

VIADUCT

December 2020

Somerton

Town Council



working with the community



Opening times :
Mon - Sat 7 am - 9 pm
Sun 10 am - 4 pm
Tele No 01458 270870
Email info@somertoncoop.co.uk

Hello neighbour
Your new
Somerton Co-op
is now open



It's what we do



A warm hello from us!

Another great review received into our MOT CENTRE. Our new 'Covid Friendly' waiting room has been a massive hit with our MOT customers!

"Dear Aardvark, thank you for your kind service to me on Weds (26th Aug), I came home feeling extremely happy through the service you provided. Your garage is the cleanest and nicest I've ever seen and the waiting room is equal to any practitioner's"

Honest, genuine & unbiased MOT Testing for Somerton and surrounding villages since 2014

While You Wait or Drop Off – Please stay safe

Call 01458 241798 or email office@aardvarkmotors.co.uk



Class 4
MOT
Centre



Aardvark Motors Ltd, Catsgore,
Somerton, TA11 7HY
office@aardvarkmotors.co.uk

(between Lime Kiln Pub and Podimore Roundabout)

Somerton Town Council - December 2020

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Planning (if required)	15 th December	7 pm	Remote Meeting

If you wish to attend the Zoom meeting and to ask questions, please contact the Town Clerk. Planning applications may be viewed on the SSDC website with application details displayed on the notice board outside the Parish Rooms and on the STC website.

All agendas and minutes are available on the STC website www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk. Requests from the public for items to be added to the agenda should be notified to the Town Clerk in writing by the first Monday of the month.

- There will be an emergency Access and Highways meeting (date to be arranged) details will be on the STC website
- Grants have been approved for the following: Archies Extra £1500
- Two electronic noticeboards have been installed in the town. These will be used to encourage community engagement, creating an information hub providing access to up to date services, activities, events and developments in Somerton.
- STC have endorsed the IDDEA Renewable Energy Systems Solar Panel Initiative. Residents may well have already received flyers setting out the initiative and how to sign up.
- The Council's Working Party on Social Media presented their initial report to the November meeting. STC approved all but one recommendation. The report can be found on the STC website.
- STC's Tree Strategy seeks to address the shortfall in tree canopy cover in Somerton's urbanised land area, which currently stands at 10%. To meet future demands, ideally, this should be increased to 30% by 2050. The Council would like to hear from Somerton residents who have current tree planting plans and those who would like to increase tree cover on their land. There are opportunities for STC to bid for trees from organisations including the District Council and the Woodland Trust. Please contact Cllr Pither or Cllr Taylor (tree wardens) to discuss further.
- Sadly there has been an increase in fly tipping in and around our Town. Please be aware there is a fine for fly tipping. All waste and recycling should be taken to the recycling centre or (if they are closed for any reason) stored in a safe place until it can be dealt with.
- Removable bollards have now been fitted at Russet Road.
- The STC office will be closed from 1pm on the 24th December until Monday 4th January 2021.
- After what has been such a challenging year for everyone, the Town Council would like to send season's greetings to all residents of Somerton.

YE OVILTON AVERAGE WEATHER STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER 2020

	Av Max temp	Av Min temp	Rain mm	Sun hrs	So October 2020 was much wetter and a lot less sunny than the 55 year average
Oct Average	14.7	8.1	115.0	71.8	
55yr Average	15.1	7.5	72.0	102.4	

Figures from Met Office Yeovilton website

The first half of October has been very wet across the UK. Early provisional statistics show England had already received 87% of its monthly average rainfall by October 13th.

News

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

We would like to thank all those involved in the Remembrance Service held at the War Memorial on Sunday 8th November 2020. Although shorter than normal, it was very well presented and the turnout was good, for these troubled times, with everyone observing social distancing rules. Our spirits were thoughtful with the sound of The Last Post echoing around Market Squarethe 2 minute silence.... followed by The Reveille. Then, right on cue, the four plane fly pass organised by Middlezoy Aerodrome, fantastic, well done lads....very moving. After the laying of the wreaths we all came together, as one, singing The National Anthem.

