

JUNE 2020

Somerton

Town Council



working with the community

VIADUCT
200
GLADYS
100



SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL

All council meetings are cancelled until further notice. Town Clerk 01458 272236

INCREASED DOG FOULING IN SOMERTON:

Please remember to pick up after your dog to keep our paths and verges clear and hygienic. Following the article in last Viaduct, here is the location of the “dog poo” bins around Somerton

Bancombe Road:	Between Parklands Way and Trading Estate junctions.
Bancombe Road:	Halfway down Cartway Lane on the left verge just after junction road to Westcombe (McCarthy Marland Recycling Ltd)
Beech Grove:	On verge at junction with Etsome Road.
Behind Berry West:	Outside Memorial Play Area.
Behind Berry:	At entrance to cemetery path.
Cedar Grove:	At entrance to footpath across the Viaduct Fisheries.
Horsemill Lane:	Inside ‘viewing area’ site.
Horsemill Lane:	At entrance to Lynch Lane footpath.
Langport Rd B3153:	2 - one each side of road at lay-by on Somerton Hill.
Northfield:	Opposite Waverley junction. At Bradley Lane junction.
Polham Lane:	Opposite footpath access to Station Path.
Railway Path:	Brunel Bridge to Behind Berry (2- one each end).
The Millands:	At entrances to Belvedere Grange field (2) SW corner of field and middle of W boundary by footpath link.
Water Lane:	Water Lane - St Cleers footpath (mid section of pathway).

In **Land & Properties** the installation of a half-pipe in the skate park is now complete and the skate park is open - but will be closed in the event of non-compliance with the published guidelines. Edgar Hall bar area refurbishment is planned for August and we are trying to get in touch with the contractor to see if the work can be brought forward.

The **Access & Highways** committee is busy with fly-tipping issues - not surprising when recycling centres are closed, but 11 of them were scheduled to reopen last Monday and ours on Tuesday 26th. West Street one way was to be implemented in April, but coronavirus means that hasn't happened. Discussion with the contractor regarding the cobbles in the Market Place is with our solicitor. The temporary Road Traffic Order (RTO) for Russett Road is about to be made permanent. There have only been two objections but several messages of support!

In **Promotions & Communications**, the team has been working on a social media plan. Unfortunately, the Annual Parish Meeting (normally held in May along with the annual parish awards) has had to be postponed until later in the year. However, Somerton News was published on time and we are still managing to produce a much-reduced version of Viaduct. The main notice board at the parish rooms has been removed for painting work on the windows and hopefully will be replaced by a new electronic noticeboard which will be much easier to update direct from the office. **Planning Committee** matters are dealt with by email. Jude circulates the Planning Committee with the applications she receives from SSDC and the team "discuss" issues by email and Jude then collates the results and conveys them to the SSDC planning team. The only slight snag is that the public can't "hear" our discussions. However, all the planning applications are on the STC website and displayed on the noticeboards. If anyone wants to comment, they can do so direct to SSDC. On **Admin**, Jude has completed the year-end financials and we are awaiting the final internal audit visit before it can be taken to full council for approval, which maybe via a “virtual” meeting or a "social distance" meeting.

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OPEN IN SOMERTON as at 12noon Tuesday 26th May

FOOD STORES

Co-op Supermkt	270870	Personal visit Brunel	8am-6pm Mon-Sat 10am-4pm Sun
Cobbs W' foods	274066	Phone & collect/delivery	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri 9am-2.30pm Sat
Nature's Pantry	274372	Phone & collect/delivery	9am-4pm Mon-Fri 9am-1pm Sat
Country Stores	07578 899123	Personal visit/phone West St	6am-9pm Daily
Stacey's Butcher	272285	Personal visit West St	7am-5pm Mon-Fri 7am-3pm Sat
Nisa Local	272376	Personal visit Langport Rd	8am-6pm Daily
Craft Ho Choc	07702 892265	Order only	www.crafthousechocolate.com
Fishmonger	07811 951676	Personal visit Cox's Yd	9am-1pm Friday
Burns the Bread	274394	Personal visit	9am-3pm Tue-Sat

