

September
2013

Issue No 38

Area East Bulletin



Website: <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/communities/area-working/our-work-in-area-east>

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1. Somerset You Can Do Service

The Somerset You Can Do service has been designed to work with vulnerable adults who have little or no support and who also may feel isolated. Volunteers will work with individuals for a limited time to help them to achieve what they want to do within their local community. The aim is for those individuals to become more confident through a range of options so that they have greater control of their lives and access the support they require independently. There are 3 strands to the service that include:

- A local information and 'signposting' service to make people aware of the community support available to them in their local community
- A new range of opportunities for volunteers to work alongside vulnerable adults and help them to link in to local activities and community events
- Help for new community groups to establish themselves or for existing voluntary groups to develop their services where there is a particular need in a local community

Bill benefitted from the help of a volunteer to rebuild his confidence after a fall. His aim is to feel confident enough to walk to the local shop on his own and to resume his attendance at a local luncheon club. Bill is well on his way to achieving these outcomes. Bill and his volunteer have been meeting regularly and they have been walking together to the shops and now Bill can walk there by himself. They next plan to attend the luncheon club together until Bill feels able to go it alone.

Before Jane was affected by multiple sclerosis she liked going to the pub and going to concerts. With her volunteer, Jane is now finding activities outside her home that she can join in with. One volunteer commented: "I love doing my volunteering, it makes me feel that I am doing something of real value - lots of people talk about what's wrong in our communities but volunteers do something about it".

If you think you or someone you know could benefit from this service, like Bill and Jane, please contact Somerset You Can Do to find out about what support is available. You can also find out how to become a Somerset You Can Do volunteer - please contact Bryan, Sue or Peter on: 01278 664180 or visit the website: www.somersetyoucando.org

2. Post Office Community Enterprise Fund

There is a joint competition, which the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has launched with Post Office Ltd to encourage sub-postmasters to work with local people to develop innovative ideas for how Post Office branches can support their local communities. Many sub-postmasters already offer facilities and services which go far beyond their core business and it is felt that there is great potential for post offices to further strengthen their role as a community hub by providing additional services or facilities, which

help local people or by using their commercial skills to offer support to local groups & businesses.

There is a £200,000 available to support up to 20 schemes in England in 2013/14. Sub-postmasters have until 18 October 2013 to work with local people to develop ideas and submit an application for up to £10,000 to put the idea into practice. Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have consulted local people and that the proposed scheme has support from the community.

More information about the competition is available on the Post Office's website at: <http://www.postoffice.co.uk/community-enterprise-fund> where you can download a flyer on which you can write your ideas and take them along to your local post office to start a discussion.

3. Census 2011

SSDC have published the profiles for South Somerset based on the census data on their website. These can be found at: <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/our-district/area-profiles/>. Ward and Parish profiles giving really useful and interesting up-to-date statistics, which may help you with funding applications, etc. can also be found at:

Ward profiles - <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/our-district/ward-profiles/>

Parish profiles - <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/our-district/parish-profiles/>