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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Mendip Residents get Festive treat at the Cranmore East Somerset Railway**

On the 10th December Village Agent Julie Brown was delighted to take eight clients and three carers to East Somerset Railway in Cranmore.

Lisa Pool and Elaine Green from The East Somerset Railway receive a grant of **£90** from the Festive Fund of the Somerset Community Foundation. They approached Julie as their local Village Agent to help them find people who may be lonely or isolated and their Carers to give them a festive visit to the Railway, including homemade soup and roll, cake and tea/coffees.

Steve from Mendip Community Transport picked everyone up, and Lisa and Elaine from East Somerset Railway did a Christmas quiz and then visited the train and Museum which was the old ticket office and waiting room.

Special thanks to the East Somerset Railway and their staff that festively dressed up for the occasion and were a bundle of fun on the day! Days out like this are so important to people, and Julie was able to use the opportunity to talk to Carers and find out the barriers they are facing and explained more fully the role of the Village Agents and how they can support Carers.

Gladys Sawyer was in her absolute element as doesn't manage to get out at all, unless she has someone with her. Luckily Julie Brown assisted on the day because her support worker couldn't come.

Carlos from Methodist Homes Association (MHA) also attended, and was delighted to be able to offer his services in the future to the people he met that day:

"We offer activities such as lunch clubs, activity and friendship sessions, outings, escorts to appointments and much more, MHA's Live at Home schemes across the UK help to tackle loneliness and isolation in people over 60 and those suffering from dementia – helping them to lead fulfilled lives and remain as active members in their local communities."

<https://www.mha.org.uk/>

The day was such a great success, and was only possible by the community spirit offered by many Somerset businesses and services! If you would like to offer something similar to people who may be lonely or isolated, or for carers and the people they care for let your local Village Agent help arrange a memorable day! Contact them on 01823 331 222 or via [www.somersetagents.org](http://www.somersetagents.org).

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## PHOTO 1

Photo by the fireplace with guy in the wheelchair is Arthur Moon and his wife Janet in the pink coat. Their carer came along to push the wheelchair as they are both in their 80's. Photo was taken in the Museum Waiting Room.

## PHOTO 2

Lady in dusky pink coat in the wheelchair is Gladys Sawyer also in her 80's. She is in the ticket office. She was in her absolute element as doesn't manage to get out at all, unless she has someone with her. I assisted on the day because her support worker couldn't come. Lives in Shepton

## PHOTO 3

Joan Bonella and friend/neighbour of Gladys Also can't get out much due to transport issues so very grateful of the trip!

## GROUP:

Group photo is of all involved, plus the staff from the Railway (4 of them in total with Christmas jumpers on).

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## Notes to editors

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**Note to Editors: CCS** (The Community Council for Somerset) is a leading local charity that works in the heart of Somerset's communities to inspire and enable positive change. Through its wide network of passionate local experts and diverse projects, consultancy and funding, CCS brings the right people and services together to improve the lives of individuals; building community capacity and support for emerging and existing enterprises right across the county – helping Somerset to thrive.

For more information visit <https://ccslovesomerset.org>

**CCS Village & Community Agents** are in your communities across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community and help you with any queries you may have or situations that you need advice and support with. They are problem solving, solution finding super heroes!

Please visit:

[www.somersetagents.org](http://www.somersetagents.org) / [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org)