EAT AT HOME

Spice Gallery	274666	Phone & collect	12noon-2pm 5.30pm-10.30pm Daily
I Love Pizza	07778 828786	Personal visit Cox's Yd	5pm-8pm Fri/Sat
Pizzaland	274454	Phone & collect/delivery	3pm-10.30pm Daily
Unicorn Hotel	272888	Phone & collect	4pm-8pm Th-Sa, 11am-3.45pm Sun roast
Figs Catering	273674	Phone & collect/delivery	Order Mon Del Thu or Order Thu Del Mon
M&Ms cafe	273395	Personal visit (menu on fb)	9.30am-5.30pm Wed-Fri 9.30am-2pm Sat
Peking House	273989	Personal visit	From 5pm Daily. Closed Tuesday
Tony's fish & chips	272532	Phone & collect	12noon-2pm 5-9.15pm Tue-Sat (from Jun 2)

GENERAL

Overt Locke	272626	Phone/email & collect	10am-1pm, 2-4pm Mon-Fri
Post Office	274104	Personal visit	9.30-12.30 & 1.30-4 Mon-Fri 9.30-12 Sat
Stationery Ho	272438	Phone for delivery	9am-5pm Mon-Fri
Brunel Pet Ctr	274980	Personal visit/delivery	9am-3pm (2pm Weds 1pm Sat)
TSB Bank	765999	Personal visit	10am-12.30pm & 1.30-4pm Mon-Fri
Boots Chemist	272465	Personal visit	10am-5pm Mon-Fri 9am-4pm Sat
Blooming in Som	273030	Order only Delivery Thu/Fri	bloominginsomerton@gmail.com
Mrs McGregor's	07599 025748	Order/delivery	9.30am-1.30pm Wed-Sat
Dry Cleaners	272010	Personal visit	9am-1pm Mon/Tues/Fri 10am-1pm Sat

TIMES LIABLE TO CHANGE SO PLEASE CHECK FIRST

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

REMINDER - ALL CLUBS & SOCIETIES

As soon as we start to come out of lockdown and you have events planned, do let us know. Last date for submission is 12th of the previous month. email: viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

LIBRARY SERVICES DURING LOCKDOWN

Keeping you reading: Thousands of books, audiobooks, and even magazines and comics are available to download for free! Visit <http://www.somersetreads.co.uk>

Keeping you entertained: We have an events and activities programme across social media, with regular story-times, quizzes and even gardening and food tips! Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Ancestry is now available for library members so if you are interested in your family tree, take a look.

Keeping you connected: If you need support to download free books, audiobooks or magazines call us on 0300 123 2224 or email: librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk and we will be happy to help.

Spread the word! Join Somerset Libraries online free at www.somerset.gov.uk/librarymembership a membership number and PIN will be generated to enable access to free e-Books, e-Audiobooks and e-Magazines. Once our buildings re-open, people who join online will just need to pop in to their nearest library to get a membership card and be able to borrow books and DVDs and Talking Books. Please also share our social media posts with people you know, so even more people can get involved.

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website at www.kirkhamstreetfield.org.uk

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF VIADUCT & SOME NOTABLE EVENTS

Since this is the 200th edition, I thought it worth a trawl through the archives to see what had happened over the years. Thanks to Jude Raybould and Anne Yates, we have assembled a complete set of Viaducts.

Viaduct had a predecessor for in February 1942 issue no.1 of "Somerton Newsletter" was published by the Toc H Somerton Group and had news of Somertonians serving overseas as well as news of people nearer home. It also mentioned an "interesting lecture which was illustrated with a good set of lantern slides"! Also mentioned was a plan to introduce "Whisperings", but I have been unable to find further references to such a newsletter.

Issue 1 hit the streets in October 2003. It was a simple coloured sheet of A4 paper folded in half - thus presenting 4 pages of A5. The editor was Nancy Langmaid and it was copied on Somerton Town Council's photocopier - the town clerk, Rodger Calderwood had his office in the Wessex Rooms in Broad Street. Distribution was by personal collection from the library, the parish rooms, the community shop (in the Half Moon car park) or the supermarket in the Brunel precinct.

