

TAUNTON'S ToneNews



Taunton's **FREE** Community Newspaper

Issue 4 | APRIL/MAY 2018

**PERRY & PROUSE
WIN GARAGE OF
THE YEAR!**

MORE ON PAGE 8



**COSTA COFFEE
SUPPORTS FOSTERING
AND ADOPTION
IN SOMERSET**

MORE ON PAGE 4



Orchard Welcomes the Entertainer

The Orchard Shopping Centre is delighted to announce that The Entertainer, the fastest growing multi-channel high street toy retailer in the UK, will be hosting a Grand Opening event on Saturday 12th May, to celebrate the reopening of its store following a refurbishment. And to really start the party, LEGO's Batman and Robin character will be making a special appearance!

The Grand Opening event will start instore from 9am on Saturday 12th May and include a fun filled day of entertainment for all ages, with appearances from Batman and Robin between 10am – 4pm. The Entertainers very own Jack will also be attending. In addition, children will be able to enjoy a balloon modeler, face painting, in store demos and take part in several giveaways and competitions. What's more, The Entertainer will be giving away gift cards for the first 20 families to visit the store from 9am, ranging from £5 - £100!

Rachel Plaw, store manager at The Entertainer in Taunton, has told Tone News: "We are really looking forward to The Entertainer's famous grand opening event. It'll be great for the children to meet some of their favorite life-sized characters and have their picture taken!"

Luke Le Brun, Asset Manager at Rockspring, who own Somerset's most popular shopping centre commented: "Rockspring are delighted to be welcoming The Entertainer to the Orchard Shopping Centre. The addition of



The Entertainer, Reopening at The Orchard Shopping Centre in Taunton.

another new tenant to the Centre is a further improvement to the great range of retailers we already have in the scheme and reaffirms Orchard's place as the dominant retail destination within Taunton and the surrounding area. We're looking forward to continuing our strong start to 2018 with the imminent completion of the refurbished Pig Market in a few weeks' time"



LEGO's Batman and Robin character will be making a special appearance!



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Welcome to

TAUNTON'S ToneNews

Welcome to the April/May issue of Tone News and if it is your first time reading, this is the little bit where I have a different selfie each month reflecting stuff going on in and around the County Town!

Not the most flattering of shots this time because I was caught on Facebook Live 11 miles into the half marathon!

If you took part on april 8th - well done :) and I hope you continue to enjoy reading this issue of Tone News.



Darren Daley
Editor

Do you have a story you would like to share? We would love to hear from you if have an announcement or perhaps there is a little bit of news from the area that you live that will be of interest to the community.

Perhaps you would like to do a little bit of advertising? We offer fantastic rates, with little wastage and offer you FREE radio advertising with selected offers!

We presently have 15,000 copies of Tone News, which will be delivered to the majority of homes in the TA1 post code areas, this means that with an average of 3 people per household, your advert could be seen up to 45,000 times! There are also a number of collection points around the town including the Taunton Visitor Centre in the Market House. Listen to Tone FM to find where to pick up your copy

Email: sales@tonenews.co.uk
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Taunton, Somerset,
TA1 1JD

Coming up this month...

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The advertising deadline for the May/June issue of



**TAUNTON'S
ToneNews**

is **Monday 7th May 2018**

Visit www.tonenews.co.uk for rates and sizes. Payment required on booking.

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NEWS

Costa Coffee Supports Fostering and Adoption in Somerset



Trevor Goss and Mary-Anne Johnson from the Fostering and Adoption teams at Somerset County Council, presenting a 'thank you' picture to a Costa.

Somerset County Council's Fostering and Adoption Recruitment Service is teaming up with Costa Coffee, to help the search for Foster Carers and Adopters.

The coffee chain is, once again, supporting the cause as part of its Project Inspiration Community Initiative. They are providing space, time and refreshments for people to come together to find out more about fostering and adoption in several stores across Somerset; including Taunton, Bridgwater, Wells, Yeovil and Shepton Mallet.

The informal evenings will take place monthly across

Somerset and focus on adoption and fostering schemes for children and young people, who are unable to live with their birth families, or need extra support.

