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Issue 37

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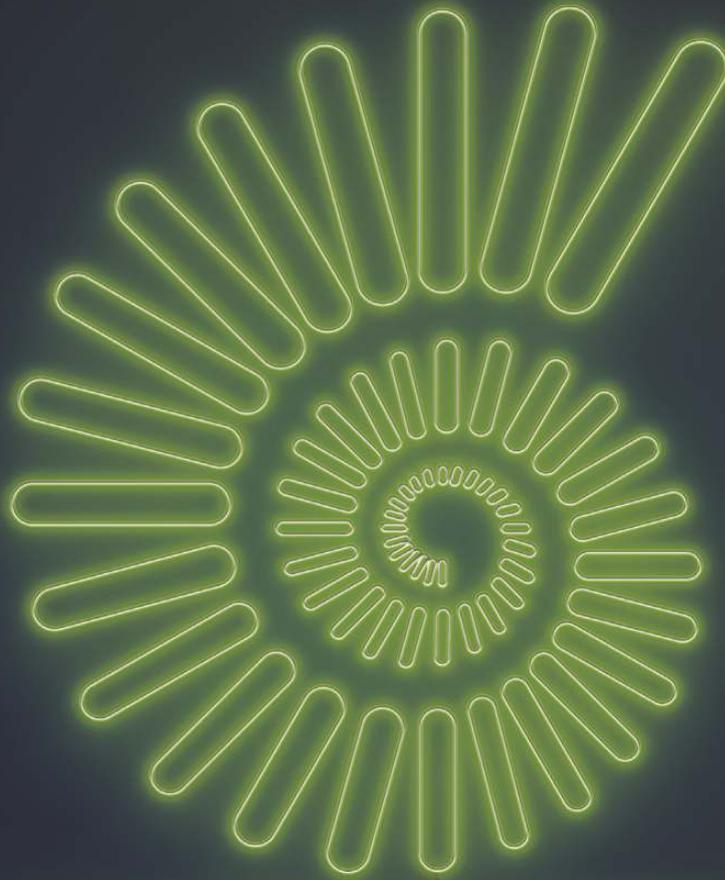
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Welcome to ToneNews

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Welcome to your first **Tone News** issue of the year! Can you believe it's 2022 already?!

Although it feels like a while ago now, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, and didn't just overeat and spend money like me?

Fingers crossed you enjoy this edition as much as I do, as it appears the County town has been very busy over the last month or so.

Keep your eyes peeled as I have also added in one or two of my very own features for good measure.



Happy January!
Lilian Delaney
Guest 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.

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High School Musical is coming to The Castle School in Taunton



Disney's iconic 2006 High School Musical, will be performed by students at Taunton's Castle School in February 2022! The shows will take place on Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th, and Friday 11th February from 7pm.

Suitable for the whole family, the stage performance is about the blossoming relationship between secondary school footballer, Troy, and studious teenager, Gabriella. They both meet whilst each on their family holiday and end up singing

together in a karaoke competition. Coincidentally, they end up at the same secondary school, however, their relationship and agreement to audition together for the school show is thwarted by the current leading lady, Sharpay, and her brother Ryan.

Disney's High School Musical on Stage, explores issues of friendship, love, and acceptance.

To ensure you get your tickets before they sell out, contact The Castle School on 01823 274073 or office@castle.somerset.sch.uk.

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NEWS

Taunton's £8.3m Toneway project enters next phase

The £8.3 million roadworks project at the Creech Castle junction on Taunton's Toneway, has entered the next phase of the project as they complete major works to widen the bridge and install a new surface water drainage system.

The multi-million-pound project, designed to increase the junction's capacity and improve cycling and pedestrian connections, began in August 2021 and is expected to be completed next summer. The work includes additional lanes at the start of the junction, as well as new crossings for those on foot and bike.

A key feature of the project involves the widening of the Bathpool Bridge on the A38 Bridgwater Road, which is currently closed whilst construction is underway. Work is also underway to construct a 300,000 litre attenuation tank under the eastbound side of the Toneway to ensure the expanded junction is adequately drained.

