Christmas this year. I hope you have a wonderful time, but please take care – those important Public Health messages are never far away (see page 19). And I hope that on New Year's Eve, you will join me in toasting Somerset's remarkable frontline staff, across all public services, who have done much to get us through the last 18 months.

A very happy Christmas to you all.

A note from the editor...

To get in contact with *Your Somerset* or to advertise in this publication, contact the **Communications Team** on (01823) 355020, or email yoursomerset@somerset.gov.uk

We gratefully acknowledge the support of organisations that advertise in *Your Somerset*, but Somerset County Council can accept no responsibility for the products or services advertised. We advise readers to make their own enquiries before purchasing products or services.

Pssst...*Your Somerset* costs 7p per copy to produce.



Christmas events

Most Somerset towns will be lighting up with Christmas cheer this year. You can find out about Christmas Markets and other shopping events by visiting www.visitsomerset.co.uk The site also gives details of events that run through the festive period – from Shepton Mallet and Frome's Christmas events, to illuminations at Hestercombe Gardens and the lighting up of Marston Park by acclaimed artist Bruce Munro.

New Bold & Brave shop opens in Taunton

The idea for Bold & Brave began back in 2019 with a series of pop-up shops in Somerset, which sold quality goods designed and produced by learners from Somerset's special schools.

It was set up as a result of a partnership between Young Somerset and sen.se (Special Educational Needs.Somerset Expertise), which is a collaborative partnership between all special schools and specialist provision in Somerset.

Following the success of the pop-up shops and witnessing the positive impacts the project had on both the young people and the local community, Young Somerset decided to create a permanent shop in partnership with sen.se.

The new shop is open from 9.30am until 4.30pm, Tuesday to Saturday (and late night on Thursdays in the run up to Christmas), selling a range of homeware, accessories, and garden items – perfect for any last-minute Christmas gifts.

To find out more, visit www.facebook.com/boldandbravetaunton



Vaccines are our best protection this winter.

This winter the threat from flu and COVID-19 means it is vital you are vaccinated for both. Protect yourself and those you love.

Get the jabs done.

Call 119 or visit: [somersetccg.nhs.uk](https://www.somersetccg.nhs.uk)



Injured or unwell? Use the right service

The NHS is facing unprecedented challenges this winter. We need you to play your part and use services wisely. Thank you for your continued support.



Self-care

- Grazed knees
- Sore throat
- Coughs & colds

Visit [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) for self-care advice



Pharmacy

- Headaches
- Upset stomach
- Aches & pains
- Bites & stings

Visit your local pharmacy



NHS 111

Visit [111.nhs.uk](https://www.111.nhs.uk) or call 111 for advice and support

24 hours a day
7 days a week



GP

Call your GP for symptoms that won't go away



Minor Injury Unit

Urgent but not life-threatening

- sprains
- fractures
- burns

999

A&E

- Unconscious
- Breathing difficulties
- Stroke
- Heart attack
- Heavy bleeding
- Severe burns

#ChooseWell

Donate your Winter Fuel Payment so Somerset's older people don't have to choose between heating and eating.



Every winter hundreds of our older neighbours right here in Somerset are forced to choose between keeping themselves warm and eating.



Somerset Community Foundation's Surviving Winter appeal encourages people who don't need their Winter Fuel Payment to donate some or all of it to help local older people.

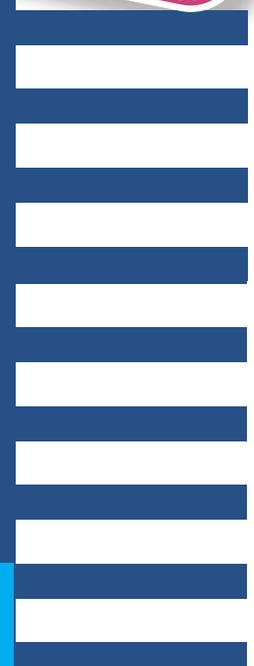
In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, and as energy prices rise, this winter will be a particularly difficult and worrying time for many older people. Many will need to stay at home to keep themselves safe, cut off from family and friends and facing higher costs to heat their homes.

Every year the campaign helps around 500 elderly people living in Somerset through the cold winter months, thanks to generous local donors who, last year, donated over £150,000 to the appeal.

11 per cent of households in Somerset live in fuel poverty



Help Somerset Community Foundation to help more isolated and vulnerable older people this year. Donate now!



If you can afford to, please donate your Winter Fuel Payment and help people like George stay warm, safe and well this winter. Visit www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter or phone 01749 344949.

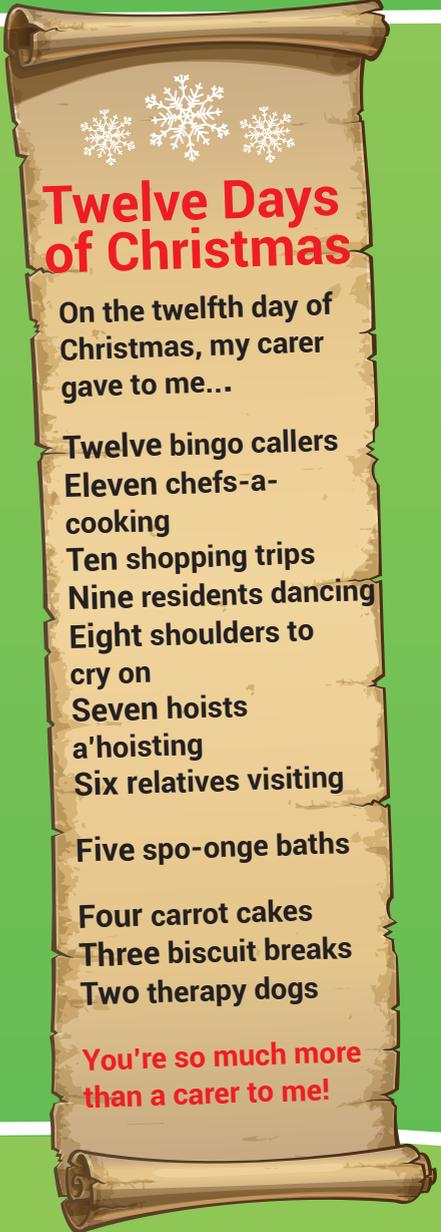
CARE: the true joy of Christmas

Caring for others is one of the best gifts you can give, and across Somerset our amazing carers give with incredible generosity all year round.

So, in honour of all the carers out there working hard this Christmas we've adapted a Christmas classic to reflect the many ways they care, and the massive range of gifts, talents, and skills that they share with others.

There are a number of vacancies, ranging from helping people in their own homes and caring for younger people with a learning disability, to helping people in residential care. Join Somerset's brilliant social care workforce and make real difference to people's lives every single day.

To give more than presents this Christmas, visit www.proudtocaresomerset.org.uk/jobs



SOMERSET'S AWARD WINNING MICRO-PROVIDERS



Meet the hidden heroes of Somerset's growing independent care market

Here in Somerset, we have a growing network of micro-providers who offer support and care to almost 4,000 people across the county.

But what do they do? Micro-providers are small, independent care and support enterprises, who work alongside our key homecare providers, to offer a range of flexible services to help people keep well and independent.

They are part of an increasingly diverse care market, which focuses on giving people more choice, particularly in rural areas. They offer a whole range of services, including:

- support with personal care
- domestic help around the home
- social support

Where can I find a list of my local micro-providers?

