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Editors' Notes

Rural Somerset is a wonderful area in which to live and Somerton is indeed one of the very best small towns in the area. So many people in our town give so much of their time and energy to help others and help the whole community and in this biennial production, you will find a list of many of the groups that help to contribute to making Somerton such a great place to live. The people whose names you will find listed are just a few of the unsung heroes in our ancient hilltop town - there are many others organising Christmas lights, litter picking, putting up bunting and stapling, folding and delivering Viaduct, our monthly newsletter. Particularly noteworthy this year were the beacon and the union flags for the Queen's 90th birthday.

Recently, whilst clearing her mum's house, Shani Thomas discovered an almost complete set of Somerton News, going back to the third edition, which was published in 1977 - the Queen's Silver Jubilee year. These will find a home in the archives at the town council office. Thanks. Shani!

Thanks also to Marion Flewitt of the Allotments Association for her amusing little poem on their activities!

Details published in Somerton News do change from time to time, but in Viaduct you will find monthly updates. If you or your organisation does have any changes, please telephone the Town Clerk 272236 or e mail viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk and a notification or correction can easily be made in the next issue.

Our special thanks, in particular, go to all the many people, organisations and companies in the town who have supported Somerton News through articles, advertisements and advice behind the scenes.

Lesley Cruickshank, Mo Fletcher & Martyn Smith Editors, Somerton News

June 2016



Kay Marshfield

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Cover Photo: Martyn Smith

Somerton Town Council 2016-2017

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL 2016 - 2017

ACCESS & HIGHWAYS:

Cllrs Farmer, Gale, Raybould, Richardson, M Smith & Wilson

LAND & PROPERTY:

Cllrs Bown, Fletcher, Frayne, Hurley & Richardson,

PLANNING:

Cllrs Bown, Fletcher, Frayne, Harrison & Hurley,

PROMOTION & COMMUNICATION:

Cllrs Colver, Fletcher, Gale, Hurley, D Smith & M Smith

Committee chairs in bold

TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES:

All councillors are trustees of the Recreation Ground Trust

At present the following councillors are members of the Recreation Ground Management Committee: Councillors Farmer, Fletcher, Harrison, Hurley, D Smith, Raybould & Wilson.

Other areas of interest/representation are:

CYP: Cllr Hurley & Mr B Davies Environment Warden: Cllrs Gale & Richardson.

Hext Alms Houses: Cllr Fravne

LSMI: Cllrs Hurley & Raybould

MTIG: Cllr M Smith & Clerk Mr T Philpott

Parish Paths liaison officer Cllr M Smith

SBTA: Cllrs Frayne & Hurley

Somerton Education Trust: Cllr Bown.

Tree Warden Cllr D Smith & Mrs M Chambers

Wessex Rooms trustees Cllrs Hurley & Raybould.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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07519 739 137 email: stephen.page@southsomerset.gov.uk

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SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

2014-15	INCOME	2015-16	
295740	Precept	295740	
23905	Transitional Grant	23395	
29506	Edgar Hall (inc FIT)	63123	
3759	Publications	1401	
10669	Cemetery Fees	9453	
6668	Car Parks	8806	
417	Market	1292	
11916	Grants / Donations	20	
6992	Doctors Surgery	0	
1496	Sundry Receipts	1618	
1684	Bank Interest received	1925	
392752	TOTAL INCOME	406773	
EXPENDITURE			
93972	Administration	94314	
27451	Promotion and Communications	27068	
39216	Access and Highways	128619	
164516	Land and Properties	185168	
32279	Grants	19387	
747	Sundry Expenses	0	
707	Bad Debt Provisions	0	
358888	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	454556	
33864	NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-47783	
	for the year		
	More details on the STC website		



Chairman's Report June 2016

It is hard to believe that it is only a year since the elections and the formation of a new council. The new councillors have received a thorough induction and have settled into the role. As you will see from the various reports, it has been a very busy year for the council. I would like to thank all members of staff and councillors for their continuing hard work. I am very proud of them all and it is an honour for me to be their chairman.

Committees

Elsewhere in Somerton News you will find details of the work done by the four main committees of the council.

Administration

Somerton Town Council has been awarded Foundation Level in the Local Council Awards scheme and is one of the first councils in Somerset to achieve this award. It is our intention to submit an application for the Quality level in July 2016, followed by Gold level in July 2017. The achievement of this award is credit to the work of the clerk's office and councillors working together for the benefit of the community of Somerton.

It is noteworthy that the Town Council was praised for its commitment to training as part of the scheme.

The computerised SAGE accounting system introduced last year is working well and providing more detailed information for the council to make decisions and to achieve value for money in all of its operations.

Cemetery records are in the process of being computerised - with over 2000 entries this will take several months.

Our continuing aim is to make Somerton an even better place for the residents and visitors of all ages to live, shop and work.

Dean Ruddle

Chairman, Somerton Town Council

Accessibility & Highways Committee

Chairman: Martyn Smith 273058 email: martyn.smith@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

The Accessibility & Highways Committee meets on Tuesdays of alternate months at the Edgar Hall and all meetings are open to the public who may ask questions at the start of meetings. The committee has been very active over the last two years, with many projects completed, some projects about to come to fruition and other still in the planning stage.

Projects completed:

The Yarlington car park is now completed and fully operational with a capacity for 14 cars.

The diseased ash tree in the Market Square has been removed and replaced with a maidenhair tree - chosen because it adapts well to the urban environment, tolerating modern pollution and confined soil spaces.

The one-way system over the Brunel bridge is now complete and working well.

The paving around the Buttercross and surrounding pavements have now been totally refurbished and the Market Square car park has been resurfaced and relined.

It is worth noting all the projects above have been completed by local tradesmen.

Projects nearing completion:

The demolition of the old doctors' surgery and construction of a new car park in the Brunel Precinct has been delayed for some time, due to a colony of bats that took up residence in the roof of the old building.

Projects in the planning stage:

A priority road system over the railway bridge in Behind Berry, a safety issue because the road narrows considerably, making it dangerous for pedestrians.

A one-way system for part of West Street is under consideration by Somerset County Highways, and is a result of the pedestrian survey undertaken by Somerton Town Council, for which all residents of Somerton were invited to complete a questionnaire.

Two issues on the negative side for Somerton are fly tipping and dog mess.

Fly tipping is being addressed by covert cameras at various locations around Somerton; and Somerton Town Council is encouraging South Somerset District Council to prosecute more offenders to highlight the issue. The cost of clearing up is borne by us all through our council tax. Dog mess is extremely unpleasant in any location, so dog owners please ensure you have enough poo bags with you when exercising your dogs. There are 36 dog poo bins located in and around Somerton, so there is no excuse not to clean up and bin it.

STC is endeavouring to place a defibrillator in a local hostelry in or near the Market Square. When installed and fully functional, the location will be advertised in the press and in Viaduct.

A mention must be made to the Community Pay Back Team from Yeovil, who visit Somerton every other week for one day's work. They have completed many manual jobs in Somerton, which may not have been noticed by the general public. However, painting, brushing pavements, weeding, hedge trimming and general maintenance are some of the duties they have performed around the town.

Finally, special thank you to the family of the late Mrs Cooper of Somerton, who bequeathed a sum of money to Somerton Town Council. This allowed the much needed refurbishment work in the Market Square to be completed and also funding for the future upkeep of the Buttercross.

Clive Wilson - Outgoing chairman Access & Highways Committee.

Land & Properties Committee

Chairman: Peter Frayne 272494 email: peter.frayne@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

The committee has a remit to:

'Ensure the Town Council owned land and property is improved, maintained and always made available for the benefit of the residents of Somerton'.

The Committee includes the following areas within its areas of responsibilities:

- Edgar Hall offices and meeting rooms at Cary Court
- Old doctors' surgery
- Cemetery
- Public toilets at Cox's Yard
- Recreation Areas (Etsome Terrace/Gassons Lane/Sutton Road/Parklands Way)
- Land at Horse Mill Lane
- The Buttercross.
- The buildings and structures on the Recreation Ground (in conjunction with the Trustees)

Edgar Hall:

The hall and meeting rooms continue to attract users from a wide variety of private and commercial enterprises.

The two green rooms have been put to use as small meeting rooms when not required as changing rooms.

Solar panels on the roof, which were provided by a grant, generate electricity and provide revenue from selling it back to the grid.

Doctors' surgery:

Planning permission has been granted for demolition and replacement with much needed car parking.

Cemetery:

The standard of maintenance at the cemetery remains high and the committee has carried out additional tree planting and additional screening round the skip. Plans are in hand regarding the unsightly storage building.

Recreation Areas:

The facilities are constantly inspected by volunteers and by the District Council and replacement/ refurbishment is ongoing. We have maintenance contracts for grass cutting and rubbish clearing at all our recreation sites.

Buttercross paving:

The A&H committee has overseen refurbishment works with the cost being funded by a recent legacy.

Our Committee meetings are open to you all - see Viaduct for details. They are held bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of alternate months, at Edgar Hall. You are most welcome to join us and will be given the opportunity to speak during public question time in order to ask questions, make comments and suggestions to improve our community and its facilities.

Planning Committee

Chairman: David Harrison 273177 email: david.harrison@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

The Planning Committee was set up in May 2015. Previously, planning cases had been considered as part of other committee meetings, but this caused undue delay to these meetings and was a distraction. Also, it was considered that planning had become so complex and controversial that it would be preferable if most cases were considered by a smaller group of councillors who were prepared to concentrate on the subject and provide necessary technical support to other councillors. All councillors may attend and take part in our meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the Edgar Hall and at other times in advance of other meetings as required. Meetings are open to all and there will be the opportunity to speak during public question time in order to ask questions and make comments or suggestions.

The Terms of Reference for the Planning Councillors are:

- To present to councillors planning applications requiring decisions.
- To visit sites and liaise with interested parties (applicants and objectors) for significant applications.
- To provide support and training to all councillors on current and new planning legislation;
- To liaise with the relevant planning authority (usually SSDC) when required to do so.
- To manage the "Section 106" and "Community Infrastucture Levy" payments priorities with the relevant SSDC officers and coordinating the STC priorities for this funding.

In planning matters Somerton Town Council is a consultee - it is not responsible for planning decisions. However as the planning authority, SSDC must consider the Town Council's views. These are quoted in the Officers Reports to the SSDC Development Management Committee. The Planning Committee confines its attention to "planning issues" only. These are, for example, highways, overshadowing, noise and disturbance, planning policies and their effect, trees, design and landscaping, Issues such as value, market competition, the personalities of applicants, land ownership, moral/religious issues, construction in progress issues and the motives of applicants are not planning issues.

Very significant cases are heard by SSDC Area North committee. It has been found essential for the chairman, vice chair or both to attend all these meetings even if no Somerton case is involved. Where Somerton cases are involved the agreed Town Council view is presented from a prepared statement. Committee members also attend meetings with developers when they are thought to be of value to both parties.

The Planning Committee has had a broadly successful first year. With input from specialist councillors who are building up their experience, the quality of discussion and STC comments has improved. However, due to time pressure for SSDC to receive comments there have been two extraordinary meetings prior to Full Council meetings, which were unavoidable if comments were to be provided on time.

There have been significant cases in the first year - proposals for Wessex House redevelopment leading to an appeal, changes to Cartway Lane application; changes to Northfields with a new developer involved, Town Farm and Lawrence Farm, proposals for housing and a supermarket on Etsome Terrace. The committee is aware of the need for the whole community to have an input on planning matters; at the same time on behalf of the Council it must represent the interests of the whole community including younger people who sadly usually do not play a great part in meetings. The committee is very willing to engage with pressure groups to hear messages and interact. Also to try to separate what is practical from what some might think ideal and also to point out where objections are essentially not planning issues.

We hope to see you at our meetings.