Cllr John Woodman, Somerset County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, tells Tone News, "Following our award-winning improvement work at Junction 25, this is another crucial piece of investment to ensure our network has the capacity to cope with future economic and residential growth, and caters for all road users, incorporating better access for pedestrians and cyclists."

For more information on the Toneway project, including plans, videos, and FAQs, visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk/Toneway/



Somerset West and Taunton Council appoint new CEO

Somerset West and Taunton Council have appointed Andrew Pritchard as its new Chief Executive Officer. The appointment was approved by members at a full council meeting on Tuesday 16th November 2021.

Andrew joined the Council in January 2020 as the Director of External Operations and Climate Change after working across a wide range of public sector organisations in various senior roles.

Following his appointment, he tells Tone News, "Somerset West and Taunton Council is focused on delivering excellent services, improving our communities, and ensuring our residents and businesses are supported."

He adds, "We have achieved a lot in the short time since we were established, all thanks to the commitment of staff and members. So it really is a privilege to be asked to lead the Council as we enter a period of significant change."



Andrew Pritchard

Leader of the Council, Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts, tells Tone News, "Andrew brings a wealth of experience to the role alongside his natural leadership skills. There are many challenges to come as we look to the future and I am confident that his enthusiasm and attributes are key to lead the organisation to its next phase."

Stay up-to-date with events in Taunton!

As part of the Somerset West and Taunton ERDF Welcome Back Fund, Visit Exmoor and Visit Somerset have been commissioned to develop and host a searchable database for an online events calendar for the local area.

The events platform will be hosted on the Visit Exmoor website and will enable representatives from towns and villages across the area to submit information via an online

form about events taking place in their local area.

Visitors will be able to search for events by selecting applicable filters, including location, date, type of event, cost, demographics, wheelchair access, etc. to find events that are of interest to them.

The events calendar will be promoted by Visit Exmoor and Visit Somerset on their social media channels.





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Neroche Woodlanders offer new opportunity for Taunton climate volunteers

Neroche Woodlanders have announced a new Climate-Aware Volunteering programme that is open to anyone living in and around Taunton, Wellington and the Blackdown Hills. The programme will host a series of free, short introductory sessions that will begin in January 2022. The idea is to welcome new volunteers into the woods, whilst at the same time helping them learn more about climate and nature.

Neroche Woodlanders is a social enterprise which has grown from a dream to bring people and land together in a virtuous relationship, where people and place both benefit, are enriched and create beauty.

Neroche Woodlander Organiser, Gavin Saunders, tells Tone News, "We're aiming this new programme at proactive people who want to do something to help the wildlife and people, and for those who also feel worried or confused about the climate and biodiversity crises, whilst also connecting with others."

There will be four woodland-



based learning days, which will take place on alternate Wednesdays. Participants will explore aspects of climate issues through discussion, being outdoors around a campfire, and through the introduction of practical conservation work.

The first session will begin on Wednesday 12th January 2022 and will cover the basics by

discussing a range of topics from COP26, Net Zero, and 1.5 degrees.

For more information on the Climate-Aware Volunteering Programme with Neroche Woodlanders, contact Gavin Saunders by email at gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org or phone, 07760 665378.

Armed Forces cook for Queen's College in Taunton

The Head of Food and Nutrition at Taunton's Queen's College, Joe Mann, recently arranged a day full of presentations and cookery workshops demonstrated by chefs from the Royal Marines and Navy, for the pupils.

The day began with Royal Naval Chef, Simon Gray (who trained in catering at Westminster College, alongside chefs such as Jamie Oliver) delivering a masterclass on fish. He told Tone News, "The national Fish In Schools Hero Programme is here to ensure that every child gets a chance to prepare, cook and eat fish before they leave school."

Colour Sergeant Mike Beaton MBE and his colleagues from the Royal Marine Commandos Education Awareness Team (RM-EAT) then delivered a life skills talk and career advice through an exciting poultry preparation and nutrition masterclass.

