



# Saltford Community Association Hardship Fund



is delighted to announce the launch of a

## Financial Advice & Support Service

(Leslie Redwood, CEO, Citizens Advice BANES)

## Employment Assistance Programme

(Lucy Hill, Community Team, Somerset Skills & Learning)

## Launch Event

**DATE :** 22 March 2021

**WHEN:** 7.30pm

**WHERE :** Via Zoom

**TICKETS :** Free via [www.tickettailor.com/events/SCAEvents](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/SCAEvents)

See inside for further details on the support being provided



Saltford  
Day  
Centre



Saltford  
C of E  
Primary



Just a reminder that if you need help during this COVID-19 crisis, the Saltford Support Hub continues to be here exclusively for you.

Just call 01225 632216 or email

[help@saltfordhub.org](mailto:help@saltfordhub.org)

Continue to regularly check on your neighbours

# Financial and Employment Support

Thanks to the generosity of Saltford residents during 2020, the SCA has been administering a Hardship Fund. This has been used to fund the hot meal service during Lockdown 1, afternoon teas for villagers aged over 75 and to help and support those individuals and families needing specific assistance during this Covid pandemic.

Since 23 March 2020 we have had in place a system for answering calls from concerned residents 7 days a week. That system remains in place and the Hardship Fund has funded the technology to support it remotely from homes.

We have kept in regular contact with Saltford School to ensure that no pupil or family goes without, both in terms of food and access to laptops etc.

We are currently in our third period of lockdown and we are pleased that up to now very few residents have needed to come forward to ask for assistance. Therefore over the last few months we have been planning what extra help we might provide and in particular to those who have suffered financially as a result of the pandemic, principally through loss of work and ultimately their job.

We have identified 2 areas we intend to use the Hardship Fund to help:

1. Provision of Financial Advice Assistance and Support
2. Provision of Employment Assistance

## Financial Advice Assistance and Support

We have been in discussions with the CEO of Citizens Advice BANES and are convinced that this need can best be met through the promotion of their free services to residents. This will be enhanced by the Hardship Fund providing direct financial assistance in the following areas, when recommended by their advisor and unavailable from other sources:

- TV Licence
- Transport costs for essential needs like doctor/hospital appointment
- Regular fees for broadband/telephone
- Clothing/shoe needs e.g. for school
- Anxiety counselling
- Pet related costs including vet bills and pet transport to vet

We would not offer financial support in areas where St John's Foundation already provide help e.g. regular household bills, white goods etc.

Please see Citizens Advice contact details on the rear of this leaflet.

We would also be happy to support victims of domestic abuse and those suffering mental health issues brought on by lockdown but these will need to be accessed via B&NES Citizens Advice/Bath Mind.

While Covid restrictions apply all services will be available over the phone.

## **Employment Assistance**

With assistance from Citizens Advice we are working with Somerset Skills & Learning (SSL), who are funded by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to provide and promote access for Saltford residents to free information and training sessions online in the areas of:

- CV writing
- IT Skills, including use of Zoom
- Job searching in the digital age
- Benefit Help (Via Citizens Advice)
- Interview help
- Career transition
- Sector knowledge
- Volunteering talk

When not in lockdown we would also look to provide an Employment Skills Brunch Club at Saltford Hall, offering face to face access to the same skills, additionally using local volunteers from within the village who were happy to share those skills. If you have the requisite skills and might be interested in offering this help, then please email [chair@saltfordhall.co.uk](mailto:chair@saltfordhall.co.uk) . We would arrange for volunteers to see the SSL online sessions so they were familiar with the content already provided.

As well as targeting those who have lost their job we would also be keen to support recent school leavers seeking employment at age 18+. This might also include a mentoring scheme and again we would invite those interested to contact us as above.

In recognition of the assistance being provided by Citizens Advice, the Hardship Fund will be providing a donation to help their work, for the ultimate benefit of Saltford residents and others.

We will be starting to roll this dual campaign out immediately following the launch event on 22 March 2021 – see back page for contact details.

If you would like to make a donation to the Hardship Fund, then please donate online to the following account or see this page on our website <https://saltfordhall.co.uk/Hardship.html> where a Gift Aid form can also be downloaded :

Account Name : Saltford Community Association  
Sort Code : 40 52 40  
Account Number : 00007636  
Reference : HARDSHIP Surname

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expert  
advice**

## Citizens Advice Bath & North East Somerset

### We advise on:

- Benefits and Universal Credit
- Debt
- Discrimination
- Employment
- Family and relationships
- Immigration
- Housing and more...



***Completely free, confidential, impartial, independent and open to all.***

### Contact us now:

**Call Adviceline** - 0344 848 7919 (9.30am - 2.30pm Monday to Friday)

**Call Community Wellbeing Hub** - 0300 247 0050 (9am - 5pm Monday to Friday)

Visit our website [www.citizensadvicebanes.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicebanes.org.uk) to learn more or to fill in an advice request webform.



Working in partnership with Salford Community Association, we may be able to make small direct support payments to those in need from the Salford Hardship Fund (T&Cs apply). Please register with CAB for this service.



Funded by



**Somerset Skills & Learning offers FREE\*  
courses and workshops for B&NES residents.**



CV & Employability



Digital Skills



Budgeting & Finance



Career Taster Sessions



Family Activities



Mental Health & Wellbeing



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\* Subject to eligibility.