



# South Somerset News

The latest news, information and events in South Somerset

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

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Hold your meeting at Westlands in a range of meeting and conferencing rooms from as little as £12 an hour

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## Days out in the countryside this summer and autumn

We list some of the more popular events held across South Somerset District Council's countryside sites

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## Summer in south Somerset...

Make sure you enjoy the best of our special part of rural England this summer, with its classic scenery, bustling market towns and pretty villages.

South Somerset District Council's Tourism Team are here to help, with information for all ages and interests - from retro car rallies to half-marathons and outdoor theatre and concerts - whether you live here or are getting ready to welcome friends and family on a visit. There are many things you can do for free.

Summer is the season for festivals and fetes. Click the What's On tab on the Discover South Somerset website to find out about local events and make sure you don't miss any fun!

The landscape is ideal for exploring on foot, by bike or on horseback. Watch wildlife, go fishing or enjoy a round of golf. Jump in the car and take the slow lane, meandering around orchards and woodlands.

There are historic houses and gardens to visit, tempting places to eat and drink and intriguing independent shops where you can buy that extra special gift – often locally made.

To find out more, pick up a free copy of Discover South Somerset from Yeovil Tourist Information Centre at Petters House (five days a week) or Cartgate (seven days a week in the summer, with free parking) or visit [www.DiscoverSouthSomerset.com](http://www.DiscoverSouthSomerset.com).



Above: A view towards Muchelney from the Somerset Levels



Visit the Ninesprings Café & enjoy a drink after a venture into Yeovil Country Park.

Visit [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/ninespringscafe](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/ninespringscafe)



# A look at two council services

## Housing Standards

Cold damp houses, overcrowding, disrepair, trip hazards, and dangerous electric fittings are just some of the issues that the Housing Standards Team deal with on a daily basis.

Excessive cold in a property, which can cause hypothermia, is the biggest problem the team face in the winter months. Poorly heated and insulated properties can result in damp, condensation and mould. Every year an increased number of elderly residents die during episodes of exceptionally cold weather.

When inspecting properties, the team look for risks such as trip hazards that result in falls on stairs. Likewise, it is important to ensure there are adequate window restrictors in place when small children are present to prevent falls from windows. Electrical problems such as sparking plugs and sockets falling off walls are also regularly investigated. Carbon monoxide poisoning is another issue dealt with by the team.

The team also inspects Houses of Multiple Occupation to ensure they are kept up to standard. With increased housing pressure, more and more young people live in shared bedsit accommodation and it is important to ensure that standards are maintained. Grants and loans are also issued by the team to residents in order to bring empty properties back into use (image above).

If you would like to know more about the work of the Housing Standards team, visit [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/housingstandards](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/housingstandards).



## Streetscene Services

A range of services are delivered by the Streetscene teams at South Somerset District Council which include:

- Horticulture - arboriculture, grounds maintenance, sports ground maintenance, flood alleviation works, landscape design, South West in Bloom initiative, adoption of open spaces, management of closed churchyards, operational management of the Yeovil Cemetery.
- Street Cleaning - road and pavement sweeping, litter control, waste bins, flytip management, highway weed control, removal of dead animals from the public highway.
- Plant Nursery - produces bedding plants and planted tubs / baskets for the In-Bloom initiatives in Yeovil, Sherborne and Milborne Port, production of plants for the interior decorative displays / production of shrubs and perennials for use in parks and other public spaces.
- Transport & Vehicle Workshop - management of council's fleet, service and repair of plant and vehicles, taxi testing, supporting multi-agency enforcement actions.

To find out more about Streetscene Services, please visit [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/environment](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/environment).

## STREETSCENE SERVICES

We invest in our Streetscene team to make South Somerset a greener, cleaner and more attractive place to live, work and visit.



We maintain and service our own fleet of vehicles



We engage with community payback and key4life to help people develop their working lives



Services provided 364 days a year



South West in Bloom  
Gold winners in the 2016 South West in Bloom competition



Over 370 square miles of roads swept in South Somerset



Our bedding plants are all grown in our nursery and we also supply to other local councils

# Hot tips for a low-waste, low-cost summer

For the long days of summer and hopes of a warm autumn, try these tips to recycle more, waste less and save money.