To find out more about micro-providers in your area, visit www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk You can also, get in contact with your local Village Agent through the Community Council for Somerset, by visiting somersetagents.org/find-an-agent or phone 01823 331222.

How do I become a micro-provider?

Our care sector already creates 19,000 jobs. Becoming a micro-provider can be an exciting new career or second career option for people with a passion for making a difference in their community.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/somersetmicroproviders. If you're interested in working in care, check out the vacancies on our Proud to Care website at www.proudtocaresomerset.org.uk/jobs

Improving Lives
The best start
for Somerset's
children



Investing in our children's futures

Over the last three years we've invested over £120m into building new schools, or making our existing schools even bigger and better, as part of the largest investment into our schools in generations.

Bridgwater College Academy now has a stunning new multi-million-pound teaching block with state-of-the-art science, humanities and languages teaching spaces, which created an extra 300 pupil places.

Bishop Fox's in Taunton has two new multi-million pound buildings, which are home to a new teaching block, including 12 classrooms and four IT suites, as well as a dedicated theatre and activity studio.

King Ina in Somerton has a brand new £7.6m new primary school, which is big enough for 420 pupils and 52 early years children. It has 14 classrooms, a pre-school, a school hall, a production kitchen, sports pitches and a multi-use games area.

Willowdown in Bridgwater benefited from a new £2.5m extension to its primary school and will be able to offer an additional 210 pupil places and 26 nursery places.

Polden Bower in Bridgwater now caters for 160 students with complex needs thanks to a £23m investment to boost provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) in the county.

Fiveways special school in Yeovil has received £5.5m to create an extension to provide four additional classrooms and a new adventure playground, and **Fairmead**, also in Yeovil, received £6.9m for a new 12-classroom block and hall.

Holyrood Academy in Chard have £7.2m of funding approved to deliver 225 places to meet Chard's growing demand for school places. The new building should be complete in 2022.

Taunton Deane Partnership College's Holway Centre had a £2.8m refurbishment.

Selworthy School's new £8.5m building on their Hazelbrook campus provided 100 new places, and we're also mid-way through delivering a £1.8m hydrotherapy pool there too.

Bridgwater College Academy



King Ina



Willowdown



Selworthy School



Fairmead



Polden Bower



But that's not all... Somerset's first carbon neutral school

As part of our commitment to make Somerset carbon neutral by 2030 we can reveal plans for a new £7.3m primary school planned for Taunton, which is set to become Somerset's first net zero carbon school, and only the third 'passivhaus' school in whole of the south west.

The new 420-place primary school, which includes a 52-place nursery, will serve the Orchard Grove housing development in Comeytrove and is needed to meet the growing demand for school spaces in the area.

We will be working with Futures for Somerset to deliver this exciting new project, which has been designed by architect firm Stride Treglown to

minimise any environmental impact.

Stride Treglown's design has been based on the 'passivhaus' concept, an internationally recognised, performance-based energy standard in construction.

The school will be:

- fossil fuel free
- carbon neutral by using air source heat pumps, alongside excellent air tightness, to keep the building warm

Work starts next April with the new school due to open in for the start of the 2023/24 academic year.

Every child in Somerset deserves the best possible start in life, which includes excellent educational facilities.

To find out more, visit somersetnewsroom.com

£7.3m
primary
school

Net Zero
CO₂
NEUTRAL

Improving Lives
Towards a
climate resilient
Somerset



Winter holiday fun

Thousands of Somerset's children will once again be enjoying free fun activities this Christmas as part of the Government's Holiday Activities and Food programme initiative.

Over the winter holidays young people, aged between five and 16, who are eligible for free school meals, will have the opportunity to take part in an exciting range of physical activities served up with a nutritious meal and information about eating healthily.



Somerset County Council have teamed up with Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) to deliver the programme across the county during December, following the success of the programme during the Easter and Summer school holidays.

Bookings went live on the website at the beginning of the month, so to see what's on offer in your area and the locations of holiday clubs, visit www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays



Awesome activities

Nearly 6,000 children took part in activities over the summer and here's what they had to say:

Nearly 6,000 children took part



"My daughter had the best time learning new skills and conquered her fears by taking part in the climbing activity. She is confident and wants to take part in more activities outside of school."

"My mum made me go along, but I didn't want to. I'm glad I did though as I had a wicked time!"



"It's made me a better person. I always used to not go outside, but now I go outside, and I've lost a lot of weight."

"The greatest gifts don't come with price tags"



Could you offer a vulnerable young person in care the safety and support of a long-term home?

Fostering In Somerset are recruiting now, and we're looking for individuals, couples and families to support vulnerable children in the next chapter of their lives.

Anyone can be a foster carer, you just need to be over 21 with a spare room in your home. Things like who you love, or whether or not you have children of your own are not important. What matters is that you want to make a difference.

Foster carers receive a weekly fee starting from **£75 a week**, plus a weekly allowance for each child in their care, starting from **£143.57 per child**.

Find out how you could change a child's story as a Somerset Council Foster carer at www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or phone 0800 587 9900.



SCAN ME

fostering in Somerset

Working towards a climate



We want to transform bus travel across the county and make a massive contribution to tackling climate change at the same time.

Somerset's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), drafted in partnership with local operators, sets out a radical overhaul of services in the county. It's all part of a bid to secure a share of a £3bn funding pot being made available under the Government's 'Bus Back Better' initiative.

We want to make bus services greener, more attractive, more affordable and easier to use. We also want faster and more frequent services to get people out of cars and onto public transport as part of our Climate Change Emergency Strategy.

The BSIP details a wide-range of measures, which would be delivered by a new partnership between bus operators and the Council if the funding bid is successful.

For more details about the plan, visit www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/transport-strategy.

These proposals include:

- ✓ A better network between Somerset's 15 key towns, which offers more frequent services running later into the night and at weekends
- ✓ A minimum hourly core network by 2023, with guaranteed services 7am to 7pm
- ✓ An affordable fares system
- ✓ Electrifying the network as soon as possible, and exploring alternative fuels, such as hydrogen
- ✓ An overhaul of passenger information, which includes a new Somerset 'Think Travel portal' and information in real time at key locations
- ✓ A new Somerset Bus Passenger Charter to help the Council and operators understand people's needs
- ✓ Working with district partners to upgrade bus stations across Somerset

Inspiring young people to be **climate heroes**

Last month, the Somerset Youth Parliament ran two virtual events for 11 to 18-year-olds to get their views on tackling climate change.

There was much debate about issues, including plastics, waste, the natural environment, transport and the built environment - homes and schools.

In November last year, over 180,000 young people from across the UK, including 2,200 in Somerset, voted in the UK's biggest youth consultation.



The top priority for young people – both nationally and in Somerset – was 'Take action on climate emergency and stop plastic pollution'.

Somerset Elected Member of Youth Parliament, Oban Mackie, said: "We know that young people are passionate about protecting their world. We understand that their opportunity to work alongside decision makers is crucial to improving our environment."

Somerset Youth Parliament is a non-party political group, affiliated with the British Youth Council and part of the national UK Youth Parliament and supported by Somerset County Council.



