

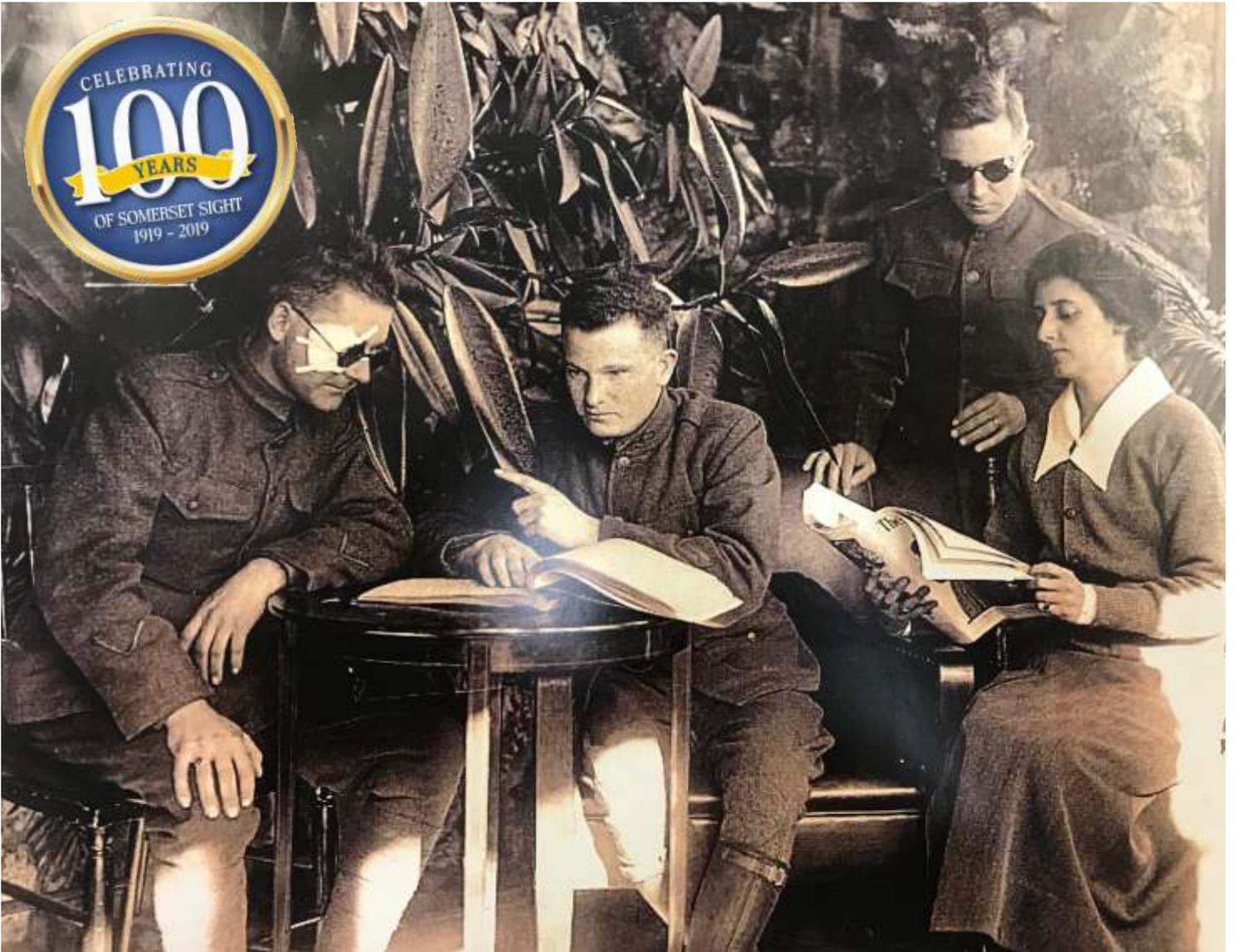
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ToneNews

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Issue 12

Somerset Sight Celebrates Centenary



Somerset Sight was set up after soldiers returned from WW1 with sight loss. *Read more on Page 4.*



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Supporting St Margaret's Hospice throughout 2018. Details on our website



Glass and Glazing Federation

Welcome to ToneNews

tonenews.co.uk

Since the last issue of Tone News, the website has had a makeover so we can now deliver the 'feel-good' news and information that you love on a regular basis, instead of having to wait each month for the newspaper to drop! As we approach the Spring, we have already been inundated with details of exciting stuff happening in and around Taunton over the coming months which we hope to share with you where possible. As for my little profile pic with Clinton, who is now a part-timer by the way, there is no reason for it whatsoever - I just thought it would be nice to see him make another appearance in the newspaper! As always, if you have anything to share with us or you would like to advertise, our contact details are below.



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!

Tone News is delivered on rotation in the TA1, TA2 & TA3 post code areas. You can download a copy from tonenews.co.uk and there is also a number of collection points around the town, so make sure you listen to **Tone FM** to find where to pick up your copy.

Email: sales@tonenews.co.uk
Phone: 01823 286688
Address: The Market House,
Taunton, Somerset,
TA1 1JD

Marathon Spaces Still Available

Sunday 7th April sees Taunton's 36th Marathon & Half Marathon take to the streets! Around 1200 runners are expected to take part in the annual road race that began back in 1983 and are an established part of Taunton's Calendar, organized by Taunton Carnival Committee. Race HQ is at Bridgwater & Taunton College and the route takes runners along Wellington Road, Tangier Way, Bridge Street and out along Staplegrove Road through Norton Fitzwarren to Oake. It then turns left across country to Bradford-on-Tone and then, in a major change introduced recently through Hele and Upcott into Bishops Hull village. It's then down over Netherclay and out into

Silk Mills Road and back to the College via Heron Drive. Of course, that's only the 13.1 mile Half Marathon distance; runners tackling the full 26.2 mile Marathon get to run the lap a second time! All-time course records were set in the early days of the event but it's not all about winning. The race caters for all abilities and lots of people have achieved their Personal Bests over the two distances here. The events are sponsored by Ashfords Solicitors, Nuffield Health and Humberts, supported by other local businesses. Entries are open until 25 March. To enter online or download forms go to tauntonmarathon.co.uk.



