VIADUCT March 2020



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Somerton Town Council - March 2020

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council	10 th March	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Land & Properties	24 th March	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Promotions & Communications	17 th March	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Planning (if required)	10 th & 24 th March	7.00pm	Edgar Hall

Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be opportunities to ask questions. Planning applications may be viewed on the SSDC website and details are displayed on the notice board outside the Parish Rooms and on the STC website.

All agendas and minutes are on the STC website www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk. Requests for items to be added to the agenda to the Town Clerk by the first Monday of the month. Town Clerk tel: 272236 email: town.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

Did you know Somerton Town Council has a Facebook page? Check it out.

BY-ELECTION & POLL CARD PRODUCTION

There is to be a further by-election to fill a vacancy on Somerton Town Council. The date of the poll has yet to be announced. The nomination period will open with the publication of a notice of election. The Town Council decided not to have poll cards produced which would add around £1800 to the cost of the election. POLL CARDS WILL NOT BE SENT OUT FOR THIS ELECTION.

The election details are to be published through the Somerton Town Council website, noticeboards, social media, Library and Viaduct.

A Grant has been approved for the following:

• Acearts: £750.00

Town Clerk Jude Raybould was confirmed in post following a successful probation period. Congratulations.

Somerton Town Council was one of 60 parish & Town Councils successful in receiving a pack of 50 cell grown trees in the first ever Great Parish Tree Giveaway as a response to SSDC recognising a climate emergency and significantly planting more trees.

Councillor Sue Pither is working with the Somerset Woodland Trust and local landowners to seek advice on the best planting areas for the trees.

News & Reports

SOMERTON WEATHER FOR JANUARY

Total rainfall for January was 54.5 mm or 2.25 inches.

WINTER TIMES FOR SOMERTON RECYCLING CENTRE, BANCOMBE

It is now open Wed – Sun, not Mon or Tues. The opening times are Wed/Thurs/Fri 9 am – 5 pm. Sat/Sun 9 am – 4 pm.

CARERS INFORMATION

Somerton Carers group is growing rapidly, providing a place where unpaid carers can meet, share experiences and help each other. We meet at West Street Church at 10.30 am on 2nd Friday of the month, alongside 'Coffee and more...' which provides a safe space where you can leave the one you care for while you attend our meeting. Please drop in or call Ivor on 01458 250603 for more details. Help with Forms contact the health coaches at the Buttercross Medical Centre 272473 for a carer's pack or Somerset Carers Service on 01823 331222. If you have help filling in these forms you are more likely to be successful. Don't give up!

SOMERTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS

A small steering group is looking at ways to implement a Good Neighbours scheme in Somerton, following two successful public meetings late last year. Initially, the scheme will concentrate on known needs, like transport, dog walking, shopping/prescriptions, and befriending, and will, hopefully, help consolidate the many efforts that already exist into one centrally accessible service within the town. We are keen to contact anyone presently involved in informal or more organised schemes that operate in Somerton, with a view to learning from their experience taking this initiative forward. Our intention is to build on that experience to avoid duplication, so, if arrangements are working successfully, we would, for preference, signpost to them, although there are significant benefits from centralising administration and pooling resources, particularly volunteers.

Anyone interested in discussing this further please contact Sheila Crothers (crothers4@outlook.com) 01458 273287, or Ivor Dixon (levelopps@gmail.com) 01458 250603.

MUSIC BUDDIES AT LONG SUTTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our 'Music Buddies' group for 0- 4 year olds meets every Monday in the school hall during term time from 9.30am until 11am, which includes a sing, play and snack in the school hall. It costs £2.00 per family. It's a friendly and informal group and all are very welcome.

SOMERTON RUGBY CLUB

Senior training is Tuesday & Thursday evenings 7.00pm at he Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch. New players are very welcome. Contact Gary Saunders 07870 861 731 for details. Under 18s & U15s Girls training/fixture details contact Steve Benn 07919 153 205. For latest news, results and events see www.somertonrfc.co.uk.

SOMERTON NEWS

Somerton News, the biennial publication listing clubs and societies in and around Somerton and other useful information, will be produced in January for distribution with the March edition of Viaduct. During October, we contacted local organisations for a brief outline of their activities and contact details and also local businesses for their support by placing advertisements. Thank you for all your support for this important publication. Mo Fletcher & Martyn Smith, Editors.

ASKMYGP

The Buttercross GP Practice has adopted a new system to provide patients with faster and easier access to receiving help. Once you have registered on the new system, you can get help online, via a smartphone, in person or by telephone. Information leaflets are available at both sites (Somerton and Ilchester) and elsewhere in each of the towns but you can find out more at https://askmygp.uk/how-it-works.

MARTIAL ARTS SELF DEFENCE

Come along and try out our activities. Club Session times: Thursday evenings - - Reality Kids / Juniors – 6-7pm — Adults – 7.15-8.15pm.

Address: Somerton Infant School.

WARNING FROM SOMERSET TRADING STANDARDS OFFICE

In March beware of rogue driveway scams. Details on STC website.

SAMARITANS

Could you volunteer with the Yeovil Branch of Samaritans? Why not join us at our information evenings which take place on the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Morley House, 26 West Hendford, Yeovil, 0330 094 5717.

Email: recruitment@yeovilsamaritans.org.uk or visit our website

at: https://www.samaritans.org/branches/samaritans-yeovil-sherborne-and-district.