Promotion & Communications Committee

Chairman: Pat Colyer 272219 email: pat.colyer@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

The Promotion & Communication Committee was established in 2015. Its remit is to encourage and facilitate communication in the town, both between the council and the community and within the town as a whole. It is also charged with encouraging visitors to the town, both as shoppers and tourists.

Meeting are held bi-monthly in the Parish Rooms, usually on the last Tuesday at 7.30pm, and members of the public are cordially invited to join us. It is customary for the chair to suspend "Standing Orders" and people attending the meetings are encouraged to contribute to the discussions about the items on the agenda.

The committee has arranged for Citizens' Advice to hold sessions in the town, operating every Tuesday morning in the West Street Church. The Somerton venture is being used to trial a new way for CA to operate in rural areas, using Skype to connect clients needing specialist help to their Yeovil offices. If successful, the scheme will be rolled out to other communities in the area. The organisation offers confidential assistance on a number of issues including money and debt problems, consumer matters, welfare and benefits, employment and relationship matters. They also work with MacMillan offering support for individuals and families affected by cancer.

The committee holds a monthly surgery in the library on the last Saturday of the month. You are invited to come and tell us about issues that concern you and, if we cannot provide an immediate answer, we will raise the issue with the relevant party within the Council on your behalf.

The committee is working on ways to encourage activities and events in the town, both for the interest of local people, but also to encourage visitors to the town. The successful beacon event in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday was a spectacular example of this initiative attracting an estimated 500 people. Working with the Somerton Tourism and Heritage Partnership and Langport Town Council, it is hoped to put the towns "on the map" as an attractive stop-off point, centrally placed between other historical places of interest in our part of Somerset. Plans include producing a new town and district map and providing facilities for visiting coaches.

Arrangements have been made for a Street Market to come to town on the first Friday of each month. It will operate in the Market Square between 10 am and 2 pm and it is hoped that it will attract local retailers as well as specialist external suppliers.

Communication within the town, both with the council and other organisations, is currently facilitated via Viaduct, which is produced monthly and distributed to over 2000 homes, the council website, the town website and Facebook in addition to the town notice boards.

Recreation Ground Management Committee

Chairman: Brian Raybould mob: 07976 506 787 email: brian.raybould@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

The Recreation Ground Management Committee is responsible for managing the day-to-day events and activities that take place on the recreation ground. The committee reports regularly to the trustee, which is Somerton Town Council. The RGMC is made up of eight current town councillors and seven representative members appointed by organisations in the parish and continues to work to provide a fantastic sports and recreation facility for Somerton.

Regular meetings are held at the Edgar Community Hall and the committee's main role is to be pro-active in support of both the sport that takes place regularly on the ground and the general recreational activities in which members of the community wish to engage. This committee has a close working relationship with the Land & Properties Committee, which has the responsibility of maintaining the play areas and buildings on the recreation ground. There is an updated inspection regime for all the equipment with ongoing plans to upgrade.

The recreation ground is recognised as one of the best sports facilities in the area and has won many awards, due in no small part to the hard work and attention to detail from our groundsmen,. The RGMC is actively continuing to look to maintain and improve the facilities on the recreation ground and currently one big concern is the provision of new changing rooms - no one is more aware of this issue than the members the RGMC.

The committee thanks many local businesses and trades people for their generosity in the sponsoring of the sports pitches each year. The RGMC is further dependent upon grants from the Somerton Town Council to enable it to function for the benefit of our young people and the wider community.

We must always be thankful for the input from councillors and volunteers and we must always look to the future to make our facilities the best in the county. Judging by the comments we receive from local people as well as those from neighbouring towns and villages, we are succeeding.



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County Councillor's Report

County Councillor for Somerton & Northstone: Dean Ruddle Contact: Anne Yates 274865 email: anne.yates@btinternet.com

It has been 3 years since I was elected to represent Somerton and the surrounding villages on Somerset County Council, whilst continuing to serve as chairman of Somerton Town Council.

Again, I have had to be party to some very difficult decisions especially in respect of necessary but unfortunate cuts to public services. In endeavouring to maintain current spending on education and welfare, we have focused on eliminating waste and bringing about efficiency savings.

We have maintained a freeze on council tax for 4 years but unfortunately, due to increasing government cuts to local authorities this year, the County Council has had no choice but to increase council tax to maintain much needed public services.

One of the major factors in the County Council's financial problems was the debt left behind from the previous administration of £350 million. This costs ratepayers a staggering £17 million every year in interest charges.

We have been working hard to reduce this liability, so that we will be able to cope with future cutbacks. Each year Somerset's County Councillors are given an allowance in order to help projects in local parishes. This allowance has been cut back from £10,000 to £5,000. This year, I decided that this money should be divided up equally between all parishes, so help has been given to set up a new Citizen's Advice Centre in Somerton, as well as funding to help other projects in the surrounding villages. Once again, I have successfully put forward two more highway improvement schemes, one of which will be a one-way system in West Street, Somerton, for which County Highways will conduct a feasibility study.

In Catsgore, Somerton, the residents and I managed to get the speed limit on the A372 reduced to 40 mph between the Kingsdon junction and the Bineham/Badger's Cross junction.

David Warburton MP has been a great help in securing financial backing from the County Council towards moving the new school. This has been a long arduous journey but hopefully we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel!

Details of my monthly "surgery" are available in Viaduct.

Thanks again for your support and if I can help in any way, do get in touch!

District Councillors' Report

District Councillor: Stephen Page mob: 07519 739 137 email: stephen.page@southsomerset.gov.uk

In May 2015, I was elected onto South Somerset District Council for the Wessex Ward (Somerton and Compton Dundon). Thank you to everyone who voted for me last May, but please remember that I now serve everyone who lives in the ward during my four year term of office. It is a privilege to represent the local community and I will to try to achieve the best result for everyone in Somerton.

Key issues and work in my first year as a District Councillor:

Quality of the environment – I have championed various issues to improve the local environment including speaking up for sensible planning decisions to protect the vitality and heritage of the local area, lobbying for enforcement against fly-tipping and illegal posters on the roadside, recommending safer herbicides to deal with weeds on the verges and preserving local ponds and trees.

Housing – I believe the country needs to build more affordable homes for local people in appropriate areas and have supported local schemes that use brownfield sites. I have raised local residents' and town councillors' concerns about some of the proposed larger developments in Somerton at planning meetings to ensure amendments are included where needed.

Economy – It is vital that we protect the economic recovery in South Somerset. I have championed local firms, apprenticeships and town centre shops. I am supporting plans for a more suitable development of the old Wessex Care Home and the renovation of the empty shops in Somerton.

Traffic and Highway safety - I have supported plans for a one-way system on West Street and free parking for shoppers in Somerton. I have has also lobbied the local MP, Avon & Somerset Police, Somerset County Council and the National Farmers Union about tractors using public roads without displaying lights or appropriate signalling.

Arts, Youth and Sports Facilities – I have championed the local youth groups with SSDC officials and helped obtain £25,000 to improve the changing rooms at the sports ground in Somerton. I am a strong supporter of the Somerton Arts Festival and all the other cultural activities in the area, Democracy – I have a good record of speaking up for the local community at the full SSDC meetings in Yeovil and the Area North devolved meetings in local villages and towns, especially regarding planning issues. I also attend the Somerton Town Council and other local meetings. Finally, I hold monthly Saturday surgeries in Somerton and respond promptly to e-mail and phone messages.

District Councillor: Dean Ruddle mob: 07976 556 054 email: dean.ruddle@southsomerset.gov.uk

It was a great honour for me to have been elected in May 2015 to South Somerset District Council as councillor for the Wessex ward, which comprises Somerton and Compton Dundon. Because I am also a member of Somerset County Council, I have been able to bring together officers from the two authorities for the benefit of residents within my area.

I continue to serve as chairman of Somerton Town Council and I enjoy attending similar meetings in the parishes around the division to keep me fully briefed on the problems and challenges we all face in these difficult economic times.

The District Council has maintained a freeze on council tax for the last four year, but unfortunately due to reduction in government grants and subsidies to local authorities this year, there has been no choice but increase council tax to maintain much needed public services.

Charities

Arthritis Care

RIHRITIS CARE Contact: Sue Long 274038 email: long.susanne@googlemail.com

Arthritis Care is the UK's largest charity working with and for all people who have arthritis. Its aims are to provide practical help, advice and social activities for members, whilst encouraging self-help and mutual support.

Meetings of the Somerton Branch are held in the Pinney Room, Parish Rooms, on the first Thursday of the month at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The exceptions are January when there is no meeting and July when we hope to arrange an outing. Full details each month are published in Viaduct.

The programme for the year includes talks, slide shows, demonstrations and musical entertainment. The fees for 2016 remain at £14.00 and £7.00 for a partner at the same address. Visitors are welcome to join us three times during one year, paying £2 a visit, after which we hope they would join to attend further meetings.



Brainwave

Brainwave is a South West based children's charity and money raised will directly help provide therapy and exercise programmes to help children with disabilities and developmental delay to achieve their potential. The cost of providing each programme is now £3,500 a year per child.

Brainwave operates traditional charity shops, which means that we rely totally on donations and do not buy in anything to re-sell. So a big "Thank You" to all of you that have generously donated goods and to our customers.

Have you considered volunteering? We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you are interested just pop in and see what fun it is or see www.brainwave.org.uk.

Charity Theatre Trips

Contact: Chris Cox 273085 email: cox.cj@btinternet.com

The popular Charity Theatre coach trips to Bristol Hippodrome help to fund our Langport Red Cross Centre. The programme is advertised in the Brunel Precinct, Somerton Computing shop window in the Triangle, in "Viaduct" and on line at www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk.

Bookings can be made on-line, by email or by telephone.

Fairtrade

Contact: Sue Slade 850394 email: dgslade@gmail.com

Every time you buy food with the Fairtrade logo you are one step nearer in helping to create "a world that is freed from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just and people and communities can flourish". Do checkout the wonderful range of Fairtrade produce in Williams Supermarket in Brunel precinct.

I stock for sale a lot of non-perishable food, hand made and printed cards, toys, wooden, stone and clay ornaments, jewellery, scarves, bags and purses, household produce, candles and bamboo socks. Anyone can contact me and come and see my Fairtrade room. Goods can be taken on 'sale or return' for functions and charity events.

If you wish to establish your own stall, I'll happily give all the help I can.

Fevin Nature Reserve Burial Ground Westcombe

Contact: Sue Toomer 272848 email: suetoomer@hotmail.com

At the top of Westcombe Hill lies the little oasis of calm that we call the Fevin Nature Reserve Burial Ground. Our small group of volunteers continues to be busy working to enhance the wildlife habitat and provide an environmentally harmonious alternative to conventional burial. More trees have been planted and some areas left to regenerate of their own accord. The group of 60 trees planted jointly by Somerton and Pitney WIs to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee is doing particularly well.

Interest in the burial field has grown and the number of interments is now around 90. We now have several benches around the site and we are often told by bereaved relatives that to sit and contemplate, taking in the view of Glastonbury Tor, or listening to the birds and insects, provides comfort and a sense of peace.

For more information about the reserve or burials go to www.woodlandburials.org. The site is run by The Butler Memorial Trust - Registered Charity number 1076810.



Marmaduke Cradock Trust

Chairman: Nancy Schooling 273859 email: nancy.langmaid1@btinternet.com

The Marmaduke Cradock Trust was founded in 1978 to acquire a picture by Marmaduke Cradock who was born in Somerton and became a well-known artist in London in the early 18th century. The picture is now displayed in the Parish Rooms. The trust has also acquired a number of other items relating to

Somerton's past and is dedicated to preserving these reminders of the past as well as records of the town's history. There is a permanent display in the Pinney Room, which can be seen on most Saturday mornings and at other times by arrangement. There is now a permanent agreement with the trustees of the Parish Rooms which secures the future of this valuable display area.