Photo courtesy of Photo-fit.com

The advertising deadline
for the next issue of

ToneNews

tonenews.co.uk

is **Monday 4th March 2019**

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



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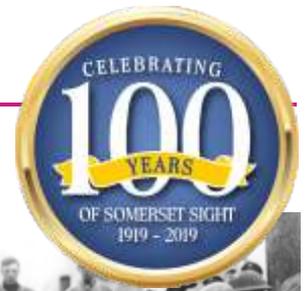
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The views expressed in this paper are not necessarily the same as the publishers. We'd like to thank all contributors for their input. Tone News accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions or views expressed in this newspaper. Tone News is a free newspaper and must not be sold separately. © Tone News 2019.

NEWS

Somerset Sight Celebrates Centenary



British soldiers blinded by gas, Battle of Estaires.

Somerset Sight, local sight loss Charity is celebrating 100 years of service from 1919-2019. The Charity was set up after soldiers returned from WW1 with sight loss and needed support, aids and rehabilitation to return to normal life. 100 years later, they are still going strong and are looking forward to 2019 and the future.

Sight loss can happen to anyone at any time and losing one of your most important senses is tremendously difficult for anyone. Just shut your eyes for a minute and imagine trying to eat a meal, recognise a loved one and leave the house independently.

Friday 8th February was the Charities official 100th Birthday and they have a year packed full of exciting events including a 100k tandem bike

ride, coffee mornings, dining in the dark and many more.

Bella Flood, Chair of Trustees told Tone News: "It is a fantastic achievement, celebrating 100 years of the organisation. It is impossible to over-stress how grateful we are to the numerous volunteers and staff members who have devoted so much time and energy into helping blind and visually impaired people in Somerset".

If you would like to get more involved with Somerset Sight either through volunteering, attending events or in many other ways please get in touch with them on 01823 333818 or visit www.somersetstight.org.uk.



Blind club visit Weymouth 1992.

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We print 15,000 copies of Tone News each month and there are nearly 40,000 homes in and around Taunton so we are unable to deliver to everyone at this time.

By subscribing, you are given priority delivery by post which means you are guaranteed a copy of the newspaper delivered to your door along with exclusive offers every month.

The £3 monthly subscription fee therefore covers: postage, packing & admin, the actual newspaper is still FREE but subscribers benefit from exclusive additional offers (visit www.tonenews.co.uk/tone-news-delivered for more information on offers)

Your copy of Taunton's fastest growing newspaper will be posted out to you the moment it comes off the printing press!



Our 1st subscriber, Pauline Gamlin from Galmington, pictured enjoying her free hot drink with Colin Barrell from Mr Miles Tea Rooms on the High Street.



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This is why, on the 6th and 7th July 2019, Opus Wood & Craft Fair will be celebrating all things Wood and Art, in Burrowbridge, on The Somerset Levels; from tools to timber, ceramics to painters and everything in between! We want experienced and well-established woodworkers and artists to be able



to share the skills they have worked so hard to gain with the next generation of creators!

Our aim is to get a many people involved in this experience as we can! We already have many traders demonstrating their craft and plenty of activities and large exhibitions underway; however, there is still more than enough space for Exhibitors,

Demonstrators, Artists, Murals, Installations and Food and Produce stalls.

Get in touch today by visiting our website for early bird discounts on tickets or fill out an application to trade with us!

See you there,
The Opus Wood & Craft Fair Team x



Hosted by
Silva Opus – Outdoor Furniture.

www.opuswoodandcraftfair.co.uk

Pay as you leave Car Parks

A £1.2million scheme of improvements to car parks and signage in Taunton has gone live this month. TDBC implemented the new pay on exit system at the Orchard, Tangier, Canon Street, Wood Street, Castle Street and Enfield car parks on the 4th February. This will link into Variable Message Signing (VMS) in place at key locations in Priorswood Road, Cross Keys, Toneway, East Reach, Silk Mills and Wellington Road. Councillor Richard Parrish, Executive member for Planning Policy and Transportation, told Tone News: "As the first Garden Town in the South West we are committed to delivering major regeneration in the town centre, new sustainable communities, improved transport and supporting infrastructure. They will make a real difference to drivers, helping them to find car parking space while giving them the freedom to stay for as long as they need. The new system will also

improve traffic flow, reduce air pollution and benefit local businesses." A new charging regime to help with clearer pricing and designation of TDBC car parks has also come into effect with the pay on exit scheme. There are small increases for some car parks. Others will remain static in their charging for short stays, while for longer stays in the majority of car parks, it will be cheaper for most people. Spaces for Blue Badge holders will remain but the system does not allow for the one hour of additional parking in the car parks covered by pay on exit. The free hour will still be available in other car parks including the Crescent, Whirligig, Belevdere Road, Coal Orchard, Duke Street, Elms Parade and Fons George. At the Orchard multi-storey car park in Paul Street, Shopmobility users will be able to use a discount card. Additionally, Blue Badge holders will be able to use on-street parking as they do now.



Your Spare Room could change Someone's Life

Somerset Care Leavers are appealing to Taunton people to consider using their spare room to help a vulnerable teenager.

Young people leaving care have released a series of 'Get to Know Us' videos in a bid to break down stereotypes on teenagers and highlight the urgent need to recruit more 'Stepping Stones' carers. These are people who support young people age 16 and over with the challenges they face as care leavers. They help them make the step into independent adulthood and gain crucial life skills and experience.

Linda has been a Stepping Stones carer for many years now, partly with her husband and then as a single carer after he died. She shares how great it feels to help Annabel and all the other vulnerable young people she has housed and mentored: "I really enjoy it. The Stepping Stones team are so good at matching the right young people with the right carer and they're very supportive. Some placements have worked so well for us we've had them with us well into their twenties. We still get Christmas cards and photos of the families they went on to have."

