

# VIADUCT

April 2021



*working with the community*



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## Somerton Town Council - April 2021

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council (Planning at 6.30pm if required)	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	7 pm	Remote Meeting
Accessibility & Highways (planning at 6.30pm if required)	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	7 pm	Remote Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be opportunities to ask questions.

Planning applications may be viewed on the SSDC website

All agendas and minutes are available on the STC website

If residents have any issues or questions about anything within this report, or in general, please direct them to the Clerk who will ensure they are answered or forwarded to the relevant councillor or organisation to respond.

### CENSUS 2021

Census Day was Sunday March 21st. Every household should have completed the Census by then or shortly thereafter. The information provided helps give the best picture of the needs of everyone in England and Wales. Organisations such as Local Authorities and charities use this information to plan and budget for the services we all need, including transport, education and healthcare. If you have yet to complete the Census you need to do so. Not submitting a Census is a crime and you could be fined for not completing your return. If you need help there is a Census Support Centre at Strode College, Church Street, Street. The telephone number is 01458 844480. The centre provides phone support or face-to-face appointments.

### MAKE A CHANGE – BECOME A COUNCILLOR

STC is asking you to consider becoming a local councillor. As a councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. To stand for election you must be:

- A UK or Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or a citizen of a Member State of the EU.
- At least 18 year of age.
- An elector of the Somerton Town Council, or in the past 12 months occupied land or premises in the area Somerton Town Council services (as owner or tenant), or work in the area that Somerton Town Council services (as your principal or only place of work) or live within three miles of the Somerton Town Council boundary.

There are currently four vacancies on STC and a by-election will take place on the 6th May, alongside the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset, if there are more candidates than vacancies. Nomination papers must be submitted by Thursday 8th April (which we realise may be around the time you are receiving this issue of the Viaduct).

If you are interested in becoming a councillor at any time, as vacancies do arise outside formal elections, please look online at [www.nalc.gov.uk/elections](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/elections) or contact the Town Clerk's office or any councillor for further information and an informal chat.

#### YEOVILTON AVERAGE WEATHER STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

	Average Max temp	Average Min temp	Rain mm	Sun hrs	So February 2021 was slightly warmer and wetter, but less sunny than the long-term average
Feb Average	9.5	2.4	61.8	65.6	
50yr Average	8.6	1.5	54.6	78.4	

Figures from Met Office Yeovilton website

## **VIADUCT**

STC would like to thank the editors, long standing Neal Barton and the more recent Sara Powell, for all their hard work as editors of the Viaduct. The role will now be taken over by Laura Pinkney. Laura is a local self-employed marketing and communications manager who has a wealth of experience in producing publications. We are looking forward to working with Laura to ensure the Viaduct continues to meet the needs of all residents. STC would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who deliver the Viaduct, you are an amazing team and we are very lucky to have you, thank you all!

## **THE CEMETERY EXTENSION PROJECT**

The current location of the Cemetery has only limited land left and at some point in the future an additional site will need to be identified. STC's Land and Properties Committee recently discussed the Cemetery Extension Project and the need to start planning now to ensure suitable locations can be found locally. If any residents/land owners have land, which may be suitable, please contact the Clerk or Councillor Mo Fletcher.

## **FLY THE FLAG FOR SOMERSET**

May 11th is Somerset Day. It would be wonderful if we could turn Somerton into a sea of flags and bunting on the day. STC will be Flying the Flag, will you? See the centre page of this edition for a flag and for more information and to get involved you can go to [www.somersetday.com](http://www.somersetday.com).

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## **News**

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### **DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS**

We've had some lovely photos sent in so far for our cover photo competition, but always welcome more, especially different, possibly less well photographed areas of our beautiful town. So don't forget to submit your photos in portrait jpeg format to [viaduct@somertontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:viaduct@somertontowncouncil.co.uk)

### **THE PARISH ROOMS RE-OPENING**

The Management Committee of the Lady Smith Memorial Institute (The Parish Rooms) is pleased to announce that bookings can now be taken for meetings and events due to take place from 1 July onwards subject to the government's regulations to be issued on 21 June. We would like to assure everyone that conditions of hire will return to what they were before coronavirus, with the promise that hand sanitiser and paper towels will be provided, and all hall users should follow whatever rules the Government recommends regarding social distancing, facemasks and hand washing. To make a booking, visit the website at [parishroomssomerton.org.uk](http://parishroomssomerton.org.uk) or email the booking clerk on [contact@parishroomssomerton.org.uk](mailto:contact@parishroomssomerton.org.uk).

