

## Streetscene's winter maintenance

The Streetscene Team will be starting their winter maintenance programme this month, keeping the district clean, safe and attractive. So what will they be doing?

On behalf of the Environment Agency, the team keeps over 80 ditches and metal grates free of debris and leaves, ensuring that important waterways stay clear. This takes two people two days per week – and more in extreme weather.

They will be maintaining shrub beds, pruning, weeding and replanting shrubs covering several thousand square metres across the district. They will also be tree thinning and looking for signs of disease, dead or dying tree branches and certain types of fungus that could weaken a tree.

Over a quarter of a million daffodil bulbs will be planted, dozens of roundabouts will be tidied up ready for the spring blooms and metres of old fencing will be replaced this winter at Birchfield, Milford Dip, Howard Road Rec in Yeovil and Barrymore Close in Huish Episcopi.

The team will continue their work towards Yeovil In Bloom and the community allotment project at St Mark's Church. They will also help to complete a skate park project in Oak Tree Park in Yeovil where young people asked our Enforcement Team if they could repaint the equipment as a reward for keeping the park tidy during the summer holidays.

## Gritting

Road and footpath gritting is the responsibility of Somerset County Council (visit [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)). However, when longer periods of severe ice, snow and low temperatures are predicted, we have agreed with the county council to make district council staff available to help grit paved areas in the district's market towns where possible.

If you would like this document translated into other languages or into Braille, large print, audio tape or CD, please contact: 01935 462462.

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany w językach polskim. Este documento encontra-se disponível em Português, a pedido.

## ZERO under 18's night



Yeovil's Club Neo will once again open its doors to hundreds of 14 to 17 year old clubbers on Wednesday 28th December for the next Zero under 18's night.

Organised in partnership with Avon and Somerset Police, the events regularly attract around 600 teenagers, giving them the chance to enjoy a real nightclub and socialise but with the supervision needed to make sure things run smoothly. Zero aims to promote alcohol and antisocial behaviour-free fun. We have now launched Zero's very own Facebook page, so "like" the page for upcoming event information at [www.facebook.com/ZEROclubbers](http://www.facebook.com/ZEROclubbers).

The Christmas Party takes place from 7pm to 11pm. Cost: £5 on the door.

Profits generated by the Zero nights are put into a grants scheme benefiting young people. For more information contact Shirley Courage on 01935 462462 or [zero@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:zero@southsomerset.gov.uk) or [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/zero](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/zero)



## Olympic torch relay route visits four towns in South Somerset

The towns of Ilminster, Yeovil, Ilchester and Somerton will be positively glowing when they welcome the Olympic Torch Relay on Tuesday 22 May 2012. This will be a chance for residents in the towns and surrounding communities to extend a welcome to the Olympic Flame and share the excitement of the London 2012 games.

[www.southsomerset.gov.uk/olympic-torch](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/olympic-torch)

## Christmas Waste Collections

Your usual collection day	Your revised collection day
Friday 23 December 2011	No change – usual collection
Monday 26 December 2011	Tuesday 27 December 2011
Tuesday 27 December 2011	Wednesday 28 December 2011
Wednesday 28 December 2011	Thursday 29 December 2011
Thursday 29 December 2011	Friday 30 December 2011
Friday 30 December 2011	Saturday 31 December 2011
Monday 2 January 2012	Tuesday 3 January 2012
Tuesday 3 January 2012	Wednesday 4 January 2012
Wednesday 4 January 2012	Thursday 5 January 2012
Thursday 5 January 2012	Friday 6 January 2012
Friday 6 January 2012	Saturday 7 January 2012
Monday 9 January 2012	No change – usual collection

Natural Christmas trees under 6ft can be collected. If you pay for garden waste collections you can put them out on normal garden waste collection days for composting. Otherwise, take to Recycling Centres or put out the tree on your normal refuse collection day between 9th and 20th January 2012 for disposal. Place the tree next to your bin or sack. Remove all decorations.

For the latest information visit [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)

## Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership is awarded Community Rail Designation

The Bristol to Weymouth line stops at 3 local stations, Bruton, Castle Cary and Yeovil Penn Mill. First Great Western, the operator, supports the partnership of seven local authorities and over 70 volunteers and community groups from towns along the line.