SOMERTON TENNIS CLUB

Our new season starts in April and we welcome new members of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to join the club. In particular we are looking to strengthen our men's and ladies squads for the summer so if you are interested in playing matches in the Yeovil and District Tennis League, or just want to play tennis for fun then please check out the clubs website: http://somertontennisclub.co.uk/ or contact our membership secretary, Alan Wharton on 01458 445139, for more information.

SOMERTON MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL 2019 AND 2020

Many thanks to the many individuals and companies who are sponsoring this year's Somerton Music and Arts Festival events. The support of our local community has been overwhelming and has included sponsors for the Art & Photography Exhibition and the creative workshops during the week 23rd – 30th May; for the events in and around the town during Festival week 4th to the 11th July; and, for our music festival Somerstock on Saturday 12th July. If you have been thinking about this but not yet spoken with someone, it really is not too late! You can contact us either through our Facebook page or through our website at www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk

Early Bird tickets for Somerstock are now on sale online at www.somerstock.com/tickets and at the office of Palmer Snell in Somerton. These tickets are at a discount of over 25% but are limited in number and will last only until the end of March. You'd be an April Fool to miss out on this reduction for what will be the greatest music event in our community this year.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION 2020

Sat 23rd May to Fri 29th May – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Sat 30th May – 10:00 am -1:00 pm. Thank you to everyone who got involved in 2019's exhibition by helping, entering, visiting or buying. All work displayed was truly wonderful and without all of you there would not be an exhibition. We will continue to exhibit the growing number of embroidery and sculpture entries in addition to the wide variety of paintings, drawings and photographs. 2020's Exhibition will again see a wonderful display of work from children of King Ina Infants and Junior Schools. Be sure to come and see what's on offer at Somerton Music & Arts Festival's, Art & Photography Exhibition 2020. This is a free event for the whole family to enjoy. Come and vote for your favourite pieces and maybe purchase yourself or someone else a gift.

We will again be running various workshops and talks throughout the week... Beginner's Digital Art workshop with Kirsten Rae (Sat 23rd AM); Flower Arranging with Jane (Tues 26th Evening); Crocheting with Sue (Wed 27th PM); Growing an Outfit with Jan (Wed 27th Evening); Beginners Drawing workshop with Mandy McAllen (Thur 28th AM); Jewellery Making with Eve (Thur 28th Evening); Gift Box Making with Sue (Fri 29th PM); Truffle Making with Nettie (Fri 29th Evening).

For children, we are running the following events... Cartooning with Sam (Sat 23rd PM); X-stitching with Sue (Tues 26th AM); Bracelet Making with Sue (Fri 29th AM); Lego challenge (Sat 30th AM). All events will be in and around the town centre.

Tickets for these events will be available from 1st April. For more details see

www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk. If you have any questions or would like information on entering your own work into the exhibition please contact Jackie on 07778 006543. We look forward to seeing you all there.

CHARITY THEATRE TRIPS NEWS FOR MARCH 2020

These synopses do not show full-up trips but all are listed in the table. Prices include coach and tickets in stalls or grand circle, mainly Band A towards the front with a few Band B at the back. Good side stalls seats with level access are available for the disabled at no extra cost.

The Red Shoes: Matthew Bourne's version is true to the story and spirit of the film's tale of obsession, possession and a girl's dream to be the greatest dancer in the world. Likely to sell out; book now, pay later. Tue 3 March 2020.

Carmen: Welsh National new production. Set in the recent past, this promises us all the passion and drama expected of this popular iconic opera, creating a tension that keeps us on the edge of our seats. Fri 13 Mar

We Will Rock You: Dazzling all the senses in breath-taking style, Queen's 24 biggest hits in a show matching their legendary performances including Radio Ga Ga, Killer Queen, Bohemian Rhapsody & WWRY. Wed 18 Mar '20

Book at coxtheatretrips@btinternet.com, go to www.theatretrips.webeden.co.uk. or phone 01458 273085

CONSULTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH

NHS and Somerset County Council are seeking views on how to handle the growing difficulties of coping with mental health issues. You can find the consultation document at https://www.fitformyfuture.org.uk/mental-health/ and click on "download the consultation document" or obtain a copy by phoning 01935 384119.

PLAYREADING AT THE LIBRARY

We are setting up a group of eight people to meet monthly in the library on Monday afternoons from 2pm. For anyone unfamiliar with the concept of Playreading, the group will read through a play suitable for the size of the group at the amount of time that we meet; this will be approximately three hours with a break half way. You don't need to be an actor or have any theatre experience – we merely read the play through.

The break will be for tea, coffee and cake provided in turn by the members of the group. If time permits the group will have the chance to talk about the play in terms of the plot and how much they enjoyed it and decide on plays for the future. The latter can be dramas, farces, comedies, light plays, serious plays – whatever we, as a group, feel we would like to read.

The cost will be ± 20 in total for a year's subscription to the Yeovil Library so that equates to just ± 2.50 a member if we have eight in the group. We are aiming to commence in April with meetings taking place on the third Monday, this being 20th April.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, please either call Liz Short on 07988 974948 or email liz.short@yahoo.co.uk. Liz looks forward to hearing from you.

NOTICE TO ALL DOG OWNERS

There has been an increase in dog fouling around the town, this is not acceptable. All litter bins around the town are dual use and it would be appreciated if dog owners pick up after their dogs business, double bag the waste and deposit in one of the black litter bins.

Fiona Richardson STC, Chairman Access and Highways.