Choose the best that will work for you, or check them all out and see the difference in your purse and rubbish bin.

- Clear freezer space for items that might go off in the fridge, and fridge space to save leftovers.
- Stay safe by keeping the meat for barbecues in the fridge until needed. Provide rubbish and recycling bins.
- After long hot days, recycle your plastic sunscreen bottles, drink cans and antiperspirant aerosols.
- Day out? Take food in reusable containers in cool bags, add reusable bottles for drinks, and buy packaging-free loose fruit.
- Avoid costly and wasteful disposable plates and cutlery; take what you need, then bring it back to wash at home.
- New outfit needed? Try charity shop bargains. If you are having a clear-out take your pre-loved items to the charity shop, recycling site or put out bagged for kerbside pick-up.
- For your overgrown lawn, all recycling sites take garden waste – but do check about van, pick-up and trailer permits.
- Buying anything big? Take card or lots of boxes to recycling sites, avoiding busy weekends if possible.
- And for rain-ruined days, use packaging for creative making-painting days, or swap books and games with friends.



For more on recycling more, wasting less and saving money this summer, visit [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk). For help spending less yet eating better and wasting nothing, see [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com).

## Home composting

Compost at home and turn your unwanted garden waste, vegetable peelings and non-cooked kitchen waste into a free, nutritious material that puts the goodness back into the garden.

Save money – good compost can make excellent soil conditioner and save time, money and effort.

Improve your environment – the more you compost, the less you send to landfill.

Improve your garden – compost puts nutrition back into the soil, improving your garden or allotment.

Find out about the current offer on reduced price compost bins available through [evengreener.com](http://evengreener.com) on the Somerset Waste Partnership website at [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/more/composting](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/more/composting).



A 12 month green wheelie bin subscription is just £53.50. At just over a pound a week, this service remains good value and offers a quick and easy way for your garden waste to be collected and composted.

A 24 month subscription is just £100.

As an alternative to bins you can purchase garden sacks from us which currently cost £26 for 10 sacks.

### HOW TO JOIN:

Online: [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

Call: 01935 462462

Visit: call in to one of our offices  
[www.southsomerset.gov.uk/find-us](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/find-us)

# Record-breaking year at The Octagon Theatre

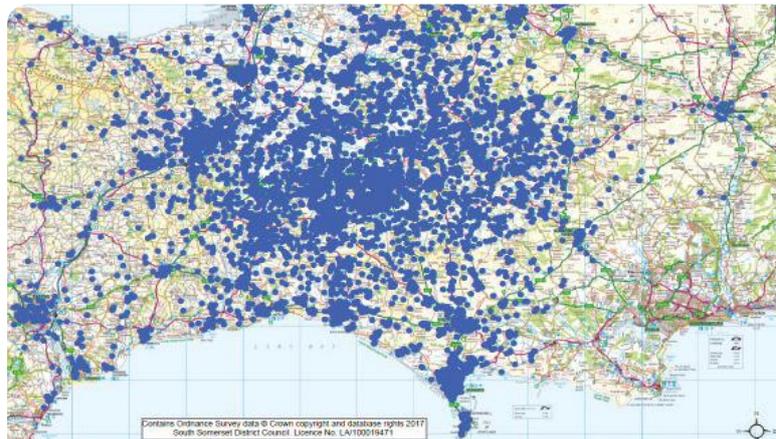
For the first time in its history The Octagon Theatre, Yeovil, has sold 130,000 tickets in over a year. The theatre, which is owned and managed by South Somerset District Council, has seen record attendance during 2016/17.

The theatre has a seating capacity of 622 and provides a diverse programme of live arts events from comedy to opera, ballet and drama, as well as providing a meeting space for local groups and providing a busy schedule of participatory classes through The Octagon Academy. Sales of 130,000 tickets for the 2016/17 financial year saw an increase of 10,000 tickets from the previous 2015/16 financial year.

The high demand for tickets looks set to continue with a busy autumn season coming up that includes 'America's Got Talent' winner Paul Zerdin, 'Milkshake Live!' and the stage production of 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea', Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, 'Strictly' star Natalie Lowe with 'Strictly Champions' Jay McGuiness and Louis Smith also feature. The Yeovil Literary Festival will welcome Ben Fogle, Monty Don, Michael Portillo, Suzi Quatro and Jeremy Vine (to name but a few) and 10,000 tickets have already been snapped up for the pantomime 'Cinderella'.