You can book your place at Taunton's Costa events by phoning our team on 0800 587 9900. These are being held on **Tuesday 19th June, Taunton TA1 1JW, 7pm-9pm** and **Tuesday 6th November Taunton TA1 1JW, 7pm-9pm**

Find all future information event dates and more about adoption and fostering in Somerset, by visiting: www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk or phone 0800 587 9900

Poster competition launches to help children in Somerset

Somerset County Council is launching a poster competition aimed at youth organisations such as Scouts and Guides, to help the search for more foster carers.

Children and young people are being invited to design a fostering poster that will reach out to potential foster carers during Foster Care Fortnight 15 - 27 May 2018, to find more foster homes for children in care in Somerset.

The winning entrant, who best helps us to communicate the fostering message in their design, will win £250 in outdoor clothing/equipment vouchers; for either them or their troop. From Brownies to Beavers, the competition is open to children and young people aged 18 or under

who are part of relevant organisations in Somerset.

If you would love to make a real difference to a child's life, call 0800 587 9900, visit www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk or come to one of our information evenings happening all over Somerset: www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk/events.

It will be judged by Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families at Somerset County Council, during Foster Care Fortnight 15 - 27 May 2018. **Closing date for entries is May 11th and the winner announced on the 28th May 2018**

No Cash, No Worries!

Buses of Somerset customers can now pay for their bus journey with contactless. The new payment option makes catching the bus even easier.

The introduction of contactless payment follows the roll-out of new ticket machines across its 50-strong Taunton fleet as well as some 40 vehicles that operate in the surrounding area encompassing Bridgwater, Yeovil and Minehead.

Aled Williams, Operations Manager of Buses of Somerset, has told Tone News: "The introduction of contactless payments across our network of services makes bus travel a convenient, simple and attractive experience for our customers. As more customers convert to using contactless payment it improves the bus journey experience, because let's face it, nobody likes to wait in a queue! The combination of our journey planning app, free wi-fi, contactless and Tickets, really does make the bus an increasingly attractive option for so many journey needs.

now pay with
contactless)))



Contactless payments are now available on the buses of Somerset.

Ask for your ticket as normal and let the driver know you're paying contactless to pay with a tap of your card, phone or smartwatch!



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Excitement Builds for Yeovilton Air Day

Excitement is starting to build for plane enthusiasts from Taunton for The Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton International Air Day, which will take place on Saturday 7 July, to showcase the Fleet Air Arm's current and future capabilities and historic accomplishments spanning over 100 years. As one of the busiest military airfields in the UK and home to many aircraft operating in front-line Squadrons and training units, the Somerset air station's gates will be open to an expected 40,000 visitors.

The show will include over five hours of dazzling flying displays featuring fast jets, historic warbirds, helicopters, formation aerobatic display teams and role demonstrations enhanced by spectacular pyrotechnics and flares. Our aims are to display the world's most capable pilots and their aircraft, both in the air and on the ground, and to provide an opportunity to see some magnificent equipment and meet our professional personnel in a family-friendly environment. In the Year of Engineering this is a great chance to inspire the next generation of engineers.

This show has everything to keep the whole family entertained. There will be a vast range of showground attractions from the latest defence technology exhibitions, engineering fairs and service displays to trade stalls, arena displays, military bands and the chance to meet pilots and even sit in the cockpit! For the thrill seekers, there will be simulators, fairground rides and helicopter pleasure flights to enjoy. Whether you are a first timer or a dedicated aviation enthusiast, the Air Day has something for everyone.



Caught in the Act!

We are on the look out for readers of Tone News 'Caught in the Act'! If you spot someone having a good read of Taunton's FREE community newspaper, you can WhatsApp a photo to us on this number: 07387 984258... See anybody you recognise?





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Glass and Glazing Federation

Before you start reading this I want to say loud and clear 'I AM NO EXPERT ON THE NEW General Data Protection Regulation'!

So, having said that, I am now going to point you to a REAL expert on this subject – Information Commissioner, Elizabeth Denham.

In this country you don't get much higher on the list of people who understand the journey for, and the process through which, small businesses will have to travel to comply. In a recent letter written to the Federation of Small Businesses, Elizabeth Denham put the whole business into perspective.