In 2014, the Trust led the committee which raised funds for the cleaning of the war memorial. Any surplus funds will be used for maintaining other memorials in the town.



National Animal Welfare Trust

Contact: Heaven's Gate Farm 252656 email: hg.reception@nawt.org.uk

The National Animal Welfare Trust at Heaven's Gate Farm, West Henley, rescues and re-homes up to 500 animals per year, which for various reasons can no longer

stay with their owners. We receive no government funding and rely totally on the generosity of public donations. Last year we launched our Kennel Appeal to build new much-needed kennel blocks so that we are able to help even more dogs. Phase 1 was completed by the end of the year and we are now busy raising funds for phase 2.

We are open for visitors from 11:00am until 3:30pm every day except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to help in every aspect of centre life from playing with our cats to helping out at fundraising events. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please do contact us.

We also try to forge links with the local community by participating in events with our agility team and talking at local schools and groups. Please contact us if you would like to find out more.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Trust please visit our website www.nawt.org.uk



Red Cross - Langport & District Centre

Leader: Chris Cox 273085 email: cox.cj@btinternet.com Taunton Headquarters: 01823 273700

Langport & District Centre in Langport's Parrett Close Car Park is a much-appreciated meeting place for companionship, refreshments, and the sale of donated items. We are open 10 to 12ish every day except Sundays and Bank Holidays.

A national decision only to provide first aid cover at very large events (few in Somerset) means we can no longer provide first aid locally. Volunteers are no longer permitted to provide certificated first aid training. The Commercial Training section does offer this at Taunton and Bridgwater. Volunteers do offer simplified first aid training to groups at high risk due to medical conditions.

Contact Taunton Headquarters for short-term loan of medical items, hospital transport, and support for people on discharge from hospital.

We welcome new volunteers for our morning openings and for fund-raising, especially door-to-door during Red Cross Week in early May.



RSPCA South East Somerset Branch

Somerton Group Contact: mob 07808 011 263

National Cruelty Helpline: 0300 1234 999

Vet assistance is offered to people within our branch area who are on low incomes identified by being in receipt of job seekers allowance, pension credit or housing benefit. We can offer support towards a consultation with your vet, neutering and emergency care.

For help in an emergency or with treatment, we must be notified of the need for financial help within 48 hours otherwise we cannot help. Contact your vet initially or phone our Branch Welfare Advice Line 07971 175 491 for more information.

Come and visit us in our shop on the corner of the Half Moon car park or see our website www.rspca-eastsomerset.co.uk Reg Charity No. 264783

Scott Gould House

Clerk to the Trustees: Mrs Valerie Sangwine 272049

Scott Gould House is a charitable trust for ladies, which is managed by a board of Trustees. Situated on the corner of North Street and New Street and originally known as The New Street Homes, the house was founded and endowed by Mrs Sophia Scott Gould in July 1865. After a major restoration in 1981 the house now consists of six flats (three on the ground floor and three on the first floor) each with sitting room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom, overlooking a small courtyard garden.

Sir Edward Hext Almshouses

Clerk to the Trustees: Paula Fletcher, 22 Pinewood Drive, Somerton

The Sir Edward Hext Almshouses situated in West Street were built by Sir Edward Hext and Lady Dionis in 1626. Over the years, the buildings have been modernised and in 1983, the Trust built three new dwellings to the rear of the existing almshouses, making a total of seven dwellings with a small communal garden. The Charitable Trust was recognised in a Scheme dated 22 May 1883, which (subsequently revised) is used as a basis for the regulation of the Charity.

Historically, the almshouses were intended for needy single men within the ancient parishes of Somerton, Langport and High Ham. Today, the trustees welcome enquiries from single or married men or women over the age of 55 with a housing need who live in or have a connection with the parishes. Notices are published within each parish in the event of a vacancy.



Somerset Wildlife Trust - Heart of the Levels Group

This has become an increasingly successful group with a growing number of event sup-

Contact: Bill Murray 270071 email: william@hurcottmurrays.co.uk

porters. We will bring you closer to nature by telling you about the diversity of animal and plant life that surrounds Somerton and Langport and within our gardens, and occasionally taking you off to wilder climes. This is done through a monthly series of talks and guided walks in the local area. A huge variety of guest speakers talk to us in the Parish Rooms beginning at 7:30 pm and after welcoming refreshments. Events are well publicised - check the SWT web site or Viaduct for details. There are no experts in our group, but each of us has a strong interest in local wildlife and, with the help of wildlife volunteers who help on the SWT East Poldens Reserves, we promote and encourage a greater understanding of the natural world. SWT owns and manages several important reserves very

close to Somerton and Langport and they really are worth a visit. Donations and entrance fees to talks

Further information at www.somersetwildlife.org

Somerton & District Branch of Guide Dogs

(£3) all go to the upkeep of these fabulous reserves. Please join us.

Branch Organiser: Liz Roddie 272675 email: joseph.roddie@btinternet.com

Our aim as a branch of Guide Dogs is to help the public have a better understanding of both the work of the association and the role of a guide dog helping someone with sight problems. We are also a fundraising branch and have several street collections in Somerton throughout the year and attend a number of events in and around Somerton. In the branch, we have a number of walkers with puppies in training and also working dogs. Our branch members are all qualified speakers for Guide Dogs and are only too willing to speak at meetings, schools and groups in and around Somerton. If you would like a speaker or would like to join the branch please contact the branch organiser as above.



Somerton & Langport Area Branch of RNLI

Secretary: Mary Mullineux 251057 email: marybmullineux@gmail.com

The Somerton & Langport Area Branch of RNLI is a small team of local volunteers who arrange several fund raising events in the area during the year.

Coffee mornings, concerts, open gardens, collections and lectures are some of the events held to support our life-saving volunteers at RNLI.

Our branch covers a large area, so we would love to have some more help - if there is anyone who would like to get involved we would be delighted to hear from you.

The RNLI relies on public donations & legacies. It is not government funded and costs £410,000 a day to run.

On average 24 people are saved every day. In 2015 more than 371 people drowned round the UK coastline, 86% of these were male (more than cycling accidents). The RNLI would like to halve that number this year.

St. Margaret's Somerset Hospice Shop Manager: Barry Knapp 274437 Deputy Manager: Alison Aslett 274437

Barry, Alison and all our volunteers would like to take this opportunity to say a big "Thank You" to all our customers and all the people who support us with their kind donations. Without you the shop would not be a success. We would also like to thank all our customers and local businesses for making us feel so welcome in Somerton - we feel part of the community.

As a charity, we are so very lucky to have so many volunteers who give up their time for us - how could we function without them? We love the way our customers will 'pop in' as they walk past just to say "how lovely your window looks today". This is a big compliment, and gives us a great sense of achievement.

Our shop in Somerton is one of 36, and as St. Margaret's is a Somerset based charity, all the money raised in our shops goes to supporting 3,200 people across Somerset every year, at our hospices and in the community. As well as the charity shops, St. Margaret's also hosts numerous fundraising events throughout the year, which are advertised in each shop and on our web site www.st-margarets-hospice. org.uk

Somerton's community web site is packed with useful information. For an update on all events go to: www.somerton.co.uk

Young Somerton

Huish Episcopi Academy

Head Teacher: A. Davis

Contact: 250501 email: office@huishepiscopi.somerset.sch.uk

At Huish we strive to enable all our students to develop their potential to the full. We have high

expectations of them and work hard to provide the support and opportunities they need in order to grow into confident and mature young people. Our academy is a safe and caring environment in which students are helped to develop individual responsibility and consideration for others, as they prepare for the opportunities and challenges of adult life.

As part of ensuring our students receive the best quality education possible we are continuing to invest in campus development; we have recently developed a new AGP, (Artificial Grass Pitch), a state of the art, all weather playing surface that is used by both the academy and the local community. In addition we are about to begin redeveloping our outdoor pool and there will be an investment of over £900,000 in order to cover the pool and redevelop the facilities, ensuring all year usage for both our students and local community users.

Our record of success is impressive. We have maintained high levels of academic success for many years. Classed as 'Good' by OFSTED and recognised as a 'High Performing School' by the Department for Education we were awarded three 'Specialisms' in Science, Languages and Applied Learning. Amongst many other accolades we hold the full 'International School Award'. We are also one of the very few schools nationally that have been allowed to change from being an 11-16 school by developing our own Sixth Form. Huish Sixth opened in September 2010 in brand new £4.5 million facilities. Our sixth form is thriving with the vast majority of leavers entering their first-choice university, including 2 students who entered Cambridge from last year's cohort. Now almost full, we are still welcoming applicants and parents to come and visit whilst considering their post-16 options for September 2016.

Also in September 2010 we were one of the first 32 'Outstanding' schools nationally to convert to Academy Status. This gives us more control over our own affairs and destiny. Our aim now is to become a truly 'world class' school.

King Ina Academy

Infants: Etsome Terrace, Somerton TA11 6LY 272537 email: office@somerton.somerset.sch.uk Juniors: School Lane, Somerton TA11 7NL 272587 email: office@monteclefe.somerset.sch.uk

Primary Education in Somerton is now entering a very exciting stage with the prospect of a one-site school hopefully being achieved in the next year or two. Since the infants and junior schools have merged to form a multi-academy trust, the children have benefited not only from the sharing of teaching and experiences across the two sites, but also from the continual monitoring of education for each individual child throughout the primary years to ensure that they have all the skills needed in later life. All the children enjoy joint activities such as assemblies and curriculum-focussed events and have access to a wide range of after school clubs. The older children also have the opportunity to take part in residential trips.

Once again our Infants Nativity Play and Junior Carol Concert and summer production were extremely successful and we thank all the children for their enthusiasm and the staff that made these events possible.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, governors, parents and friends associations, and parents for all of their support during the year.

Our website is: www.kingina.somerset.sch.uk

King Ina Parents & Friends Association

Chairman: Clive Dyer 273655

School contacts: Kate (infants) 272537 or Jenny (juniors) 272587

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports our events throughout the year.

Although the Infants and Junior schools have now merged to form one primary school we still have two PFAs so that the individual needs of each site can be met. During the school year both PFAs hold various social and fund raising events to raise money for items which enhance the children's time at school but which are not covered by normal school funds, such as payment for school trips and equipment. Our main events are our school fairs and school discos but we also like to hold events that involve the community such as bingo nights, and the junior school summer production.

If you would like any information about either PFA, have ideas for fund-raising, or would like to join either committee, please contact one of the above

Rainbow Rascals

Contact: Pam White 273512 email: pamela.awhite@mypostoffice.co.uk Val King 273005

Every Thursday morning from 9.00 -11.30am during term time Rainbow Rascals meets in the hall at West Street Church. Mums, dads, grandparents and carers are welcome with under school age children. We offer a happy informal atmosphere where the children can play and the 'grown ups' chat with a cup of tea/coffee. There is no charge but we do have a donation pot for contributions towards tea/coffee. Please come along and see us – you will be most welcome.

NB The NHS Baby Clinic operates in the New Room on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month.

ReZound Youth

Contact: Conrad Lucas 07891 665 938 email: admin@lifechurchsomerton.co.uk

On Fridays from 7.00 - 8.30pm during term time, Life Church runs ReZound Youth for years 6 upwards and the meetings are held at Edgar Hall. We play crazy games, board games and outside games in the summer - our focus is fun and time to relax after a busy week.

Roundabout Pre-School

Contact: Office 274382 email: roundaboutpre-school@hotmail.com

Roundabout is a committee run pre-school and has charitable status. We are very much at the heart of the community and have been on the existing site since 1987. We welcome children from 2 years old until they start school and our sessions run from 9am -3.30pm in term time only.