Charlotte had a tough childhood and has shared how the dedication of her Stepping Stones carer Jo changed her life: "She is such a lovely person. I really like my room and knowing I always have a safety net to go back to has really helped me start studying again and gain work experience."

Stepping Stones placements are relatively short; anything from a few months to a couple of years. Stepping Stones carers receive a weekly allowance and the same tax exemptions and relief as foster carers, they can continue to work alongside their caring role.

If you are interested, we would love to hear from you. For more information please visit fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call 0800 5879900

Rail Responders Prove to be a Success

Local Christians have been celebrating the first anniversary of a new initiative aimed at increasing safety and well-being on and around Taunton's railway station. 'Rail Responders' was launched on 'Blue Monday', the third Monday in January, traditionally the day in the year when people feel most miserable, post-Christmas and facing credit card bills. Whilst rail travel is very safe, sadly stations and railway lines are locations where some people suffer injury and death due to accidents and illness. The British Transport Police are responsible for public safety on and near the railways but work in partnership with communities wherever possible. They approached Taunton Team Chaplaincy and asked if volunteers from local churches would be willing to offer a welcome and caring presence at Taunton station, recognising that some people experiencing mental health problems might be drawn to the railway. Drawing on many years of experience offering a listening ear, prayer and compassion in workplaces and various community locations, the Chaplaincy team recruited 12 volunteers. Wearing a distinctive blue uniform Rail Responders seek to respond to human need with God's love, following Jesus' call to care for those who suffer and struggle with many aspects of life. Training has been provided by the Samaritans to help them engage appropriately with anyone showing signs of distress or anxiety. By means of regular patrols at the station and the Obridge viaduct nearby, a simple, friendly approach and a listening ear, is available.



Passengers have welcomed the initiative with many appreciating the offer of prayer or a chance to share about personal concerns. Anyone indicating ongoing needs is signposted to the Samaritans' 24/7 phone line (116 123), other charities or NHS services. Experience from similar schemes piloted elsewhere in the UK has shown that a timely intervention can prevent someone making a decision which has irrevocable consequences.

For further details or to find out how help the Rail Responders team visit tauntonteamchaplaincy.org or call 07581 424 420.

Toploader headline 2019 Testical Festival



The one and only Testical Festival returns to Taunton Racecourse on the 22nd June with Toploader announced as this year's headline act. Organised by It's in the Bag, it's the South West's only charity supporting men with testicular cancer. Support acts this year include: The Leylines, Twisted Vinyl, Bandantree along with a host of special guests.

This relaxed, fun filled festival is definitely the place to be, with ice cream, fish and chips, burgers, beer, wine, cider, stalls, dodgems, prosecco and lots of music! The main event on Saturday starts from 12.00 noon, or make it a weekend by camping for two nights and enjoying a DJ set on the Friday night too. Tickets are on sale NOW from the It's in the Bag's online shop along with selected local retailers and prices start from just £15 and £1 for children.

About It's in the Bag...

It's in the Bag have three simple aims:

- **Support:** Being diagnosed with testicular cancer and going through treatment is a huge challenge – physically, mentally and emotionally. We provide a range of activities and initiatives to help men through this tough time.
- **Awareness:** We teach men the importance of checking their balls regularly and taking any issues straight to their GP. Spreading this knowledge promotes earlier diagnosis, which often means simpler, more effective treatment and better chances of a cure.
- **Survival:** With UK cure rates for testicular cancer running above 98%, we focus on survival – helping guys tackle the emotional and practical impact of cancer, both during treatment and into their lives after.

Testicular cancer is the most common cancer of 15 to 49-year-old men (but it also affects younger and older men). Although most cancers get more common as we get older, testicular cancer is different. It's most likely to happen when you're young or middle aged.

Testicular cancer has a high survival rate – more than 98% of men who have been diagnosed with Testicular cancer will survive, but early detection is crucial. It's in the Bag encourages men aged 15 and older to self-check every month and to talk to their GP immediately if they discover anything unusual.

More details can be found at itsinthebag.org.uk

It's in the Bag presents
It's in the Bag
SUPPORTING MEN WITH TESTICULAR CANCER IN THE SOUTH WEST

The one & only
TESTICAL FESTIVAL

22nd June 2019

Taunton Racecourse 12.00 noon to late

toploader

The Leylines TWISTED VINYL
Bandantree Heat Patrol
ELVIS TRIBUTE huish BANDS

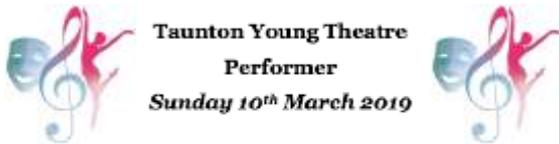
Tickets online from:
www.itsinthebag.org.uk/events

Registered charity number: 1163735

Taunton Festival of the Arts Competition

The Taunton Festival of the Arts which is 105 years old exists to encourage and promote the performance and enjoyment of arts. Aiming particularly, but not exclusively, at young people it provides a challenge and a unique opportunity to perform in a competitive and non-competitive situation in front of adjudicators, all experienced professionals, offering teaching at the highest level. Music classes are held in piano, strings,

woodwind, brass, recorders, composition and vocal. Drama classes include verse speaking, prepared reading, public speaking, mime, and acting. Dance classes include Classical, Cabaret, Ballet, Character, Modern, Tap, Song & Dance, Lyrical and Choreography. Competitors receive verbal and written adjudication scripts and certificates. Cups, trophies and medals are awarded in some classes.



Taunton Young Theatre
Performer
Sunday 10th March 2019

What to Prepare:

A recital based on a chosen theme. This should include an introduction, links between all pieces and a conclusion.

At least two pieces are to be performed, but no more than four. One is to be an acting piece/monologue and one must be verse speaking, spoken prose, prepared reading, performance poetry, mime, sonnet, Shakespeare, Bible reading or musical theatre.