It was noted that Viaduct was to remind parishioners what was happening each month and as an update on what was happening at the town council. Notable events were that :-

STC had bought the Atkins site on Etsome Terrace

The new car parks had been opened by our oldest resident, Wally Leach aged 103,

Land at the top of Horse Mill Lane was made available by Mr & Mrs Copeland of The Lynch

People were being asked to sign up for installation of broadband

Midas Homes had started to clear the Bond's site for housing (Great Western Lane)

STC had approached County Highways to create a one-way system in West Street

Issue 2 had increased to 2 pages of A4 which were stapled together by Nancy and included a list of events that happened on a regular basis

Issue 3 saw 3 pages of A4 and sponsorship from Churches Together in Somerton, who also arranged delivery to homes in the town. It was noted that the Oak Tree Avenue along the main road from Langport would be planted this month (December 2003)

Issue 4 settled into the regular pattern of a coloured outer sheet and one inner (white) sheet. There was a request for volunteers to help with deliveries. Also there was an appeal for sponsors and subsequently several organisations and businesses sponsored a couple of pages or the whole issue.

Issue 8 appeared to be missing from the archives, but inspection revealed that there were two issue 7s, both dated April 2004, but one quite clearly was for May 2004!

Issue 11 Viaduct now being delivered to 1950 homes in the town. Recycling boxes arrived

Issue 14 reported that from November 1st 2004 the town clerk's office would be in the parish rooms in a shared space with SSDC Community Office in the morning and the Local Information Centre (manned by volunteers) in the afternoon and Saturday mornings. Very limited commercial advertising was introduced.

Issue 18 (March 2005) the whole lot were stapled on the right hand side (instead of the left!) and announced the introduction of a town website

From **Issue 21** Viaduct was recorded on to tape for the sight impaired

Issue 22 announced that someone who had damaged the Christmas lights had been sued by the council and ordered to pay £415 plus costs. Also, vandals had damaged some of the young trees in "Oak Tree Avenue" along Langport Road, although no-one was prosecuted.

October 2005 (25) noted that STC's copier had to be replaced (it was worn out), but volunteers required to staple & fold. The first Red Cross theatre trip notice. SCA shop closed having raised £50K over 7 years.

March 2006 (30) Wheelie bins are coming! A steering group was set up to discuss a community hall

Mid 2006 Andy Billing was named "Best Groundsman in Somerset" by the Football Association - the start of many awards for the recreation ground. Festival had a marquee at the recreation ground. Plans still being considered for a new medical centre on the Etsome site. Williams Supermarket took on the monthly sponsorship (until Dec 2013). Celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the railway through Somerton.

By early 2007, Chamberlain's garage had closed and the first line dancing class had started

In mid 2007 all buses operated one-way - west-east along West St and east-west along Behind Berry
The Memorial Garden was opened, but plans for a medical centre at the Etsome site were abandoned

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2008 saw a new kitchen in the parish rooms and the omission of issue 52 in the numbering! “New activities” at Laburnum Drive - coffee morning Tuesday, social afternoon Friday and still going strong! A new medical centre off Acre Lane behind the Millands was vigorously opposed and plans withdrawn. The Etsome site had been sold and a building suitable for a community hall had been identified.

2009 Reopening the railway station in Somerton may be possible. The Primary Care Trust said that the current surgery did not meet with their future requirements. Somerton First Responders came into being. From May council meetings took place at Edgar Hall and Mr Connolly started his blog.

2010 saw refusal of permission for Retirement Villages’ care home on West St (later granted on appeal) Friends of the Parish Rooms was founded to help get some of the “nice things to have” in the building. Somerton Health Walks started and are still going strong (deferred at present due to coronavirus) The first “Forces March” (Ilfracombe-Bulford 133 miles) stayed overnight in Somerton

2011 Cuts from SCC including threatened library closures (later ruled out). Moviola film shows started. The first “Spring Litter Pick” took place. Weekly dance classes started at Edgar Hall. SSDC reduced hours in the local community office. New allotments were available at Ashen Cross. Planning permission was given for a new surgery/care home on Behind Berry