To find out more about Somerset Youth Parliament group, email Kate Darlington at kdarlington@somerset.gov.uk

Climate Change Emergency Strategy

In November 2020, all five councils in Somerset gave the green light to implement a plan for Somerset to go carbon neutral by 2030. The Somerset-wide Climate Emergency Strategy considers how Climate Change will impact the County of Somerset and describes what we need to do to cut our emissions and build resilience to the likely risks that may arise.

Somerset County Council then launched the Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund to give £1m to community groups for green initiatives.

To find out more about the Climate Emergency Strategy and more, visit www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency





resilient Somerset



Climate Emergency Community Fund

Back in 2020 we launched a £1m Climate Emergency Community Fund to encourage community projects to share our vision of working towards a climate resilient Somerset and our communities didn't disappoint.

This funding is now supporting **44 separate projects** across the county to reduce carbon emissions, reduce waste, raise community awareness of climate change and enhance the natural environment in our beautiful county.

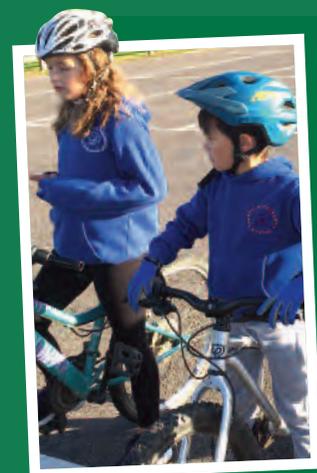
Here's just a few of these amazing projects in action...

Good Vibe Veg – This innovative project in Horner, West Somerset, has already begun supplying vegetables to a local farm shop and to local people, reaping the benefits of 'low carbon miles' local produce. With a real emphasis on 'local food', this model of small-scale, sustainable agriculture allows farmers and growers to make a reasonable living by growing quality, fresh, healthy food for and with their local community.



Chedzoy Fair Share Project – Chedzoy is a small parish on the outskirts of Bridgwater in Somerset. The village's communal areas are greatly underutilised, so the project is using them to create richly different habitats for both wildlife and people. They have also invested the funding on easy access gates, resting areas, information boards, downloadable walking guides and plant labels to inspire the community to observe, think, and learn about the environment and create change.

Wiveliscombe Community Swimming Pool – 'Wivey Pool' was built in 1927 and is one of the oldest pools in Somerset. It's an open air, heated swimming pool, open between May and September each year, run for the community, by the community. The addition of a new 10 kW solar panel array will significantly reduce the pool's electricity bills, saving at least 10.5 tons of carbon emissions a year.



Pedal for the Planet aims to encourage the local community to get cycling more often and more safely. This innovative, community and volunteer-led project for Muchelney and Kingsbury Episcopi Parishes on the Somerset Levels has already put on a fantastic programme of cycling workshops and activities for all ages and abilities. And as well as repairing bikes, the scheme offers beginners' bike safety and care workshops, providing local people with sustainable and eco-friendly transport.



Baltonsborough Parish Council Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points – The community has grabbed the opportunity to 'go green' with the funding going towards Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, solar panels and additional energy saving measures. On top of all that, the playing field will benefit from a new hedge, seeding of wildflowers and a new mowing regime. The photo shows Cllr Mary Phillips making great use of the new EV charging points.

Travel sensibly this winter

Our fleet of 23 gritters are ready to roll as soon as it gets cold this winter. We will be continuing to treat the extended gritting service of last year – that's around 900 miles of road each time we go out. This year there are 20 new snow ploughs, and four new snow blowers and three extra weather stations to beef up our winter armoury.

What roads do we treat?

To help keep you moving, we treat over a fifth of Somerset's roads, marked in red on the map. The priority is to keep the busiest routes clear whenever ice or snow is expected. We try to prioritise roads that link major towns, villages and communities on high ground and the important routes across the county for long distance travel.

We also try and maintain access for emergency services, including fire and rescue, police, ambulance services and routes to hospitals with A&E services, along with principal public transport routes and larger schools.

This year, selected roads around the improved M5 Junction 25 in Taunton have been added to the programme (although the M5 itself, the A303 and the A36 are looked after by Highways England).

When do the gritters come out?

We carry out gritting when road surface temperatures are predicted to drop below 1°C and ice or snow is expected. Precautionary gritting normally takes place before ice can form – so that generally means our teams are out in the evening or early morning. In the event of snow, we will work alongside the emergency services and our other partners to clear the network as quickly as possible. We can equip our gritters with snowploughs and have arrangements in place with farmers and snowplough operators who are employed to clear snow on our behalf. We always try to clear the primary routes first, then move on to clear other roads as far as our resources allow.

Why don't we salt every road in Somerset?

We can't treat every road - there just aren't enough gritters, drivers and depot staff. And if we were to grit every single road in the county it would be the equivalent of gritting from Taunton to Alaska five times over – and we only have a two-and half-hour window! But we are working with parish councils to fill roadside grit bins on request, and are continuing to run a community-led snow warden scheme.

Getting about

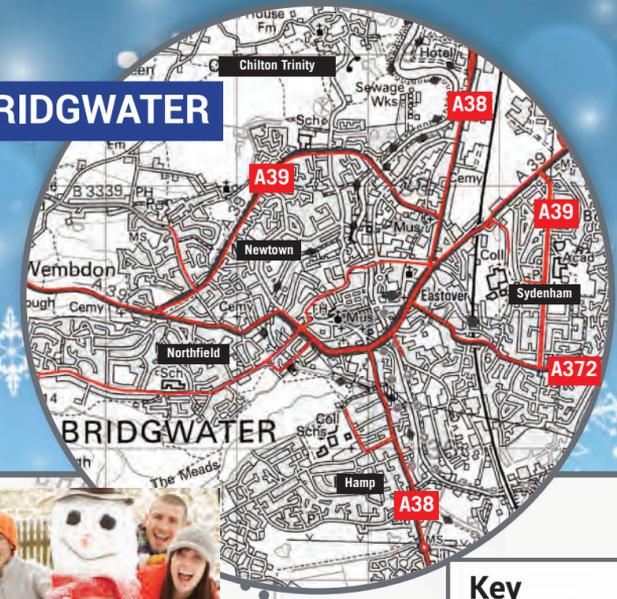
Rain can wash salt away and in very low temperatures, so gritting may sometimes not be enough to prevent freezing – so please be extra careful if you do have to go out.

- Only the busiest roads are gritted - most are not - so make sure you plan ahead and drive carefully, particularly if frost has followed rain. Remember to:
- * Prepare your vehicle for winter
 - * Allow extra time for your journey
 - * Give gritters and snow ploughs plenty of room
 - * Carry a shovel and blankets in your vehicle

For more information about Somerset County Council's winter service programme, including a searchable map showing all the roads treated, visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting and follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter and Facebook.

The Road Safety team also have plenty of advice for road users in the winter months, so make sure to follow @SCC_RoadSafety and visit their website www.somersetroadsafety.org for more.