This was a wonderful tribute to 'our boys' and thanks for putting on such a good ceremony. Well done to all concerned.

Neil & Sally Merry.

MISSING CAT

Small tom cat - ginger in colour - only 7 months old. Went missing on first trip through cat flap in Waverley area. Please contact 01458 272214. Thank you.

GUIDE DOGS

Although I have completed my 100 days sponsored Challenge for Guide Dogs I have been carrying on with my walking, cycling and step-ups up to the end of November to try and raise more money for Guide Dogs and will keep my sponsorship going until the end of December. If you would like to donate you can do so by either phoning me on 01458 272675. Or go to Just Giving at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Elizabeth-Roddie>. Many thanks for all those who have already supported me. I will let you all know the result in the January issue of Viaduct.

Liz Roddie: Volunteer for Guide Dogs.

ACEARTS SELECTED AS PART OF COOP LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND

We're very excited to announce that ACEarts has been chosen to benefit as part of the Co-op Local Community Fund. We will use all the funds raised to support free family friendly art activities during school holidays – like last year's Summer School. Co-op Members can select us as their local cause by visiting <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/49904> and when you buy selected branded products and services, the Co-op will give a helping hand to local causes like ours. Thank you.

ACEARTS ARTISAN MARKET UPDATE

Even though our Gifted Artisan Market could only open for one day before the second lockdown began, we were delighted with the response - it was fantastic to see so many lovely people. We hope to open again on 2 December when we will endeavour to showcase all 30 local artists work. Look out for updates on our website www.acearts.co.uk.

SOMERTON MARKET

Sadly due to the lockdown restrictions, November's Somerton Market couldn't take place and as the date of the next market would've been 4 December, we have decided to move this to Friday 18 December, this being the last Friday before Christmas. There has traditionally been a market held on this day and it gives us time to prepare for whatever happens after 2 December. It's been a up and down year for the market, but we have lots of new stallholders just waiting to be able to attend. So come and along and grab some last minute Christmas shopping.

HEALTHY WALKS AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Sadly we have had to stop both because of lockdown. Neither will restart till new year now. Mo

LABURNHAM DRIVE COMMITTEE

We miss all our activities and your company, but wish you the best Christmas and New Year, regardless of the problems we all share. Look forward to recognising each other in the street again!

SOMERTON U3A

Somerton U3A has enabled members to make friendships and participate in activities they enjoy and a chance to learn new skills. Due to the government guidelines we are unable to hold our monthly Friday meetings, but have recently introduced a monthly Zoom meeting. The December meeting "Alternative Christmas Lunch" with entertainment by Fool's Gold, will be held on Wednesday 16th December at 1100. We have over 50 interest groups a number of which continue to meet regularly by Zoom, or face to face where social distancing and guidelines allow. Our monthly online newsletter gives members the opportunity to see what activities have been taking place. For further information or if you are interested in joining visit the Somerton U3A website or email membership@SomertonU3A.uk.

SOMERTON COMMUNITY LIFELINE

We have now joined with Good Neighbours. If you want help with prescriptions, shopping, gardening or befriending please see the new phone numbers in the Good Neighbours notice on page 10. We will be continuing to help the community at this difficult time. Keep safe. Mo and volunteers

SPEEDWATCH

Another busy month for SpeedWatch and you probably noticed that we have covered many sites and have had three teams out at the same time with the police in attendance. Speeding continues to be a big problem in our town but we are heartened that some folk have taken notice and are trying to adhere to the speed limit. I have received many calls of support and requests to cover more areas so thank you. The main complaint is the lack of clear signage, so please contact the local authorities and make your complaints known, it might help get things done. Although some people are pleased to see us out and about there are a few who are objectionable and think that speeding away is clever, these are being targeted and can expect a visit from the police. I have said before that the police support us totally and will follow up on such incidents. They were keen for us to continue during the recent lockdown and I can report that during this period traffic levels remained much the same as usual if not a little higher. If anyone is interested in joining us you can contact me on 01458 897224. David Cundle

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for your kind thoughts and cards for my recent special birthday. Also for the generous donations I have received for the Ferne Animal Sanctuary. It is not too late to give a donation as I still have the collection tin. I will put the final total in the January issue. Margaret Hooper

SOMERTON GARDENERS' CLUB

Please note that Heather Stone is no longer Secretary of the garden club. Please contact Sue Burton the Treasurer, details on the website. We have booked the Edgar Hall for the flower show to take place on Saturday 5th September, fingers crossed it can go ahead.