CSgt Beaton then explained that understanding and gaining knowledge of cooking healthy meals is the foundation for a healthy lifestyle. He told Tone News, "In an age where we consume too much sugar and salt and don't have nutritional know-how readily available, our aim is to educate young people, and to highlight the importance of a healthy diet"

Mr Mann tells Tone News, "At Queen's College we strive to ensure all our pupils have access to a diverse range of experiences and opportunities, so they are able to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating into their future diet. Giving our young people the chance to participate in events like this will instil a love of cooking that will open the door to one of the great expressions of human creativity. I believe that learning how to cook is a crucial life skill enabling our students to feed themselves and others well and affordably, both now and in later life."



Colour Sergeant Mike Beaton MBE

Specialist play therapy now available to children at Musgrove Park's A&E

Musgrove Park Hospital's Emergency Department has appointed its first-ever play specialist to help calm young children who unexpectedly find themselves in hospital.

Sarah Smith, has been appointed to fulfil this role by complementing the excellent work carried out by the team of play specialists in the children's unit - whilst staff in the Emergency Department provide outstanding care for younger patients, they don't always have extra time to help with non-clinical care.

Sarah tells Tone News, "I worked on Musgrove Park's children's unit for 12 years and on occasions colleagues in the Emergency Department would request play specialist support. My main role is to create a positive and welcoming environment for our younger patients who come into hospital in an emergency. When a child first arrives, I look to build a rapport and relationship with them based on their age and developmental level."

She adds, "It can be frightening for a child to come into hospital and a little distraction, such as putting Peppa Pig on the TV or letting them hold and play with a familiar toy during an intervention, can really make a difference.

"I feel so lucky to be one of those people who get up in the morning really looking forward to going to work as I know I'm likely to make a real difference to a child's care and experience at hospital."



Taunton's Cyclist Club select Halse Cafe as No.1 Pit Stop

Taunton based cycling club, Cycle Somerset, has this year selected the New Inn Cafe in Halse, as its number one pit stop when out on a ride.

Cycle Somerset tells Tone News that its riders are often out on the roads two or three times a week in groups of eight to ten, cycling around twenty miles. Therefore, stopping for a break at a cafe has become such an event that the group decided to create an annual award to select their favourite venue.

Club secretary Sue Brooks, tells Tone News, "We are very lucky to be able to cycle around the beautiful Quantocks and Blackdown Hills. When we are out riding, stopping for a coffee and cake has become rather special for us; as I am sure it has for most cycling groups. We've been cycling through Halse for several years so when the new cafe opened, it really was a dream come true."

The Halse cafe opened in the summer as part of the New Inn community pub project. Whereby over two-hundred shareholders from Halse and surrounding villages helped to raise money to buy and



Halse Cafe manager Lucy Turner receives the plaque from Cycle Somerset chairman Graham Farrington (right).

renovate the pub and restaurant site, which had previously just been trading as a pub for over three-hundred years. The new site consists of five luxury B&B rooms, a self-catering apartment, an outside garden area, and now, Halse cafe.

Somerset Cycle club chairman, Graham Farrington, recently stopped in at the new village cafe to present a plaque to the Halse cafe manager, Lucy Turner. He told Tone News, "We love the cafe here and always have done. It's a regular stop for us as we always get such a warm, friendly welcome. Lucy really is a wonderful host!"

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Simply Red announce attendance at Taunton's Live in Somerset



Mick Hucknall and his band, Simply Red, have announced that they will be heading to Taunton's Vivary Park on Sunday 28th August 2022 as part of their Summer tour.

The famous band is well known for its soul-pop music. Some of their most popular songs include 1985 classic, 'Holding Back The Years', and the 1989 track, 'If You Don't Know Me By Now'. They have sold over sixty million albums worldwide, have more than one billion hits on YouTube, and five UK number ones.

Live in Somerset, concert promoter Caitlin Brown, tells Tone News, "We're thrilled to add Simply Red to our 'Live in

Somerset' 2022 line-up. I've grown up listening to their soulful hits and can't wait to see them live in Taunton's stunning Vivary Park. It's going to be special!

She adds, "Live in Somerset' is a three-evening live music event, which takes place from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th August 2022. and is shaping up to be a fantastic weekend of live music for all the family, especially now that Simply Red and guests are bringing the event to a close."

For enquiries or to purchase your tickets, head to the Visitor Centre on Fore Street, Taunton.