We are Ofsted inspected and pride ourselves on providing a happy, caring environment where children can gain essential social and educational skills preparing them for school. We offer a wide and varied curriculum following the Early Years Foundation Stage and are members of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

We are an inclusive setting and are committed to providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children and families. We believe every child deserves the best possible start in life and we support them to fulfil their potential. Here at Roundabout we provide a safe, caring, secure environment where children are nurtured to develop their skills, knowledge and attitudes from first hand experiences.

For further details please call in, phone or see our website www.roundaboutpreschool.com

Somerton Education Trust

Contact: Tim Bown 272680 email: tim_jenny@hotmail.com

The education of children is one of the most important responsibilities and privileges of a community. Somerton Education Trust (SET) is a registered charity dedicated to supporting the education of the children of Somerton. The trust assists the governing body of King Ina Academy with respect to alteration, improvement and maintenance of school buildings. It also supports the purchase of educational equipment and helps children from low-income families to take part in school trips. It may also support educational needs of young people resident in Somerton attending secondary or further educational institutions. In 2015 the trust contributed to the cost of the feasibility study of a possible new combined school in Somerton.

The trustees normally meet once a term to review the trust's investments and consider applications for grants financed from investment income. If you would like to donate money to SET, you can be certain that it will be used solely to meet the aims described above. There are no deductions for administration. If you are interested in supporting the education of Somerton's children and you would be willing to donate a small amount of time to this cause by becoming a trustee, please contact the above.



Somerton GirlGuiding

Guide Leader and Division Commissioner: Sally Snaddon 250879 email: sally_snaddon@hotmail.co.uk

Why not join Girlguiding? We have rainbows (5-7years) brownies (7-10) and guides (10-14) in Somerton and Curry Rivel and rainbows and brownies in Keinton Mandeville.

There are lots of activities to keep you busy, having fun and earning badges.

Crafts, first aid, outdoor skills, games, sailing and camping are just a few activities that we do. To register your daughter or to become involved as an adult, telephone Sally as above or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/get involved.aspx

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Contact: Fiona Bayles 07580 863 392 email: fiona.bayles@gmail.com

2016 is a really exciting year for scouting as we celebrate 100 years of Cub Scouts and 30 years of Beavers and both sections are fully taking part in the celebrations.

Beavers have had a sleepover at Kingsdon with a visit to Lytes Cary and are currently working towards their gardening badge. The cubs are going to Cubjam - a national celebration at Gilwell Park in London. They are also having a water based summer camp including kayaking and Dragon Boating for those that are unable to attend Cubjam.

The group has formed a link with Wessex House as part of our community work, which has included singing carols with the residents, helping make Easter crafts and plant hanging baskets. Somerton Scout group is open for both girls and boys - Beavers aged 6-8, Cubs aged $8-10\frac{1}{2}$. We currently do not have a Scout section due to lack of leaders, if you would like to help re start the section please contact Fiona Bayles. If you are interested in your child joining the group to avoid disappointment please do not wait until your child is coming up to their 6th birthday as we do have a waiting list for both sections. If you require further information please contact Fiona or see www.somertonscoutgroup.org

St Cleers Chapel Toddler Group

Contact: Linda Sambell 272400 email: linsambell@btinternet.com

An informal group of parents/carers, pre-school children, babies and bumps meets 09.30 - 11.30am on Friday mornings for mutual support and company, giving children space to play and develop mentally, physically and spiritually in a safe, wholesome environment. We have a vast array of toys and extensive facilities, many 'ride-ons', large outdoor and indoor play areas, good security, modern kitchen, microwave for heating baby food, changing facilities, choice of potties(!), good disabled access and toilet (as well as the conventional ones)!

Activities include mixing and free play, crafts, singing, stories, parachute games (strictly at ground level), a summer sports day and a 'Bright Sparks' service at Christmas, Easter and Harvest time. There is no charge, come along, make friends, call for details or visit the St Cleers Chapel website: www. stcleers.co.uk

Treasure Island Toddlers

Contact: Conrad Lucas 07891 665 938 email: admin@lifechurchsomerton.co.uk

We meet on Tuesdays from 10.00 - 11.30am at Edgar Hall during term time for parents, carers, bumps, babies and toddlers. There are lots of toys, music, opportunities for craft and story time - all varied week to week together with refreshments.

Wessex Junior Youth Club

Contact: Clive and Sara Dyer 273655 email: sarad53@hotmail.com

We are open Thursday evenings from 6pm - 7.30pm in the Wessex Rooms. The club is open to all children from age 7 to 13 years. The club workers are all volunteers who give up their time and energy in making sure the children have a good time. Without them the club wouldn't happen. There are many activities the children can get involved in or they can just come and socialise and meet new friends.

The children of Somerton are a great asset to our town and they have a lot to offer. It is our aim to give them something back!



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Clubs and Societies

The Association of Ex-Tabler Clubs

Secretary: Steve Bolter mob 07767 621 802 email: stevebolter@hotmail.com

Just relocated to the area? The Somerton & District 41 Club actively welcomes anybody who is over 40 and has been a member of a Round Table, from anywhere in the world.

We meet every month at various venues in addition to more formal evenings.

See www.41club.org for more details of the aims and objectives of the association.

Come and meet us soon.

Bell Ringing At St Michael's Church

Tower Captain: John Hayter 272002 email: j.hayter36@gmail.com

In many of the churches across the British Isles the bells are rung in a uniquely English style. The ringers themselves are a very sociable lot and, once you can ring, you will be welcome at almost all of those towers. We in Somerton Tower extend that same welcome to all comers, irrespective of whether or not they are ringers.

If you want to see how we ring, please visit us in the tower of the Parish Church.

We are there from 10.15 am to 11.00 am every Sunday (ringing for the 11 am Service) and our practices are held on Wednesdays 7.30pm – 9pm at one of a group of towers – (usually) High Ham 1st Wednesday, Huish Episcopi 2nd Wednesday, Somerton 3rd Wednesday and Pitney 4th Wednesday.

Green Gardeners

Contact: Helen Dickey 273753 email: helendickey@hotmail.co.uk

The Green Gardeners (The Mid Somerset Organic Gardening Group), hold monthly meetings in the Parish Rooms in Somerton. Indoor meetings i.e. September to April are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.30pm. During the summer we arrange outings to local gardens, small-holdings or nature reserves and times can vary so do check Viaduct or our website at www.greengardeners.org.uk for full details. Our speakers cover a wide range of subjects relating to gardening and the environment, and we use the meetings to exchange ideas, sell surplus plants or produce and enjoy a cup of tea and home made cake in a friendly environment. Not all our members have gardens but we have a shared interest in gardens and natural history and are always pleased to welcome visitors and new members.

Laburnum Drive Residents Committee

Secretary: Audrey Cole 272620 email: kins.c@hotmail.com

We are a group, mainly old (but not too old!), who enjoy ourselves whilst doing good work for others. Last year we organised 17 social events and 9 coach trips and raised £1,250 for charity.

We have been formed for 8 years, and we extend our programme to include our neighbours and the wider community of Somerton and the surroundings. We meet in our Community Hall and are residents of Yarlington Housing Group.

Our weekly programme includes coffee mornings, knitting and nattering afternoon, fun bingo and flexicises. On a monthly basis we organise Holy Communion, a social event, bacon butties, breakfasts and a coach trip. Most of our social events have music and entertainment and details are published in Viaduct. We give our residents a Christmas party.

We are limited by numbers, so our residents and regular supporters have to be our priority, but wherever possible we are happy to extend invitations to all.

Mid Wessex Singers

Chair: Steph Berry 01963 240794 email: steph.berry@othoni.myzen.co.uk

We are a friendly group of people who enjoy singing choral music in parts. Since the choir's formation in 1999 we have performed two concerts a year, at Christmas and in spring. Performances over recent years have included choral settings from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Faure's Requiem, Vivaldi's Gloria, Rutter Requiem, Choral Suite from Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man and Bach's Cantata Wachet Auf Ruft Uns Die Stimme. Our 2016 Christmas concert is booked for Saturday 10 December at St Michael's Church, Somerton. We also provide entertainment for people in local care homes and sheltered accommodation.

In September we welcome Elaine Thorneycroft-Gibb as Musical Director. Elaine is a professional harpist, teaches piano, cello, guitar and harp and has been Musical Director for the J Singers in Bridgwater, the Jubilee Singers in North Curry and the Bridgwater Arts Centre Tuesday Morning Choir. We practise on a Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 9.00 pm in the West Street Church Hall in Somerton. We start again on 6 September after our summer break. We always welcome new members. Why not try one of our taster sessions in September?

For more information visit: www.midwessexsingers.wordpress.com

Keep in touch with all that is happening in your town at www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Mothers' Union

Secretary: Janet Hayter 272002 email: j.hayter36@gmail.com

We normally meet on a monthly basis on the second Thursday of each month in the Holy Spirit Chapel in St Michael's Church, when we usually have an invited speaker to talk to us.

Corporate Communion is held at St Michael's on the third Wednesday of each month at 10am.

All are welcome to attend our meetings, details of which are on the MU notice board in the Church Porch.

The Rotary Club Of Langport And Somerton

Contact: Jane Redfearn 252813 email: janeredfearn@hotmail.com

Your local Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton is an informal friendly club, forward thinking and open to new ideas from all its members. Prospective members, including ladies, are always made welcome. Being part of an international organisation, the club raises funds for worldwide projects and to provide financial or practical support after disasters but concentrates on the local area, with every Rotarian determined to give something back to his or her own community.

The Rotary Club has an active social and service programme and membership is by invitation. Why not come along and share dinner with the club at the Langport Arms Hotel one Thursday at 6:30pm? Please contact Jane Redfearn for more information or to book in for a meal.

Rotary International, with more than 1.3 million members worldwide, is best summarised by its motto "Service above Self". Its biggest international project has been working over the last 25 years to complete the worldwide eradication of polio, now in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organisation. To learn more about Rotary, please visit www.rotary. org or www.rotary-ribi.org.

Royal British Legion

President: Brian Parker 272203

Chairman: John Milner 274413 email: milnerjohn2@sky.com

The Somerton Branch of the RBL meets at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of every month at the Somerton Sports Club, Gassons Lane. Our branch operates in three significant areas:

Remembrance - in which we take a lead in ceremonies and services gratefully remembering our war dead:

Welfare - in which we assist folk with an armed services connection who are unwell, disabled or disadvantaged

Social - in which we foster mutual support and sense of belonging in a programme of social events. Membership stands at about 100 and is not exclusive to service and ex-service personnel. Anyone with an interest in the aims and activities of the Legion may join.

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Somerset Branch

Chairman: Graham Beckinsale 01935 826181 email: graham.beckinsale@btinternet.com Secretary: Sheila Barnes 223596 email: sheila.barnes@rocketmail.com

We are the Somerset Branch of the RSCDS and meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 - 9.30pm in the West Street Church Hall, Somerton in term time. This session is for experienced dancers, however please contact us for details of our beginners/intermediate group, which is held nearby on Monday evenings. We also hold occasional day schools and other special events - see Viaduct for details.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Somerton & District Beekeepers' Association

Chairman: Stewart Gould 01749 860755 email: somertonbees@btinternet.com

President and Secretary: Jackie Mosedale 01278 723320 email: jackie@jmosedale.wanadoo.co.uk

Somerton & District Beekeepers Association takes an active part in advancing knowledge of the craft of beekeeping and educating the public in the importance of the honey bee to our environment, economy and food supply.

Winter meetings are held at Somerton Parish Rooms and cover a wide variety of honey bee related topics. During the summer months, members host visits to their apiaries where experienced beekeepers demonstrate on specific aspects of the craft.

An introductory course to beekeeping is held at the start of each year. This is followed up in spring and summer with hands-on sessions at our teaching apiary. A "Taster Day" held in July gives people an insight into keeping bees.