VIADUCT PHOTO COMPETITION

It's lovely to see all your photos submitted for the Viaduct cover and we'd like them to keep coming. So, with thanks to Martyn Smith for the suggestion, we will be running a competition for 2021. To enter, send your photo to viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk as an attachment and each month we will select one to appear on the cover. In November we will print all 10 photos for our readership to pick their favourite. The winner will receive a £50 voucher from a local business of their choosing (subject to availability). Remember photos must be in portrait rather than landscape, and your email entry should include some details about the picture: place, subject and date taken along with your full name. Good luck!

MESSAGES FROM YOUR LOCAL PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP

DID YOU KNOW that Buttercross Health Centre usually handles between seven and eight thousand telephone calls per month? For example, during September staff answered 7696 calls – equivalent to approximately 350 each working day. Every day is busy but Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are especially so and mornings tend to be much busier than afternoons.

Staff deal with every call as efficiently and swiftly as possible and, although it is a much over-used phrase these days, it is absolutely true that every call is important. Some callers need more time to describe their issue, perhaps because they are distressed or confused, so being kept waiting in a queue is often unavoidable, especially during peak times. However, if your call can wait until staff are less busy then the response time is likely to be much quicker.

This season, early demand for flu vaccine has been higher than usual due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. Already, far more people than usual at this stage in the flu campaign have been vaccinated. But please do not worry if you are asked to wait a few weeks for yours until further deliveries arrive. Re-ordering is necessary as flu vaccine in bulk quantities cannot be stored for future use and the type of vaccine you receive will be tailored to your age group.

By the end of December there will be two vacancies on the Buttercross/Ilchester Patients' Participation Group. There is a particular need to recruit younger members (age 20-45) and/or those with a young family. This will enable the PPG membership to better represent the community as a whole. The PPG meets (currently virtually) eight times a year. During meetings – which start at 6:30pm and last no longer than 75 minutes – concerns, suggestions and ways to develop healthcare provision locally are discussed. At most meetings, a presentation (with time for questions) is given by a clinician or one of the support staff to enable members to better understand the practice's healthcare provision. Anyone interested to know more about becoming a PPG member is invited to contact Brian Pearson (PPG Chair), in confidence, via somppg@gmail.com.

SOMERTON DEVELOPMENT SHORTLISTED FOR AWARD

Exmoor-based bespoke metalwork specialists West Country Blacksmiths have had a project at the Courthouse Mews development in Somerton shortlisted for the 2020 GAGA Construction Awards which celebrate the design and construction of bespoke metalwork both nationally and internationally. The bespoke designed metalwork was produced as part of the development of the former Courthouse and Market Place buildings, which have been tastefully converted and extended to provide eight apartments and a two-bedroom house in the heart of Somerton. The metalwork designed and made to complete this development includes a fully automated gate with decorative archway, over 53 metres of wall-top railings, six Juliette balconies, handrails, balcony railings and a bench.

The concept for the metalwork was the brainchild of Frank Martin (Trustee and founder of ACE arts), who said, "Finding creative partners who are able to deliver on my personal inspiration is a rare talent, which West Country Blacksmiths have. As Creative Director my design brief was inspired by through mirror images, and it has become a reality in a medium I am not usually associated with. Everyone at Courthouse Mews is delighted with West Country Blacksmiths' work, a unique and stunning finish to the development that has helped to Somerton become "one of the most creative, contemporary and forward-thinking towns in Somerset."

THANKS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE

Please pass on a big thank you to Martyn and Mo for all their hard work for the Viaduct and continued work for the benefit of Somerton.

Please could someone enlighten me and other residents as to the purpose of the two large 'mobile phones' which have appeared on the Parish Rooms and near the public toilets. If they are notice boards when will they be brought into use, how will they be operated and who will be in charge of them?