I, like many for the last six months, have been panicking about the whole onerous process, tying myself in knots trying to understand how on earth I could comply when the likes of Google are still bashing it about. Worse, the process hadn't even been fully resolved at parliament level and it's APRIL; just a month to go before all my policies and procedures need to be updated.

I am old enough to remember the introduction of the Data Protection Act in 1988 and as a young(ish) nominated data protection officer I bore the burden of working through compliance then. Did we all get fined the first time we got it wrong then? No. And according to our Information Commissioner, The ICO are not here to beat us – they are here to advise and help us to get it right; just as they did back in 1998.



This is a comforting message amongst all the scaremongering that has been going on. Do we have to try to comply? Yes of course. Can the ICO tell us what to put in our policies? No they can't - but they have given us an 8 Step Plan to help us get there – and it is full of common sense!

So, here is the real expert on GDPR and department that will enforce it in the UK – pop along to this website link and stop panicking; we are all in this together and to be honest

much as we all hate more red tape – we live in a data sensitive world and it is high time we managed it better.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/making-data-protection-your-business/>

Or visit www.whiteknightmarketing.co.uk for quick links on our latest blog.

*Pam Knight
Director, White Knight Marketing*

Perry & Prouse win Repair Garage of the Year Award!



Taunton SAAB specialists, Perry & Prouse have clinched a top award at the inaugural Auto Industry Excellence Awards last month which was held at Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking.

The family run business who consistently pick up 5-star Facebook & Google ratings were finalists in two categories and were up against some stiff competition from likeminded garages nationwide; Repair Garage of the year and Customer Service Excellence.

They were very proud to receive the award for Repair Garage of the year which Nadine Prouse collected on behalf of the team.

Nadine told Tone News: "This is fantastic to be recognised in such a competitive industry and is a credit to our hardworking team who strive to provide excellent customer service at all times"

Perry & Prouse have been in business for over 15 years predominantly as a SAAB authorised repairer but are seeing more and more customers come to them with other makes of vehicle for servicing, repairs and MOT's. Working as a team is their main priority to ensure excellent customer service at all times.

You can find them at Small's Yard Dellars Wharf or online at perryandprouse.co.uk.

Taunton Marathon & Half Marathon



Taunton Marathon & Half Marathon took place on Sunday 8th April. A note from the race director, John Lewis:

"Our 35th event saw 1300 participants take on the 13 or 26 mile distances. The coldish weather seemed to favour the runners as quite a few set PBs. The atmosphere around the College was amazing. We picked up new runners this year following the Bath and Weston events falling victim to the snow. There's been a lot of positive feedback about the marshals and water and sponge station crews around the course. We'd like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone - sponsors, volunteers and runners. It takes all three, together with spectators, to put on a successful event."

Dream Weddings for Cricket Fans

Somerset County Cricket Club has secured a licence to be able to offer couples a complete marriage or civil partnership package!

In February the Cooper Associates County Ground played host to its first ever wedding as the happy couple tied the knot in front of over 50 guests in the beautiful Long Room before a special drinks reception was held on the spectacular Thatchers Roof Terrace.

The traditional wedding breakfast then took place in the 1875 Club before more than 100 guests celebrated in to the night in the Stragglers.

Following this memorable event SCCC's Wedding Co-ordinator, Sophie Cridland told Tone News: "The whole day went

really well and the rooms all looked fantastic. Your wedding day is one that you will remember for the rest of your life, so it's absolutely vital that we make sure everything is perfect for the bride and groom.

"We pride ourselves in being able to pull out all the stops to ensure that our customer's needs are met from the planning stage all the way through to the big day itself. To have been able to play a part in such a special event means a great deal to all of our staff and I'm delighted that the happy couple and all their guests had such a great day."

For more details, please visit the dedicated venue hire website www.countygroundtaunton.co.uk.



Taunton Recruiters £1 Million Award

John and Alison Griffiths, owners of the Taunton office of leading driver employment agency, Driver Hire, have won a prestigious Platinum Achievement Award for the outstanding sales performance achieved by their office during 2017, passing £1m annual turnover for the first time.