Somerset West & Taunton Council help reduce debt

Somerset West and Taunton Council has set up a dedicated project team to help support their customers who have Council Tax and Business Rate debt.

The project hopes to improve general housekeeping, increase business intelligence surrounding customers in debt, and improve internal procedures for case resolution.

They hope to identify customers with large debts, multiple unpaid bills, and those with vulnerabilities. Whilst any additional income collected will be used to pay for essential services.

Cllr Ross Henley, Executive Member for Internal Operations, tells Tone News, "Our aim is to engage with customers to help them get out of debt. We recognise with the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and the increase in the cost of living, that some customers are struggling to pay."

He adds, "Therefore, if a customer contacts us as they're unable to pay, then we promise to help genuine cases. However, those that wilfully refuse to pay, we will pursue through enforcement actions."

For any outstanding Council Tax or Business Rate debts, please email: recovery@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk



Taunton Transition Town announces first-ever repair cafe

Environmental conservation organisation, Taunton Transition Town, have announced that they will host the County town's first ever repair café. It will take place at Moose Hall, Tower Lane, in Taunton on Saturday 15th January 2022, from 10am to 12noon.

There will be available volunteers to help repair any broken electrical equipment, computers, clothing, tools, or toys, to help reduce waste and put an end to our 'throw-away' society.

All repairs will be free of charge (although donations are welcome) and refreshments will be available. There will also be an opportunity to learn how to repair items on your own for future reference.



For more information, or to offer your services for free or to help with the running of the repair café, please get in touch with the organisers at tauntontransition5@gmail.com

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Refreshments Available

Donations for Repairs Welcome

Taunton Repair Café is an initiative of Taunton Transition Town.

Get boosted and protect yourself in 2022



As we enter a New Year, and following the scientific evidence about how quickly the new Omicron variant has spread, and the positive effects of a third “booster” vaccination, Somerset’s Public Health leaders are reminding Taunton residents to step forward for their vaccination or booster if they have not already done so.

The National Booking Service is now open to all those aged 18 and over, and the ‘grab a jab’ website is available to help you find a walk in site that is easier and more local to you. To find out more, visit www.nhs.uk/grab-a-jab

You can get your jab at Firepool in Taunton, Somerset Motor Museum at Haynes and Minehead District Hospital, by pre-booking www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination

The festive season may have come to an end, but it is as important as ever to continue to take measures to stop the spread of the virus in our community:

- ✓ Complete a rapid lateral flow test before going out to crowded places, like events, or seeing loved ones, to make sure you are covid free
- ✓ Book your vaccination and step forward for your booster
- ✓ Open windows and doors to let fresh air in and get rid of covid particles
- ✓ Wear a well-fitting face covering where required and when in crowded spaces
- ✓ If you have covid symptoms, stay at home and book a PCR test
- ✓ Wash your hands before leaving and when returning home and regularly sanitise your hands when out and about

Concerned about getting a covid vaccination?

Do you know people who have put off having their covid vaccination or booster because they have worries or questions? Maybe you have some questions yourself? We can help!

Spark Somerset’s team of trained Vaccination Buddy volunteers can offer 1-2-1 advice and support over the phone to anybody in Somerset who has questions about their covid vaccine or booster. They are non-judgemental and won’t pressure you into making a decision.

Hear from some of our ‘buddies’:

“ Johanna

I am from Namibia and I would like to support other people from minority groups with the right, up-to-date information regarding the vaccination roll out. I’m non-judgemental and a good listener. I believe I can offer a caring and sensitive support to individuals deciding whether to have the covid vaccination.

“ Penina

I am a registered nurse and health visitor. I think being a Vaccination Buddy is a great way to use my skills and experience to help others make informed decisions.

Vaccination Buddies come from all walks of life and can speak a range of languages including Portuguese and Polish. They can’t give specific medical advice, but they have full training from Public Health at Somerset County Council, so they can support people to make an informed decision about vaccination.