Pamela Miley

SOMERTON STROLLS AND OTHER WALKS

It's now 12 years since I wrote the original Somerton Strolls and there have been some changes in gates, fences etc. and they have now all been updated. My great thanks go to Angela & David Locke who have re-walked them and pointed out difficulties or parts where the instructions were not clear. They are still all very good walks and remind me of what a great place Somerton is to live. You can find them on the Community website: www.somerton.co.uk Also on the website, there's a series of 10 shorter walks, each of around 5km (3 miles). Any comments or questions, please email: martynandsue@hotmail.com. Martyn Smith

**SOMERTON
BUSINESS &
TRADE
ASSOCIATION**

**WISHES YOU A
HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

**Please Support
Local Shops
& Services**





*To date we have raised well over £100K
with more than £1000 raised from the
Event in September!*

The option to sell part of the field to the Trust has been confirmed by SCC if the full target of £750K is not achieved.

This means that we will be able to purchase as much of the area of the field as we can raise the money for.

*For example £250K will buy 1/3 of the field which
equals half an acre.
This is for our Community!*

The proposal is now to take this forward as a *secondary target* following the September Event, when the majority of responses received were in favour of this as an option.

*The Trust now wishes to let the wider Community know
that the plan is to pursue part purchase as a secondary
target alongside the primary target of aiming to purchase
the whole field.*

People who have already kindly donated to the purchase fund and given their details will be contacted in due course for their agreement to this secondary target **as an option**. Donations kindly given with no contact details will be used towards part purchase unless the Trust hears to the contrary.

Anyone who is not in favour is welcome to respond – these *or any other comments* can be posted to the address below or put into the box outside Cobbs (labelled Kirkham Street Field).

Kirkham Street Field Community Trust
The Principal Office is 6 May Pole Knap, Somerton TA11 6HR

THE TRUST CAN ALSO BE CONTACTED by phone - Judith Hurley – Sec – 273079 / Gill Locke – Treasurer – 07592 083543, or by email to Margaret Chambers - Chair chambers_margaret@hotmail.com

Kirkham Street Field Christmas Appeal

Over the next 8 weeks we will be pursuing negotiations for part/full purchase of the Field which is very exciting!

During this process we will be needing to use campaign funds to pay for professional fees such as legal costs, independent valuation and survey costs, these will amount to at least £2K - £3K initially.

We are so grateful for all your donations to date, but please can you help to boost our campaign funds in order to help cover these costs?



If you are able to help, please put your donation in an envelope marked Campaign Funds and put it in the box in George James Office by arrangement, or you can post it to Margaret Chambers at the address on the opposite page.

To carry *this important project* forward into the future we are *seeking new Trustees* with the interest and skills to oversee the next phase in the campaign. If you are interested please contact Margaret Chambers - Chairman chambers_margaret@hotmail.com

Once purchase is achieved we will *need interested Volunteers* to help the Trustees take forward the practical tasks of starting to develop and maintain the field, these include tree planting and helping to create some of the features suggested by the public. Draft design ideas will be reviewed and adapted once purchase agreement has been reached, then circulated to the community.

If you would be interested in helping please contact Mo Fletcher – Trustee - fletcher080@btinternet.com or 07718920198.

Or for either of these roles, you may also find Trust contact details on the opposite page.

Looking forward to fresh possibilities next year! We wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas!



Somerton Good Neighbours



Help at hand

*Do you need help with shopping,
prescriptions, gardening,
or a friendly chat?*

We can help - contact your local coordinator :

01458 253414 *West Somerton (incl. Patch Meadows and Northfield)*

07970 568642 *South Somerton (incl. St. Cleers and Polham Lane)*

01458 274101 *North Somerton (incl. Etsome and West End)*

01458 273367 *East Somerton (from Behind Berry to Pestors Lane)*

We are also looking for more volunteers, so if you can offer any of the above, please ring Sheila Crothers on

01458 273287

SOMERTON MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

Somerton Music and Arts Festival has been entertaining the people of Somerton and helping to bring newcomers to the town for over 30 years. Starting life as Somerton Summer Arts Festival, every July we put on a 10 day event of music, arts, education and entertainment to suit all ages, tastes and interests. Most recently we have incorporated the word Music into our title, registered as a Community Interest Company and introduced a one day Music Festival 'Somerstock' into the line-up. We aim to have a good mix of local artists and entertainers as well as bringing acts to Somerton that we may otherwise have to travel to see.