The pieces which are chosen for TYTP must not be performed in any other class at the 2019 festival.

Please bear in mind that every student will also perform the unseen text given by Jeremy James Taylor.

Maximum Length: 15 minutes

1st Prize: £150
Entry Fee: £35

All entries to be made via email to mattakirby@aol.com.

The Festival reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the rules, should this be in the best interest of the competition.

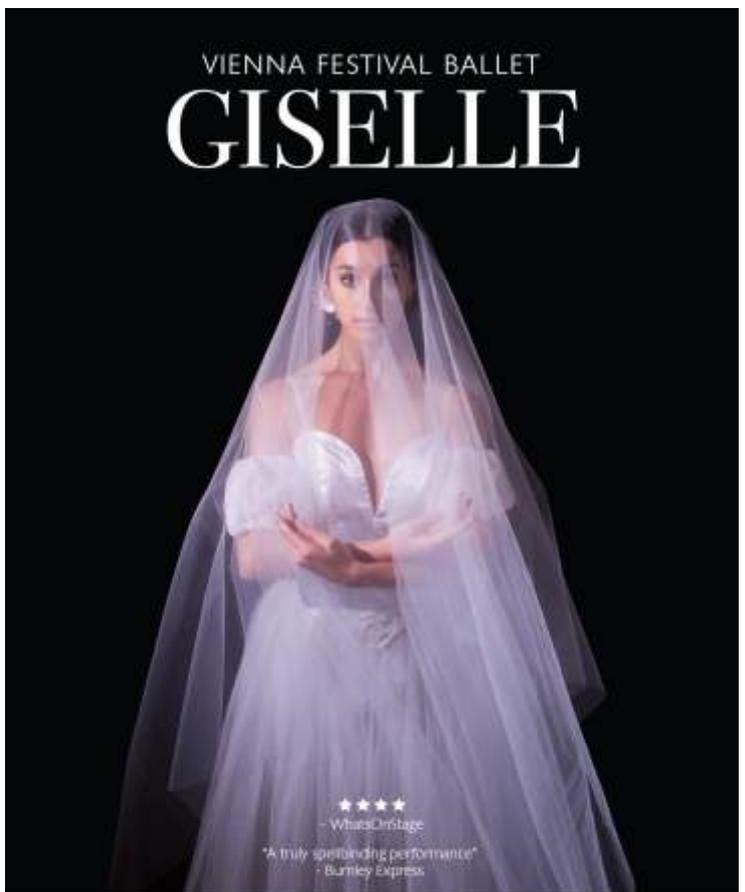
SPEECH AND DRAMA 2019
 tauntonfestival.org.uk

Huish teacher Nominated for Inspirational Award

Richard Huish College teacher, Samantha Desmond has been nominated for the University of Oxford Inspirational Teachers Award. Samantha, who teaches Classical Civilisation at the College, has been recognised for the role she played in 'raising student's aspirations and fuelling their enthusiasm for their subject.' Each year a select group of Oxford undergraduates are asked to nominate a teacher or careers advisor whom played an important role in their application to Oxford University. Samantha was nominated by former Huish student; Justin Vyvyan-Jones who now studies Classics at the University of Oxford. Nominating Samantha for her support when applying to university, Justin explained how she went the extra mile to assist with his application, helping him with his personal statement and essays and even giving up her lunch breaks to set up mock interviews. Commenting on why he nominated her Justin told Tone News: "Sam has boundless creativity as well as commitment, which charges her lessons with an infectious excitement and makes every single member of the class feel welcomed, inspired and able to be their best." Speaking on Samantha's nomination Richard Huish College Principal, John Abbott commented; 'Samantha is an excellent colleague and this nomination is testament to her dedication and hard work. She would be a very worthy winner!'



Samantha Desmond and her certificate



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Entries Open for TDBA's



TAUNTON DEANE
BUSINESS AWARDS

The fourth Taunton Deane Business Awards are open for applications, and this year businesses have even more opportunity to be short-listed and win an award.

This year the organisers have announced a new category, Taunton Deane Business of the Year. The last three years you have been able to enter a maximum of two categories, but this year businesses will be able to submit a third and apply to be the Taunton Deane Business of the Year. There is also an online chat option on the website should applicants need to ask any questions.

Pam Knight, Director of White Knight Marketing, the awards main organisers is encouraging businesses to think big and told Tone News: "This new award can also be entered as a standalone award but we recommend that if your business also falls into one or two of the other categories you should go for it! Shout about your successes; the more you enter, the greater your chances of clinching one of the coveted awards".

The organisers are also pleased to announce that the main sponsors are again Taunton Deane Borough Council and PKF Francis Clark.

This year's Categories and award sponsors are:

1. **Digital Innovator**, sponsored by A.C Mole & Sons
2. **Customer Excellence**, sponsored by Church House Dental Clinic
3. **Growth Business** (growth over two years), sponsored by BroomheadCommercial
4. **Best Employer**, sponsored by ClaimsConsortium
5. **Best Marketing Campaign**, sponsored by White Knight Marketing
6. **Community Engagement**, sponsored by Richard Huish College
7. **Start Up** (up to 2 years), sponsored by Carly Press
8. **Family Business**, sponsored by Perry & Prouse
9. **Creative Industries Award**, sponsored by ArtsTaunton
10. **Taunton Deane Business of the Year**, sponsored by SummerfieldDevelopments (SW) Ltd

The applications are open until the 29th March at 5pm. Entries can be made via the website where you are able to save your application and come back to them later to amend should you wish.

You can find all information about this year's categories, including their entry criteria on tdba.co.uk and begin your entry.

Your Website: Images are everything

By Tim Church

An important part of maintaining a well-performing website is to make sure you use the correct size of images in the right place of the website.

Images taken on mobile phones and high-quality cameras will most likely be very large; both in dimensions (pixel size) and file size which if loaded directly onto your website could affect how fast it loads.