SAFE PLACES UPDATE

The Somerton Safe Places scheme, originally organised by SADAA (Somerton Area Dementia Action Alliance) in 2018, was designed to assist anyone who might get lost or disorientated in the town. Now, with reduced police involvement, an officer will only attend if there is a significant risk to someone's safety. This means we have to re-think the way the scheme works. It is proposed that responsibility shifts to a wider, Community-led group; the emphasis is on all vulnerable people, not only those living with dementia; and the aim is to produce a 'Safer Somerton', which is now the working title. If you, as an individual or representing a concerned organisation, want more details, contact Ivor Dixon (levelopps@gmail.com) or 01458 250603.

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST (KSFC TRUST)

On 9th October the Charity Commission registered Somerton's new CIO Trust with the number 1185712.

You have received a leaflet detailing the developments for the Trust.

DONATIONS TO PURCHASE THE FIELD

We now have a bank account and can receive donations for the purchase of the field. £10 pays for approximately one square foot!

We need to build up funds from the local community for the purchase of the field to gain credibility with national grant funders that the people of Somerton fully support this project.

We hope to receive your donations now for the purchase of the field which can be left as cash or a cheque to Kirkham Street Field Community Trust in an envelope with your contact details in a box in George James Properties Estate Agents office in West Street or directly by bank transfer to: sort code: 608301 account number: 20418119.

Providing we have your details, if we do not raise enough to purchase the field, your money will be returned to you.

Once a month on Sat March 21st we will be available to accept your donations in West Street Church from 9.30 am till noon. There will be light refreshments. On Saturday 25th January we raised nearly £4,000. We raised over £10,000 from residents in January. Many thanks. See our updates on fundraising in George James Properties window.

We have contacted local businesses to see how they can help us with fundraising and applications to major fund raising organisations like the lottery and hope to meet with them over the next few weeks. If anyone has photos of the field in use in the past as a cricket field or as a festival venue can you please contact Margaret as she can use them in our submissions to grant fund organisations – her contact details are below.

FUTURE EVENTS

Sat 28th March Easter Bunny Hunt This will be on Kirkham Street Field from 10 am to 1 pm - entry per family £1.00. Each child who enters will get a small Easter Egg and there will be large Easter Eggs for those who complete the challenge – they will go into a draw. Donations for campaign funds will also be greatly appreciated.

Sat 1st August A New Picnic in the Park with refreshments and entertainment from 12 noon to 4 pm. Entry free but donations welcome for the campaign funds.

Both these events are with the kind permission of King Ina Academy. The field is still a school playing field – so no dogs.

Somerton has a dream - Now is the time to get working together to make the dream come true. If you want more information please contact Margaret Chambers on chambers_margaret@hotmail.com or Mo Fletcher on fletcher080@btinternet.com

Margaret Chambers: Chairperson of Kirkham Street Field Community Trust.

NEED FOR RED CROSS COLLECTORS

Langport & District Red Cross Group is appealing for collectors during the 2020 Red Cross Week, Sunday 3rd to Saturday 9h May. An hour or two of a volunteer's time during this week will be warmly welcomed and will help keep the Red Cross voluntary service running in this area. With all the new housing we need extra house-to-house collectors to cover as many as possible of the villages and towns in South Somerset, as well as volunteers to help for an hour or two holding a bucket at local shops. As the last remaining volunteer-run Red Cross Centre in the UK it is very important that we continue to raise funds to justify us remaining in operation.

Our centre in the main Langport car park is open every morning, except Sunday, where we sell donated goods and provide friendship and company over a hot, or cold, drink and a biscuit (or two!). Donations of items for sale are always welcomed. We also carry a small stock of disability aids for loan or purchase. Please contact Chris, the Group Leader, on 01458 273085 or e-mail to cox.cj@btinternet.com.

GREATEST CHALLENGE YET FOR SOMERTON LADIES

When the three of us, Bev Squire, Lynne Vincent and Mary Vardy, set out to walk the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in November, we knew that the altitude of this trek was going to be a challenge. Reaching over 4,200 metres (nearly 14,000 feet) Dead Woman's Pass leaves you gasping at the scenery and for breath. At this altitude there is only half the amount of oxygen in the air and walking at this level is demanding. But it was all in aid of a good cause, and one which was well supported by the people of our town. Your support helped to keep us climbing when the going got tough. So, a huge "thank you" to you all, because you helped us to raise £9,126.61 for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust. See Cover photo.

SOMERTON GUIDING

We need somewhere to store our container for our camping stuff. The container needs 13 feet by 7 feet and hard standing. If you can help please contact Sally Snaddon on 01458 250879.

NETWORK RAIL

Network Rail will be undertaking work on several of their bridges over the next few weeks, which may lead to some closures and/or single lane working Upton (Hermitage Road) 19 Feb-30 March Ricksey Lane 19 Feb-30 March Welham (on Charlton Road just beyond Skew Bridge) 21 Feb-26 March East Lydford (A37) 28 Jan-31March Keinton Lane West Charlton 18 Feb-31 March The line between Castle Cary and Taunton will be closed between Sat 14th and Sun 29th March, so check timetables if you are travelling then.

SOMERTON AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

The club will be looking to strengthen the squad for the 2020 season. So the club extends a warm welcome to both new and accomplished bowlers who want to belong to a friendly but competitive lawn bowls club. For up to date information check out the club's web site www.somertonbowlsclub.co.uk

WE ARE UNDEFEATABLE SOMERSET

We Are Undefeatable Somerset is a new local campaign, launched by Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP) with the aim of inspiring those living with long-term health conditions to be more active and move more. The need for this campaign came about when a country wide study showed that 1 in 4 people were living with a long-term condition and were more likely to be inactive as a result. The official launch of this campaign took place at The Beach Hotel in Minehead at the end of January, where the ambassadors shared their inspiring stories, as well as key speakers from Public Health, the Clinical Director for the Living Better Primary Care Network and also the SASP CEO.