With all this going on, it is not surprising that some people may think that we must be a commercial business staffed by paid employees. This is far from the case and every now and then we need to make a clarification.

Therefore, we would like to put on public record that we are run by unpaid volunteers who devote a significant portion of their life to keeping the festival going; purely out of their love of arts, music and the community. The CIC annual accounts are freely available and our financial objective is to have enough funds in the bank at the end of the year to ensure we can sustain the following year. Any surplus is generally re-invested to make the festival even better and donations are made to local organisations or charities. In addition, we donate surplus from the Somerstock event specifically to named local charities and the community. In 2019 we gave over £1000 for St Margaret's Hospice who also raised a similar amount on the day.

We continue to value the support of our community and if anyone feels they have any skills and experience to offer us or just share our passion for arts, music and/or the community then you would be most welcome to join us. This could be on our committee, as a steward in town or Somerstock or just helping out throughout the year with ideas and practical support.

Whilst we are living in difficult times, we are optimistic that a sufficient degree of normality will resume next year to allow our events to take place safely, even if we need to make some changes including, potentially, restructuring the event to meet the numbers able to attend. As such, tickets for Somerstock 2021 are back on sale and will stay at the early bird rate until the end of January 2021 and we strongly encourage purchase now to avoid disappointment and to help us plan a great event ! With our headline act, The Christians and many other fantastic bands (including many popular local acts), top class food, drinks, and fun for all the family we look forward to seeing you all next year. In the meantime, we appreciate your support with special thanks to our ticket holders, sponsors and advertisers.

The Festival Committee

www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk

www.somerstock.com

e-mail: smafcompanysecretary@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

(Subject to Covid 19 restrictions permitting)

Sunday 20th December 11am pre-Christmas communion

Tuesday 22nd December 7pm Carol Service

Wednesday 23rd December 10am Christmas Communion

Christmas Eve 11:30 pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 11am Christmas Communion.

These services will all be available on Zoom video or telephone link at the same time and there will (subject to restrictions) be places available to book on a first come first served basis from 9am Sat 12th December. Please contact Alan Symonds either on 01458 272029, or email somerton.vicar@btinternet.com.

ST CLEERS CHAPEL

Christmas Services are TBC and will be advertised in December.

LIFE CHURCH

We invite you and your family to join us for South West Carols on 5th & 6th December at 7pm each night. This event is being organised by Churches across the South West and features traditional carols, musical items, a nativity produced by children across the region, interviews, stories and much more! So grab a mug of hot chocolate, open up the Christmas snacks and settle down for a great family evening. You can watch live on either night at www.southwestcarols.com. If you need more information just contact us at admin@lifechurchsomerton.co.uk or 07891 665938 or 07715 926923.

WEST STREET CHURCH

Any service details will be shown on the noticeboard at the front of the Church.

VIADUCT ADVERTISING RATES

Black & white quarter page: £30

Black & white half page: £45

Black & white full page: £75.

Colour half page (inside front and back cover): £55

Outer back cover: £120.00

Full centre spread: £120.00

Special offer - 20% discount for 12 months and 10% discount for 6 months. Prices include VAT

Ads should be provided in pdf format and sized at full, half or quarter A5 page size as appropriate. To advertise in Viaduct contact us on: 01458 272236 or viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

This months cover photo is: "A Somerton winter scene in days gone by" from Jo Andrews. Potential cover photos can be sent as email attachments to viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk. Please include some details about the picture: place, subject and date taken, and your full name.

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Submissions by 12th of previous month to viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.



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TAKEAWAY Thur - Sat
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TAKEAWAY & RESTAURANT 12-4pm

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