The average size of a web page nowadays is around 2MB, doubling in the space of 3 years, according to some reports. This is too large and would get larger if you add more images to a page and load more features onto it.

Larger pages take longer to download and view and use valuable data plan usage if you're using a mobile connection. We've seen some pages that are 10 or

20MB in size because of the number of images, videos and features it loads and one home page that was over 265MB in size! Downloading this will really eat your data plan.

Images should be resized and optimised properly to fit the space on the website, trying to aim to get a page size under 1MB to load as best as possible.

At Somerset Web Services we aim to build our customer websites with a page size with a maximum of 1MB and even lower if we can.

There are ways to measure and improve website loading times and optimise your images. If you'd like us to look over your website and work with you to improve it we'd be pleased to help you. Just give us a call!



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Community Notice Board

Taunton Races Charity Raceday

19 March 2019
1:00pm - 5:30pm
RNLI Charity Raceday
First race 2.20pm
Last race 5pm

Zumba Gold and FLexercise Fitness dance classes

in Taunton, suitable for 50+
Contact Nikki Mumby for details:
nmumby@outlook.com
07833 503759

The Great Somerset Cycle 2019

24 March 2019 - 8:00am - 4:30pm
The Great Somerset Cycle 2019
- the hospice to hospice cycle ride.

The Somerset Business Show

27 March 2019
10:00am - 3:00 pm
Brean Country Club
Admission is FREE!

Taunton Races Evening Meet

24 April 2019
4:00pm - 8:30pm
C&S Electrical Evening Meeting
First race 5.20pm
Last race 8.05pm

Woodlands Castle Annual Wedding Fair 2019

17 March 2019
10:30am - 2:30pm
Admission is FREE

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14th April 2.00pm - 4.00pm
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PERFECT FOR YOUR LITTLE
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24 March 2019
7:00pm - 9:00pm
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Get fit, make friends and the first
lesson is free. £5 after.
Norton Fitzwarren Village Hall

Wivvy Action on Climate present EARTH HOUR SUPPER

Saturday 30th March
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Wiveliscombe

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ABBA Tribute Night

Friday 22nd March
Oake Manor Golf Club

Taunton School - Whole School Open Morning

6 May 2019
9:30am - 12:00pm

A1 ACE TAXIS 01823 332211

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

Taunton in the Snow!

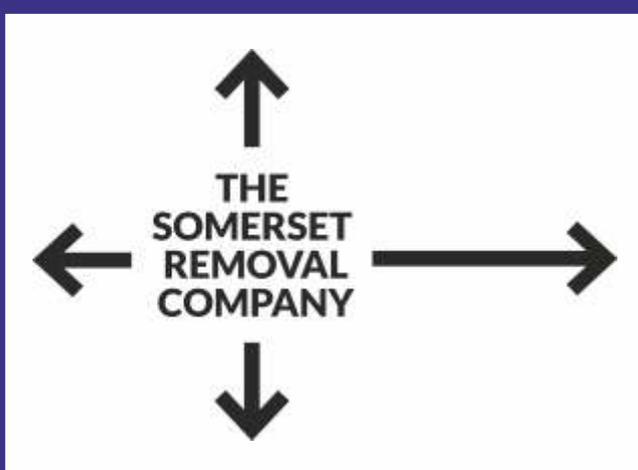
It was short lived but February 1st 2019 was a 'White Out' in and around Taunton which made for some wonderful photo opportunities to take advantage of! We thought it would be nice to share some of the snaps shared on our Facebook and Twitter pages.



facebook.com/Tone News



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New BBC Studios Officially Opened



Breakfast show presenter Claire Carter, head of local radio Chris Burns and station editor Nick Bull

There were cheers all around as BBC Somerset's new studios were officially opened last month. In true Somerset style, a cider made especially for the occasion was given to well-wishers, including the BBC's head of local radio who visited Taunton to open the building on Thursday, January 19. Unveiling a plaque commemorating the move, Chris Burns told Tone News: "The new studios would help the station to be at the heart of the community".

For nearly three decades, BBC Somerset was based in the town centre but after outgrowing two original buildings, it has moved to Deane Gate Avenue. It comes as the station begins broadcasting from morning to night every weekday for the first time in its history. Before now listeners tuning in at certain times of the day would be getting shared programmes from BBC Radio Bristol, but after a funding boost the station has added two new shows to its line-up, meaning it now broadcasts all day from 6am to 10pm. BBC Somerset editor Nick Bull told Tone News: "It was amazing to have Chris down to Somerset to open our new building. This timing couldn't be better – as we now broadcast more local hours than ever before, into people's homes, cars,

phones and smart speakers. I am a Somerset-boy born and bred and this is the most exciting time in the station's history. We're really proud of our two new shows, which get right to the heart of life in the county. From 1pm to 4pm each weekday Andy Bennett is out and about all over the patch with his road trip. Then, from 7pm to 10pm Charlie Taylor presents the station's new evening show, with an emphasis on the communities at the heart of Somerset. You can hear BBC Somerset on 95.5 FM, 1566 AM, DAB digital radio, Freeview channel 722 and via the BBC Sounds App.



Escape wins support from Taunton pasty shop

Following a recent poll on Facebook, where the generous owners of Oggy Oggy – The Pasty Company in Taunton, asked the public to help them choose a charity for them to support for the new year, Escape Support Group were nominated by many of its members, and they are very grateful that they have been fortunate enough to be selected as Oggy Oggy's Charity of 2019. ESCAPE SUPPORT GROUP is a Somerset based charity that provides activities, days out, events and mini-breaks for children with disabilities and their families. ESCAPE recognises the need for families to have opportunities to spend quality time doing fun things together – not just the child with the disability. Everything ESCAPE does is heavily subsidised – their aim is to cover 50% of costs - to ensure affordability for everyone, and excellent value for money. They provide transport (including wheelchair accessible vehicles) to and from the locations ensuring the



day is as stress free as possible for their members. In 2019 Escape will be visiting We The Curious in Bristol, Drayton Manor, Puxton Park, Woodlands Adventure Park, Crealy, Dartmoor Zoo, The Living Coast in Torquay, Butlins, The River Dart Country Park, The Wave, Chessington Park, Longleat Festival of Lights, Bristol Hippodrome for the Christmas Panto, and St Ives in Cornwall for a carers weekend – so a packed year of activities awaits! Should you like further information about Escape Support Group, or to become a member, you contact the office direct on 01823 442160 or find them on Facebook.