Following the launch and reveal of initial resources based on the Taunton and West Somerset ambassadors, additional content will be released over the coming months, introducing further ambassadors from Mendip, Sedgemoor and South Somerset.

If you're interested in finding out more about this campaign and available activities, please visit www.sasp.co.uk/long-term-conditions.

SOMERTON SPEEDWATCH

Another month and although we are still reporting speeding drivers there are fewer than previous months .Needless to say when we aren't out too many people revert to their old selfish behaviour and speed up. Are you aware that your insurance policy probably doesn't cover you if you are involved in an accident while speeding, or don't you care? We ask you to consider your responsibility to others when you get behind a wheel and SLOW DOWN , it's easy and safer for everyone else. We will be around this coming month and hope to report even fewer people. If you are interested in making our town a safer place why not consider joining SpeedWatch, others have so please phone me David Cundle 01458897224.

SOMERTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

We are hosting a larger than usual party for our partner town of Sille le Guillaume and are appealing for help with the hosting.

Our guests arrive on Thursday 21st May about 4 pm and leave on Sunday 24th at 9 am. If you can help please contact Mo Fletcher, Chairman, on 01458 274631 or 07718 920198 or at fletcher080@btinternet.com. Many thanks Mo Fletcher.

HUISH & LANGPORT CRICKET CLUB

Will be holding a pre-season fund raiser on April 4th 7.30pm at Black Swan, Langport with a Mouse Racing Evening please come along for a fun evening and support the club in doing so.

The actual fixtures for the season commence on Saturday/Sunday 2nd & 3rd May.

We look forward to welcoming new members to the club – contact Secretary Toby – toby.strang69@gmail.com

Forthcoming Events

ACEARTS EXHIBITIONS FOR 2020.

25 January – 21 March SMALL WORLDS: Jan Niedojadlo and all students of 'Imagine, Learn & Create'. Interactive large-scale sculptures known as podules, creating excitement and intrigue within an imaginative space, enhanced by the work produced by talented and committed ILC artists, all of whom have learning differences.

FLEXERCISE

The Flexercise is now at Laburnum Drive Community Room at 10 am supported by Yarlington. Free and all welcome.

There is also going to be another session on Fridays 2.30 - 3.30 pm for free in the meeting room at the Buttercross Surgery organised by the health coaches. Visitors and carers welcome

SOMERTON SPORTS CLUB EVENTS

Bingo Sun 1st, 15th and 29th Mar (over 18s) 7.30 pm Quiz Thurs 26th 8.00pm (Teams of up to 6).

SOMERTON GARDENERS CLUB MONDAY 2ND MARCH

Our next meeting is on Mon 2nd March 7.30pm at the Parish Rooms, when there will be a talk on climate change by Castle Gardens, Non members £2.00. Do come and join us.

SOMERTON WI TUESDAY 3RD MARCH

Do try to come along and find out what the WI has to offer. Anniversary Party and entertainment with Somerton Drama Group. 7pm in The Parish Rooms. Visitors welcome to join us. Sue Long: 01458 274038 / Pauline Saunders: 01458 272769

THEATRE TRIPS

Tues 3rd March Red Shoes Fri 13th March Carmen Wed 18th March We Will Rock You

LABURNUM DRIVE COMMITTEE.

Planning happy, varied, events for all our supporters and friends. Our programme of bingo, coffee mornings, breakfasts, lunches, bacon butties, exercises, games, teas, suppers, and coach trips etc. will be planned with you in mind.

Bacon butties @ £1.20 always 1st Tuesday of month. 2nd Mondays are games at 2.0pm. Full English every 3rd Monday at 9.30am. Lunch at 12.30pm weekly. Plus tea or supper parties monthly. Gather we like good food!! You too? Join us, Tues.10th March, "Pie & Mash & Pud", 5.00pm. £6. First coach this year is on 17th March. Ottery St. Mary. £11. Depart 10.00am.

Early April, great Easter Hot X Buns tea.

CREATE AND CONNECT AT ACEARTS WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH

Our next meeting will be on Wed 4th March. Join us in the exhibition space and make alongside other makers. Bring a project that you are working on, knitting, drawing, collage, crochet. Grab a coffee and enjoy the surroundings. First Wednesday of the month 11-1 & 2-4pm.

BUTTERCROSS TEA ROOMS CRAFT MEETING

We have a new meeting time Wednesdays 2pm at The Buttercross Tearoom for any type of yarn/ thread related craft, held weekly. This could be crochet, knitting, needlepoint embroidery, portable fabric projects. We need more members, so please come and join us if you can! New Year, new craft! Come and learn, share your knowledge! We never want to stop learning! We are great chatterboxes too! There is no charge, we just request that you purchase refreshments from the lively Helen and her staff. For more details contact Caroline on 07427 695694.

VERSUS ARTHRITIS THURSDAY 5TH MARCH

Dr James Buckle, Akamba Aid Fund. 7 for 7.30pm in The Parish Rooms. Visitors welcome to join us.

HEALTH WALKS

We meet at Somerton Library at 11.30 am. This month Mo's walks are on Thursdays 5th and 19th March. We walk for about an hour and socialise at the same time. Wear clothing suitable for the weather conditions.

