

# South Somerset Tourism News

January  
2021 update



## Included in this issue:

- SSDC Press Release regarding business grants
- Visitor Economy Support Programme offering FREE support
- Grants for UK registered Charities



Alan Street, from the South Somerset plant nursery Avon Bulbs, spoke beautifully about Snowdrops and their meaning of hope recently on a BBC Radio 4 Open Country Programme. Listen again at [BBC Open Country page](#).

## Dear Colleagues,

Happy belated new year, even if it wasn't the new year we hoped for with a national lockdown and increase in Covid cases in Somerset.

I am being redeployed again, this time to help at vaccination hubs, it feels a huge privilege to help in a small way. I will be monitoring my emails and will forward relevant information via these newsletters or replying to queries when I can.

Other members of the tourism team are continuing to work on the new tourism website and will be in touch to request information about your business for your FREE listing. If you already have a listing on our existing site, this information will automatically transferred to the new site unless you tell us otherwise. If you wish to be removed from the new site, your information needs updating or you would like to send us a new image or information, please email [tourism@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@southsomerset.gov.uk)

If you are interested in volunteering locally with the Vaccination Programme, **Spark Somerset** are coordinating the responses and have an online form to [register your interest](#). Thank you.

Stay safe and strong  
Becky

**Stop Press! Latest SSDC press release about tourism grants.**

## **Businesses urged to claim tier and lockdown grants**

Businesses in South Somerset are now able to apply for grant funding to support them through the current restrictions.

Due to existing data that the Council holds we have already been able to pay over £2.5m in business grants covering the national lockdown period. Emails have been sent to 750 other businesses who will need to reply confirming their details are correct and anyone who hasn't applied for a grant since spring 2020 will need to apply online.

SSDC has processed a range of mandatory and discretionary grants throughout the various tier restrictions and lockdowns each with differing criteria and application windows. Businesses grants are being administered by local councils on behalf of the Government.

The simplified claims process is split between Business Rate Payer and Non Business Rate Payer applications.

### **Business Rate Payers that have been mandated to close**

If you're a business rate payer and you've previously been paid a grant for Tier 2, we have automatically made a grant payment for the December restrictions and January lockdown periods.

If you are a business rate payer and you've previously been paid a grant for the November lockdown period we will contact you with further instructions to apply. You will need to reply to an email to confirm that the details we hold for your business are correct and confirm your continued eligibility. We will then make the appropriate payment based on your rateable value.

If you have not received a grant covering the November lockdown and further tiered restrictions you will need to apply online. You can apply online at [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/covidbusinesssupport](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/covidbusinesssupport) by selecting the 'Business Rate Payer' application dropdown. The application is now live.

### **Non Business Rate Payers (Discretionary Scheme) and severely affected Business Rate Payers**

If you do not have a business rates account or your business has not been mandated to close (but you have been severely affected) you may still be eligible for grant funding through our discretionary business grant fund. You will be able to apply online at [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/covidbusinesssupport](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/covidbusinesssupport) by selecting the 'Non Business Rate Payer' application dropdown. This application process is now live and we would encourage businesses to apply as quickly as possible.

If your business was unsuccessful in our previous discretionary scheme we would encourage you to apply again. We have been able to broaden the criteria as a result of additional funding from Government.

Councillor Val Keitch, Leader of South Somerset District Council, said: "Our staff have been working tirelessly to implement systems for business grant applications and through their hard work many businesses have already been awarded these vital grants. I would encourage businesses to check their emails and visit our website to apply for further support."

SSDC has delivered funding of over £39m to eligible local businesses so far including payments totalling £1.6m for the second National Lockdown period, £500,000 for Tiered restrictions and over £2.5m for the third National Lockdown.

Visit [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/coronavirus) for information on a range of different matters that could help and support your business and employees.

## ***Visitor Economy Support Programme***

Would you like to receive **FREE** business support to help you grow, adapt or manage the impact of Covid on your business?

Sign up to the Visitor Economy Support Programme (VESP), which includes support with your **marketing communications, digital advice**, and access to sector specific research across visitor markets, providing insight for your future **business growth**.

This is only open to members in the Exmoor, Somerset West and Taunton, Mendip, Sedgemoor and **South Somerset** regions. It does not include Bath and North East Somerset & North Somerset.

For more information, visit the [VisitSomerset VESP pages](#) or register using the [online form](#) on the VisitExmoor page.

## **Coronavirus Business Impact Survey**

*Please take part and help support the future of the South West Visitor economy.*

Visit Somerset are working with other partners across the South West region in undertaking a business impact survey to collect more hard evidence regarding the impact of Covid-19 and what support businesses need for their future survival and growth after Lockdown. The survey evidence will be shared with Government, local MPs and Councillors to lobby for future sector support.

We know that large numbers have been completing other COVID related surveys, which is very much appreciated, but the need to continually gather robust data on a regional basis continues – this evidence is vital to be able to represent the industry in these quick changing, uncertain times. We appreciate your continued support with this.

Please take part [here](#) by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

Responses are completely confidential and no individual businesses will be identified in the survey results.

## Grant Support for UK registered Charities

The wonderfully named, [THE 29TH MAY 1961 CHARITY](#) is a general grant-making Trust which supports charitable organisations across a broad spectrum. Grants are made for both capital and revenue purposes and covers a wide range of interests, including arts and museums.

For more information visit <https://esender.cosmic.org.uk/t/r-l-jukyhyo-dkudjulhil-h/> or email [enquiries@29may1961charity.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@29may1961charity.org.uk)

## Anything to contribute?

The tourism newsletter is generally distributed quarterly (March, June, September and December) with additional editions produced if there is important and relevant information to share.

It is emailed to South Somerset businesses on the tourism database and appears on the trade pages of [www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)

We love to hear and share your news and success stories, so please email items for the next issue to [Becky.Cotterill@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:Becky.Cotterill@southsomerset.gov.uk)

## Unsubscribing and your privacy

If at any time you wish to unsubscribe to the newsletter and have your details removed from the database, please email [tourism@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@southsomerset.gov.uk) or click the button below.

Very occasional we feel it is appropriate and beneficial to forward emails and newsletters from our partners, can you please let me know if you would rather not receive this information.

For more information about how South Somerset District Council uses and keep your information secure, please see the Privacy page on our website - <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-data-protection>.

[www.visitsouthsomerset.com](http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com)

Keep in touch