Wellington model makes catwalk final

A catwalk model from Wellington has made it to the final of a premier established model search event in London. India Coyle, a 23 year old medical secretary was a 2018 Miss Great Britain Finalist and recently just modelled for a luxury lingerie designer whose collection will be released in May.

India contacted Tone News and said: "After being contacted to apply for Top Model 2019, I was delighted to have been told I was successful in gaining a place after going through the application process and being placed in the commercial category. Having just recently had to go up to London for top industry coaching (which was amazing), I am now looking forward to the fittings and rehearsals followed by the main catwalk event on 23 March." Over the most recent years Top Model has supported the leading childhood cancer charity, Children with Cancer UK. Children with Cancer UK support research into the causes and treatment of childhood cancers and to provide better facilities for caring for children and their families.

If you would like to donate please visit: www.topmodel2019.everydayhero.com/uk/india-c



India Coyle with Omar Mansoor

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Love music? Taunton CYMT needs YOU!

Calling all music creatives – join us to be part of a vibrant community of musicians at the unique and special Centre for Young Musicians Taunton (CYMT) which is soon to celebrate its fifth birthday.

If you are aged 5 to 18 and interested in music you can join CYMT straight away to collaborate, write, play, produce, have fun, and develop your musical skills, knowledge and confidence with other young musicians.

The Saturday morning timetable includes lots of practical music-making such as bands and orchestra, as well as music production, theory of music, percussion group, piano workshops, singing ensembles, and lots more. Everyone finds a welcoming, friendly and all-inclusive atmosphere at CYMT with regular opportunities to perform in any style of music.

Why not visit CYMT on one of its Open Days on 4 & 18 May – or you can book a visit any time.

There are Centres in London, Norwich, Saffron Walden, Peterborough & Taunton, so CYM is helping to establish a talent pipeline for young musicians. There are termly visits from the Guildhall School, such as Apollo's Cabinet on 16 March, and students,

schools and teachers are supported to achieve the best possible music outcomes for students and the community. Financial support is available to help with the fees through generous bursary schemes from Sound Foundation Somerset music education hub and the Guildhall School Access Agreement.

Monday 12 to Friday 16 August – CYMT Summer Music & Drama Course 2019

CYMT will be running a fun-filled summer music & drama course on 12-16 August 2019 daily at Richard Huish College, Taunton. Open to students aged 10-18 there will be bands, orchestra, music production, singing, jazz, folk, theory of music, drama, and lots more. Excellent value for the full week at £295 per student. Register your interest online at www.cymtaunton.org.uk/application

To find out more about Centre for Young Musicians Taunton please visit www.cymtaunton.org.uk or call 07754 217993 or email taunton@cym.org.uk. Like us on Facebook & Follow us on Twitter @CYMTaunton.



Burns Night at Norton Fitzwarren Village Hall

Norton Fitzwarren Village Hall hosted a very successful Burns Night on Saturday 26th January. Hall Chair, Don Wyatt welcomed the Mayor of Taunton Deane, Cllr Catherine Herbert, and her Consort Robin Herbert. The welcome was extended to over 75 guests, many sporting tartan - including an impressive array of kilts. All the traditional customs were observed. Kenny Brown gave the Selkirk Grace. The haggis was piped in by Mike Highfield, and duly addressed by Graham Withnell. Phil Hawtin raised an informative Toast to Robbie Burns. The Mayor and Consort spoke entertainingly on behalf of The Lassies & Laddies. Following dinner, guests danced enthusiastically, to the band Fresh Aire, doing their best to heed the Caller's instructions. The Hall Committee would like to thank the many volunteers involved in setting up the event, setting tables, cooking, serving, clearing tables, tidying up after the event. Further thanks go to the evening's Sponsors, Staff and Friends from Escape Hairdressers, Norton Fitzwarren, and Matt & Corinne Foster, Quantock Funeral Services. Together they provided many of the lavish array of Raffle prizes. Many thanks for all your support. And finally a huge Thank You goes to everyone who attended the event. It raised over £600.00 for Hall funds. Monies raised will go towards ongoing refurbishment projects.



Hall Chair, Don Wyatt with Nita Wyatt and Special Guests, The Mayor of Taunton Deane & Consort.

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- Creative music production for students in years 7-13

Summer music course 12-16 August 2019

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The Monthly Alternative with Giles Cosgrove

Spotlight On:

The words Surf Rock conjure images of California in the 1960's, all things Americana, The Beach Boys blasting from a transistor radio in the back of an open top Cadillac, or if you're a bit younger the impending violence and uber cool of a Quentin Tarantino film. In Taunton, the first thing that comes to mind at the mention of Surf Rock should be Palooka 5.

One of the most successful bands on the local music scene, these guys are the retro band of the century, completely embracing the vintage nature of their look and sound. Bedecked in Vietnam style US Forces uniforms, the group, made up of T Baigent, A McCallum, B Baigent and S Fisk, perform regularly across the County Town and beyond, with big shows at the CICCIC nearly every month.

But they're not just a novelty band. Signed to Somerset label "Fuelled by Cider", Palooka 5 write and record their own original music with a real attention to detail, utilising original 60s instruments including Organs and Guitars to really capture the essence of that old school sound. Their debut 2018 mini album "Rough Magic", whilst not the first local scene release on vinyl, was the first LP by a new band in Taunton that had to be

owned on vinyl to truly hear them as intended. The title track is a 3-minute definition of the band; barnstorming riffs, historic harmonies and thundering drums.