The culmination of the active beekeeping season is our Honey Show and Farmers Market, held in September.

We do have calls from anxious members of the public if a swarm of bees arrives in their garden and are happy to remove it or offer advice.

Members are always happy to give talks and share knowledge of the craft with clubs and organisations and to attend country craft events.

For more information, see our website: www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

Somerton and District Beekeepers Association is a member of Somerset Beekeepers Association which is affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association, Registered Charity No: 277803

Somerton & District Motorcycle & Light Car Club

Secretary: Emily Boulton 01963 34833 email: emilyboulton87@gmail.com

The club was formed in 1948 and comprises many members and a busy, friendly committee that arranges off-road motorcycle events. Throughout each year we organise a grasstrack and multiple trials, catering for both modern and classic motorcycles with routes to suit adult and youth competitors of any ability and experience. Our aim is to offer a fun and satisfying day of riding, and we pride ourselves in our popularity and provision for beginner and youth riders.

Every year we hold a fundraiser trial and support a charity of importance to our committee and riders, with recent donations to Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and Children's Hospice South West.

Please come along and watch one of our events to see what we do. Our committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month, and new members are always welcome, whether or not you ride a motorcycle! For more information about membership, events and committee meetings contact the secretary, see our website www.somerton-mc.co.uk or the Somerton & District MC Facebook page.

Somerton & Frome Conservatives - Somerton Branch

Chairman: AnneYates 274865 email: anne.yates@btinternet.com

Somerton & Frome is one of five parliamentary constituencies in Somerset. The aim of the Somerton Branch is to promote and support the Conservative cause in Somerton and the surrounding area stretching from Compton Dundon to Long Sutton and The Charltons to Upton.

The Conservatives are the leading party in local government in Somerton and at county level. Dean Ruddle, our Town Council Chairman, represents us not only at District, but also on the Conservative led County Council at County Hall in Taunton. Every third Saturday morning of the month Dean holds a 'Surgery' at which anybody of whatever political persuasion is able to discuss important issues affecting them or the community at large. At the General Election this time last year David Warburton was overwhelmingly voted in as our Conservative Member of Parliament and makes himself available to address more wide-ranging issues, whether it be education, transport, or health and welfare.

As a vibrant and active local association, we rely on volunteers to help campaign across the constituency and we welcome your views on local and national issues. Non-members are most welcome to join our functions. If you would like to know more about us and our policies, or to make an appointment with Dean Ruddle at his 'Surgery' please contact us as above.

Somerton & Frome Liberal Democrats

Vice Chairman & local contact: David Harrison 273177 email: dandpharrison@btinternet.com

Somerton & Frome Parliamentary Constituency covers a vast area from the Wiltshire border to approaches to Taunton. It was held for the Liberal Democrats with great distinction from 1997 to 2015 by David Heath. The local party exists to campaign for the Liberal Democrats at all levels in the constituency area. We are fortunate to build on a long radical and liberal tradition in the area. Locally in Somerton, Stephen Page became a District Councillor in the May 2015 elections, helping the Liberal Democrats to continue as the largest party on South Somerset District Council.

The party unites all who believe in an open society offering opportunity to all regardless of race, gender, orientation, background or creed. It believes government at all levels should be about all the people including the poor and vulnerable. It is international in outlook and is the main local practical opponent of both recent local cuts in services and the disgraceful "first past the post "voting system which means in Somerset there is no connection between votes and seats held by parties. No surprise that turnout can be low!

We include both individuals who are formal members and those who are supporters. A regular constituency newsletter keeps all in touch with social and political events - with those in the SSDC area being of particular interest to Somerton residents. If you would like to know more please let us know.

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Somerton Allotments Association

Contact: Marion Flewitt 272598 email: marionflewitt@ymail.com

The allotments are situated to the south of the town on land leased to us by a local landowner. There are a total of 58 plots measuring on average 10 metres x 12 metres, growing fruit and vegetables..

We are a varied and mixed group of people who enjoy growing, the outdoors and sharing information.

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If you would like to join our association or want more information, please give Marion a call

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Somerton Classic Motorcycle Club

Secretary: David Fisher 252667 email: sweetbriarcottage@btinternet.com

The Somerton Classic Motorcycle club organises off road events, mainly observation trials, catering for owners of pre-1965 British motorcycles, and also for bikes made

until about 1990 with 2 shock absorbers, mostly of Spanish or Japanese manufacture, called 'twin-shocks'. Our events feature three routes for experts, club-men and gentlemen, and are of varying difficulty to give riders of all abilities the chance to have an enjoyable day out.

We meet at the Globe Inn at 8.00pm on the second Monday of each month and new members are welcome, any non-riding members can always help in some way.

Last year's events included a 2 day trial at Priddy in June and a display of trials riding at the Somerset Steam and Country Show at Low Ham in July. Over the year our donations to charity amounted to £1600 to Clic Sargent and £300 to the Air Ambulance and hopefully we can do something similar in 2016, which is also our 20th anniversary.

Other details can be found on our website www.somertonclassicmotorcycleclub.co.uk

Somerton Dramatic Society

Chairman: Francis Cawley 07887 795 696

Membership Secretary: Rachel Garrett 01963 240417

Secretary: Joanna Ellis 07968 415 147 email: jellis.42269@gmail.com

Last year's pantomime was 'Pirates of the Cary-bbean', which received phenomenal feedback and resulted in the Society achieving 'The Spotlight Shield' as well as other trophies from the Somerset Fellowship of Drama. In April 2016, we performed "Annie" which was an astounding success and a complete sell-out - a testimony to how much the community value the drama club. During the summer months the society runs SYD (Somerton Youth Drama) - children's workshops - for approximately 12 weeks. Last summer the children took part in the Somerton Arts Festival performing a 'melody of frozen songs', which was enjoyed by both the children and audience!

We are a very friendly group and enjoy welcoming new performing members, and for those who prefer to be "behind the scenes", we always need carpenters, painters, seamstresses, prop makers, tea makers, computer experts etc.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Somerton Embroidery Club

Contacts: Grace Lister 272176 email: gracelister@yahoo.co.uk or Jeanette Stockel 274198 email: jwstockel@btinternet.com

We are a small friendly group of needlewomen who meet fortnightly on Mondays in Edgar Hall, Somerton. Members can attend either for a full day or half a day. Tuition is given by a qualified teacher on all types of embroidery apart from machine work. Our group meet in the autumn, winter and spring and during the summer months we sometimes have one-day workshops. We welcome all needlewomen, beginners or the more experienced and are open to both old and new ideas on what constitutes embroidery so do come along and enjoy our company. It is a leisurely pursuit, which does not lead to any professional qualification, just a very pleasant way to pass the time in good company. If you would like to join us please contact one of the above.

Somerton Festival Band

Contact: Sarah Baker 01935 321330 mob: 07871 189 849 email: sarah.supersax@tiscali.co.uk.

Somerton Festival Band is a concert band comprising woodwind, brass and percussion. It was formed in 1995 under the baton of ex-Royal Marine John Stone, who conducted the band until 2003 when he decided he would rather become a playing member of the band and he passed the baton on to Geoff Gooderham who had previously conducted Kingsbury Episcopi Band for many years.

The present conductor of the Festival Band is Phil Lambton. He retired in 2004 after 30 years service, from the position of Bandmaster of HMS Heron Volunteer Band at RNAS Yeovilton.

The band plays a wide repertoire of music including classical, film music, novelty items and music from Broadway & West-End Shows and performs at a variety of engagements throughout the year.

Somerton Gardeners' Club

President: Linda Sambell 272400

Chairman: Pauline Saunders 272769 email: pauline.clarke55@yahoo.co.uk

We are an active, friendly group of people who enjoy our gardening, whether it is growing pansies in a window box, or giant leeks in the vegetable garden or allotment. We share our "know-how", enjoy each other's company and benefit fully from it.

We meet in West Street Church hall at 7.30 pm on the first Monday of each month. Guest speakers give talks on a wide variety of garden-related subjects. We hold a plant sale in May and arrange evening visits during the summer months. In late August there is a community flower/ vegetable/ craft show held at King Ina Academy, which is open to anyone,.

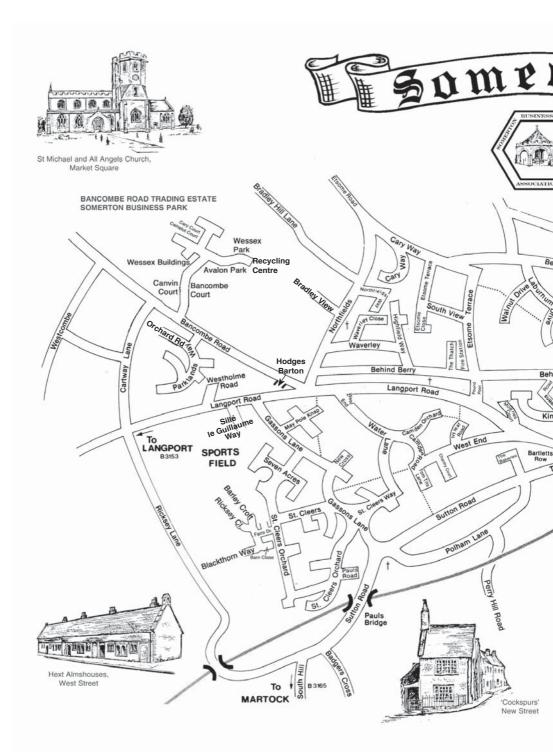
The annual subscription for club membership is £10, which also entitles members to discounts locally and farther afield – well worth having as you can soon cover your membership cost. Visitors are most welcome, whether you have green fingers or not!

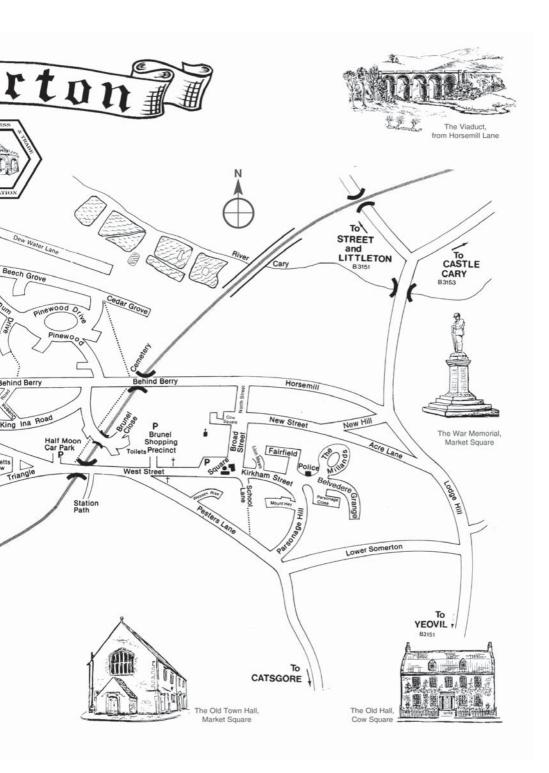
The Somerton Group Of Artists

Secretary: Lesley Cruickshank 270233 email: colinlesley.cruickshank@virgin.net

The Somerton Group of Artists was formed in 1992 with a small gathering of artists. There are now over 50 members and membership is open to anyone interested in art. The fee is currently £20 a year. Indoor sessions are held from 7.30 - 9.30pm on the second Wednesday each month from September to April in the Parish Rooms, Somerton. Guests are welcome to come along at £5 an evening. There is a varied programme of events, with workshops plus talks and demonstrations by professional artists. In the winter months, some members also meet every Tuesday morning in Long Load Village Hall to paint and draw together. In the summer months, daytime sessions are held outdoors for sketching and painting in and around Somerton and district – usually based near somewhere for a delicious lunch or tea! An exhibition is held each summer.