In addition, John and Alison were also presented with a certificate celebrating ten successful years as a Driver Hire franchise partner. The UK's largest specialist supplier, Driver Hire provides temporary and permanent drivers and other logistics staff to local and national organisations in both the public and private sector.

If they're short of staff – perhaps because of illness, holidays or seasonal demand – Driver Hire will supply them with a suitable replacement.

"Driver Hire Taunton supplies quality staff to all its customers," says John. "Road transport and logistics is a highly regulated industry. As a result, more and more businesses are recognising the value of working with a 100% reliable supplier for all their recruitment requirements. When it comes to customer service, because we're a franchise, we offer them the benefits of working with a local, owner-managed business, backed by the resources of a major national company."

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John & Alison Griffiths

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Hazels Year in Chains

Mayor of Taunton Deane, Hazel Prior-Sankey, will hand over her chain of office on the 3rd of May. She reflects exclusively for Tone News on what has been a very busy and fulfilling twelve months:

'I have been amazed at the commitment by the vast number of people working as volunteers within Taunton Deane running youth organisations, friendship clubs, cafes and cultural events as well as supporting so many charities. I think our community would be much the poorer if this were not so.

'Music and drama has featured prominently in my calendar and the standard has been remarkable. My personal highlight was the pre-Christmas presentation of Handel's Messiah by the Amici choir but the enthusiasm demonstrated by young cast members of Taunton's Scout and Guide Gang Show, particularly by nine-year-old Cub Scout, Alfie, was inspirational.

'My task was made so much easier by having the support of my husband Adrian who served as Consort and my daughter Joanna as stand in Mayoress when he was not available. It was a privilege to be able to appoint the first Police Cadets in the country to serve as Mayor's Cadets and they have discharged their responsibilities admirably.

'The Mayoralty is supported behind the scenes by a superb administrator Jo Comer and I appreciated the sensitive encouragement of my chaplain the Revd David Manning who contributed significantly to the solemn occasions when I led the community in times of reflection following some of the tragedies of 2017.



Outgoing Mayor Hazel with husband & Consort, Adrian

'I aspired to serve according to the watchwords of honesty, integrity and compassion and have sought to do so to the best of my ability. It has certainly been a most enjoyable year and I am grateful to everyone who has made me welcome at each of the 350 engagements I have undertaken.'

Councillor Catherine Herbert takes over from Hazel and will be the last Mayor of Taunton Deane. It is likely to take at least a year before the new council decides what it wishes to do about a Mayor for itself or for the town of Taunton.

New X-Ray Machine for Musgrove



Pictured (left to right) next to the new X-Ray machine are: Rachel Warnes-Hunt (interventional radiologist), Dr Katharine Lewis (consultant interventional radiologist), Aidan Debarid (interventional radiology manager), Erica Murphy (healthcare assistant), Floren Pozo Camacho (staff nurse).

Patients who need an image-guided procedure at Taunton's Musgrove Park Hospital are now benefiting from a new, more modern and safer X-ray-machine.

The complex machine, which is in Musgrove's interventional radiology (IR) suite, has been bought by the hospital's League of Friends and its fundraisers, who made a record donation of almost £650,000.

Interventional radiology is a medical speciality that provides highly specialised, minimally invasive treatments for a range of chronic conditions, including peripheral vascular disease and cancer.

It is often described as pinhole surgery and offers safer alternatives to traditional surgery. Patients' time in

hospital is often reduced with low complication rates and a faster return to normal health. It has an increasing role in the emergency treatment of patients with life-and-limb threatening disease.

The new machine – an Artis Q, manufactured by Siemens – has an X-Ray tube at the cutting edge of technology that will mean patients undergoing procedures are exposed to almost two-thirds less radiation than previously.

The machine, along with advanced 3D imaging software, means radiographers will be able to capture much clearer and higher contrast images of patients.

Old Boots for a Good Cause

When local retired chartered surveyor Kevin Davenport visited South Africa earlier this year, he was surprised by the huge interest local people have in football.