With regular airplay on BBC Radio 6 Music and shows selling out repeatedly, Palooka 5 are undoubtedly one of the most fun and original bands on the Taunton music scene. Great to see at festivals, as the summer arrives look for Palooka 5 on the setlist, and don't miss them!

Find them: Check them out on Spotify, get the LP and see them live!

Sounds like: It's the opening of Pulp Fiction, Pumpkin and Honeybun are sat in the diner, and it's about to go down.



Acts to Watch Out For in this Month:

- **Stevie & The Masquerades**
If the local synth-pop band's social media is anything to go by, new music is on the way from the neon drenched duo.
- **Busted**
Back with their original sound and a new album "Half Way There" it may not be the Year 3000 but not much has changed with Busted and that's just perfect.
- **Rat Boy**
His second album Internationally Unknown is out now, is he British Punk's saving grace?
- **Finding Aurora**
Exclusively revealing new demos to The Sunday Alternative, the Newport trio are sitting on what could just be an even better EP than their debut.

GAMING with Stuart Coward

All around the Tabletop

As the world of video games have evolved and developed, so has the world of table top gaming. This refers to things such as board, card and role playing games. Many of you might have wanted to try this but are not so sure where to start, so why not try our very own local Table top gaming club the 'Green Goblins'.

Based at the Riverside Church this club allows you to try out those games you've been wondering about. It's on every Friday between 6:00pm and 10:30pm, it's free for your first session and 3 pounds per night after that. There's a tuck shop if you are feeling hungry and crackers, our local shop for all things pop culture related are there most nights. The club have plenty of games going on, like card tournaments such as Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh. Minatures games such as Star Wars X-Wing and RPGs like Dungeon and Dragons or Pathfinder. Plus the people are very friendly and quite happy to explain rules if you're not sure.

The most important thing about this club in my opinion is that it allows you to meet new people just like you. This in turns lets you do things you've probably never done before. So if you want to meet new People, play new games and have a fun fuelled Friday night the Green Goblins should do the job nicely.



If you need more info go to their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GreenGoblinsUK/>



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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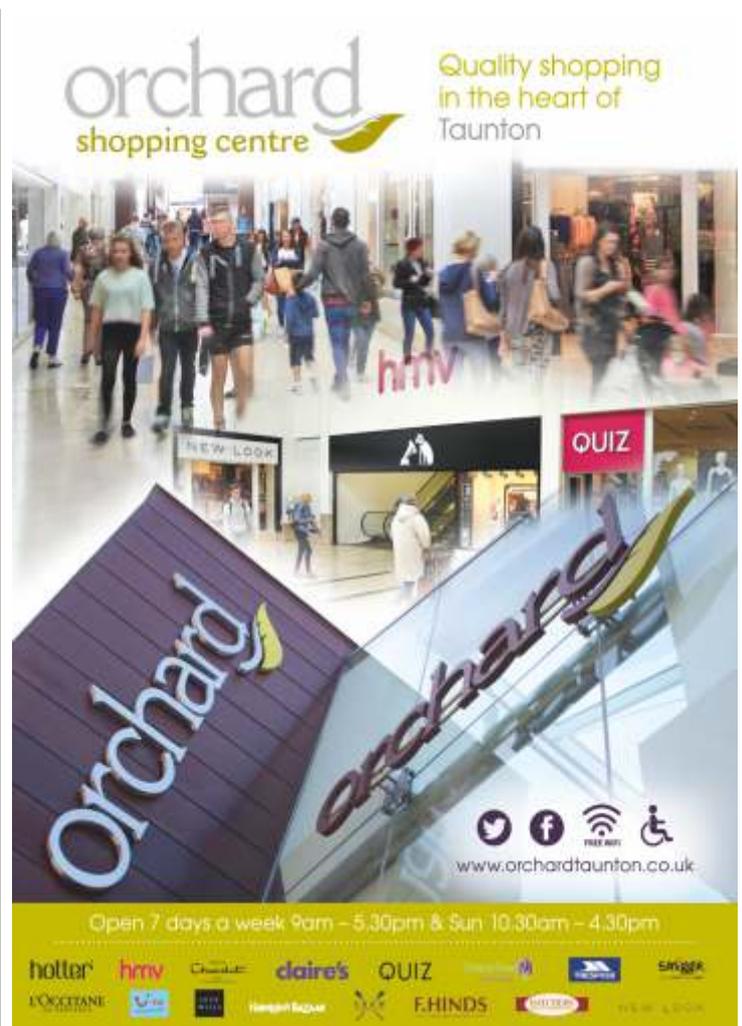
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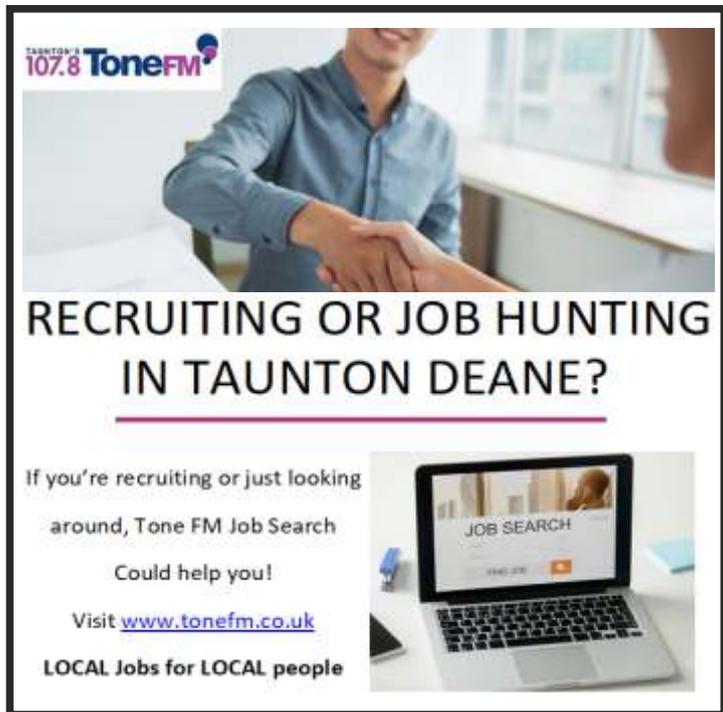
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Upcoming fixtures at Taunton Racecourse