The health coaches from the Surgery are leading health walks in the same scheme on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month in March, starting also at 11.30 am at the library, so on Thursdays the 12th and 26th. For more info contact them at Buttercross Surgery 01458 272473 option 4. At the end those that wish, go to a local pub for refreshments. For more info contact Mo Fletcher on 01458 274631.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER IN MARCH

The Women's World Day of Prayer is being held on the 6th March at St Cleers Chapel at 2 pm, with refreshments to follow. The theme is 'Rise Take Your Mat and Walk'. The service has been written by the ladies of Zimbabwe. Thank you to St Cleers for hosting the event. There are a number of churches involved with the service so do come along and give them your support.

Louise Mortimer, Secretary to WWDoP. Contact number 273309.

RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Will meet on Monday 9th March at the Somerton Sports Club at 7 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend. We now seek applications from anybody with a genuine interest in becoming a trustee to help deliver that objective. We also need a volunteer secretary who is not required to be a trustee. If you are interested in applying please contact the current Chair, David Osmond, by phone on 07876 563411 or by email at donnyosmond1@outlook.com.

SOMERTON GROUP OF ARTISTS MONDAY 9TH MARCH

Somerton Group of Artists, monthly meeting Mon 9th March. At the Parish Rooms. Starting at 7.30 pm. Our meeting this month, features Liz Pearson who will give a talk on Icons. Members free, visitors are welcome £5 to include tea or coffee.

PHIL FLOWERS TOWN COUNCILLOR SURGERY MONDAY 9TH MARCH

7 – 9 pm Somerton Sports Club.

SOMERTON SINGS FOR FUN MONDAY 9TH/23TH MARCH

Join us from 10.45am to noon, in the West St Church back room. Our next meeting is on Monday 9th and 23th March. It's purely for fun, and for all ages and abilities. We sing anything well known, songs from the shows, old English melodies, and songs from the 30's up to date. £1.00 a session including coffee & biscuits.

RUMMIKUB TUESDAY 10TH MARCH

Parish Rooms, 2-4.30 all welcome. After many years Pam is retiring in April. Please let her know if you are prepared to take over. It would be a pity to loose this interest. All equipment is in place and the hall made ready. Contact Pam Short on 272408.

MID WESSEX SINGERS TUESDAY 10TH MARCH

7.15 – 9 pm at West St Church. Come along and try and rehearse for our forthcoming concert. Contact Rowena 07929 803097.

SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST EVENTS TUESDAY 10TH MARCH

Around the World with the BBC Natural History Unit 7.30 pm Parish Rooms. Stephen Moss will talk and show films about his time with the Unit. There will be refreshments. For more info contact Roger Dickey at roger.dickey52@gmail.com.

SOMERTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB THURSDAY 12TH MARCH

10.30 am at Somerton Sports Club. Come and join us on second Thursdays of the month for a chat and friendship. 50p entry. Tea 20p coffee 30p free draw ticket. Our activities vary but we mainly socialise and enjoy having fun. Contact Mo Fletcher on 01458 274631.

WESSEX HOUSE VOLUNTEERS COFFEE MORNING THURSDAY 12TH MARCH

10am. Thank you to everyone that has supported us throughout the year.

WEST STREET CHURCH EVENTS

Lent Lunches. 12 till 1.15. On the March 13th, 20th, 27th and April 3rd.

COFFEE AND MORE FRIDAY MARCH 13TH/27TH.

Drop in to West Street Church for a chat and company over a cup of coffee in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. We're open from 10 - 12 on the second and 4th Friday of the month – except in April when we will be open on 3rd and not 10th, which is Good Friday. We are mostly people in later life and encourage anyone living with disability or dementia to join us. We may play some table games and we may be able to help you with problems. Carers are welcome. On Friday 13th March and 3rd April Somerton Carers meets alongside, from 10.30 am – 12 noon, with family and unpaid carers helping each other and sharing experiences. Contact: Ivor or Pam Dixon on 01458 250603 or email levelopps@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FOR SOMERTON.

There is a move to start a Community Workshop for Somerton. It would be a place where people might pursue their hobbies, particularly woodwork and other creative crafts, while at the same time contributing to the well-being of the community. Wessex House have offered premises where we might start this project and they have a list of items, like planters, raised beds and bird feeders that we could produce for the benefit of their residents. If you want more information, or can volunteer to help, contact Ivor Dixon on 01458 250603 or email levelopps@gmail.com.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

Jon Pickard Guitar and 'Harp Guitar' concert celebrating St Patrick. A beautiful mix of music from classical & Celtic guitar favourites to music inspired by St Patrick and St Tuigal, and other Irish folk themes played on the amazing 23 string 'Harp Guitar' - an instrument with a fascinating history, an incredible sound and an exciting future. Friday 13th March at 7.30pm. Tickets available at Church services and from Cobbs Wholefoods.

WIVELELE FOR WILDLIFE SATURDAY 14TH MARCH

Exclusive gig date announced to support local conservation charity

We are very excited to announce Somerset's very own ukulele group Wivelele and special guests Diving Duck, have agreed to support Somerset Wildlife Trust with a musical fundraiser in their home town of Wiveliscombe. Join them at Cotleigh Brewery on the 14th March at 7pm where they will be also encouraging other ukulele players to come along and join in with them on what promises to be a very special night.

As well as amazing live music, Cotleigh Brewery will be selling their award-winning wildlife themed craft beers. For a pound a ticket, you will also have the opportunity to win a limited edition hand-crafted Appalachian dulcimer worth £450 made by local ukulele player and Wivelele member Ian Husband. Tickets are priced at £7 (plus booking fee) for adults which will also include a complimentary bottle of Cotleigh Brewery's award-winning Tawny Owl beer. There will also be a £5.50 ticket for young people aged 14-17 (plus booking fee). You can find all information and book your tickets by visiting www.somersetwildlife.org/Wivelele.

