

Dear All,

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News

New on www.somersetmarkettowns.co.uk

You can now [view other towns current projects](#) on our site, and in our Resources Library we've added a [Leader+ guide to developing walking trails](#)

Next Network Event: Radstock, 24th June – Links to Development theme

[Members click here for more info and to book...](#)

Blackdown Hills Food Festival – 24th May – 1st June

The first ever Food Festival in the Blackdown Hills AONB starts on 24th June – see attached press release and poster for more details, or [read more here](#)

Making Local Food a Reality, 16 June 2008, Exeter

Organised by South West Rural Update - a new learning network in the South West in support of businesses and professionals with an interest in topics relating to rural development. The network will be of direct interest to rural businesses, consultants, advisors, local authorities, public agencies and the voluntary sector, as well as academic lecturers and researchers. The event will be an opportunity to Hear about the latest research on consumers' attitudes to local food; Learn about how initiatives in the region have helped to provide a sustainable solution; Network with other businesses and change agents in the region. [Read more...](#) (item from SWAN)

Sub National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration

The South West Regional Assembly has produced a briefing paper on this. [Read more here....](#)

National Market Towns Awards (South West)

Recognise the achievements of your market town through the South West Market Town Awards. Action for Market Towns are looking for entries in four categories:

- Environment and Culture
- Social and Community
- Business and Economy

- Partnership and Strategic Working

The overall regional winner will go on to compete in the National Market Town Awards.

A full application pack - including guidance notes, criteria and an application form - is available by following this weblink: [Market Town Awards Information Pack](#)

For more information contact Anna.McGowan@towns.org.uk

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2008'

Training

Digital photography training for museum/heritage centre workers and volunteers – 22nd May, Yeovil

Please pass this on to anyone who works in Somerset museums or heritage centres.

This course is free to any working or volunteering in a museum. The aim of the course is to provide all museum staff who need to take photographs with a basic knowledge of digital imaging and cameras and an introduction to the skills required to get the very best photographs possible from small compact consumer cameras. For further information on this course please e-mail

NAWatson@somerset.gov.uk or co-ordinator@swfed.org.uk

ViSTA training courses

The courses below are the last two of ViSTA's current training programme. Don't miss out, book now and take advantage of locally provided training at very reasonable prices.

Researching Funding Resources

In today's climate we are all trying to find funders to support our work. This course will help you find out more about research methods and funding opportunities.

More information about this course - Researching Funding Resources can be found by following this link.....

Date: 14th May 2008

Venue: Street Self Help Centre

Cost: £78 Please do not book online, but call ViSTA on 08453 580372 asap.

Multi-Agency Partnerships

If your organisation is involved in partnership working or if you are considering it, (including working across sectors), this course will provide an introduction to building and maintaining those partnerships.

The course will show you the benefits and pitfalls of partnership working, it will help you use evaluation to measure success and identify the legal/financial and operational liabilities.

More information about Multi-Agency Partnerships can be found by following this link...

Date: 15th May 2008

Venue: The Albemarle Centre, Taunton

Cost: £78 Please do not book online, but call ViSTA on 08453 580372 asap

Funding

Rural Renaissance – potential for further funding in 08/09

[Read more here...](#)

Town Centre Improvements Funding

We recently conducted a search for grants that could suit a town centre 'townscape' or environmental improvement scheme. If interested, email me for a copy on

matt@somersetccc.org.uk

Shepton Mallet have been successful in getting Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) funding, together with local authorities funding; [read more here...](#)

If you have been forwarded this email, and would like to join our mailing list, email
matt@somersettrcc.org.uk

To unsubscribe, please reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

We welcome feedback so that we can develop our services.

Matt Day

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**Somerset Market Towns Forum – promoting and supporting community-based action to revitalise
Somerset's market towns**