For more information log on to our website http://sgpa.webplus.net or contact the secretary.





Somerton History Society

Chairman: Nancy Schooling 273859 email: nancy.langmaid1@btinternet.com

Are you interested in local and national history? Come and join the Somerton History Society. For just £12 a year, we offer monthly talks on fascinating subjects

such as 'Corfe Castle', 'Bridgwater Hospitals', the Siege of Taunton in 1644, what local men did in the Great War and surprising habits of people in the 17th century.

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7.00 for 7.30 pm at the Parish Rooms. Visitors are welcome to come and meet the members and enjoy the activities.

Somerton Literary and Poetry Society (SLAPS)

Contact: Jenny Jones 273139 email: jenny34jones@gmail.com

We are a small group who meet monthly to read poems and pieces of prose to one another, on themes we choose in advance. Some people contribute works of their own, but mostly we hear from other wordsmiths - old favourites or new discoveries. Our discussions on options and authors, inspirations and origins can be serious or light-hearted, but always enjoyable.

We meet in Somerton on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm and we welcome new friends.

Somerton Probus Club

President: Chris Mitchell 741718 email: madjim1968@gmail.com Secretary: Ewan Hewitt 01935 822968 email: ewanandsue@gmail.com

Probus clubs throughout the UK and in many other countries have members who are retired or semi-retired professional or businessmen who welcome opportunities to meet and enjoy the company of others in a relaxed atmosphere. The Somerton Probus Club meets at noon at the Somerton Sports Club, Gassons Lane, on the last Wednesday of each month for a light lunch followed by a talk given by a visiting speaker or, on occasions, by one of the members. Three or more outings are arranged each year when wives and guests are invited to join members.

Do please contact one of those named above if you would like to join us at one of our meetings to see whether you would like to become a member.

Somerton Quilters

Contact: Ann Malling 273201 email: ann.malling@talktalk.net

Somerton Quilters are a group of ladies who meet in the Parish Rooms in the Market Place. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. We do our own projects, share ideas and help where needed. We do sometimes have a group project and outside experts with new ideas do a workshop. Come and see if you would like to join enthusiastic ladies sewing.

Somerton Women's Institute

President: Marilyn Muffett 899773 email: marilynmuffett@gmail.com Secretary: Sue Haigh 841515 email: pebbles515@btinternet.com

Somerton WI has a thriving membership of 60+. We meet at 7.15pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Parish Rooms. As well as the monthly meetings, at which we have a speaker, there are a number of other activities available to join, skittles and a reading group to name but two. There are also group and county events covering a huge variety of interests. The NFWI also campaign on important national issues and have achieved many successes in changing policies over the years. A subscription is payable to the National Federation of Women's Institutes who provide a framework and support but each Institute is what its members wish it to be. The WI provides friendship, education and a social network that extends around the whole country.

You will find a warm welcome should you decide to visit.

The Street and Glastonbury Recorded Music Group

Secretary: Brendan Sadler 442880 email: brendansadler@aol.com

If you enjoy listening to recorded music and would like to share your enthusiasm with others of like mind, the group can provide opportunities to increase your appreciation and broaden your musical horizons. Members have a wide range of musical interests, from pre-classical to present day composers; also from serious to light. Programmes are chosen and presented by various members and occasionally by invited guests.

We meet in members' homes, normally on the first Friday of each month. The atmosphere is informal and during the interval, when we share light refreshments, there is opportunity to chat about music and related matters of interest. If you are interested and would like to come along please contact the secretary - you will be most welcome.

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The University Of The Third Age

Chairman: Jane Redgrove

Secretary: Kay Williamson 448694 email: kwilliamson46@hotmail.com

We are not a university in the academic sense, but we are to do with 'The Third Age', as all our members are over 50 and not in full time employment. We offer a wide variety of activities that are stimulating and enjoyable. Most happen during the day and everything is run on a voluntary basis, which keeps our running costs down.

There are over fifty interest groups available, including art, aviation, bird watching, chess, collectables, computing, cooking, drama, European studies, family history, film appreciation, garden visits, geology, latin, mah-jong, music appreciation, photography, pins & needles, play reading, science and technology, scrabble, singing for fun, theatre visits, walking groups and many others.

Membership costs £12.50 a year, which includes the monthly meeting, a national and local magazine and also entitles members to join as many groups as they wish. Most groups meet in local halls or member's homes and there is usually a small charge to cover group costs.

For more details see www.u3asites.org.uk/somerton



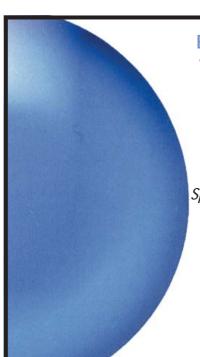
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Sports

Castle Cary Skittle League

Chairman: Rob Comer 07970 937 841

Secretary: Toby Strang 272191 mob: 07783 134 498 email: toby@strang35.freeserve.co.uk

This league plays matches on Wednesday or Thursday evenings with many teams playing from Somerton alleys.

Teams are made up of 8 players for which can be all men, all ladies or mixed.

Some cup competitions are played on Monday evenings.

New teams are always welcome to join with the AGM held in July.

Huish & Langport Cricket Club

Chairman: Graham Lock 250453

Secretary: Toby Strang 272191 mob: 07783 134 498 email: toby@strang35.freeserve.co.uk

We are a most active cricket club with both adult and junior teams. Many youngsters have joined us from Somerton and enjoy playing in both junior fixtures with some making it into adult teams.

We play junior matches in the Taunton Youth League and Mid-Wessex Youth League.

Adult teams play within the Somerset Cricket League - we field three Saturday teams.

We also run a Sunday team who play friendly matches.

Our subscriptions and match fees are very competitive.

We welcome new players to join. U11s play on Friday evenings, U13 & 15s play on Sunday mornings and U14s play on Thursday evenings.

Mid Somerset Riding Club

Secretary: Marian Draper 07885 301 898 email: mariandraper737@btinternet.com

Mid Somerset Riding Club is an affiliated British Riding Club catering for members over 18 years of age. The club organises competitions and training on a regular basis throughout the year with top class trainers in all disciplines.

We currently use facilities at Kingfisher Equestrian at Lovington, World Horse Welfare at Kingsdon, King's Sedgemoor Equestrian Centre at Greylake, South Barrow Equestrian at Sparkford Hall and Wincanton Racecourse. We also organise non riding events and have an annual supper night with a guest speaker, In 2015 it was the champion jockey, Richard Johnson, and the evening raised £2280 for the Injured Jockeys Fund.

The club sends teams to area qualifiers for the National Championships - and over the years Mid Somerset has won many national titles and was British Riding Club of the Year in 2012. The club is also pleased to welcome non-riding members who would like to help and be involved at our events.

The annual subscription is currently £25 - full details can be found on the website www.msrc-online.co.uk

Somerton & District Bowls Club

Secretary: Roy Stafford 274031

Membership Secretary: Liz Cooper 274439

The club was formed in 1980 and is situated on Gassons Lane. Our bowling season is from mid April to mid September. It is a mixed club and we compete against many other bowls clubs both at home and away during the summer months. Also, competitions are held between the members and other informal events take place regularly. The club is happy to receive new members, experienced or novices and a warm welcome from our members is assured. Tuition will be provided if required. There is a dress code for formal games and flat-soled shoes are essential on the green.

Why not give it a try - if you are interested, contact either of the above. Alternatively, just turn up on any Friday afternoon at about 1:45pm for a "roll up" before deciding whether you wish to join. If you enjoy it we would be delighted to have you as a member

Somerton Bridge Club

Contact: Joan Davies 272418 email: joandavies15@rocketmail.com Jim Dawson 251228

Somerton Bridge Club extends a warm welcome to all bridge players. We meet in the West Street Church hall on Monday afternoons 2.00 - 5.00pm (Chicago) and Thursday evenings 7.00 - 10.00pm (Duplicate). For more details, contact one of the above.







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Somerton & District Darts League

Chairman: John Milner 274413 mob: 07718 390 788

Secretary: Toby Strang 272191 mob: 07783 134 498 email: toby@strang35.freeserve.co.uk

Headquarters are based at Somerton Sports Club and that is where all non-league competitions are held. The league plays matches on Friday evenings usually from October to April, teams are of 6 players plus additional pairs players.

At present we have 8 teams playing in the league - but we welcome new teams to enter.

Somerton Rugby Football Club

Chairman: Jerry Phillips mob 07943 480 574 email: jeremy.phillips@screwfix.com Secretary: Chris Palmer 251066 email: chris1953p@gmail.com

Somerton RFC is a friendly, welcoming club with great expectations for the future. The club was formed in 1998 by local rugby enthusiasts with its home ground at the Recreation Ground, Gassons Lane, Somerton. The first XV plays in the 'Tribute' Somerset Two South league and training takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the season. The 2015/16 season finished in late April 2016 with the first XV finishing in a very creditable fifth position.

With a youth section consisting of U16 and U18 girls' teams, and aspirations to field a range of boys' teams in the future, there is much to look forward to in terms of future development if the club is to realise its ambitions.

In support of our teams, fully trained/qualified coaches and trained parent helpers, including first-aiders and welfare officers, are in place.

The tremendous spirit that exists within the club has always been a great strength along with a shared passion to promote and celebrate all that is best within the rugby environment for players, members, supporters and sponsors to enjoy.

If you are interested in playing at any level for the club, want to get involved or become a sponsor, please contact the chairman or visit our website www.somertonrfc.co.uk for more information.

Somerton Snooker Club

Chairman: Mike Standen 273471

Secretary: Mrs Lesley Francis 274286 email: lesleyfrancishome@gmail.com

Situated in purpose-built premises adjoining the Sports Club in Gassons Lane, the club room is one of the best equipped private member's clubs in the district. The high standard of the facilities includes four exceptionally well maintained tables in a pleasantly heated room with direct access to the Sports Club bar.

The standard of play varies from the best in the district to beginners and those who just enjoy a friendly game.

Members are friendly and you will usually find someone to play against.

Membership categories are: Juniors aged 11-15, Probationers: aged 16-17, Seniors aged 18-65 and Senior Citizens (at reduced rates)

Membership fees are very reasonable and include full membership of the Sports Club and a refundable deposit on a key fob to access the Snooker room from 10am to closing time seven days a week. Meter fees start at just 50p.

If you would like to try a session before you embark on full membership, why not take advantage of our free trial sessions? Just call Mike or Lesley to arrange a time and date.

Somerton Sports Club

Secretary: John Milner 274413 email: milnerjohn2@sky.com

Club: 273808

This facility is owned by Somerton Town Council and run by a dedicated team of volunteers. We are always looking for new members and helpers to assist in any way. Whist drives, bingo, dances, quiz nights, darts and skittles are all events on our social calendar.

The sports field is the biggest public green area in town and provides a home for football, rugby, cricket, bowls, tennis and rounders - all at senior and junior levels. We now coach most sports weekly for 6 to 60 year olds! Sports Club membership is still only £5 a year, but feel free to use the outside facilities. We are fortunate to have a superb play area and skate park alongside a multi-use games area, which is available for hire in the winter with floodlights.

Somerton Tennis Club

Chairman: Bridget Hodsman 272986

Membership Secretary: Jason Gordon 899474

Somerton Tennis Club is a club with over 80 years standing within the town and welcomes members of all ages and abilities. Affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association, and having a wide range of coaching, social and competitive opportunities, we are able to offer a warm welcome to all.

We are able to offer coaching opportunities for all ages and are LTA accredited for Mini Tennis (for children between 3 and 10 years old). Please contact Neil Driver, our head coach, on 270131 for details of all coaching.

For adults, if you fancy a game of tennis, why not come along to one of our social sessions on Wednesdays from 6.30pm or Sundays from 10.30am. You can try us out for 3 sessions for just £1 a session, subtracted from your membership if you decide to join. For junior tennis, please call us to find out the best session for you or your child and to arrange to have a go.