### **SOMERTON U3A**

The Somerton U3A will be holding two Zoom meetings for members to enjoy in April. The first of which will be held on Friday 9th April at 11.00 entitled "Manners Please Dearest", a presentation by Donald Allen. The second meeting is on Friday 23rd April at 11.00 "Brilliant British humour in the forgotten art of the picture postcard, 1840-1950's", a Zoom presentation by James Taylor. Our monthly Newsletter gives members the opportunity to keep in touch and see the activities that are taking place. We are pleased to report that a number of our interest groups are still managing to hold regular meetings via Zoom, and the following groups have indicated they are happy to welcome new members to join them: Science and Technology, Raspberry Pi, Craft, Computers, Photography and the Friday afternoon book club. For further information on how to join please visit the Somerton U3A website, or email [membership@Somertonu3a.uk](mailto:membership@Somertonu3a.uk). A warm welcome awaits you.

### **BUSES**

First Bus have reintroduced college services now that some students can go back. However, the regular services are at present unchanged, so the timetable dated 18th January is still valid. As soon as there are any changes, it will be noted on the community website [www.somerton.co.uk](http://www.somerton.co.uk) and on the STC website [www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## **SOMERTON MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL 2021**

Somerton looks set to celebrate this summer following the positive news regarding the easing of restrictions by summer. The organisers of the Somerton Music and Arts have announced that the festival is to go ahead as planned, with a series of arts and music events taking place throughout the town from 3rd to 10th July. 'After a tough year for everyone, we are thrilled to be able to go ahead with a festival which provides fantastic entertainment for both the local community and for visitors from across the country' said Cliff (Fred) Bassett, Chair of Somerton Music and Arts Festival.

The festival, which started in 1987, is an annual event in the historic Somerset market town; providing entertainment across the week including a family fun day, local bands, classical music, talks & workshops to name just a few. The festival culminates in a one-day music festival, Somerstock.

Attracting top bands, this year's headliners are pop and soul legends The Christians. A further 14 bands will perform across three stages providing non-stop family entertainment, and a wide variety of food, bars and stalls will ensure that there's something for every taste. As well as providing entertainment, the festival raises money for charity and Fred continued, 'we look forward not only to being able to put money back into the community again but also being able to celebrate safely once more this summer.' As part of a full programme of events in the town we are pleased to announce that Simeon Wood will be returning as well as Flute Cake Trio, amongst many other exciting acts. We also have great plans for the Funday on the 4th July.

Tickets for Somerstock are selling well, so don't forget to get yours before they sell out. Full details of the festival will be released soon, but remember that Viaduct readers get a special discount for Somerstock tickets using voucher code SOMERSTOCKFUN at [www.somerstock.com](http://www.somerstock.com).

## **WALKING**

I hope that during the lockdown you've been able to get out locally and do a bit of walking! I certainly have and one thing I have been doing is updating local walks. The Somerton Strolls - 15 walks of around 10 kilometres - originally written in 2008, have all been re-walked and updated and special thanks to Angela & David Locke for their help. I've also been checking the Somerton Strolls Sequel series - this is a much more ambitious set of ten walks starting at the Half Moon car park, each with the choice of (roughly) 20, 15, 10 or 5 kilometres. The 5 kilometre walks are also published as "Short Walks from the Half Moon car park"

Now that we're allowed to travel a bit further (from March 29th), I've also made a start on checking and revising the series "From the Bus-stop..." - each one consists of walks of about 10 kilometres, starting from a bus stop on the 54 Taunton to Yeovil route or the 77 Wells to Yeovil route. However, there are indications of where it would be possible to park a car if you're not happy to use public transport. I'm also working on a second set from the 54 route.

All of the checked walks are available on the community website [www.somerton.co.uk](http://www.somerton.co.uk) (see the tab Walks Around Somerton) but I can provide copy by email if required.