Adam Burgan, Arts and Entertainment Venues Manager, said, "The Octagon Theatre is going from strength to strength and it is fantastic to see more people than ever before coming through the door and enjoying a great night of entertainment. The variety of performances and events at The Octagon means there is something for everyone. South Somerset District Council has long prided itself on providing superb arts and entertainment for visitors from right across our district and beyond. This record growth is certainly to be celebrated."

For more information about The Octagon Theatre or to book tickets visit [www.octagon-theatre.co.uk](http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk) or call 01935 422884.



A map showing the location of patrons who purchased tickets across the South West during the last 12 months. Each dot represents a booking but does not show the number of tickets booked or the number of times the customer booked.



Motionhouse Dance Theatre who are performing 'Charge' at The Octagon on Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th November

Facebook: /TheOctagonTheatre

Twitter: @OctagonYeovil

Instagram: @OctagonYeovil

YouTube: @OctagonYeovil

BACK FOR 2017

IMAGINATIVE AUTHOR NON-FICTION FUNNY FICTION MOVING  
 CELEBRITY VIBRANT HISTORY  
 COMEDY THEATRE ENLIGHTENING ROMANCE HUMOUR INSPIRATION FACTUAL ENGROSSING EXCITING FASCINATING  
 LITERATURE INSPIRATION MOVING  
 DRAMA PASSION

yeovil literary festival

THURSDAY 26 - SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER 2017

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION...  
[yeovilliteraryfestival.co.uk](http://yeovilliteraryfestival.co.uk)  
 01935 422884

[f /YeovilLiteraryFestival](https://www.facebook.com/YeovilLiteraryFestival) [@YeovilLitFest](https://www.instagram.com/YeovilLitFest)

# Westlands proving a hit with visitors

Work on the Westlands Entertainment and Conference Centre has been completed and thousands of visitors have already attended events at the refurbished venue.

An exciting range of events from comedy with Henning Wehn, Yeovil Beer Festival, CBeebies superstar Justin Fletcher, parties, celebrations and conferences, screenings and weekly ballroom and jive classes have brought tens of thousands of guests to the venue. The venue is now open during the day to the public with the Lounge Bar proving a popular meeting spot for friends and business colleagues, with free wifi, a fine selection of cakes and sandwiches, teas, coffees and a fully licenced bar.

South Somerset District Council stepped in to refurbish and operate the site after 'people power' in the form of the largest petition ever submitted to the council saved the facilities for future generations to enjoy. Alongside the Entertainment and Conference Venue, Westlands has a superb Fitness and Sports Centre, model engineering railway, allotments, and a new bowls and cricket pavilion that leads on to the respective pitches.

The autumn season lines up an impressive range of music with Heather Small, Ricky Ross of Deacon Blue, The Stylistics and party-themed nights including 90s Club Classics featuring live performances. BBC Somerset are bringing their Christmas Celebration to Westlands and there are already many Christmas parties booked at the venue. Gin lovers can look forward to being tempted with around 100 different gins to try at the first Somerset Gin Festival promising live music, delicious food and a great atmosphere later this month.

There is plenty to enjoy and discover at our new venue. Visit [www.westlandseyovil.co.uk](http://www.westlandseyovil.co.uk) for more information.



Darcey Bussell officially opened Westlands on Tuesday 27 June. Photo credit: Len Copland, Western Gazette.

Facebook: /WestlandsYeovil  
Twitter: @WestlandsYeovil  
Instagram: @WestlandsEntertainment

SOMERSET'S BIGGEST GIN FESTIVAL!