For more information, contact Helen Fielden, Project Coordinator:

✉ helen.fielden@sparksomerset.org.uk
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The Monthly Alternative with Giles Cosgrove

Spotlight On:

Fast paced, raucous, moody, and laced with distortion. Grunge with a thousand E numbers. It's the sound of one of the most exciting bands coming out of the South-West music scene, they are **Squidge**. Made up of James Francis on vocals and guitar, Jordan Mallinson on guitar, George Clark on bass, and Tom Dodd on drums, the band have had a wild 12 months culminating in the release of a double A side at the end of 2021 that has been turning heads and bursting ear drums.

With an autumn run of gigs dubbed "The Disas-tour", **Squidge** faced broken down vans, Covid-isolation and a host of small venues waiting to be impressed. They weren't disappointed. Broadcast live on The Sunday Alternative and available to listen back to on Mixcloud, the bands energetic live shows are a triumph of old school rock n roll; sarcastic humour, howling feedback loops, riotous sound mixes, stage diving and crowd surfing.

At these live shows the band debuted two new singles that make up a double A side that magically captures their melodic grunge sound. Beneath the catchy hook and onslaught of distorted guitars on "Overcast" are deeply introspective lyrics essentially asking, "What now?". A question more and more come to ask in their mid-twenties as university becomes a memory and heating bills have to be paid. For such a heavy subject **Squidge** manage to pull it off producing a unifying head banger.

"Tiramisu" AKA "the fast one" is named after



the bands favourite dessert and takes on a harsher and more abrasive approach to the groups sounds with hints of classic Oli Sykes in the vocal delivery. At the core of the track, amongst the pain and angst, beneath the shouting, is a message that is sure relatable; "It's been far too long since I could say well done to myself".

They're a multi layered band doing the impossible, squidding together genres and ideas that on paper just shouldn't work. They're **Squidge** and they might just be your new favourite band.

Find Them: Brand new double A side Overcast/Tiramisu is out now on all good streaming platforms.

Sounds like: Good time rock n roll for a bit of self-reflection.

Acts to watch out for this month:

• The Mezz

The latest single from the Oxford band "Lipstick Adderall" is a monumentally good single mixing indie and pop seamlessly.

• Mawpfit

On two new tracks "Harlem" and "Body Approval" the band prove not only are they a sonic force to be reckoned with but that they're one of the most exciting groups across the Bristol Channel.

• Aniamalia

More singles abound from the South West rock outfit throwing back to that sound that got you buying Kerrang! and wearing just a bit too much eyeliner. Once an emo, always an emo.



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.



GAMING with Stuart Coward

Journey to the West

Out of all the new games that have come out in recent years, Guerrilla

Game's Horizon Zero Dawn has become one of the most popular. Its robot animals filled world, well written characters and fantastic story has made it popular with many gamers. So, it's no wonder that a sequel will be released for 2022 called Horizon Forbidden West.

In it you once again play as Aloy, this time exploring Americas west coast. You will get to see a post-apocalyptic take on many famous landmarks like the

Golden Gate bridge. As well as new locations you'll have lots of new gear to play with. Such as a shield wing to glide, a rebreather so that you can explore underwater ruins, and a grapple hook to go along with an improved climbing system. Your classic spear has had an upgrade with various attachments you can choose between called valour surges. The most exiting addition for me is the addition of being able to ride robots that look like Jurassic Park's Velociraptor's.

So, if want to head back to a world of tribes and machines it will be coming out on the 18th of February for PlayStation 4 and 5.



Image: Guerrilla Games and Sony Interactive Entertainment.



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Queen's College listed in the top 100 in The Cricketer School Guide 2022



Queen's College in Taunton has been included in the top 100 Senior Schools in The Cricketer School Guide 2022. The Cricketer was established in 1921 and is the world's oldest and best-selling cricket magazine.

The sporting magazine has published its Schools Guide 2022 in a bumper 156-page supplement. All entries were judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a

compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes, ability to maintain the game during the pandemic, and coaching.

Julian Noad, Headmaster at Queen's College, tells Tone News, "Cricket has always been an integral part of life at Queen's and we are absolutely delighted to feature in The Cricketer School Guide 2022!"

King's College through to last 16 of National Cup

King's College are through to the final sixteen of the National Under 15 Schools Rugby Cup after beating their Redruth School counterparts. The competition started with 256 entries.