Happy walking! Martyn Smith email: [martynandsue@hotmail.com](mailto:martynandsue@hotmail.com)

## **SPEEDWATCH**

Another month and another update from SpeedWatch. We have only just started out again and want to remind you that we care about the safety of you all. Motorists, walkers and cyclists sometimes find time to wave but there are a few who only manage to greet us and wave with two fingers! At least you see us and knowing that you have been caught on the radar your reaction tells us that you are more annoyed with yourselves for being picked up and are aware that you are speeding. Fortunately, we get far more thumbs up and smiles with positive responses for taking the time to record and monitor the traffic and we are sure that most folk appreciate safer, slower traffic and take time to thank us. The SIDs which record traffic movement 24 hours a day are showing a great deal of useful data which will be used to make the roads safer.

## **MESSAGES FROM THE PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)**

The PPG's new email address is now active. Please contact us at [ppgbhc@gmail.com](mailto:ppgbhc@gmail.com) Covid-19 vaccinations. The progress with rolling out the national vaccination programme is reported daily and it is good to know that priority groups are now beginning to receive their 'second doses'. As before, please wait to be contacted with an invitation to attend one of the GP-led sites. You will appreciate that the list of those due to be invited for either their first or second dose is a long one. We remain grateful to all the medical practitioners and volunteers who have ensured the mammoth task of overseeing and administering vaccinations has progressed so well thus far. You may recall that the government's aim is for all cohorts 1-9 to have received at least the first dose of vaccine by April 30th with the target date of July 31st for all adults to have received both doses of vaccine. The latest information relating to our area is that the first target should be met comfortably and the second is achievable if supplies and staffing levels continue as present.

A cautionary note: We are aware that there are criminals harnessing the vaccination programme and using it as a way to target members of the public and tricking them into handing over cash or financial details. There are a number of ways in which this is being done including: convincing looking text messages and phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS or from a local pharmacy. Please remember – and advise those who you feel may be vulnerable - the NHS will never: ask for payment (the vaccine is free) nor your bank details; nor will they arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccines nor ask you to prove your identity by your sending copies of your personal documents, such as your passport.

Phoning: Following the advice offered previously, it is clear some patients have now taken advantage of calling the surgery outside peak times (that is, during the afternoon). This really is a win-win as the patient usually receives a swifter response (as the queue is shorter) and pressure on busy staff is eased. BUT we do have to remind patients that staff are not able to book Covid-19 vaccination appointments over the phone; you do have to wait to be contacted.

The PPG remains keen to recruit new full members (currently there are two vacancies) and would especially welcome enquiries from those within the age bracket 20-45 and/or those with a young family. Alternatively, you can keep in touch with the PPGs activity by registering as a 'virtual' (or associate) member. To do so, contact the PPG secretary via the (new) email address – see above – and you will then receive minutes of meetings and other relevant documents. You will also be encouraged to offer comments, questions and suggestions which will then be presented at a meeting of the PPG. Incidentally, the PPG has its own pages on the Practice website – see <https://buttercrosshc.nhs.uk/patient-participation-group-2/#>

## **ACEARTS**

In line with the Government's roadmap, ACEarts will be reopening our shop on Wednesday 14 April 2021 and we are currently busy revamping the space in anticipation of being able to welcome everyone back. Why not pop in and see what we've done? Unfortunately we won't be able to open the gallery upstairs until after 17 May when the restrictions covering this are planned to be lifted and we can start our exhibition programme for 2021. More news on this, other updates and our on-line shop are always available on our website [www.acearts.co.uk](http://www.acearts.co.uk).

## **SOMERTON MARKET**

The first market of the year will be held on Friday 7 May subject to the lifting on restrictions continuing according to the current roadmap. We plan to back bigger and better than ever with more stalls to browse and, as ever, a friendly welcome to all.

## **ST MICHAELS CHURCH EASTER SERVICES**

Maundy Thursday 1st April: 7pm Holy Communion Service in St Michaels and on Zoom.

Good Friday 2nd April: 12 noon Hour at the cross in St Michaels and on Zoom.

Easter Sunday 4th April: 6am Dawn service in the Churchyard; 11am Holy Communion in St Michael's and on Zoom.