SOMERSET  
GIN  
FESTIVAL

FREE FESTIVAL GLASS

LIVE MUSIC

OVER 100 DIFFERENT GINS AND  
MASTERCLASSES FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS

FRIDAY 21 & SATURDAY 22 JULY

Times/Prices: Friday Evening 6pm - 11pm £10.50 | Saturday All Day 12 noon - 11pm £14.50  
Saturday Afternoon 12 noon - 5pm £9.50 | Saturday Evening 6pm - 11pm £11.50

OVER 185 ONLY



## Hold Your Meeting or Event at Westlands Yeovil



MEETING ROOMS FROM £12 PER HOUR

- Range of spaces from smaller rooms up to large scale meetings and conference rooms
- Air conditioned room with fast, free wifi and excellent facilities
- Free parking, lounge bar and hospitality available



Box Office: 01935 422884  
[www.westlandseyovil.co.uk](http://www.westlandseyovil.co.uk)



### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR BOOKING

Please contact Justine Parton, Events Manager on [Justine.parton@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:Justine.parton@southsomerset.gov.uk) | 07971111920

## New service alert: Securely upload photos and documents

You can now securely upload photos and documents on our website when claiming Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.



If you need to send us a wage slip or another bit of evidence, simply take a photo and upload it. Make sure your photo is in focus and that all characters can be read.

Visit [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/evidenceupload](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/evidenceupload) to upload your photos or documents.

If you need help with uploading, call us on 01935 462332 or email [benefitsunit@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:benefitsunit@southsomerset.gov.uk).

## Investment plans for Yeovil

SSDC is making regeneration in Yeovil a priority and is completing a refresh of the town centre development framework. These are all positive signs for Yeovil. Projects the service has worked on recently include:

- Premier Inn/Beefeater at Station Road
- Regeneration of the Old Creamery and the former Western Gazette offices at Newton Road
- Lidl store at Lysander Road
- Provision of affordable homes at Goldcroft, Queensway Place and West Hendford
- Fighting planning appeals against inappropriate development
- Supporting the iAero Project and Yeovil Innovation Centre applications
- Working closely with the Yeovil Hospital Trust to realise significant infrastructure projects including the 650 space multi-storey car park and newly proposed day surgery unit.

Alongside this is the challenge of working in partnership with others towards the development of 2,500 homes, two primary schools and various community facilities at key residential sites around the town, including the multi-award winning Brimsmore key site.

Work is continuing with developers to bring forward a further 1,500 homes at Up-Mudford and Keyford, a primary school, community facilities and employment space.

With the prospect of the 24 hectare mixed-use Bunford Park scheme, the re-development of Olds Garage by Aldi and the publication of a plan for the town centre, the remainder of 2017 promises to be an important period for the town.

## Safe Summer Food in Eight Easy Steps



### 1 Make sure frozen meat is fully thawed before cooking

Defrost in the fridge or microwave on the defrost setting, not at room temperature



### 2 Keep cold, perishable foods below 5°C

In the fridge, or in a cool box when out and about



### 3 Use different chopping boards and utensils for raw meat

Store raw meat separately from ready-to-eat food

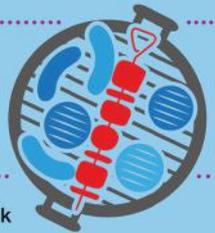


### 4 Pre-cook chicken and pork in the oven

Finish them on the barbecue knowing that the meat is safely cooked through

### 5 Don't overload the barbecue

And remember that disposable barbecues take longer to heat up and to cook food



### 6 Cook burgers, sausages, kebabs, pork and chicken until:

- They're steaming hot
- There is no pink meat
- Any juices run clear

### 7 Don't serve rare burgers

Harmful bacteria may be present in the middle of a pink burger



### 8 Don't leave food out for longer than two hours

One hour if it's very hot outside



For more information about Safe Summer Food visit [food.gov.uk/safe-summer-food](http://food.gov.uk/safe-summer-food)



Above: An artist's impression of the newly proposed day surgery unit at the old visitor car park at Yeovil District Hospital.



## Have you visited the Cartgate Local Food and Drink Markets?

South Somerset District Council has benefited from a share of more than £200,000 of grant funding to support the creation of local food and drink markets at the Cartgate Picnic Site on the A3088.

The Council was awarded the funding through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Championing British Food Tourism scheme grant, launched this year to promote regional food and drink.

Four successful markets have taken place so far and we expect the summer markets to be extremely busy. The markets take place at the Cartgate picnic site on the fourth Saturday of the month between 8.00am and 2.00pm.

Local producers are also encouraged to attend our bi-monthly networking event at the newly refurbished Westlands Leisure Complex in Yeovil. The next event is on Monday 24th July at 10.00am.