Somewhere along the way, SSDC took over the printing of Viaduct, although it was submitted as separate pages so still had to be collated before stapling & folding. Nancy edited the first 100 editions, except 75, when she was in hospital, so the task fell to me and I must say I hadn’t realised what an enormous amount of work was involved in collecting information, putting it into a common format and font size and adjusting it all to sit neatly on pages without two lines of an article being passed to the next page etc etc,

2012 from **issue 101** editorship passed to Rowena Wallace and Mo Fletcher with a new jazzy masthead. Much excitement that the Olympic torch came through Somerton and it was the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Also the 800th anniversary of St Michael’s Church and 25th of Somerton Festival and French Twinning. An audit report into the previous council concluded that there were governance issues but no fraud. SSDC closed the local community office. Advertising in Viaduct limited to one small advert per page. List of weekly events appeared for the first time (one event!). Dreadful flooding over the winter period

2013 Plan for a housing development on Cartway Lane (still not built!) Edgar Hall review undertaken. New bus services from Webber. Public consultation re the proposed new surgery. Two defibrillators acquired. Revamped “White Hart” opens. First Montacute “park run”. Serious winter flooding again.

2014 Advertising in Viaduct to help with costs. War Memorial cleaned. Buttercross Health Centre opens. **Issue 131** editors now Mo Fletcher & Neal Barton. After 25 yrs as town clerk Rodger Calderwood retired.

2015 From **Issue 138** Viaduct had a full colour glossy cover with photograph - initially printed in Ilton. Parish Rooms passed to a new group of trustees. Demolition of old surgery to provide more car parking. Planning application to develop the old Wessex House. URC & Methodist combine as West St Church.

2016 Recreation ground master plan produced. Weekly Citizens’ Advice sessions at West St Church. “Clean for the Queen” and beacon to celebrate HM Queen’s birthday and Overt Locke’s 90th anniversary. 120th anniversary of Somerton Fire Station. 200th Charity theatre trip. Oct printing to Somerton Printery

2017 More parking and new changing rooms at the recreation ground. Electric charging bay in town centre car park. U3A 20th anniversary - now has 50 groups and 500 members. Loan on Surgery site and Edgar Hall repaid in full. Love Somerton formed and organised reindeer at Christmas lights switch-on.

2018 Wettest March for 50 years. Silent Soldier to commemorate 100 years since the end of WWI and terrific turn-out at Remembrance Parade. Highway problems at Russett Road. STC gains “Quality Council” status and Viaduct mentioned as “Example of Excellence”. SCC to close Somerton Library.

2019 Recreation Ground Trust formed - chair Dave (Donny) Osmond. Sports club to pay lease to RGT. Somerton Library Trust formed - chair Jeremy Greenop. Consultation on new primary school. Most of Somerton now a “20 mph” zone. Kirkham St field registered as an “Asset of Community Value”. Terry Philpott leaves after 5 years as Town Clerk. Jude Raybould appointed as Clerk and RFO. “Somerstock” outdoor one-day Festival event rated a resounding success.

2020 Work starts on new school at Northfield - Roman burial site discovered. First UK coronavirus case. Somerton Community Lifeline helps local people with shopping and prescriptions. Now 100+ volunteers. Lockdown from March 23rd. April Viaduct stapled and folded by Somerton Printery.

I’ve enjoyed reading and recording incidents from the first 200 Viaducts and apologise if I’ve missed out one of you favourite events. Stay well and be careful during this ongoing crisis. Martyn Smith

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STAPLING AND FOLDING

This month (as in April) many thanks to Graeme at Somerton Printery for organising the stapling and folding of Viaduct for us. Hopefully, before too long, we'll be able to get the S&F team back together!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020

This should have happened from 10th to 16th May this year, but obviously didn't, due to Covid-19. However, the need for aid all around the world is still there, and even more so now, as Covid-19 rears its ugly head in crowded and unsanitary refugee camps and other desperately poor areas of our world. We really are all in this, and it would be good to think that Somerton continues to show the generosity it has in past years, when we have raised over £3,000!

You can give by going to: www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week phoning: 020 7523 2269, or sending a cheque to: Christian Aid, Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL
Thank you very much for any amount, however small, you're able to give.