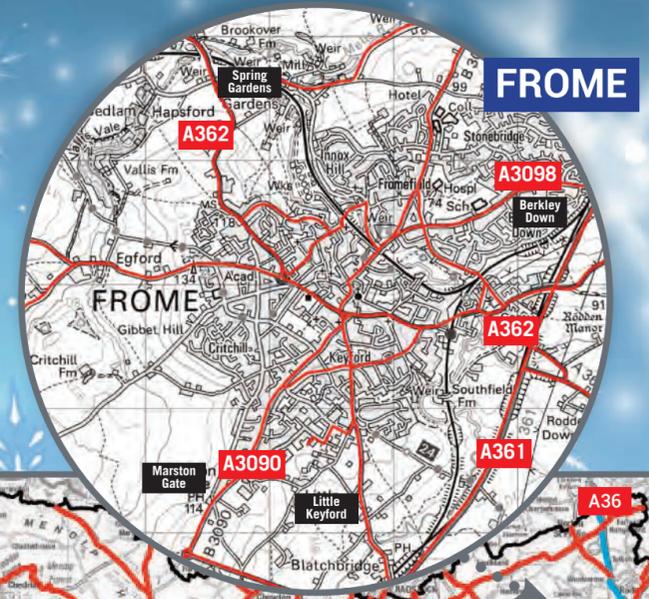
BRIDGWATER



A Guide to Salt

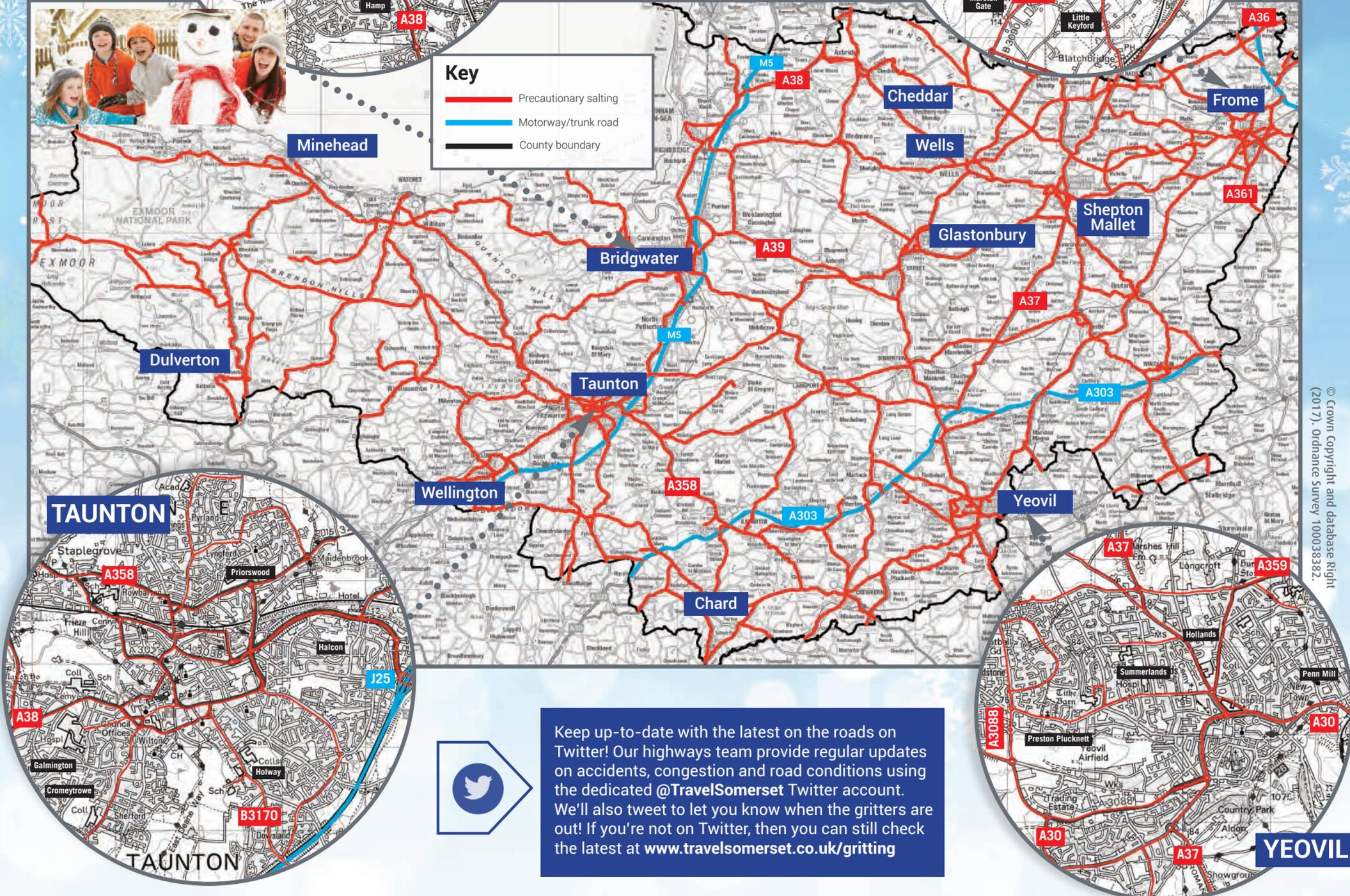
Only 7g of salt is needed per square metre to prevent ice forming – that's less than a tablespoon. The salt used by Somerset County Council on the roads is covered in molasses. This means that it sticks to the road surface better where it is needed and protects vehicles against corrosion.

FROME

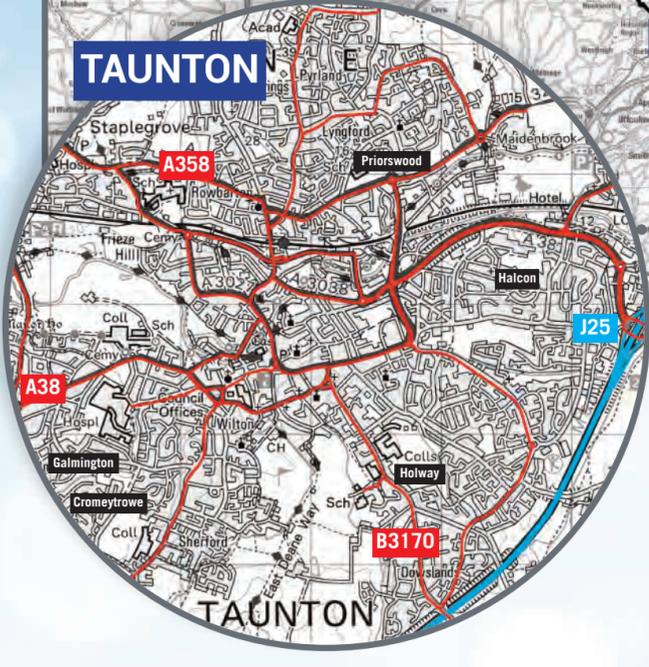


Key

- Red line: Precautionary salting
- Blue line: Motorway/trunk road
- Black line: County boundary



TAUNTON



Keep up-to-date with the latest on the roads on Twitter! Our highways team provide regular updates on accidents, congestion and road conditions using the dedicated @TravelSomerset Twitter account. We'll also tweet to let you know when the gritters are out! If you're not on Twitter, then you can still check the latest at www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting



YEOVIL

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Reduce, reuse and recycle for Somerset West & Taunton - WINTER 2021

Festive tips to tackle waste



It's a most wonderful time of the year, but the festive season also leads to lots of waste.

Think ahead this year and see if you can make "reduce, reuse and recycle" part of your routine.

From meal planning to recycling wrapping paper, see page 3 for some SWP top tips for waging war on festive waste.

Help cut down on the mountains of cardboard by thinking outside the box (see page 2) and you will be helping hard-hit Somerset businesses, too.

RECYCLE MORE blazes a trail

Recycle More is blazing a trail across Somerset West and Taunton.