JUST 4 U SERVICE SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

We have decided, because of the potential weather conditions, to postpone the Just4u service and have it on 15th March.

A CLUB WITH A DIFFERENCE THURSDAY 19TH MARCH

Come and share memories of books, stories, poetry, and pictures. Meeting at 2-30 pm in the Library on the third Thursday of the month. So March 19, April 16 Contact: Carole 01458 273319, Mo 01458 270906.

DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

Kirkham Street Field Community Trust Donation Morning. Please come and support our appeal for funds to purchase Kirkham Street Field in West St Church from 9.30 am till noon on Sat 21st March. Trustees will be there to help you and there will be free light refreshments.

MOVIOLA CINEMA SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

Friends of the Parish Rooms present "The Current War". The dramatic story of the cut-throat race between electricity titans Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse to determine whose electrical system would power the modern world. Executive producer Martin Scorsese and starring Tom Holland, Benedict Cumberbatch & Matthew Macfadyen. Run time 102 minutes. Tickets £6 from Cobbs Wholefoods or on the door.

Forthcoming Moviola, 18th April "The Good Liar". 7.30pm Parish Rooms (doors 7.00pm).

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 21ST & 22ND MARCH

There is a national campaign, organised by Keep Britain Tidy that takes place every year, encouraging communities to take pride in their environment. Somerton has organised it's Community Litter Pick on 21st & 22nd March 2020 in association with Somerton Town council, South Somerset district council and Somerton's #2minutelitterpick volunteers.

It doesn't matter whether you are on your own or part of a group. Can give a whole or half day, or can only spare an hour. You can make a difference by picking up the plastic, cans and general litter that is ruining the beauty of our town and surrounding lanes. We will be aiming to cover as much of the town as possible. The litter is mainly on paths and pavements where you live, public footpaths and also in pockets where people like to congregate like the playing field, the play area and the car parks. We will be working in pairs and out on roads where there are pavements or a grass verge to walk along. We will meet up on both days at the Parish rooms in the Market place at 9.30am. We provide all the equipment, so come along and chip in.

To find out more about this event or our #2minutelitterpick volunteers, contact Gregory & Rachel on 07811491153 somerton.2minutelitterpick@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.

GREEN GARDENERS MONDAY MARCH 23RD

7.30 pm Parish Rooms. From September to April Green Gardeners meet on the last Monday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Parish Rooms. There is usually a speaker and time to discuss various topics, followed by refreshments. From May to August outings and events are organised. In May there will be an 'Open Gardens' afternoon around Somerton with plant sales and teas.

Why not join us at one of the next meetings and find out more?

March 23rd 'Plants to Plate' with Sue Applegate

April 27th 'The History and Development of the Bishop's Palace Gardens' with James Cross Visitors are always welcome £3. For further details take a look at our website

www.greengardeners.org.uk or phone Anita 272333.

SOMERTON HISTORY SOCIETY THURSDAY 26TH MARCH

Are you interested in history? Any history? Then why not join Somerton History Society. We meet in the Parish Rooms in Somerton on the 4th Thursday of every month except August and December. Beginning at 7pm for refreshments with the meeting proper starting at 7.30pm with any notices, followed by a talk of about an hour. Our next meeting of 2020, is on Thursday 26th March and starts at 7.00pm in the Parish Rooms with refreshments. At 7.30 pm the AGM for the Society will take place (usually no more than 15 minutes!), followed by a talk from the Reverend David Huggett" titled "What followed the Thorn" – a brief canter through the history of the church in Somerset. Members come for free, but visitors will be very welcome at a cost of f2. For more information please contact Nancy Schooling on 273859. Members are reminded that their annual membership of £15 (£25 for couples at the same address) is now due. Everyone is welcome.

SOMERTON U3A FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

Come and join us at our next regular monthly meeting at the Edgar Hall, Somerton on Friday 27th March where George Hinton, RNIB Area Fundraising Manager for the South West will talk about the RNIB's work in giving practical and emotional support to people with sight problems.

The talks starts at 10.30 am but the meetings open at 10am, giving members the opportunity for coffee and a chat with friends beforehand.

If you are not a member, but are interested in meeting new friends and learning new skills, the U3A is for you. Membership is open to anyone no longer in full time work.

As well as the regular monthly meeting on the fourth Friday of the month, Somerton U3A has over 500 members and 50 interest groups. Our motto, "Learn, Laugh, Live". If you are not a member, or have never even heard of the U3A, why not come along and find out all about us. You will be made very welcome. Alternatively, if you can't attend but would like more information about Somerton U3A, look on our website or call Kay on 01458 448694.

VIADUCT STAPLING AND FOLDING FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

Note our new venue. We desperately need new staplers and folders to join us. Thank you to our new helpers. Many thanks to the Viaduct staplers and deliverers for all their time. This month's Stapling and Folding for the April issue will be on Friday 27th March at 10 am in the Wessex Rooms. See you then. Thank you to Overt Locke for their help with the bags for organising deliveries. Mo and Team.

WESSEX JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

Easter Bingo, Doors open 7pm. Eyes down 7.30 pm. Raffle, tombola, refreshments.

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD SATURDAY 28TH MARCH

Easter Bunny Hunt 10 am -1 pm Kirkham Street Field (With kind permission of King Ina Academy) £1.00 per family. Each child who enters gets a small Easter egg and correctly completed entries will go into a draw at 1 pm for larger eggs.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. No dogs as still a school playing field. Donations for the Campaign Funds will be gratefully received. For more info contact Mo Fletcher on 01458 274631 or on fletcher080@btinternet.com.