Non-members can hire a court for £6 per hour by contacting Wendy Driver on 270131.

For further details, please give us a ring or see our website: www.somertontennisclub.co.uk

Somerton Town Football Club

Contact: Jason Burton mob 07825 180 506 email: jasonb52s@yahoo.com

Somerton Town FC is a Charter Standard club, which has two adult teams as well as a youth set up, known as Somerton Town Youth (see separate entry). The adult teams consist of two teams, a First Team and Reserves, The First team play in the Somerset County League and the reserves play in the Yeovil and District Football league.

Last season, the first team won their second successive league title, gaining promotion to Division 1 of the Somerset County League, whilst the reserves finished third in the Division 1 of the Yeovil League If you are interested in playing for Somerton Town FC, please contact Jason

Somerton Town Youth FC

Chairman: Dan Shore 07899 911 946 email: somertonyfcsecretary@hotmail.com

We're a well-established FA Charter Standard Youth football club based at Somerton Recreation Ground and cater for football for girls and boys from 4-16yrs.

We have FA qualified coaches across all the age groups starting with our successful soccer school which takes place every Saturday at 10.00am for children ages 4-7yrs, We have under 8s -16s teams playing in the Yeovil District Mini and Youth Leagues playing matches Saturday and Sundays.

We currently have approximately 150 children registered and playing for our club and have had some recent success with our 8/9/10/11s winning cup competitions and leagues but most of all we play with a smile on our faces and for the enjoyment of sport in a safe environment.

We have strong links with the very successful Somerton Town FC and there is a natural progression in place for the u16s to carry on playing adult football once they have finished youth.

For more information find us on Facebook and Twitter

Team TOR 2000 Cycle Racing Club

Local contact: Neil Taylor 272242 email: info@tor2000.co.uk

Somerton based TEAM TOR 2000's aims are to provide opportunities for members to experience a vast array of cycling activities. The club has boasted a World Champion and National Champions, but the club also welcomes members who just wish to participate in the non-competitive activities. TEAM TOR 2000 is affiliated to British Cycling, promoting and organising many events, both for experienced racers and novices. TEAM TOR 2000 is an accredited GO-RIDE club, with qualified coaches and regular events aimed at youth and junior riders.

The club has close ties to Scorpion CS, a specialist Somerton business with expertise in cycle fitting, cycle training programmes and equipment, and internationally-renowned Kalas Sportswear which supplies the club with premium quality cycle clothing. The club is also proud of its local ties, and is delighted to promote local sponsors: Kalas, Scorpion C.S., Sun Traffic Signals, Overt Locke Ltd and White Lake Cheese.

For more details see our website www.tor2000.co.uk or find us on Facebook



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Somerton Churches

Churches Together in Somerton

Secretary: Peter Spearman 273445 email: peterjspearman@gmail.com

Coordinator: Revd Chris Hopkins 272029

Churches Together in Somerton (CTIS) brings together all five different denominations in Somerton. Members of the individual churches are automatically members of CTIS. We are run by an executive - comprising elected members from each church - and they are responsible for organising our joint events.

Over the last year we have held Lent Groups and Lunches and raised money for WaterAid, CLYP (a local youth project), the homeless through Barnabas Housing Association and the Salvation Army.

We run a lunch club, food bank, SlaMS (men's shed), ArchiesXtra (Youth Outreach) and hold special services for those with learning difficulties (Just4U). In June, we offer prayers for this community from the former Longmire's shop in West Street 24 hours a day for 6 days. Every year, we will be on the streets with carol singing at Christmas, the "Walk of Witness" on Good Friday and a dawn service on Easter Sunday - so do look out for us.

Just4u

Contact: Pam Dixon 250603

Just4u provides a short form of worship, which includes music, easy language, visuals, fun and action, audience participation and refreshments. Everyone (including their carers) is welcome to this all-ability service, which is designed specifically for anyone with a learning disability or has difficulty in communicating.

We meet 6 times a year at St Cleers Chapel on Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm and services are sponsored by Churches Together in Somerton. Dates of the services will be published in Viaduct.

For more details visit www.just-4u.org.uk

Life Church, Somerton

Contact: Conrad Lucas 07891 665 938 email: admin@lifechurchsomerton.co.uk

Life Church is a church for the community - whether you are on your own, a couple or a family, you are welcome to come along and belong. We keep church simple - it's all about meeting with one another, encouraging and helping each other and getting to know Jesus.

On Sundays we meet at 10.30am for our Sunday Service followed by tea, coffee and generally a lovely home baked cake. We also have Sunday School during our morning service for the children, which includes a bible story and craft.

On Tuesdays from 10.00 - 11.30am during term time we run Treasure Island Toddlers for parents, carers, bumps, babies and toddlers - lots of toys, music, opportunity for craft and story time - all varied week to week together with refreshments.

On Fridays from 7.00 - 8.30pm during term time we run ReZound Youth for years 6 upwards. We play crazy games, board games and outside games in the summer - our focus is fun and time to relax after a busy week.

Life Church meets at the Edgar Hall in Somerton.

For more information visit our website www lifechurchsomerton coluk or find us on Facebook.

The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels

Priest in charge: Rev Alan Symonds 272029 email: admin@stmichaels-somerton.co.uk

St Michael and All Angels Church is the Anglican Parish Church in the centre of the town. It is normally open through the day, every day, for quiet reflection and prayer.

We meet as a group to worship on Wednesday mornings for communion at 10:00am and on Sundays at 8:00am and 11:00am. One Sunday each month we hold an evening healing service at 6:30pm and on another Sunday, we hold a discussion event called "Connect" at 7:30pm. We also meet for prayer on a Saturday morning at 9:30am and then afterwards some stay in town offering prayer for any needs. We host a number of concerts throughout the year with a variety of musical styles. Everyone is welcome at any or all of these events so please check the notice boards or Viaduct to see what is going on.

We also offer ministry through baptisms, weddings, funerals and pastoral care to all in the area. If you would like to avail yourself of any of these services or for any other reason, please contact the Rev Alan Symonds.

Religious Society of Friends - Quakers

Contact: Annette Price 447367 email: annette_leighprice@yahoo.co.uk

Our faith is based on Christianity and we try to live our lives in truth, peace, simplicity and equality, finding God in ourselves and those around us. Our meetings offer a welcoming opportunity for spiritual exploration. We believe our faith is lived in action and we act with others to build a more just and peaceful world. We work and worship together, without traditional structures or paid clergy. There are Quaker meetings at Long Sutton, Sherborne, Street and Wincanton and you may find out more about us on line at www.quaker.org.uk

West Street Church

Contact: Pam White 273512 email: pamela.awhite@mypostoffice.co.uk Ministers: Rev Craig Manley (Methodist) 01963 351598 Rev Tim Richards (URC) 252799

Since September 2015, the congregations of the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church have been worshipping together in the former Methodist building and the new name is West Street Church.

The congregations formally became one church as a Local Ecumenical Partnership in May 2016.

Everyone is welcome to become part of our family where we support and encourage each other in our daily lives, to grow and develop in the Christian way of life.

Do join us for our morning service, followed by a cup of coffee or tea on any Sunday.

Sunday Services: 10.30am and occasionally 6.00pm

Singing for Fun: 11am to 12 noon on 2nd and 4th Mondays (as advertised)
Women's Fellowship: 2.45pm alternate Wednesdays (details on Notice Board)
Rainbow Rascals: 9.00am to 11.30am Thursdays (during term time)

There is also a range of group meetings, and the building is home to many different organisations. Details are on the notice board, in Viaduct and on the new website www.weststreetchurch.org.uk

St Cleers Chapel

Pastoral and General Enquiries: Justyn and Rachel Maynard 273403 email:juma321@aol.com Youth Work: Martin and Karen Cuthbert 270091

We would love to meet you at one of our 10.30am or 6.30pm Sunday services or Messy Church on a Thursday 4pm (monthly), but also at any of the different groups and activities for every age and stage organised through the week. We and all the churches in Somerton (CTIS) offer opportunities to explore and learn about the Christian faith and seek to support our community in as many ways as we can. We worship and love an amazing, creative, faithful, holy and loving God who has shown us who he is and what he is like through his son Jesus Christ. Why not risk discovering that for yourself? Please come along or if you want to know more give us a ring (see above) or email us or see our website: www.stcleers.co.uk

St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church

Parochial Administrator: Father Jan Bak 274008 email: somerton.stdunstan@parish.cliftondiocese.com St Dunstan's Presbytery, Langport Road, Somerton, TA11 6RS.

Mass at Somerton: Saturday 6:00pm and Sunday 10:30am.

There is coffee after Sunday Mass.

Weekday Masses please see notice in church porch.

Holy Days: Somerton 7:00pm

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Community Organisations

Friends of Edgar Community Hall (FoSECH)

Secretary: Sherry Briggs 273476 email: sherry.briggs@lineone.net

The "Friends" continue to fundraise and facilitate the provision of "extras" for the benefit of hall users. Since our last Somerton News entry the "Friends" have provided the new dishwasher, fridge and freezer which helped greatly towards the conversion of the servery into a very much more usable space and seems most appreciated.

If you have an interest in the growing and continuing success of the hall, we would love to welcome you as a member of the "Friends". See our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/somertonedgarhall

Friends of the Parish Rooms

Chairman: Vic Medley 273475 email: jandvmedley@aol.com

Treasurer: Martyn Smith 273058 email: martynandsue@hotmail.com

The Friends of the Parish Rooms is a registered charity and was formed in late 2010 with the stated purpose of "To maintain and improve the Parish Rooms for the communal benefit of the inhabitants of Somerton and its surroundings". The Parish Rooms Management Committee is responsible for "things that need to be done", but FotPR provides the "things that would be nice to have".

Many functions and fund raising events are held ranging from a monthly afternoon of Rummikub, occasional lunches and the very popular monthly Moviola cinema. Look out for notices around the town and in Viaduct for details. Every event provides extra funds to help improve your Parish Rooms. Funds raised have been put to good use - new hand driers in the toilets, a new water boiler in the kitchen and new blinds in the chair store (which doubles as a changing room during plays etc).

Regular updates are provided in Viaduct and by email (if you let the treasurer have your email address!).

Somerton Neighbourhood Watch

Contact: Lindsey Stone 01823 363348 email: nhwatch@uwclub.net

The Neighbourhood Watch group is looking to recruit more members within the police area of Somerton. There is some coverage within our area but there are a lot of streets not covered. The first step in setting up a scheme is to speak to your neighbours and find out the interest - the more there are the more successful a scheme will be. The key contact in a scheme is the local co-ordinator who receives messages regarding any incidents within the area.

To discuss setting up a scheme in your area contact the above or your local PCSO

Do not forget in an emergency call 999 or if it is a non-emergency call 101.



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Lady Smith Memorial Institute (Charity No: 304629) The Parish Rooms

Chairman of the Trustees: Vic Medley 273475 email: jandvmedley@aol.com Secretary: Denise Newman 272625 email: da-newman@tiscali.co.uk Bookings: Nancy Schooling: 273859 email: nancy.langmaid1@btinternet.com

The Lady Smith Memorial Institute (LSMI), commonly known as the "Parish Rooms", stands in the historic Market Place and has served as a meeting place for the people of Somerton for over a hundred years.

Frances Lady Smith spent her whole adult life helping other people, especially in Somerton. When she died in 1896 the Parish Rooms were built in her memory and paid for by contributions from her wealthy London friends and by pennies and halfpennies collected from the Somerton people she had helped. Nowadays, the building consists of two meeting rooms - the Lady Smith Hall seating 100 and the Pinney Room seating 30.