The community has played a substantial role in promoting growth in passenger journeys. From 2003, this has been three times the national average despite no increase in services. They also work hard to enhance stations, improve information and access for

residents and visitors and encourage more use of the line through special events.

This work has now been recognised by the Government with Community Rail Designation announced on 10th October 2011. Designation helps to address the long-term viability of local rail routes supported by Community Rail Partnerships. It opens up the potential for making practical changes that would not otherwise be possible. The partnership will now examine the potential to resolve issues raised by local communities.

## Contact us

If you have a question, suggestion, or concern, please get in touch with us.

Visit us online: [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk)  
Email us: [ssdc@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:ssdc@southsomerset.gov.uk)

Call us: 01935 462462

Write to us: Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2HT

Contact your local councillor:  
[www.southsomerset.gov.uk/my-councillor](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/my-councillor)

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# South Somerset

## News

Winter  
**11**

Your newsletter from South Somerset District Council

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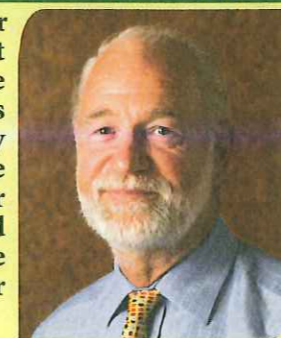
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THE MJ  
2009 Best Achieving Council  
FINALIST

LGC Awards 2009  
Most Improved Council of the Year  
FINALIST

## Message from Cllr Ric Pallister, Leader of South Somerset District Council

We end the year on a somewhat gloomy note following redundancies at several of our key employers, which came as very bad news for those affected and also means high value jobs are lost in our economy.



As a District Council we will do all we can to ensure that key skills can be retained locally. This November, together with a range of partners, we will be organising support events at the council's Yeovil Innovation Centre. These events will help people facing redundancy from the high tech sector to consider alternative opportunities including self employment; the Innovation Centre offers an appropriate environment for them to find out more.

However, we do need to stand back to realise that, whilst the outlook may appear depressing, there are grounds to be optimistic.

Despite job losses, empty shops and a global recession, in South Somerset we are doing much better than most areas of the country and this is still a place to do business. With unemployment at 1.8%, we continue to stay far below the national level of 3.9%.

AgustaWestland's job losses are to reduce costs to make them more globally competitive, not about lost orders or no orders. This will actually help them to protect the future of the company and continue to retain the best skills in the industry.

Numatic in Chard and Screwfix in Yeovil are modestly but significantly expanding, creating more jobs and they are not the only ones. As I write, a Healthcare company in Yeovil is complaining that it cannot fill its vacancies.

To my mind, we can either talk ourselves into even greater depression and despondency or come out fighting for the future and support those losing their jobs – SSDC has chosen the 'fighting' route.

*Ric Pallister*

## A little help goes a long way

Councillors and officers have been working harder than ever before to help volunteers, community groups and those with great ideas for local projects to achieve their aims and become more resilient despite difficult times.

"A small amount of support, advice, training or grant funding can go a long way", said Cllr Patrick Palmer speaking on behalf of the four Area Chairs.

Volunteers from the Stoke Sub Hamdon Sports and Recreation Trust have set up their own charity shop. The proceeds will benefit the skate park, BMX track, new picnic tables and sports and recreation for all age groups in the village. We helped Kingsbury Episcopi to install a multi-use sports and games area, whilst supporting Chilthorne Domer to improve their pavilion and run their own play day – which raised over £2000 for local projects.

In Yeovil we have been working with Birchfield residents to look at alternative options if their library is closed, and supporting proactive volunteers across the town to set up community gardens, youth groups and health projects.

In Bruton we helped with three Heritage Lottery Fund bids, which resulted in a £27,000 grant towards a community-run online interactive museum.

There is a small grants budget available for community projects in Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster area and we welcome applications for local projects such as (continued on page 3)



Photo shows the winners of this year's Gold Star Awards organised by our Community Health and Leisure team in recognition of local volunteers' work with young people, using our Octagon Theatre as the venue.

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