It is necessary to book for all of these services in advance. Please call Revd Alan Symonds on 01458 272029 for more details.





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[info@westcountryvwcamperhire.co.uk](mailto:info@westcountryvwcamperhire.co.uk)





## Private Fostering

Is your child living with another family?  
Have you been looking after someone else's child for 28 days or more?  
Do you know a child that's being looked after outside their close family?

If so, the child may be living in a private fostering arrangement.  
The law says you must tell Children's Social Care if you know about any private fostering arrangements. This is so we can make sure the children are well looked after and to give support to their carers.

 Call Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224  
or email: [child.enq@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:child.enq@somerset.gov.uk)

### What is private fostering?

Private fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old - or under 18 if they have a disability - lives with someone for 28 days or more who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility. A close relative would be a parent, step parent, aunt, uncle or grandparent.

People become private foster carers for all sorts of reasons. They might be a friend of the child's family. They could be someone who is willing to look after a child they do not know, for example if that child is on an exchange trip or have parents who live overseas.

If Children's Social Care has made the arrangement, or the person who is caring for the child is an approved foster carer, this is not private fostering.

### What to do if you know of a private fostering arrangement

The law says you must tell Children's Social Care if you know about any private fostering arrangements.

If you think you are privately fostering a child or know about a child who is being privately fostered, then don't worry, it is allowed. But you do need to tell us - we have a legal duty to ensure that all children who are privately fostered are cared for in a safe and suitable environment.

To report a private fostering arrangement, please call our Contact Centre in confidence on 0300 123 2224 or email [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk).

For general enquiries please email: [PrivateFostering@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:PrivateFostering@somerset.gov.uk)



## Virtual Financial Advice Clinic

Our financial advice clinics are back. Usually held in the Parish Rooms, we are now offering virtual, no obligation consultations. **These will take place every Thursday from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.**

Simply call us on 01458 555078 or visit [www.rhiannongoghfp.co.uk/contact](http://www.rhiannongoghfp.co.uk/contact) and click 'Arrange meeting.' Consultations are held by video or telephone call if you would prefer.



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## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW SOMERTON?

The attractive bench seat in last month's issue is in Market Place outside the dress shop. The history behind this bench will be investigated once lockdown restrictions are eased.

This month's question is both "what is it?" and "where is it?". The clue to the location is that it can be clearly seen in one of our car parks. The photograph was kindly provided by Martyn Smith.



## MISSING CAT

This is a picture of Ollie, our ginger cat. He went missing on 5th November from Waverley, Somerton. He was 7 months old then. He would be 10 months now. Please contact Kat or Pete on 01458 272214 with any information. We are still desperately searching.



## CHARITY THEATRE TRIPS

Bristol Hippodrome remains closed, but most of the shows we reserved tickets for have been rescheduled for 2022 or 2023. We have one new reservation on Wednesday 3rd November for the musical *White Christmas* so Christmas will be early this year. Booking is now open; e-mail [coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com](mailto:coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com).

The performances of *School of Rock* may well be able to run as scheduled on July 20th, but to date I only have enough bookings to hire a motorbike and sidecar, so unless there is more enthusiasm for this one I will have to cancel it.

The full list of planned trips is: **School of Rock**, Tue 20 Jul 21, £52/£62; **White Christmas**, Wed 3 Nov 21, £46/£55; **Bourne's Nutcracker**, Tue 1 Feb 22 £41/£51; **We Will Rock You**, Wed 20 Apr, £45/£58; **Strictly Ballroom**, Tue 10 May 22, £36/£51; **Mamma Mia**, Mon 20 Jun 22, £49/£61; **Les Miserables**, Tuesday 19 Jul 22, £45/£58; **The Commitments**, Tue 21 Mar 23, £50.

My [www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk](http://www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk) website no longer works properly due to the Flash player app being forcibly removed from computers. You can still access the website, but so far I am only able to update the links to the Times and Prices pages. However we do now have a Groups link on Facebook, if you do such exciting things! You can sign yourself up to receive the latest news. The link is "Charity Theatre Trips".