NEW WEA COURSE

Greg Morter – From Seed to Fork. We explore the extraordinary 450 million-year evolution of plants and how humans have adapted them.

Tuesday evenings, 19.30 – 21.00, Long Sutton Village Hall, 28th January to 10th March 2020 (no session on 18th February). Fee: £25 per person.

Booking must be made in advance via the WEA either online at wea.org.uk or by calling 0300 303 3464, quoting Course Reference C3530645

Contact Kim Bailey with any questions on 01935 850077 or by email at wealongsutton@gmail.com

EVENTS WHICH HAPPEN EVERY WEEK ARE LISTED IN THE "WEEKLY EVENTS" SECTION

What's on In Brief

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY

9.30 - 11am Life Church Toddlers Group, Edgar Hall 9.30am - 11.30am Coates Legal. Library 10am - 2pm Coffee and Co. St Cleers Chapel 10.30-11.30am Zumba Gold. low impact dance class for all. West Street Church 10.30am -11.30am Age UK Movement to Music, Parish Rooms 5.30pm Slimming World, Edgar Hall 4.30pm - 5.30pm Rainbows, St Cleers Chapel 5.30pm - 7.00pm Brownies. St Cleers Chapel 6.30pm - 8.00pm Cubs, Scout Hut 7.00pm Girl Guides, St Cleers Chapel 7.30pm Slimming World, Edgar Hall TUESDAY 9.30am - Slimming World, Edgar Hall 9.30am - 10.30am Tai Chi (Beginners), Parish Rooms 10.00am - 12.00 noon Citizens' Advice. Somerton Library 10.30am Coffee Morning, Laburnum Drive 11.30am - 12.30pm Fitness League Exercise, Parish Rooms 11.30am Slimming World, Edgar Hall 2.00pm Crochet/Knitting and other crafts group, Buttercross Tearooms 6.00pm - 8.30pm Line Dancing (beginners & improvers), Wessex Rooms 7.00pm - 9.00pm Scouts, Scout Hut 7.30pm Mid Wessex Singers. West Street Church WEDNESDAY 10.00am - 12 noon Life Drawing, Pinney Room 10.00am - 12 noon Line Dancing (All levels), Edgar Hall

12.30pm Yarlington lunch (pre-order), Laburnum Drive

2.00pm Knitting afternoon, Laburnum Drive

2pm, Craft Group, Buttercross Tearoom

2.30pm -4.00pm Foodbank at the Ridgeway Hall, Langport

5.00pm - 6.15pm Beavers, Scout Hut

6.30pm - 8.00pm Cubs, Scout Hut

THURSDAY

9.00am - 11.30am Rainbow Rascals, West Street Church (term time)

9.30am - 10.30am Tai Chi (Advanced), Parish Rooms

10.30am Wessex House coffee morning

11.00am - 12 noon Line Dancing (Improvers), Parish Rooms

2.00pm Fun Bingo, Laburnum Drive

5.30pm - 6.30pm Beavers, Scout Hut

5.45 – 7.15pm, Royal Scottish Country Dance Improvers/Intermediate Class, Long Sutton School Hall

6.00pm - 7.30pm Junior Youth Club, Wessex Rooms

7 pm - 10 pm, Somerton Bridge Club, West Street Church

7.30pm - 9.00pm Archies Xtra (11-18 years), Recreation Ground

7.30pm – 9.30pm, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society experienced class, Long Sutton Village Hall

FRIDAY

9.30am - 11.30am St Cleers Toddlers, St Cleers Chapel

10.30am, Flexercise, Laburnum Drive Hall

7.30pm - 9.00pm St Cleers Youth, St Cleers Chapel

SATURDAY

9.00am Yeovil parkrun, Montacute House

9.30am - 12noon Wessex Market, Unicorn Skittle Alley

SUNDAY

10.30am Life Church, Edgar Hall

MARCH

Sun 1 Somerton Sports Club Bingo (over 18s) 7.30 pm Somerton Sports Club Mon 2 Som Gardeners Climate Change by Castle Gardens 7.30 pm Parish Rooms Tue 3 Theatre Trip The Red Shoes WI Anniversary Party and Entertainment by Somerton Dramatic Society 7 pm Parish Rooms Wed 4 Create and Connect Ace Arts 11 – 1 and 2 – 4pm Buttercross Tearooms Craft Group 2 pm Thu 5 Mo's Health Walk 11.30 am Somerton Library Versus Arthritis Akamba Aid Fund 7 pm Parish Rooms Fri 6 Women's World Day of Prayer 2 pm St Cleers Chapel Mon 9 Somerton Sings for Fun 10.45 am West St Church Phil Flowers Somerton Town Councillor Surgery 7 pm Somerton Sports Club Somerton Recreation Ground Trust 7pm Somerton Sports Club Somerton Group of Artists Liz Pearson will talk on Icons 7.30 pm Parish Rooms Tues 10 Rummikub 2 pm Parish Rooms LDRC Pie and Mash 5 pm Mid Wessex Singers Rehearsal 7.15 pm West St Church Somerton Wildlife Trust 7.30 pm Parish Rooms Wed 11th Buttercross Tearooms Craft Group 2 pm Thu 12 Friendship Club 10.30 am Somerton Sports Club Wessex House Volunteers Coffee Morning 10 am Health Coaches Health Walk 11.30 am Somerton Library Fri 13 Coffee and More 10 – 12 noon West St Church with Carers Meeting 10.30 am Lent Lunches 12 – 1.15 West St Church **Theatre Trip Carmen** St Michael's St Patrick Concert by Jon Pickard 7.30 pm Sat 14 Wivelele Musical fund raiser Cotleigh Brewery Wiveliscombe 7 pm Sun 15 Bingo (over 18s) Somerton Sports Club Tue 17 LDRC Coach Trip to Ottery St Mary leaving at 10 am.