The facility is run for the community by a committee of eight Charity Management Trustees consisting of representatives of the user groups and two representatives from the Town Council. The Parish Rooms are financed primarily by income from the hire fees, but for capital improvement works we are supported with substantial help from Somerton Community Association and by the Friends of the Parish Rooms. Financial support is also given by Somerton Town Council.

Recent improvements include new front doors and a "proper" wet central heating system to replace the hotch-potch of direct gas heaters, electric storage heaters and oil-filled electric heaters - both generously financed by Somerton Community Association. The "Friends" have provided new modern hand driers in the toilet, a good sized water boiler and a new fridge in the kitchen and new blinds in the chair store.

The long list of users includes Somerton's Pantomime (oh yes it does!) and many local clubs and societies

We are indebted to our long-standing and consciencious caretaker Cheryl Tuttiett, who keeps us up to scratch.

If you would like to book the Lady Smith Hall (seats 100 people) or the Pinney Room (seats 30), please contact the Booking Clerk, Nancy Schooling on tel: 01458 273859 or email.

Somerton and District/Licciana Nardi Twinning Association (SADLINTA)

Chairman: Sue Jackson 01460 281228 email: kjackson@gmx.com

Membership Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Cox 273085 email: cox.cj@btinternet.com

SADLINTA is the area's Italian twinning association, founded in 1996. Licciana Nardi is the administrative centre of a beautiful rural area in the foothills of the Apennines in north-west Tuscany, known as the Lunigiana.

We meet locally for social events and have exchange visits annually. Over the years we have made friends for life and learned a great deal about Italy and the Italians and some have improved their spoken Italian. There are also individual visits in both directions. The Italians have a saying "our home is your home", which is certainly true in our experience.

It is not essential to be able to speak Italian although many of our members do to varying degrees. We have close links with local language classes for those who wish to learn, improve or just practice the language.

Join us to experience warm and generous Italian hospitality, lots of wonderful food, to practice your linguistic skills, make new friends and, in turn, welcome them to Somerset.

Somerton Business & Trade Association

Chairman: Don Turner 07976 533 356

Membership Secretary: Ian Laker 273452 email: lakerian@hotmail.com

Our association, which has over 100 members, was formed in 1983 to promote the trading and commercial interests of Somerton's business community.

Meeting regularly, we undertake a wide variety of projects on an ongoing basis, all attracting business to our town and helping to keep it thriving. We are actively involved in producing 50,000 Somerton Mini Guide tourist leaflets for distribution throughout the West Country and we continue to support the Somerton Music & Arts Festival. In early 2017 we will be publishing and distributing over 11,000 copies of the 15th edition of our Shops & Services Directory, in which each member has a free entry. In addition to our annual sponsorship of the "Best Floral Display for Commercial Premises" award we hold a local Business Awards event biennially which we hope to expand to non-members.

If you run a business in Somerton and would like to join us then visit Somerton's Community website www.somerton.co.uk/sbta or contact the membership secretary.

Somerton Community Association

Secretary: Sherry Briggs 273476 email: sherry.briggs@lineone.net

Once again; we would like to thank Westcombe Waste for their continued generosity in donating their Landfill Tax Credits. We appreciate that this comes at a cost to their business as well as some onerous administration.

Thanks to them, the Parish Rooms has a new central heating system and loudspeakers, some repairs to the plasterwork and redecoration.

The Edgar Hall benefited from a new stage lighting bar in 2015.

We have various projects in mind for our public buildings in the near future which includes new carpeting in the Wessex Rooms.

Somerton First Responders

Group Coordinator: Ian Rodger mob 07890 507 452

We are a small team of dedicated local volunteers trained by and working within the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SWAST). We respond to emergency calls within our community, with the aim of quickly and efficiently providing care ahead of the arrival of an ambulance. The type of work we do is as varied as it is rewarding and can take in every aspect of emergency care within our set protocols from providing reassurance for someone in distress to actually saving someone's life.

All our responders undergo basic lifesaving skills training followed by working several shifts with frontline ambulance crews, prior to starting within the local responder group. Ongoing practical and theory training is carried out along with periodic assessments at our monthly meetings in the town - where we are very happy to welcome visitors.

If you would like to know more about what we do, or are interested in becoming a first responder, contact us or see the website www.swast.nhs.uk and click on the "working with us" tab.

Somerton Historic Building Preservation Trust

Chairman: Bob Harris 273250 email: marob.harris@gmail.com

Secretary: Elizabeth Mahon 272323

SHBPT was set up in 2009 by a group of residents concerned at the way the heart of the town had deteriorated; in particular the Grade 2 listed Old Town Hall.

The trust's initial plans to take into ownership, conserve and manage the building, proved to be too ambitious due to the difficulty of raising funds for capital purchase.

Somerton is fortunate in that the current owner of the building has decided to continue with the plans for an art gallery and the proposed use by the combined Somerset and Devon Guild of Craftsmen to showcase their products and on an occasional basis run workshops, exhibitions, and demonstrations. As a result of this, the building is being sensitively upgraded to become a more attractive prospect for these activities. Modern heating, lighting, disabled access and security has either been incorporated or will be in the near future. SHBPT has been used as a consultant on many of these activities in conjunction with the conservation officer.

The trust sees this project as one that will support the revitalization of the town centre, making Somerton a vibrant destination to visit.

Somerton Music and Arts Festival

Chairman: Alex Stannett 07928 508 700 email: alexstannett@gmail.com

The Somerton Music and Arts Festival is an annual event held in July and is organised by a group of volunteers with the aim "To provide affordable entertainment for the people of Somerton and the surrounding area". Events included: drama, workshops for the school / pre schools, talks, walks, an art & photography exhibition, plus a wide variety of musical styles from tribute bands to more original. Every year there is a traditional market and family fun day, which is free. Events take place throughout the town including the Edgar Community Hall, St Michael & All Angels Church and local pubs, with events also being held throughout the year to help sustain the festival.

The committee meets approximately once a month from September onwards to plan for the future year's festival and is always looking for new ideas and people to join the committee.

See our website: www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk

Somerton Neighbourhood Policing Team

Contact: Emergency 999 Non-emergency 101

Beat Sergeant: PS Dean Hamilton Beat Manager: PC Terri Lines PCSO: Ben Middleditch

Somerton Police Station is home to the 'Area North' Policing Team, although it is no longer manned. Our area of responsibility mirrors the District Council boundaries, which includes the Wessex, Turn Hill and Langport wards. Somerton is a safe place to live, work and visit. The challenge for the team is not to become complacent and ensure this remains the case.

We work closely with partners to resolve issues when they are identified and there are a number of ways members of the public can become involved. Initiatives include Neighbourhood Watch, Farm and Horse Watches, Cold Calling Aware zones and nominated Neighbourhood schemes.

If you are interested in any of these please feel free to phone 101 or e-mail via the 'in your area' section of our website at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Somerton Tourism And Heritage Partnership

Chairman: Jackie Medley: 273475 email: jmmedley46@gmail.com Secretary: Liz Roddie 272675 email: joseph.roddie@btinternet.com

The local information centre run by STHP situated in Somerton library is solely manned by volunteers who give friendly advice, information and help to visitors and local residents alike. The LiC is open March to October 10am - 4pm coinciding with library opening days and there is a huge selection of leaflets and books available together with local bus time-tables. A free "where to eat and stay" booklet featuring our area is also available. We also occasionally provide music or other events in the town. This year we again produced a desk calendar with lovely views of Somerton, which has proved a great

success. We are always looking for new volunteers and committee members so if you feel you can spare a few hours please contact Anne Yates on 274865 who will be only too pleased to hear from you.

A final thanks to all the volunteers, committee members, Somerton Town Council and South Somerset District Council for their continuing support.

Keep in touch with all that is happening in your town at www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Somerton Twinning Association

Secretary: Colin Cruickshank 270233 email: colinlesley.cruickshank@virgin.net Membership Secretary: Tim Bown 272680 email: tim_jenny@hotmail.com

Somerton has been twinned with Sillé le Guillaume in France since 1987. Sillé lies in the Pays de la Loire region about 20 miles north-west of Le Mans. Our twinning is marked by a charter which can be seen hanging on the wall inside the Parish Rooms and also by 2 commemorative paving slabs near the War Memorial.

Membership of the association is open to all from Somerton and the surrounding villages and we welcome new members who may be interested in making new friends in both Somerton and our twin town. Our AGM is held in November and other social or fund-raising events are organised during the year. One main exchange visit is held each year, usually in May, with our French friends visiting us in Somerton in 2016. We will visit Sillé le Guillaume in 2017 to celebrate our 30th anniversary.

Wessex Rooms (Broad Street, Somerton)

Contact: Sara Dver 273655 email: sarad53@hotmail.com

The premises can be hired for use by the community and other groups, Tables and chairs are available and there is a kitchen area with a cooker (small charge for use of this), fridge, freezer, some crockery and cutlery.

Both the main hall and lounge are fully accessible to disabled people. There is a sports court to the rear with ramp access.



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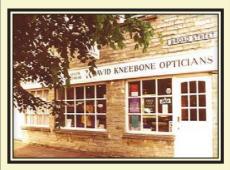
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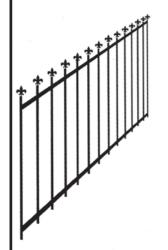
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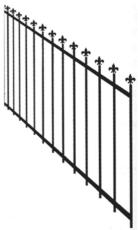
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For general information about:

All activities in Somerton: www.somerton.co.uk

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For town council information: www.somertontowncouncil.co.uk
For tourism in South Somerset: www.visitsouthsomerset.com
Recycling of furniture: furnicareyeovil@btconnect.com
Queries about waste disposal and collection: ssdc@southsomerset.gov.uk

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Problem or fault reporting

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	01458 272236	clerk.assistant@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk	
Electricity	Western Power Distribution		
	08006 783 105	www.westernpower.co.uk	
Footpaths	Cllr Martyn Smith		
	01458 273058	martyn.smith@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk	
Gas	Wales & West Utilities		
	0800 111 999	www.wwutilities.co.uk	
Highways/Street lights	Somerset County Council		
	0300 123 2224	www.somerset.gov.uk	
Litter Bins/Fly tipping	South Somerset District Council		
	01935 462462	www.southsomerset.gov.uk	
Planning matters	Cllr David Harrison		
	01458 273177	david.harrison@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk	
Police	Main Control Centre		
	01275 818 340	www.avonandsomerset.police.uk	
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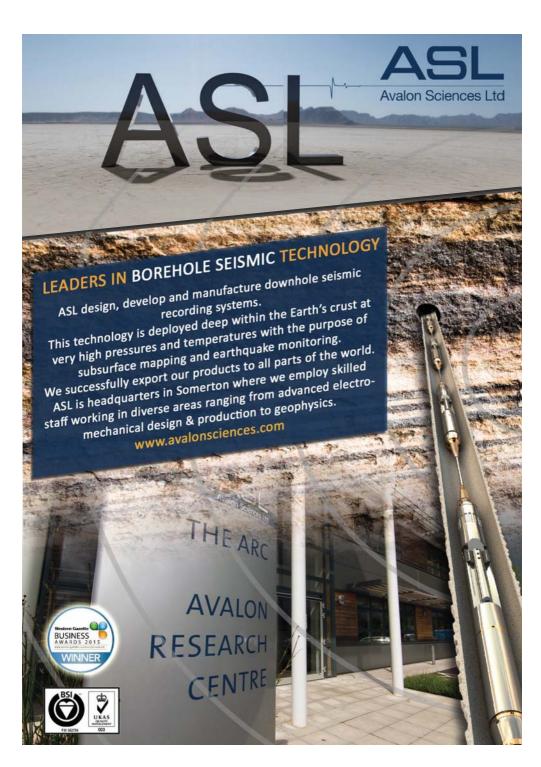
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