There is still plenty of National Hunt racing action to look forward to at Taunton Racecourse before the end of the season, as well as a number of racing related events that will be equally appealing to followers of the turf. Local racegoers can get into the mood for the big racing action with the Pre-Cheltenham Race day on Monday March 11th, when the first race is due off at 2.30pm and again on Tuesday March 19th when they host the R.N.L.I Charity Meeting, which starts at 2.20pm. The Orchard Portman course will be staging their hugely popular Ladies Day Meeting on April 4th when the racing action begins at 2.05pm.

The top prize for the Best Dressed Lady is a Weekend in Paris for Two, which is generously sponsored once again by Dave Criddle Travel of Taunton. The final action of the season is the Evening Meeting on Wednesday April 24th when the first race begins at 5.30pm.

In addition, Taunton Racecourse will also be holding Gold Cup and Grand National Lunches on Friday 15th March

and Saturday 6th April, which includes two course lunches, full coverage of the feature and supporting races on the big screen and an in-house bookmaker. Martin Higgs- aka 'Higgs on Horses', will be on hand to comper the day!

Tickets for each event cost £30 or for both just £55 per person and can be booked on line or by calling 01823 337172. On Friday March 29th Taunton Racecourse will host 'An Evening with Tommo and Champ' featuring Derek Thompson the Channel 4 voice of racing and Bob Champion MBE who famously rode Aldaniti to Grand National victory in 1981. This event is being staged in aid of the Bob Champion Cancer Trust. The evening includes a VIP reception with photo opportunities, a two course evening meal, live onstage stories with guests, Grand National preview, book signings and a Silent Auction to win racing related prizes.

For more details take a look at tauntonracecourse.co.uk

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Alfie's Goal Bonus hits Dad's pocket

A budding young footballer from Galmington was 'cards in' recently after bagging 4 goals for his team, earning himself 12 packs of Match Attack football cards as a goal bonus! Alfie Cullum who is nearly 8 years old and plays for the Huish Tigers was promised 3 packs of the cards for each goal he scored by his dad, who thought they were only £1 per pack. Following the game, in which Alfie had scored 4 goals, his dad popped in to the local Tesco to buy the Match Attack cards which turned out to be £2 per pack and not the £1 he originally thought! Manager of the Huish Tigers, Gavin Step told Tone News: "Alfie is on a proper goal rush at the moment and knowing that his dad is a bit tight fisted with his cash, it will have been a bit of shock knowing he had to pay out £24 for a pile of football cards!" Gavin went on to say: "Alfie won player of the week against the Bridgwater Wolves not only for his goals, but his willingness to play for the away team as well to make up numbers for them in the first game." Huish



Tigers Football Club is an FA Charter Standard Football Club based at Richard Huish College in Taunton who were the 2017-18 Somerset FA Club of the year. They currently have 4 teams of Under 7 and Under 8 boys and girls playing in The Taunton Youth League along with an Under 6 group who train every weekend. For more details or if you would like to enrol your child visit their Facebook page

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Down at the Club



Well, the new lights have caused some interesting interaction so we thought it would be a good idea to let you know more about them. The five pylons are 55 metres high and 11 metres deep in to the ground. These support arrays of LEDs which will be the first of their type in the northern hemisphere. The arrays weigh six tonnes.

LEDs are a lot more efficient than traditional lights. They last longer, they need replacing less often, they use less electricity and they light up immediately. They are state of the art technology with benefits to the environment and benefits on cost compared to traditional bulbs.

Somerset County Cricket Club CEO, Andrew Cornish has told Tone News: "It's important for us so that we can play matches at more suitable times for our Members and spectators. It will enable us to start Vitality Blast matches later at night as opposed to having to start at 4:30. That will add to the night-time economy of the town overall. It means that local restaurants and bars will

benefit from the fact that we'll be attracting people here later in the evening. It's important for us, but it goes far beyond just the cricket club.

"The lights will also be used in Championship cricket so that the players won't have to go off for bad light. On those occasions the lights will be used to enhance the daylight. We will also have the ability to turn the lux levels down so that we can lower the light intensity at the close of play. This will ensure that we don't impact on our neighbours but can still ensure that spectators leave the Ground safely.

Somerset CCC will be staging three matches during the ICC Cricket World Cup this year and one of those will see Afghanistan take on New Zealand in a floodlit match. The prospect of a World Cup match here under lights is what it's all about! That is something everyone involved with the Club is very much looking forward to."



Not long to go for The Peacocks

The countdown is on as we enter the final 2 months of the football season with Taunton Town still leading the Evo-Stik South Premier Division by 4 points.

It's an incredible achievement for the club who earned promotion to Step 3 of the Non-League pyramids last year by storming the Evo-Stik West Division by 19 points. Should the Peacocks secure back to back promotions and a second title victory, they will rise to the National League for the first time in their history and teams such as Torquay United and Bath City will wait.

Town are already planning for the future by tying down 9 of their first team squad to contracts for next year. Ben Adelsbury, Ryan Brett, Shane White, Ollie Chamberlain, Lloyd Irish, Pierce

Mitchell, Ed Palmer, Dan Sullivan and top scorer Andrew Neal have all committed their futures to the club.

There is even more excitement at the Viridor Stadium to come with the visit of Manchester United Legends on 7th April 2019. Tickets for the event are selling fast and you can get your hands on some of your own by attending any home match over the next month.

Home Fixtures:
9 Mar: Hartley Wintney, 3pm
23 Mar: Poole Town, 3pm
6 Apr: Met Police, 3pm

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