The expanded service started in the Taunton Deane area in November and tonnes more recycling is already being collected with the help of its new Bright Blue Bags.

It is due to arrive in West Somerset early in 2022 at the same time it is rolled-out in Sedgemoor. We will be able to confirm the dates soon.

This will be the final piece of the Recycle More puzzle. The service is already delivering more than 100 extra tonnes of recycling each week in both Mendip and South Somerset and the early signs are that Taunton Deane will be following suit.

If you live in Taunton Deane, thanks for welcoming the service so warmly and doing your bit to protect the environment and help tackle climate change.

If you live in West Somerset now is the time to start preparing.

As well as everything already collected weekly, Recycle More adds:

- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Cartons, such as Tetra Paks
- Household batteries
- Small electrical items

Everyone gets a new recycling container – a Bright Blue Bag. Because crews will pick up more recycling, rubbish collections will happen every three weeks instead of every two.

Have a full set of recycling containers:

Everyone can have a green box and black box, more than one if you are regularly filling what you have.

Recycle food waste: About 60% of Somerset households do and it makes an important contribution to reducing carbon emissions.

Containers can be ordered FREE using the My Waste Service feature on the somersetwaste.gov.uk website. Choose the "Order waste boxes, bins & bags" option.

Wherever possible we will also improve recycling for properties with shared collections, like blocks of flats and houses of multiple occupancy.

Everyone will be written to twice before anything changes. For more detail visit somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more



Where did your recycling go? 2020-21



SWP fleet powers-up with electric truck

A green rubbish collection revolution is quietly underway for SWP as it takes on its first electric collection truck.

After a successful three-month trial in the Bridgwater area, an electric refuse vehicle has been bought and will be used on routes across the county.

The 27-tonne truck is a refurbished diesel with a 300 KW battery. It looks the same but is far quieter and has had great feedback from drivers and crew.

Most importantly, it will save around 38 tonnes of carbon annually. And, thanks to being a refurbished truck rather than a new-build, it has saved tonnes of carbon in its manufacture.



Members of the Somerset Waste Board sneak a peek at the new electric truck



Reducing its carbon footprint is a key aim for SWP. In 2022 it will be installing solar panels at its depots in Taunton and Evercreech.

These are expected to save 52 tonnes of carbon per year, with up-front costs recouped in less than seven years of their 25-year lifespan.

While more expensive to buy than a diesel, running costs will be around £8,000 less each year.

As it makes its way around the county, the electric truck will help us understand which routes could be suitable for electric vehicles.

Range limits mean electric vehicles will not work in all areas, but with some of our fleet due to be renewed in 2024, SWP wants to know which rounds could be suitable for a greener electric vehicle.

SWP and its collections contractor SUEZ are the

first to operate Denis Eagle's refurbished electric vehicles and amongst the first to operate one on frontline services.

Mendip District Council is covering the up-front costs, with all District partners paying the borrowing costs.

Think outside the box this Christmas



Somerset is asked to think outside the box this festive season as new figures show that kerbside cardboard has rocketed by more than a third.

Over the 12 months up to October this year, crews collected an average of 65kg of cardboard from each household – a total of 16,782 tonnes.

That is a staggering 35% increase compared to the 47kg per household in 2019-20.

This is thought to be mostly down to lockdown restrictions accelerating the rise of internet shopping as people spend more time at home.

Although cardboard is recycled every week from the kerbside, producing it and collecting it have a financial and carbon cost. It also puts a strain on crews who have worked throughout the pandemic, coping with record levels of waste.

Recycling is crucial but we can all reduce what we consume, too. So, this festive season why not consider other options?

Top cardboard cut-outs

Buy gifts that don't need boxes
If you think beyond boxable gifts, you can give loved ones something to look forward to in 2022.

- vouchers for restaurants, attractions or pampering treatments.
- subscriptions for newspapers magazines or streaming service.
- memberships for trusts or clubs.

Buy more off-line
Shop on the High Street and cut out the extra packaging that comes with online delivery.

This will help tackle the mountain of cardboard while giving hard-pressed local businesses a welcome boost.

Shop local online
Local retailers can deliver to your door and they tend to use less packaging.

Cardboard can be recycled at all 16 Somerset recycle sites. Please drop off larger pieces to any site.

A wasteless Christmas

Some easy ideas for a low-waste, fun festive time all the family.



Clear the decks. Clear your recycling before the festive season starts. Need any recycle containers? Order free now on My Waste Services at somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Plan to eat well. Buy what you need and eat all you buy with a meal plan for the holidays. Check your stocks before shopping with a list, eat into the freezer and fridge first to make space for leftovers.

Be a better giver. Ask for wish lists, invest in real quality of lasting value, give digital subscriptions and vouchers for experiences, buy local to help your community with less plastic and cardboard.

Deck the halls with anything but plastic. Winter foliage and decorations of paper and card - especially home-made - look great, and for the tree, make baubles that recycle anything from buttons to old family photos.

Wrapping paper

Use paper wrapping paper and put it in the correct recycling box or reuse it if you can. Glittered, plastic or metallic wrapping cannot be recycled so should go in the rubbish – better still, do not buy it at all.

Lots of wrapping paper? Take it to a recycling site and put in one of the special drop-off points.



Trouble-free trees

Artificial or real?

A real tree is the better environmental choice unless you can be sure you will use an artificial one for many years.

A live tree in a pot is always special and pet owners may prefer to decorate a tree in their garden to avoid feline or canine attention indoors.

Disposing of your real tree

Be green: If possible, the best thing to do is chip it and compost at home or use it to attract wildlife in your garden.

Recycling sites: All 16 can take trees – decoration free - in the garden waste skip to be composted and turned into Revive soil conditioner.

Garden waste subscriber?: Remove decorations and leave next to your green bin for your first 2022 collection.

Other options: Some farms and zoos want Christmas trees for their animals.

Charity collections: Some charities can collect in return for a donation.



Search for **"Christmas tree"** at Dorothy House Hospice Care - dorothyhouse.org.uk - which will collect trees from around Frome, Shepton Mallet and all these postcodes: BA1, BA2, BA3, BA4, BA11, BA12, BA13, BA14, BA15, SN11, SN12, SN13, SN14, SN15, SN16 and BS31.

Or search for **"Christmas tree"** at St Margaret's Hospice Care - st-margarets-hospice.org.uk - which will collect trees from around Bridgwater, Taunton, Wellington, Yeovil, these postcodes TA1, TA2, BA20, BA21 and parts of TA3, TA4, TA5, TA6, TA21 and BA22.

Your when and where of festive recycling

The festive fortnight always means changes to kerbside collections and recycle sites.

Check page 4 - maybe cut it out and keep it on your fridge or kitchen noticeboard - for the changes to collection days, over Christmas and New Year, and note the annual suspension of garden waste pick-ups.

If you live in South Somerset and Taunton Deane, your printed Recycle More calendar will also show these details, and all the changes are on the My Collection Day online calendar at somersetwaste.gov.uk (tip: postcode gap AB1 2CD).

Be sure to have all the recycle containers you need for festive waste - free - by ordering them via My Waste Services at somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Recycling sites stay on their usual weekly schedules - 16 open 9am-4pm Saturdays and Sundays, and up to 12 open 9am-5pm weekdays - but all sites close on three days: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Two recycle sites have one-off extra festive days open 9am-5pm to help with post-Christmas waste: Dulverton on Monday 27 December and Crewkerne on Tuesday 28 December.