Rowena Wallace, Christian Aid Week organiser in Somerton

SOMERSET LEVELS SEWING GROUP

The Langport, Ilminster and Chard District Nursing Federation would like to extend a HUGE thankyou to Zoe David and the Somerset Levels Sewing Group. They have worked very hard and produced some amazing (and colourful) scrubs, headbands, hats and bags for us to wear at this difficult time. We would also like to thank the Scout group for their support and donation in order to supply us with the amount we need. We are so grateful for your support and kindness in these challenging times. Simply Thank you from us all

Mark Robinson

ACEARTS' EXHIBITION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The gallery temporarily closed its doors on 21st March. However, you can now view online the postponed exhibition by Leonard Green, 'In Search of Northern Soul' - a series of dynamic paintings inspired by the energy of dancing to 1960s Northern Soul music

Nina Gronw-Lewis and local abstract artist John Gammans. have set up 'The Abstract Gallery' so that people could view his work. See it at:- <https://www.acearts.co.uk/exhibition-2020/>

Nina, Curator of ACEarts, commented, "Now more than ever, it is important for people to be able to enjoy art and culture and we're planning to give our visitors more virtual art until we can re-open."

More information from 01458 273008, e-mail hello@acearts.co.uk or visit the Facebook page.

RECYCLING

Eleven Somerset recycling centres reopened on May 11th and the rest should reopen on May 26th but for essential visits only. All will be open six days/week (closed Thurs). Somerton will reopen from May 30th Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday and Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday/Sunday from 9am-4pm;

Access is "one in, one out", a number plate system will be used:

Odd numbers only Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays Even numbers only Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays

Certain other restrictions apply see www.somersetwaste.gov.uk for full details

YEOVILTON WEATHER DATA for APRIL

	Max temp	Min temp	Rain mm	Sun hrs	So April 2020 was warmer, drier and sunnier than the average values for the last 55 years
April 2020	17.5	5.3	40	235	
55 yr average	13.4	4.0	47	166	

SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST

We are pleased to announce the launch of SWTtv, which comprises six 'channels', including Kids, Make & Do and Learn & Explore, where visitors can view a range of video content from around the Wildlife Trust movement. Viewers can get a nature fix even if it's on a screen in their own front room. With people self-isolating or working from home, this area of the website aims to bring wildlife closer to people at times when they can't visit their favourite natural places. See www.somersetwildlife.org/wildlife/swt-tv

AGE UK

The "Friendly Phone Calls" service involves each client receiving a regular friendly phone call from a member of Age UK Somerset staff, to check in on them and help them to feel more connected.

Anyone over 60 in Somerset or North Somerset can hear a friendly voice on the end of the phone to cheer up their day if they request the free service. To register just call 01823 345610

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SOMERTON TENNIS CLUB

Chair: Jon Power Vice Chair & membership secretary: Wendy Driver 01458 270131

The club is now open for members under strict social distancing rules laid down by the Lawn Tennis Association. We plan to review, all being well with Boris and his government in 3 weeks.

SLIMMING WORLD IN SOMERTON

Award-winning Slimming World in Somerton is not CLOSED for the lockdown. Check out www.slimmingworld.co.uk If you are struggling with your weight - there is no need! Support, inspiration, learning and success are all waiting for you within government guidelines! Ring Annya: 07971 957 691

NOTICEBOARD

You may have observed that the big STC noticeboard on the south wall of the parish rooms has been removed. This is to enable the big window to be repainted. For the time being, STC notices are in the tourism noticeboard near to the front door and they will all be in the noticeboard in Cox's Yard. Once the painting is complete, it is hoped that a new electronic noticeboard will be installed which can be updated much more quickly and easily from the STC office.

ROAD CLOSURES

Somerton Road, Long Load will be closed for three days 8/9/10 June from 195m north of Milton Leaze for 20 metres for water connection work

Inspection of the rail bridge at the first entrance to Hurcot will result in road closure 11th/12th June.