Wed 18 Buttercross Tearooms Craft Group 2 pm Theatre Trip We Will Rock You Thu 19 Health Walk (Mo) 11.30 am Somerton Library New Book Club 2.30 pm Somerton Library Fri 20 Lent Lunches 12 – 1.15 pm West St Church Sat 21 KSFCT Donations Morning West St Church 9.30 am - noon. Moviola Cinema "The Current War" 7.30 pm Parish Rooms Litterpick 9.30 am Parish Rooms Sun 22 Litterpick 9.30 am Parish Rooms Mon 23 Somerton Sings For Fun 10.45 am West St Church Somerton Green Gardeners "From Plant to Plate" 7.30 pm Parish Rooms Wed 25 Buttercross Tearooms Craft Group 2 pm Thu 26 Health Coaches Health Walk 11.30 pm Somerton Library History Society AGM then talk "What Followed the Thorn" 7 pm Parish Rooms Quiz (Teams of up to 6) 8 pm Somerton Sports Club Fri 27 Coffee and More 10 am West St Church Lent Lunches 12 – 1.15 pm West St Church Stapling and Folding 10 am Wessex Rooms U3A George Hinton Fund Raiser for RNIB 10 am Edgar Hall Wessex Junior Youth Club Bingo 7 pm Sat 28 KSFCT Easter Bunny Hunt 10 am – 1 pm at Kirkham Street Field Sun 29 Bingo (over 18s) 7.30 pm Somerton Sports Club

See also weekly events list

MORE DETAILS ON EVENTS IN SOMERTON AT WWW.SOMERTON.CO.UK

This months cover photo was provided by Mary Vardy and was taken on her walk to Machu Picchu with Bev Squire and Lynne Vincent.

Photos can be sent as email attachments to viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk. Please include some details about the picture: place, subject and date taken, and your full name.

Viaduct is published by Somerton Town Council and is distributed free to residents. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors for which the council and editors cannot be held responsible. Items for inclusion should be submitted by the 12th of the month prior to that of issue date. Whilst we take reasonable care to ensure accuracy, neither STC nor the editors can be held liable for loss, damage or omission caused by errors in printing of advertisements, which we assume are reasonable and fair.

Editors Mo Fletcher and Neal Barton email:viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

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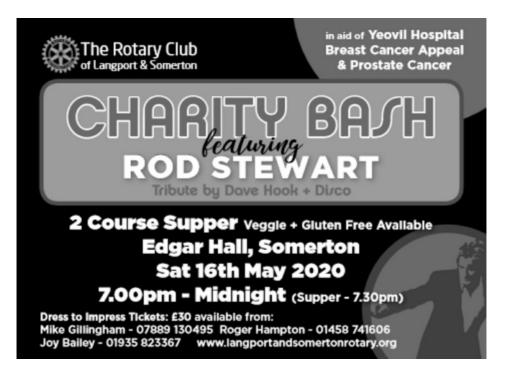


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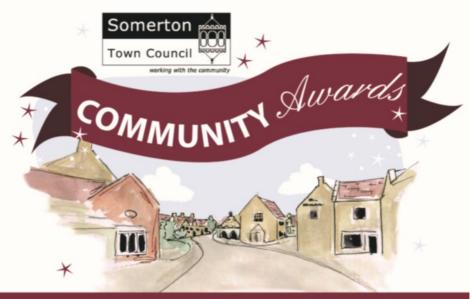
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DO YOU KNOW A SPECIAL PERSON WHO DESERVES TO BE RECOGNISED FOR THE CONTRIBUTION THEY MAKE TO OUR COMMUNITY?

Why not nominate this person for the Town Community Awards to be presented at the Parish meetings on 28th May 2020?

The categories are:

Youth • Art • Sport • Business • Community

Nomination forms are available in the Viaduct, Somerton Library and via the Somerton Town Council Website

Parish Meeting on 28th May 2020 | Closing date 30th April 2020 Nominations will be reviewed in early May 2020. The winners of each category will be invited to the annual parish meeting where the community award ceremony will take place.

 \star Thank you \star



Do you know a special person who deserves to be recognised for the contribution they make to our community?

The categories are:

Youth • Art • Sport • Business • Community

Please complete the form below ad return to Deputy Town Clerk by 30th April 2020 or scan and email to clerk.assistant@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk or complete on line at www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS

YOUR TELEPHONE

YOUR EMAIL

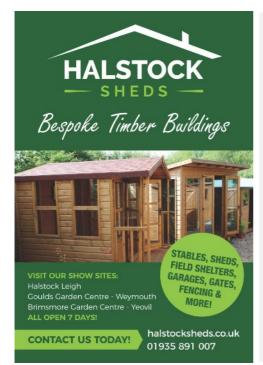
CATEGORY

NAME OF NOMINEE

REASONS FOR NOMINATION (100 words maximum, please)

Viaduct No. 197 - March 2020







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OPENING HOUSE

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13 Brunel Shopping Centre Somerton, Somerset TA11 7PY



The Wessex Rooms, Somerton Monday Evenings at 7pm & 8pm (2 classes) Wednesday Mornings at 10am

The Methodist Chapel Hall, Keinton Mandeville

Thursday Evenings at 7.30pm Friday Mornings at 10am

The Parish Rooms, Somerton

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