

Village Agent News

State Pension

The new State Pension Stakeholder Toolkit is now live and online at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/state-pension-toolkit>

The toolkit currently contains:

- seven factsheets (more will be added as they're developed)
- two videos
- infographics and photo case studies
- an all-in-one 'State Pension explained' guide, and
- guidance for employers on the end of contracting-out

This information will affect everyone who reaches their state pension retirement age after 6th April 2016

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening

All men who turn 65 are invited for screening by the NHS in the year they turn 65. Men aged over 65 who have not been screened can contact the Somerset and North Devon AAA screening programme on 01823 344567 or somerset.andnorthdevonaaa@nhs.net and arrange to have a scan.

Why is screening important? – if you have an aneurysm you will not usually notice any symptoms . This means you cannot tell if you have one , will not feel any pain and will probably not notice anything different. Screening is offered so that aneurysms can be found early and be monitored or treated. This greatly reduces the chances of an aneurysm causing serious problems. The easiest way to find out if you have an aneurysm is to have an ultrasound scan of your abdomen. I have a leaflet about this if you would like to know more

If I can help in any way please do not hesitate to contact me on 07798 70 33 21 or by email Alison@somersetccc.org.uk The service is free and confidential.



Alison Hoare, Village Agent

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Starkey Knight and Ford

The following letter appeared in a recent issue of "Pints of View", the local magazine of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)

"...Jeremy Leyton.....described the origins of Starkeys Ales and the still fondly remembered brewers Starkey Knight and Ford as being in North Petherton. In fact Starkey was a prominent name in the Spaxton area in the 18th and 19th centuries and Anthony Starkey was a maltster in the village at the end of the 18th. By the 1830s the trade was being carried out by Thomas Starkey (presumably Anthony's son) at the same address. I do not know the relationship between this Thomas and the one at North Petherton (maybe they were the same person) but I think that Spaxton is the real home of Starkeys Ales.

Starkeys continued as tenants of the same property until after the first world war. By then the large stone building, almost certainly previously used for brewing beer, was known as the Wassailing Barn and was used to make cider....."

The SK&F trademark is still seen on many buildings—notably the former Rising Sun at Lower Merridge

The correspondence continued... of which more later.



VH