WALKS

If you want some exercise and don't want to travel far, there's a series of walks on the community website www.somerton.co.uk "Short walks around Somerton" are 10 walks of about 5 Km and "Somerton Strolls" are 15 walks of about 10 Km. They are all circular and written from the Half Moon car park.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL for SOMERSET

So far our Village Agents have handled over 42,000 requests for support since lockdown began - have you seen the short film about our work? You can view it here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybu8d8bf>

It has been wonderful to be part of the brilliant community support that has been carried out by so many volunteers in local parishes.

We have started "Talking Cafes" on Facebook daily at 11am and we hope to see you there at www.facebook.com/TalkingCafeSomerset/Live - you can ask questions during the live video in the comments section and have your answer there and then - hope we see you there!

We have really missed seeing our clients so hopefully in the short term this will help & support you from the comfort of your own home!

THANK YOU

A big thank you Mo, Mary and Kirsty for organising collection and delivery of Paddy's prescription today. Much appreciated, as we are 'quarantined' at home at present. Thanks on behalf of Dad. Lynda Keenan

REFLECTIONS OF A VOLUNTEER

We moved to Somerton last June, so I guess we are still newcomers!! However, when Somerton Lifeline scheme came into being, it was a great opportunity to do a little bit for our new community.

So over the last six weeks or so we have been delivering prescription drugs to vulnerable people who cannot go out. So what are our reflections?

First, sadly, there so many vulnerable people in Somerton who need the help of the volunteers.

Second, without exception, everyone we have delivered to has been so grateful for what we are doing.

Third, we are discovering parts of Somerton, we didn't know existed, which helps our assimilation.

Lastly, when we come out of this pandemic, perhaps we should keep the volunteer scheme (or something similar) going to help the vulnerable members of our community? Michael & Monika

Viaduct is published by Somerton Town Council and printed by Somerton Printery. Articles for inclusion should be submitted by 12th of the previous month to viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

Cover picture shows Gladys Parker of Hext Almshouses celebrating her 100th birthday on May 24th 2020

Photo taken by Martyn Smith. This month's editor: Martyn Smith.

NEED HELP?

Somerton Community Lifeline

Take HM Government's advice seriously-listen to the daily 5.00pm update. If you have medical issues ring NHS Direct on 111 or your surgery through Ask my GP. Please do not visit your surgery or A&E unless told to do so.

Here is a list of emergency numbers that you can ring if you need help getting food or prescriptions or something putting in the post box

Safe Contact Numbers (all 01458) :-

273403, 273568, 223094, 253414, 272029, 273653

You will be asked what you need, how you intend to pay and for a password. Your request will be passed to a volunteer who will try to deal with your request and if a visit is needed they will have your password. If you cannot phone, please contact a neighbour or someone else who will phone for you and pass your needs on to the team.

Shopping We have 2 teams of Shopping Coordinators, They go and get "Big Shops" on Mondays and Thursdays (**ORDERS BY 12 NOON LATEST**) and sort into individual orders which they then price up and deliver with a designated team of volunteers.

Prescriptions Boots in Somerton are informed the day before of our prescription requests, which the staff then make up for our volunteer Prescription Coordinator to collect at 10.00am the next day. Allocated volunteers are then called to collect and deliver the items.

District & County Council helpline 0300 790 6275 (7 days) 8.00am-6.00pm

If you care for someone and need additional information and guidance, please contact **Somerset Carers 08003 168 600 (24 hrs)**

Update from Mo Fletcher, Co-ordinator of Somerton Lifeline:

Somerton Lifeline answered its first request on 18th March and since then it has grown to over 100 volunteers and answered 700+ requests. Thanks to the town's churches acting as contact points, the Shopping Teams, the Prescription Team and all the volunteers.

Main shops on Mondays and Thursdays after 1pm (**ORDERS BY 12 NOON LATEST**)

We need prescription requests in the day before they are due, so as to pick up at 10 am the next day and do not need to queue - although emergency requests can be done.

Love Somerton has also started a food bank at the Etsome Arms Mondays 11am-1pm and if you would like to support their work you can leave a donation of food in the Brunel precinct or make a donation to Mary Hossack via the Etsome Arms.

Many thanks to Somerton Town Council for their financial support and advice.