King's College beat King Edward's College, Totnes, Taunton School, and now Redruth RFC to get to this stage in the competition.

In the first half, King's took the lead through a close range try from Tom B that was converted by Hal S. Towards the end of the first half,

Matthew C from King's scored a try in the corner, giving them a 12-5 half-time lead.

Whilst in the second half, King's conceded another penalty which Redruth kicked to the corner and scored from the line out drive, missing the conversion, leaving King's to finish with a 12-10 win.

Ed Lewsey, the Head of Rugby at King's, tells Tone News, "This was a stern test for King's with plenty of lessons. We are now in the last 16 where we will play Clifton at home in January 2022."



The King's Under 15 team is pictured at Redruth RFC



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Taunton and Pickering Golf Club Seniors hold final competition of 2021

In mid December, Taunton and Pickering Golf Club Seniors held their final competition of 2021. Eighty-four players were put into teams of four to take part in the Duval Cup.

Although not the best weather and despite tricky pin positions, there were some great scores and keen competition for the top four places.

The winning team of the Duval Cup competition with 53.9 points, were Kevin Gidley, Peter Dossett, Mike Spencer and Peter Fox.

Whilst second place went to

David Parker, Andy Rhodes, Tony Reed and Barry Warburton, with 54.3 points.

The third place was claimed by Bob Darbourne, Gary Nightingill, Terry Davidge, and Hywel Thomas with 55.6 points.

Jon Snell, Ken Reid, Chris Pitman and Mike Nicholls came in fourth place with 55.9 points.

Whilst a special mention must go to Andy Jones, Bill Maginn, Ian Smith and David Dow who claimed three of the 2's on the second, sixth and fourteenth.



Winners Mike Spencer, Peter Fox, Peter Dossett and Kevin Gidley along with Gary Kayser the T&P Seniors Captain.

Huish Netballers qualify for Regionals following County tournament



On Thursday 11th November 2021, Richard Huish College Netballers competed in the Somerset U19 National Schools and Colleges Netball Tournament.

Unfortunately due to illness and injuries, Huish had a depleted team as they played five games back-to-back in the hope to gain one of the top two places that could see them progress to the regional round, held in Bournemouth in January 2022.

Despite their lack of players, the team played very well together. The shooting combinations of Hannah, Jessie and Ruby were outstanding throughout the tournament.

In the end, Millfield won the tournament but Richard Huish finished in second place as they won against Kings Bruton, Wells, Kings College, and drew with Taunton School - meaning they will now go on to compete at Regionals.

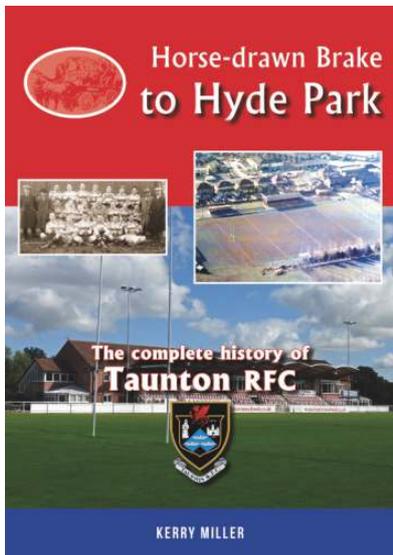
Taunton RFC publish history to celebrate competing at the highest level

Taunton Rugby Club are currently enjoying their first season at the highest level in their 147-year career. To celebrate, a comprehensive history of the club has been researched and written by Somerset-based author and sports historian, Kerry Miller.

The write up covers a range of games from Fullands School, the County Ground, and Jarvis Fields, to East Reach Athletic Ground, Priory Park, and Hyde Park in 2000, as well as trials and tribulations of the players, officials, and supporters.

The 250,000 word hardback book is illustrated with cartoons, match programmes, team pictures and newspaper cuttings.

Horse Drawn Brake to Hyde Park - The Complete History of Taunton RFC is now available and can be purchased from Somerset County Sports at the Cooper Associates County Ground, Cafe Culture (if you buy the book you will be given a free small breakfast and coffee!), or by contacting Tauntonrfchistory@gmail.com



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