GREEN GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS

Somerset Waste Partnership is asking schools across the county to put their hands up for green grants.

We are offering grants of £500 to 50 schools to help them on their Eco-School journey, whether it's taking the first step on the tried and trusted programme or progressing towards the coveted "Green Flag" status.

The international scheme inspires and empowers pupils and staff to help protect the environment, working through seven steps towards the Green Flag.

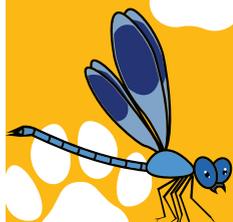
Grants can be used for all kinds of projects or initiatives in the school, including those that reduce waste and encourage recycling around the school.

They are open to primary and secondary schools, with the simple application process open until the end of May 2022.

For details of how your school can apply, visit somersetwaste.gov.uk/education




Milverton Primary: the green flag bearer



Milverton Primary school has been a Green Flag Eco-school for more than a decade – the top accolade within the programme.

As well as taking part in national events like the Big Switch off (energy reduction) and the Big Pedal (sustainable travel), it has run countless projects and initiatives linked to the scheme.

From wildlife surveys and foot-print tracking to recycled art and building habitats for newts and lizards - being an eco-school has helped make environmental awareness and action part of the daily routine.

An eco-school element is built into each of the weekly Forest School sessions and the school has run regular litter picks and tried "paperless days" for both pupils and staff.

Parents get involved and children are encouraged to practise at home the green skills they have learnt at school.

Stephen Penny, the school's new Eco-Schools lead, said: "Being an eco-school has definitely had a positive impact on the children and their respect for the world around them."

"It's designed to be led by the children and they love the responsibility and opportunity to decide what happens. Every child and every member of staff can play a part and you have staff and children learning new things together."

Festive collections 2021-22

Usual collection day

Revised collection day

Usual collection day

Revised collection day

Friday 24 December

No change

Monday 3 January

Tuesday 4 January

Monday 27 December

Tuesday 28 December

Tuesday 4 January

Wednesday 5 January

Tuesday 28 December

Wednesday 29 December

Wednesday 5 January

Thursday 6 January

Wednesday 29 December

Thursday 30 December

Thursday 6 January

Friday 7 January

Thursday 30 December

Friday 31 December

Friday 7 January

Saturday 8 January

Friday 31 December

Sunday 2 January 2022

No garden waste pick-ups in festive fortnight, above. All collections resume from Monday 10 January. Recycle sites on usual schedules except all close Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Extra site open days: Dulverton Monday 27 December, Crewkerne Tuesday 28 December



Look after yourself this Christmas

Whether or not Christmas is part of your life, your mental health might still be affected by it happening around you.

It's a time of year that often puts extra pressure on us and can affect our mental health in lots of different ways.

“I've found the way of having a happier Christmas is doing what's right for me. Making careful choices who I spend my time with and keeping in mind that it's just one day. The time I spend with the people throughout the year is just as important.”



TIPS

Here are some tips to help you cope:

- **Let yourself experience your own feelings.** Even if they don't match what's going on around you, they're still real and valid.
- **Set your boundaries.** Say no to things that aren't helpful for you.
- **Set a 'start' and 'finish' time for what you count as Christmas.** Remind yourself that it won't last forever.
- **Take time out.** Do something to forget that it's Christmas or distract yourself. For example, you could watch a film or read a book that's set in the summer or learn a new skill.
- **Let yourself have the things you need.** If you need to take a break instead of doing an activity, or you need a little bit of quiet time – do it!
- If you can't avoid something difficult, **plan something for yourself afterwards** to help reduce the stress or distress you might feel.

For more help and support coping with Christmas, visit www.mind.org.uk Or phone Somerset Mindline for emotional support and information, 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **01823 276892**.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

it's older and safer, without abuse

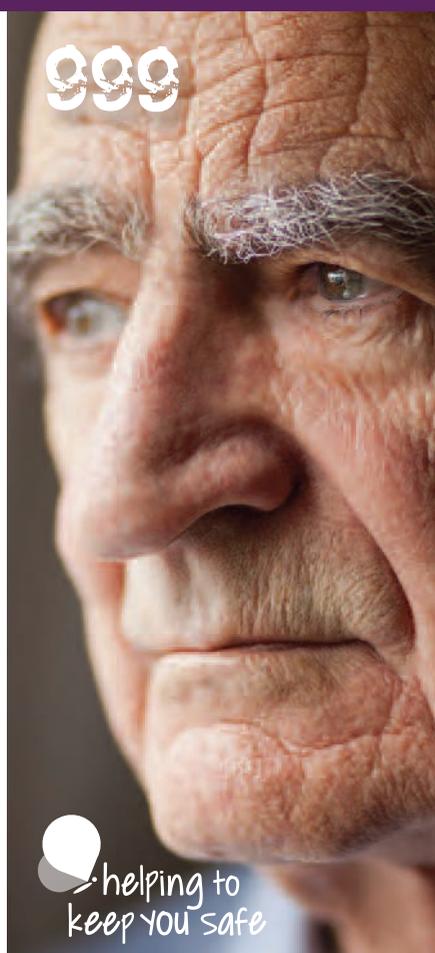
The number of people over sixty-five reporting abuse in Somerset is on the increase.

Older people are particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse, often unaware that help is available to them. Fear and long-term health conditions can be a major barrier to getting help, and sometimes spotting and challenging abuse in the elderly can be difficult.

Abuse can take many forms, including neglect or physical, physiological, emotional, financial, online or sexual abuse. It is also believed that abuse of older people is still significantly under reported, despite the recent rise. Tragically, many will suffer in silence, behind closed doors, in shame or embarrassment.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, worried about someone you know, or are concerned about the impact of your behaviour towards others, then help is available. Visit www.somersetssurvivors.org.uk or phone **0800 69 49 999**.

In an emergency you should always dial 999. If you are worried that an abuser may overhear your call, you can remain silent, tap the phone and dial 55 when prompted by the operator who will send help.



helping to
keep you safe



#LetsTalkLoneliness podcast

As social distancing restrictions ease and the winter draws in, many people will be feeling lonely and isolated. So, it's more important than ever to take action if you or someone you know is feeling lonely.

As part of the national 'Let's Talk Loneliness Campaign' a series of podcasts are available to share stories and support. You can listen wherever you get your podcasts by searching #LetsTalkLoneliness (transcript are also available at dcms-podcasts.simplecast.com) To find out more, visit

letstalkloneliness.co.uk

Somerset health and care app library coming soon!

There are so many apps on the market, it's hard to know which ones you can trust.



That's why the NHS in Somerset have teamed up with ORCHA (the Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Applications) to create a website, which shows reviews of health and care related apps, helping you to choose the one that works best for you.

You will soon be able choose from thousands of the best health and lifestyle apps in the safe knowledge that they have been carefully reviewed and approved by ORCHA.

The website will be tailored to suit your needs, with many categories of apps, including sleeping, respiratory, healthy living and apps to help you look after your mental and physical health. Each app is rated and grouped into an appropriate 'level' - this does not necessarily mean that one app is better than another, it's just that they offer different kinds of support.