On his return home to Taunton, a friend of Kevin's who supports a Cape Town charity called 'The Guardians of the National Treasure' told him about the hundreds of children wanting to play, but most of them have no decent footwear and could anyone send out some decent used football boots!

An appeal has since been launched by Kevin for used boots on his Facebook page and there is so much interest at the moment, they are arriving from all over the country, with one family promising 13 pairs!

Now the football season has ended for most of the youngsters in Taunton, maybe you have a pair of outgrown boots? If so, don't throw them in the bin, give Kevin a call and he will gladly take them from you.

You can contact Kevin Davenport on 01823 413628 or email: kev_anne@talktalk.net and he will arrange collection and send the boots to Cape Town.





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School Focus The Taunton Academy



This month our focus is on The Taunton Academy. The school has been sponsored by the Richard Huish Trust since 2015, appointing “super head” Jenny Veal as the new head teacher in January 2016. Since then she has led the school to the best set of GCSE results in its history and to it being ranked the “most improved” school in the south west in 2017.

Pupils	
Gender	Mixed
Age Range	11-16
No. of Pupils on Roll	650
Phase	Secondary
Religious Character	Church of England
Head Teacher	Mrs Jenny Veal

From the Head Teacher

“At The Taunton Academy we have high standards and expectations and strive to achieve the very best for all our students, helping them to realise beyond their potential. I am lucky to have an impressive team behind me and wonderful staff. Equally, the students are fabulous and there is a large body of parents who are very supportive of the school. There is a tremendous sense of team spirit; kindness and compassion are at the core of all we do. We champion our children and expect nothing less than the best for them and from them.”



Mrs Veal, pictured with Deputy Head Rob Berry and John Eddy.

GCSE Results

The Academy had incredible GCSE results in 2017, with a 50% rise in pass rates. In 2016, 33% of our students obtained five or more GCSEs including English and Maths (grades A*-C or equivalent). This rose to a staggering 55% of students in 2017 which was a spectacular result for the school. This was achieved by working hard to raise students' expectations and providing them with the extra support they needed, such as after-school revision sessions.



Ofsted and SIAMS

The Taunton Academy was recently praised by a Church of England education inspector for making 'significant improvements' in teaching and learning, adding that the school's leaders have shown 'exceptional skill' in guiding the Academy. In June last year, the school was identified by Ofsted as being 'tenacious' in its drive towards improving standards. Following a monitoring inspection, its report identified several areas where the school is raising the quality of teaching and of pupils' ambitions.

Student Achievements

One area where the Academy is very strong is in the field of sports, both on an individual and team basis. We often compete alongside the larger private schools in Taunton and do incredibly well. Currently within our school community we have a national trampoline champion, several taekwondo stars and a twirling competition winner, along with some very talented artists, actors and musicians.



Rosie Parkman, two times Baton Twirling National Champion.



Left: Liam Isaac, National Trampoline Champion 2017. Above: Josh Lukins, representing England in the European Taekwondo championships.

Work for The Taunton Academy...

The school is currently looking to fill teaching positions with individuals who are willing to be excellent role models, are full of energy and enthusiasm for their subject and for learning. Mrs Veal told Tone News that working at the Academy is extremely rewarding and that staff feel like they are part of something very special. A local journalist recently commented on a visit that the students were incredibly polite and respectful. Teachers said they felt valued as professionals and cared for as a people. In return the highest standards of professionalism are expected.

For more information, please contact us via the website www.thetauntonacademy.com

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Community Notice Board

Quantock Brewery Live Music Night

28 April 2018 - 6:30pm - 11:00pm
Live music from The Relics Band
Starts at 8pm Indian Street food from Dabbawalas from 6:30pm at every gig.

Steam on the Levels

19 May 2018 - 10:00am - 5:00pm
Westonzoyland Pumping Station Museum

This annual event aims to provide a spectacle of unusual historic exhibits from stationary steam engines, classic vehicles to living history groups, great fun for all the family!

The Rehearsal - a play by Milverton Amateur Dramatics

18 May 2018 - 7:30pm - 10:00pm
"The Rehearsal" written and directed by Leigh Duddridge. This play is a comedy about what goes on behind the scenes when putting on a play.