Finally, thanks if you supported the Red Cross by reading "Total Experience Corner", my Amazon book, and another thank-you and a virtual hug if you are one of the folk who took the trouble to tell me how much they enjoyed reading it. I can now get hold of the paperback at cost price, so if you would like a copy I can do it for £12, including postage. That is £3 less than the Amazon listed price, not to mention their £4.50 postage charge on top (unless you use Prime. E-mail requests to [cox.cj@btinternet.com](mailto:cox.cj@btinternet.com). *Sleeping Beauty* will awaken some day with a kiss from Prince Boris. In the meantime keep social distancing. Chris

## SOMERTON LIBRARY

Subject to government Covid regulations, the library intends to expand its current ‘click-and-collect’ service to a limited browsing service from 12 April and, with the end of the requirement for social distancing, to resume normal service from 21 June.

Somerton Library now has its own website: [www.somertonlibrary.com](http://www.somertonlibrary.com) where details of the current service are explained. This will be updated with information about the expanded services when the details are confirmed.

The click-and-collect service includes:

**Returns** – all items borrowed can be placed in the boxes in the foyer. All items on loan, but not overdue, were automatically extended to at least 31st March 2021 and overdue charges are currently paused until 4th May.

**Library Choice** - For a collection of up to 10 items per person, hand-picked by library staff, based on topics, genres or authors you request, please complete the online form:

[https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm\\_formalias=SLRRS](https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=SLRRS) or a paper copy from the library, and wait for library staff to contact you about your selection.

**Reservation** - For specific titles please use the LibrariesWest reservation system via [librarieswest.org.uk](http://librarieswest.org.uk) – charges may apply and you will be notified by email, SMS or letter when your item is available. Reservation supply times are currently longer than usual.

Library hours are:

Day	Times	Service
Monday	2pm - 5pm	Collections and Returns
Tuesday	Closed all day	
Wednesday	10:00am - 1:00pm	Collections and Returns
Thursday	10:00am - 1:00pm	Collections and Returns
Friday	10:00am - 1:00pm	Collections and Returns
Saturday	10:00am - 1:00pm	Collections and Returns

## SOMERTON MEMORIAL PAVILLION

We’ve been working on some initial designs for a new pavilion at the Recreation Ground and would be keen to receive public comments/thoughts, before more detailed plans are developed. The pavilion is likely to house changing rooms, flexible internal events and social space and toilets. Further details of our plan will be made available on <https://www.srgt.co.uk/> and we really would welcome your comments, especially if you are a regular user of the facilities. Please email or post your comments to [info@orme-architecture.com](mailto:info@orme-architecture.com) or Mill Farm Barns, Baltonsborough, BA6 8RH. Sam Clough, Orme Architecture



## KING INA ACADEMY

Everyone at King Ina Academy is very excited to be moving to the new site at the start of the summer term. The new school will enable the Junior children from the Kirkham Street site and the Infant and pre school children from the Etsome Terrace sites to be located on a single site. The new school has 14 classrooms in a two storey modern highly insulated building that complies with the current accessibility regulations. A contribution from the Somerton Education Trust has enabled the main hall to be enlarged from the planned size. The site has space for expansion should an increase in the number of children demand more classrooms. The Academy is very grateful to the many people who have contributed to bringing the new school to fruition over many years.

It is regrettable that the current Covid restrictions initially prevents anyone outside the staff and pupils visiting the site, however it is hoped a public event can be held later in the year.

Finally we, the directors and governors of King Ina Academy, would like to thank the staff for all their efforts in educating the children either at home or in school during the current lockdown.



This months cover photo was taken by Graham Dyson and shows a slightly different view of Somerton!

Potential cover photos can be sent as email attachments to [viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk). Please include some details about the picture: place, subject and date taken, and your full name.

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Editors: Neal Barton, Sara Powell.

Viaduct is published by Somerton Town Council and is distributed free to residents. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors for which the council and editors cannot be held responsible. Whilst we take reasonable care to ensure accuracy, neither STC nor the editors can be held liable for loss, damage or omission caused by errors in printing of advertisements, which we assume are reasonable and fair.

Submissions by 12th of previous month to [viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk).



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Colour half page

(inside front and back cover): £55

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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](mailto:viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk).

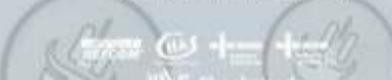


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