Producers interested in attending either (or both) the markets or the networking event should contact Rebecca McElliott on 01935 462173 or email [rebecca.mcelliot@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.mcelliot@southsomerset.gov.uk).

## Further smoke detector funding secured for Careline customers

South Somerset Careline has secured £5,000 in funding from Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, to work in partnership to improve home safety.

The grant has been awarded to increase safety in the homes of Careline's customers.

In the past year, 156 people were referred to the fire service for a Home Safety Visit. 149 free smoke detectors were installed which link directly to Careline's control centre.

The new funding will enable Careline to continue to support vulnerable people by installing a further 250 smoke detectors directly into people's homes.

If you would like to know more about South Somerset Careline please telephone 01935 479815 or visit our website at [www.carelinesouthsomerset.co.uk](http://www.carelinesouthsomerset.co.uk).



Feeling lazy? Uninspired? Stuck in a rut? LED have the answers you need! #wevegotthis

Our main priority here at LED is to ensure you are leading an active and healthy lifestyle and to do that we have something for everyone.

From splashing around in our swimming pools to bouncing around our badminton courts, working out alone or working out in a group, no matter what age you are, we have something for everyone.

Just two visits a week to an LED centre makes our memberships financially beneficial, saving you lots of £££s! Even better, your membership isn't just for one centre.. it's for ALL LED centres! That includes: Goldenstones Leisure Centre, Westlands Sport and Fitness Centre, Wincanton Sports Centre and in September, Bucklers Mead Sports Centre.

Interested in joining? Contact us today to book an appointment with us to have a look at our facilities and see what we can do for you. Visit [www.ledleisure.co.uk](http://www.ledleisure.co.uk) for more information or to find contact telephone numbers.

## Days out in the countryside

- Sat 8 Jul - Chard Countryside Day, Chard Reservoir **FREE**
- Fri 28 Jul - Wonderful Woodlands at Yeovil Country Park **FREE**
- Mon 7 Aug - Chard Craft Day at Chard Reservoir **FREE**
- Sun 13 Aug - The Ham Hill Dog Show **FREE**
- Fri 18 Aug - Grand Designs at Ham Hill Country Park
- Sat 21 Oct - Wonderful Woodlands at Yeovil Country Park **FREE**
- Fri 27 Oct - Halloween Trail at Yeovil Country Park
- Fri 3 Nov - The Ham Hill Bonfire **FREE**

There are many more countryside events taking place across South Somerset District Council's sites. Visit [www.southsomersetcountryside.com](http://www.southsomersetcountryside.com) to view the full list. Small charges apply for some events. Check at point of booking. **FREE** = free event

## For District Council services

-  Call us: 01935 462462
-  Text SSDC to 66777 followed by your query (standard network rates apply)
-  Visit us online: [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk)  
email us: [ssdc@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:ssdc@southsomerset.gov.uk)

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

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

 @Southsomersetdc  South Somerset District Council

 /southsomersetdistrictcouncil

## Your South Somerset News

If you would like an audio version of South Somerset News, please telephone or email us:

Tel: 01935 462130  
email: [communications@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:communications@southsomerset.gov.uk)

Please also use these contact details to ask any questions or give comments or feedback about South Somerset News.

You can have South Somerset News sent to you electronically by registering here (it's free!) [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/latest-news](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/latest-news).

## SSDC print services

Our experienced print room staff will ensure that your requirements are met and print work is finished to the highest standard.

They can talk to you about different options and will advise on the best way to present your print.

We offer competitive rates for quality work.

Samples, quotations and further information on print options from South Somerset District Council's print room team can be obtained by email: [printroom@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:printroom@southsomerset.gov.uk) or call 01935 462462 and ask for the printroom.

## Please use our online services

You can use these services online:

-  Make payments
-  Pay Council Tax, tell us you are no longer entitled to a discount or that you have moved
-  Pay a car park fine, report a faulty pay & display machine
-  Register to vote in elections
-  Check recycling and waste collection days, report missed collections or request new containers
-  Apply for Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support, tell us about a change in circumstances, use our online benefit calculator

Plus much more!

Visit [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/online-services](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/online-services) to view the full range of services available to use online.

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