Oliver! The Musical

30 April 2018 - 7:30pm - 5:30pm
Taunton Amateur Operatic Society
Brewhouse Theatre

Somerset Sight Afternoon Tea

2 May 2018 - 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Wells Town Hall

Afternoon Tea to celebrate 20 years of The Volunteer Visiting Service.

Mayor's Celebration Party

4 May 2018 - 7:00pm - 11:30pm

Somerset County Cricket Club Fundraising party in aid of the Mayor of Taunton Deane's Charities for 2018/19 St Margaret's Hospice, Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment (S.U.R.E.) and Taunton Sea Cadets and Royal Marine Cadets.

BroadCider Festival

14 July 2018 - 11:00am - 11:59pm

Broadway & Horton Cricket Club
Tickets on sale NOW online from Bath Place Music (Taunton) and Horton Post Office. Adults £15 / Under 18s £5* / Under 5s £1* *must be accompanied by an adult Limited family camping is available at £10 per tent or camper van but must be booked in advance online

Taunton Death Fair & Death Café

19 May 2018 - 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Creative Innovation Centre

"Everything you wanted to know about death, but were afraid to ask. Browse stalls, engage in a workshop, and take part in a death cafe, all while enjoying refreshments and delicious cake. Live your best life and come talk about death!"

Woodlands Castle Annual Wedding Fair 2018

29 April 2018 - 10:30am - 2:30pm
Woodlands Castle
Annual Wedding Fair

FREE ENTRY • FREE PARKING
• FREE COCKTAIL • FREE FISH & CHIPS • FREE CANAPES
• FREE ADVICE • FREE GOODY BAG

Somerset Day in Bishops Lydeard

12 May 2018 - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Craft fair with entertainment, (music and dance) Radio Control Cars, Tea room with homemade cakes. Author Angie Langley will be signing books and Val Stones from The Great British Bake Off will be attending.

Kevin Sturmeay

An amazing 8 days at Taunton Town FC, the first team to be promoted in the top 8 tiers of English football, today the first team to be crowned Champions, even before money bags Man City! So proud of a fantastic group of players and management. These guys work full time yet play with more passion than so many privileged full time professionals. And this is just the start. Come along on Tuesday to The Viridor Stadium to welcome the new And first Champions in English football. Up The Peacocks