ORCHA checks for things like:

- How well they work (approved by health and care professionals)
- How easy they are to use
- Confidentiality and security

ORCHA is an NHS England endorsed project that has already been successfully rolled out in other areas of the UK, and is being introduced in stages in the South West as part of the national Digital First Primary Care programme. More information will be available at www.somersetccg.nhs.uk once ORCHA has gone live.

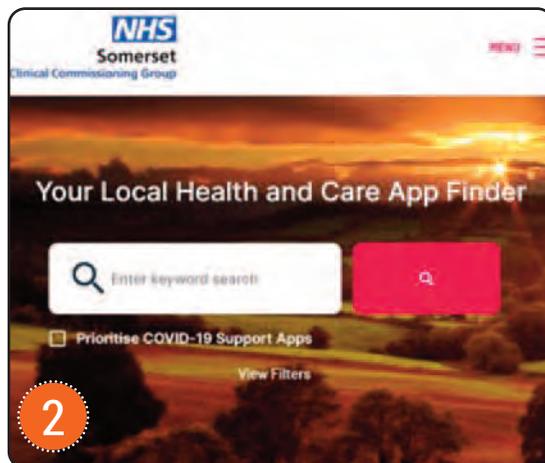
We understand that apps and digital services are not for everyone. We hope that offering a digital option will help enhance existing services and options and will not replace any current health or care services.

If you have any feedback (both positive and negative!) or have any questions, we would love to hear from you. Please email somccg.digitalteam@nhs.net or phone our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on **08000 851067**.

The ORCHA Programme is part of Fit for my Future, Somerset's integrated health and care strategy.



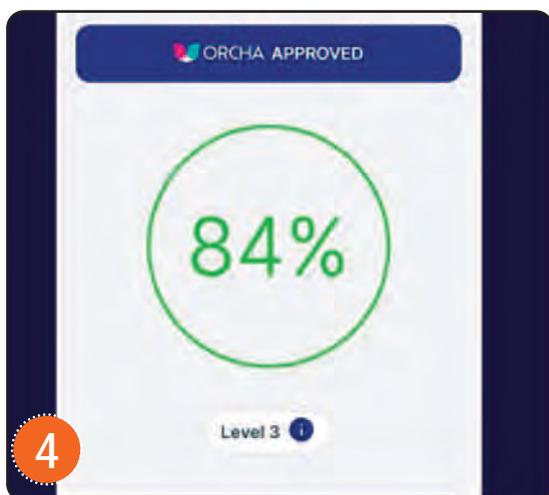
1 Sophie is having trouble sleeping. Instead of going to the doctor, her friend recommends she look for support on ORCHA, the new Somerset app library website.



2 Sophie trusts the website as ORCHA's app finder only shows apps which have been approved as safe and secure by clinicians and data and privacy experts.



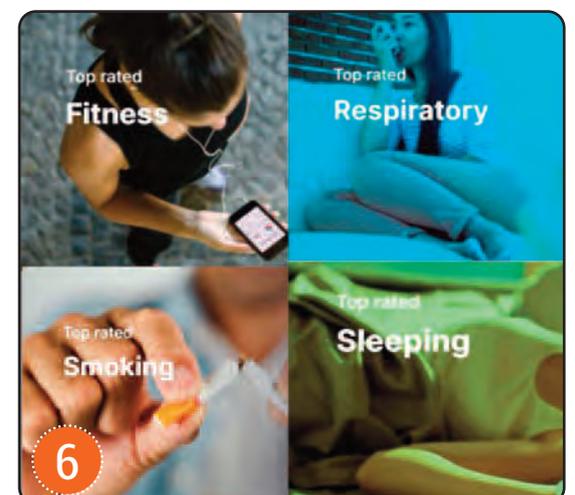
3 Sophie sees that some apps are free and some need to be paid for. She has an iPhone so picks a free iOS app to download from ORCHA.



4 Apps have scores to tell Sophie how easy to use they are and whether they are interactive or just provide information.



5 Sophie can now sleep using her new app and no longer feels like she needs to visit the doctor. She goes back to ORCHA to find other apps to help her overall wellbeing.



6 You will be able to visit the Somerset ORCHA Apps library to find health and wellbeing apps that suit your needs!



DRY JANUARY®

This January, why not join the millions of people taking part in the one-month alcohol-free Dry January challenge?

Swapping your alcoholic drinks for something softer brings with it many health benefits - it can lower your blood pressure, cholesterol and help you sleep better. It can also leave you feeling more energetic and help to shift a few of those post-Christmas pounds.

As if all that wasn't enough, you'll save a small fortune and be able to treat yourself at the end of the month.



Go on you deserve it!

86%
of participants save money

70%
of participants have better sleep and 66% have more energy

Double your chance of an alcohol-free month when you download the app **x2**

Get the app

The new year is a great opportunity to reset your drinking habits, and according to research, people who take on the Dry January challenge with support are twice as likely to stay dry throughout the month and enjoy all the benefits. Search online for 'Dry January', where you can sign up for the brilliant

Dry January coaching emails or download the free app, 'Try Dry'. The app can track your units, calories and money saved and you can set your own goals all year-round.



Drinking more than you used to?

Taking part in Dry January can help you reset your relationship with alcohol and help you drink more healthily all year round. Research has found that six months after Dry January more than 70 per cent of people who take on the month are still drinking more healthily.

If you're concerned about your drinking or someone else's, support is available locally through the Somerset Drug & Alcohol Service (SDAS) delivered by Turning Point.

For more information, phone **0300 303 8788** or visit www.turning-point.co.uk/services/sdas



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helping to keep you safe

Are you a member of the public and want to recognise signs of domestic abuse and modern slavery?

Do you also want to know what you can do to help?

Take these elearning module tests available for free and help reduce victimisation from abuse, visit: training.somersetssurvivors.co.uk

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Enjoy a Covid-free Christmas



With the festive season fast approaching, many of us are looking forward to sharing time with our loved ones, but with coronavirus still circulating, it's important we all do what we can to protect ourselves and others.

Getting fully vaccinated still remains the best way of protecting yourself and others against coronavirus, but there is a risk you can catch or pass on the virus even if you're fully vaccinated.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to help stop the virus spreading:

Regular testing

Don't forget, some people won't show any symptoms at all, so make sure you take a Rapid Lateral Flow test twice a week, especially before you meet up with friends or family from other households, even if you feel fine. This will give you peace of mind that you're not going to pass on the virus to loved ones and, if you do test positive, you can take action to help stop the virus spreading. You can order test kits free of charge from www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests or collect them from your local pharmacy with a collection code.



If you test positive, you must self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test as soon as possible to confirm the result.

Let the fresh air in to keep coronavirus out

When meeting indoors, the more fresh air you let into your home or other enclosed spaces, the less likely a person is to inhale infectious particles. Let in fresh air by uncovering vents and opening doors and windows. If you're worried about getting chilly or keeping the house warm, just opening your windows every so often for 10 minutes will really make a difference. So will regularly wiping down surfaces, door handles and washing your hands.



Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed areas

Coronavirus spreads through the air by droplets exhaled from the nose and mouth of an infected person when they breath or talk. By covering your nose and mouth with a face covering, you'll reduce the spread of droplets and aerosols carrying the virus by limiting the amount of the virus being released, helping to protect others.



Concerned about getting a Covid-19 vaccination?

Free, one-to-one support is now available for anyone concerned about the Covid-19 vaccine.

