

## S.C.C. News Briefing – November 2017

**Winter road treatment:** SCC highways team monitors the weather forecast each day and treats roads with salt to stop ice forming when road surface temperatures are predicted to drop below 1C. In previous winters SCC have used the @somesetgritter account on Twitter to let people know when gritters are in action. However, to keep it simple and to make sure all road-related information can be found in one place, this year SCC will issue winter weather updates – along with all the usual travel information – from the @TravelSomerset account. Anyone not on Twitter can find the same winter updates each day at [www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritter](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritter)

**Somerset rural life museum:** South West Heritage Trust, who operate archive and museum services on behalf of the County are proud to announce the re- opening of the Somerset Rural Life Museum at Glastonbury. The museum tells the story of Somerset's rich rural, family and social history, with learning at its heart through a series of interactive displays. Please visit and tell everyone about this fantastic new venue. There are lots of opportunities to learn and many to reminisce.

**A303 Upgrade:** Highways England have announced their preferred route option for the crucial Sparkford to Ilminster section of the A303.

**The Great South West:** Businesses, politicians and key education leaders from across the South West came together recently in Exeter for a conference aimed at igniting future growth opportunities in the region. The objective of the summit was to encourage and enable collaboration and partnership working under the Great South West banner. This strategy would include the development of shared propositions to take to government to attract funding, the attracting of inward investment and tackling barriers to productivity, making the (Great) South West a more prosperous region overall.

**SCC Children's Services:** Ofsted's arrival for a full inspection of SCC Children's Services is imminent and expected during November. Two years since the last Ofsted inspection found services to be 'inadequate', Essex County Council the Council's improvement partner and the Department for Education have both confirmed that real progress is being made to the point where a further inspection is now appropriate. SCC are very clear about the improvements that have taken place but know that there is an enormous amount to do in the future to deliver the excellent services across the board that everyone aspire to.

**Somerset Scientific Services:** Somerset Scientific Services, a traded service of Somerset County Council, provide expert asbestos, water, workplace and environmental testing in the southwest to local authorities, public bodies, schools, businesses and the general public. They have just launched their new website [www.somersetsscificservices.co.uk](http://www.somersetsscificservices.co.uk) The team provide independent expertise and specialist advice on a range of matters including water supplies, suspected asbestos, swimming pools and hot tubs, as well as air quality.

**Early Help Services:** The consultation on integrated early help services consisting of family support workers, health visitors and school nurses continues till 1 December. The consultation is key to getting this right and to ensuring that the need for the high-end social care services is lowered is to get the early help service right.

[www.somerset.gov.uk/familysupportandchildrenscentres](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/familysupportandchildrenscentres)

**Dillington House festive activities:** Dillington House will be holding a number of events over the festive period, ranging from ice-skating on the 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> December to a masked ball on New Year's Eve. Another new addition to the Dillington calendar is the 'Go Crackers' Christmas Market on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December featuring festive stalls and food, local producers and local entertainment. Entry to the market is free, so please do show your support if you are in the area (there is a charge for the skating rink). Limited tickets are available for a Christmas party night on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and there will be a Sunday carvery on 5<sup>th</sup> November 3<sup>rd</sup> December and 14<sup>th</sup> January for those looking for an escape to the country.

Further details available at <http://www.dillington.com/page/christmas/22/>

**Flu Jabs:** Don't put off getting the jab this year and help to protect yourself, and your family from flu. Flu is a highly infectious disease and can lead to serious complications which is why people who are over 65, have long-term health conditions or pregnant are eligible for a free flu jab through their GP, pharmacist and midwife. Children aged 2 and 3 can also receive their flu vaccine from their GP and school children from reception class through to year 4 will receive the free flu vaccine at school. If you are eligible for the flu vaccine - it's time to get it now.

**Recent Press Releases:**

Full articles available at [www.somersetnewsroom.com](http://www.somersetnewsroom.com)

A39 Drainage Work Postpones

Winter is coming....and our Highways teams are ready

Congratulations to the Chairman Award Winners

Council welcomes progress on A3043 upgrade

New nursery comes to Neroche

Taunton Town supports Fostering and Adoption in Somerset

Work begins on multi-million pound upgrade to Yeovil's Western Corridor

Yeovil Library hosts fifth Yeovil Literary festival

Help available for young carers.