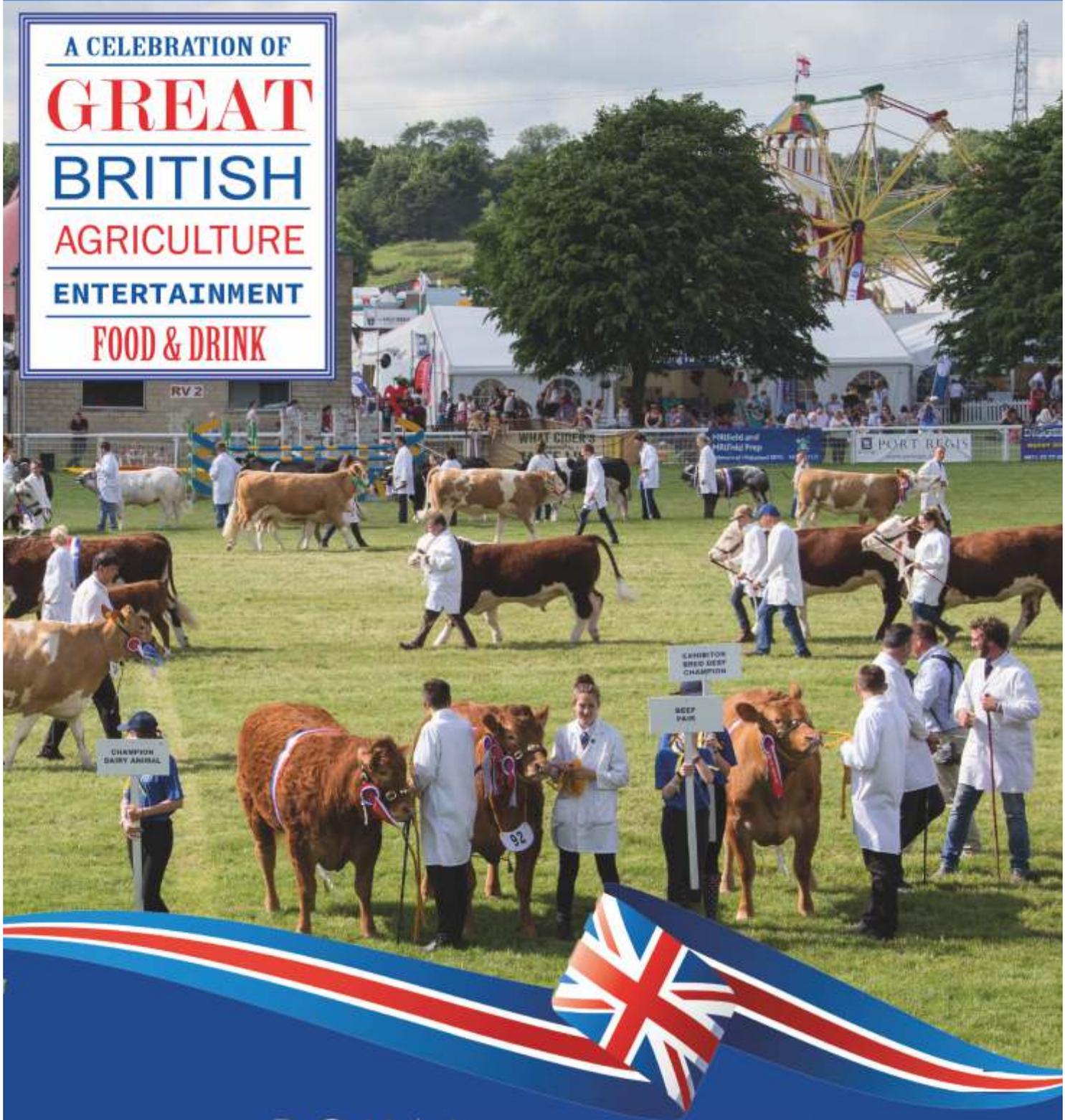
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The information above may be subject to change without prior notice. Event information correct at time of going to print.

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Kinesiology uses muscle testing as a type of body language and is one of the fastest growing natural health therapies in the UK. Join our Taster Event this May and experience for yourself how Kinesiology can be used to find structural, nutritional, emotional and energetical imbalances in the mind/body. If you are curious but not quite ready to commit, this is a great opportunity to find out more about our fully accredited Foundation and Practitioner level courses in a fun, friendly and informative way.

Top 5 Reasons to join our Taster...

- 1 New to muscle testing? This could be your chance to experience Kinesiology first hand.
- 2 Find out more about our Bristol-based Foundation training where you could learn new thinking ways to care for your health and the health of your loved ones. You can also add Kinesiology to your existing skill set if you are already a health practitioner.
- 3 Gain beginners insights into how to test for food intolerances or much needed nutritional support... without the guesswork.
- 4 Reconnect with who you really are, so much of what you will discover on this taster event will light up the part of you that has always longed for more answers. This is why our school is called Essence, our aim is to stimulate your inner wisdom.
- 5 Receive a discount on your training. If you attend the Taster Event and then book on the Foundation Training within 7 days, you will get your £25 refunded and a further £50 discount.

.....
Call Jo today to find out more about our May Kinesiology
Taster Evening in Taunton on 01823 271375

Discover Kinesiology, Discover You



www.essencehealthtraining.co.uk

The Monthly Alternative with Giles Cosgrove

Spotlight On:

Last One Home are the epitome of a rock band. Effortlessly cool with the perfect look, an edgy sound and each with a unique personality, Tom Westlake, Harry Lowndes and Phil Horler have tailor made a sound to get everyone from 8 – 88 rocking. With their first self-titled EP released last year following break out single *Bring Down the Storm*, the band set out the template for their style, a perfect mix of aggressive playing, radio friendly melodies and lyrics telling tales of determination and the search for success. Tom's vocal delivery channels just enough aggression to make it known these lads mean business, his long fringe nodding back to the classic noughties Pop Punk scene whilst the guitar echoes with the likes of Green Day and the Foo Fighters. Elsewhere Harry, with his knowing on-stage persona, provides a perfect bass line to combine with the guitar melody, the two sounding inseparable on each track. Drummer Phil Horler is deserving of special mention, his skill and proficiency comes through on each track, a brilliant example found on *House of Fire*, but it's his live solos that are truly awe inspiring and warrant the notion that he is possibly one of the best drummers around. With enough swagger to rock Noah's Ark each track is a blast of Rock perfection, and there's more to come with the band locked in the studio for an eternity



Photo by Zoe Barton

working on new music to premier at an ever-increasing list of live dates across Somerset and beyond.

Find Them: Find them across social media and on Spotify, the band recently paid a visit to *The Sunday Alternative*, so now's the time to find them and get listening, new tracks are right around the corner.

Sounds like: A concoction of British and American Rock with a hint of Pop, resulting in a string of Head Banging anthems.

GAMING with Stuart Coward

Games of the Rising Sun



Japan is well known for its gaming heritage. Whether it's the many consoles it released or the franchises that have become commonplace like Super Mario or Street Fighter. There is one franchise that even we gamers might not have noticed, being the Yakuza series. So today I am going to tell you why it might be the most interesting series you have never heard of.

The games follow the life of former Yakuza member and martial arts master Kazuma Kiryu. In the series he deals with his criminal past, his adopted family and the various unusual situations he gets tangled up in. Now is the perfect chance to try out the series; a prequel to the series called *Yakuza Zero* has been released and now there is going to be a remake of the original game coming out plus the upcoming *Yakuza 6*.

In the latest entry after 3 years in jail Kazuma has found out that his adopted daughter has been involved in a hit and run and is in a coma. So Kazuma decides to go back to his old stomping ground of Kamurocho (a setting used in many of the games) and find out what happened in his absences. If you haven't played the others don't worry, the game has an option to recap events from previous games. As well as using your fancy fighting skills you can do variety of other activities like karaoke, spear fishing, managing a baseball team or even running a cat cafe. Plus there are plenty of wacky side quests you can do as well.

So if you fancy a bit of virtual tourism to the land of the rising sun, this might just be the game for you.

Acts to Watch Out For in this Month:

- **Superchunk**
Released their new album "What A Time to Be Alive" earlier this year. Title track is an anthem!
- **Arctic Monkeys**
With a new album rumoured for May release, could we get a new single this month from the Sheffield lads?
- **Flatlands**
Oxford indie band, supported by BBC Introducing, with a new EP out.
- **Sting & Shaggy**
Respective Rock & Rap heavyweights are teaming up for a summer themed album coming this month!

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You can listen to *The Sunday Alternative* with Giles Cosgrove every Sunday from 4 – 6 pm on Tone FM featuring great local artists, an *Album of the Week*, *Vinyl Revival*, *Gig Guide* and *Music News*.

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Down at the Club



So, the season has finally started with a new CEO in place and a surprise visit from, John Challis (aka Boycie in Only Fools and Horses) who was a guest at the Cooper Associates County Ground recently.

The actor was one of the main speakers at the Opening Dinner for Marcus Trescothick's Testimonial Dinner, which was very much enjoyed by all of the 260 guests who attended.

The following day he was at the ground to watch Marcus bat against Ireland. Bristol born John, whose mother came from Bath, told us: "It's an absolute treat for me. He is one of those players who you always want to succeed.

"Through my life there have been three batsmen I have admired: Tom Graveney, David Gower and Marcus Trescothick. I just love the uncomplicated way that he just stands there and hits the ball.

"For me it was such a privilege to be asked to take part in a celebration of Marcus' achievements. He turned up to watch me in pantomime at Weston-super-Mare a couple of years ago, which was a big surprise to me. To stand there next to one of my heroes was wonderful and I think he enjoyed the show as well!



John Challis

Don't forget, if you are a 'die-hard' fan of SCCC and you are getting married soon, you may want to tie the knot with us! If you haven't already done so, make sure you read all about it on page 9.

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