Spark Somerset's team of trained Vaccination Buddy volunteers are here to help and offer advice and support over the phone to anybody in Somerset who is worried about having the vaccine.



Johanna - Trained Volunteer Vaccination Buddy

Meet a few of our 'buddies':

Vaccination Buddies come from all walks of life and can speak a range of languages, including Portuguese and Polish. They can't give specific medical advice, but they have full training from our Public Health team, so they can support people to make an informed decision about their vaccination.

Johanna: "I am from Namibia and I became a Vaccination Buddy so that I could support other people from minority groups with the right up-to-date information regarding the vaccination roll out. I'm non-judgemental and a good listener. I believe I offer caring and sensitive support to individuals deciding whether to have the Covid-19 vaccination."

Penina: "I'm a registered nurse and health visitor. I think being a Vaccination Buddy is a great way to use my skills and experience to help others make informed decisions."

Here's what the people they've helped had to say.

"Julie was well informed and non-judgemental. She gave me lots more insight and reasons to say 'yes' to the vaccine."

"It was good to have someone to talk to. I would 100 per cent recommend people talk to a Vaccination Buddy if they have questions. I have told my work colleagues about it."

To request a phone call with a Vaccination Buddy, visit www.sparksomerset.org.uk/projects/vaccination-buddies Or to find out more, phone Helen Fielden, Project Coordinator on 07535 800944 or email helen.fielden@sparksomerset.org.uk



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- Wednesday 19 January 2022, Bridgwater campus
- Saturday 22 January 2022, Cannington campus

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Together we are delivering your **New Somerset Council**

NEW



1 April 2023

Back in July, the Government confirmed that Somerset will move to a new single-tier model of local government 1 April 2023.

This means that Somerset's current five councils – Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset County Council, Somerset West and Taunton Council and South Somerset District Council – will be replaced by a new single unitary council, responsible for all your council services.

But what does this mean for me?

We want to make sure that Somerset has the resilient, unified, and dynamic system of local government it deserves. Over the next 18 months the five councils will be working together with Government to design and deliver a new council that works for you.

It will deliver:

- ✓ better services
- ✓ greater value for money
- ✓ decisions made at a very local level
- ✓ less confusion and bureaucracy

The timeline

The new council officially comes into existence on 'Vesting Day' on 1 April 2023. What we create will be new: new structure, new policies, new ways of working and a new culture.

What happens next?

Since the announcement, all five organisations have been working together with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on plans to deliver the new council.

One of the first key steps was to set up a Joint Committee – made up of councillors from both County and District Councils.

This committee will take important decisions in areas which will impact on the new council – like the constitution and budget.

The first meeting took place in November in Mendip with councillors discussing the draft Structural Changes Order (SCO) as received from the DLUHC. The SCO is essential for Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset as it establishes the basic operating principles of the new council.



Key details in the SCO include the proposed name of the new council – Somerset Council – along with arrangements for elections to the new council.

The SCO will now be finalised by DLUHC and laid before Parliament before the end of the year and it will come into force by the end of March. In the meantime, all council services provided by the current five councils will continue as normal with councils working more closely together in the run-up to Vesting Day in April 2023.

You can stay up-to-date with the process by visiting www.newsomersetcouncil.org.uk

How do I make my voice heard?

One of the committees set up to develop the new council is **The Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Advisory Board**



This is a less formal public meeting, designed to provide a place for residents, public sector partners, such as the Police and the NHS, council members, young people and others with an interest to contribute ideas on how the new Council could work. One of its first tasks will be to explore what services could be provided in, and led by, the communities they serve.

The Board's role is advisory, but its proposals, ideas and recommendations will feed into the unitary programme and the decision-making Joint Committee.

You can find out the times and places of Advisory Committee meetings at www.newsomersetcouncil.org.uk



Ground-breaking start for a ground-breaking project

Work has now started on a ground-breaking construction project in Somerset.

The £11m Digital Innovation Centre, being developed on Somerset West and Taunton Council's Firepool regeneration site in Taunton, will build on local strengths in the digital sector and form a key part of plans for recovery and transformation of Somerset's economy, including the creation of high-quality jobs.

The new 2,613 square-metre building will provide modern office, workshop, collaboration, and meeting space over four floors, as well as specialist innovation support services targeted at digital economy businesses.

The centre will meet the demand for an innovation centre for the local

digital economy and for high-quality managed offices/workspace for local, home-grown start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), while attracting new businesses and inward investment. Through the centre, SMEs will benefit from dedicated innovation support to help grow their business and bring new products and services to market.

Somerset County Council part-funded the project and has secured significant contributions from the UK Government's Getting Building Fund (via the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership) and the European Regional Development Fund. Further contributions have come from Somerset's Business Rates Retention Fund and Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT).



£11m
Digital
Innovation
Centre

Cllr Marcus Kravis, Cllr David Fothergill (Leader Somerset County Council), Pat Flaherty (Chief Executive, Somerset County Council), Cllr David Hall, Karl Tucker and Rob Woolcock



Get better connected with the **Mobile Boost Scheme**

Is your business struggling with poor indoor mobile coverage? Then Connecting Devon and Somerset may be able to help through the Mobile Boost Programme, which aims to upgrade indoor 4G coverage in 'not-spot' areas.

Businesses and households can apply for a voucher of up to £1,200 towards the cost of one of a number of mobile signal booster options from a registered supplier.

The value of the voucher will be dependent on the type of technology most suitable for the premises. Businesses and residents will need to make a contribution which, depending on the option chosen, will range from £250 for installation to a monthly fee for a SIM card (averaging around £30 per month). Your supplier will be able to advise on the most appropriate option.

For more information and to apply, visit www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/the-cds-mobile-booster-voucher-scheme-guide/



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Skills | Training | Employment | Progression

Step Up Somerset is here to help
Whether you're searching for your next job opportunity, starting a new career, working on your employment skills or just beginning your journey in the world of work, check out the Step Up Somerset website at www.stepupsomerset.org.uk

It's a one-stop-shop for people, employers and businesses looking for support and information about employment, skills careers and apprenticeships in Somerset.

The Step Up Somerset website has a broad range of employment advice and support, from the latest job opportunities to creating a great CV and honing those interview skills.

If you're facing redundancy and feel unsure about what to do next,



then there's help for you too. It also has a wellbeing section, with access to mental health resources to help anyone who is struggling to find employment or their next step in education and training.

Step Up Somerset also provides plenty of advice and support for businesses, offering tips on how to develop a talent pipeline through apprenticeships and industry placements, redundancy support and promoting events.

For more information, visit www.stepupsomerset.org.uk

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Care South is a leading provider of residential, dementia
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Care South

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Volunteer and help make a difference!



Did you know that there are a
wide range of volunteering
opportunities in Somerset? You
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your local community and you'll find
that there are volunteering roles
to suit everyone.

To find something that you are passionate about
and that feels right for you, visit our website at
volunteering.somerset.gov.uk or email
volunteer@somerset.gov.uk for more information.

We update our website on a regular basis, so keep
checking back to find the latest opportunities.
You can also keep up-to-date by following the
Somerset County Council Volunteering Team on
Facebook at [www.facebook.com/volunteeringat
somersetcountycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/volunteeringat.somersetcountycouncil)

Spark a Change is another great place to find
volunteering opportunities with a range of
charities, voluntary and community groups
across Somerset. Visit [www.sparkachange.
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