

VIADUCT

October 2020

Somerton

Town Council



working with the community



Opening times :
Mon - Sat 7 am - 9 pm
Sun 10 am - 4 pm
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"Dear Aardvark, thank you for your kind service to me on Weds (26th Aug), I came home feeling extremely happy through the service you provided. Your garage is the cleanest and nicest I've ever seen and the waiting room is equal to any practitioner's"

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Class 4
MOT
Centre



GOOD GARAGE SCHEME
REGISTERED MEMBER

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

(between Lime Kiln Pub and Podimore Roundabout)

Somerton Town Council - October 2020

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council	13 th October	7 pm	By Zoom
Planning	13 th & 27 th October	7 pm	By Zoom
Promotions & Communications Extraordinary meeting	21 st October	7 pm	By Zoom
Land & Properties	27 th October	7 pm	By Zoom

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

All agendas and minutes are available on the STC website

www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Requests from the public for items to be added to the agenda should be notified to the Town Clerk in writing by the first Monday of the month.

- We welcome Lisa Newby to the position of Town Clerk.
- Members of the public may attend meetings by contacting the Town Clerk on town.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.
- There is an opportunity on the Agenda at the start of each meeting for public comment/ question time.

News

GUIDE DOGS

Many of you will know me as 'the Guide Dog Lady' and although I no longer puppy walk, I am still heavily involved with Guide Dogs. Most charities are suffering as volunteers are unable to do collections or events at this time, so to help Guide Dogs, I am doing the "100 Days Sponsored Challenge" which includes brisk walking, cycling and step-ups. I started on the August 1st and will finish in early November. If you would like to sponsor me contact me on 01458 272675 or you can go to my just giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Elizabeth-Roddie>. I will post the amount I raise in the December issue of Viaduct. Liz Roddie

P.S. Sorry about the missing 1 in 100 Days in last month's Viaduct. Editors.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

There is no face to face Citizens' Advice at present. However, they can be contacted by phone 03444 88 9623 Mon-Fri 10am - 4pm or for Consumer Advice 0808 223 1133 Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm. Otherwise go to www.citizensadvice.southsomerset.org.uk/ and click on the "How can we help" tab and submit a request to a "Virtual Adviser" or by email or WhatsApp.

YEOVILTON AVERAGE WEATHER STATISTICS FOR AUGUST 2020

	Max temp	Min temp	Rain mm	Sun hrs	
Aug Average	22.4	13.9	90.0	145.7	So August 2020 was very much wetter and less sunny than the 55year average
55yr Average	21.7	11.9	54.9	198.2	

SOMERTON LIBRARY

As forecast in the last edition, the Library reopened for limited business on 7 September. Less than a week later Somerset Libraries Service decided that the scope of the services – and some of the nomenclature – needed to be changed.

From Monday 14th September, the upgraded service includes:

‘Library Choice’ – (previously ‘Order and Collect’) mainly for customers whose local library is not yet open for browsing and are happy for library staff to choose a selection of books, talking books or DVDs, from items on the shelves in the library. Customers will be advised when their order is ready for collection from the library. Orders may be collected by a third party on behalf of the customer.

‘Customer Request Service’ - customers will once again be able to reserve items from the library catalogue <https://www.librarieswest.org.uk> and the LibrariesWest App, for pick up from libraries in Somerset. There is an initial limit of 10 reservations per library member to help manage demand. Customers will receive an automated email or SMS when reserved items becomes available for collection. Items are held for 14 days. Reservation charges apply on collection.

Public Computers - on Thursday and Friday afternoons two public computers are available for pre-booked, time-limited slots.

To access the ‘Library Choice’ service or to book a public computer, see:

www.somersetlibraries.co.uk, email: librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk or call 0300 123 2224.

Forms for ‘Library Choice’ are available in the Library.

Loan Period and Charges - from Monday 14th September the ‘usual’ loan periods (e.g. 21 days for books.) are reinstated and, from the same date, overdue charges, hire fees and reservation charges will be reintroduced.

Day	Hours	Service
Mon	2.00pm - 5.00pm	“Library Choice” and Returns
Tue	Closed all day	None
Wed	10.00am - 1.00pm	“Library Choice” and Returns
Thu	10.00am - 1.00pm	“Library Choice” and Returns
	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Pre-booked public computer use
Fri	10.00am - 1.00pm	“Library Choice” and Returns
	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Pre-booked public computer use
Sat	10.00am - 1.00pm	“Library Choice” and Returns

Finally, just prior to and during lockdown the Trust managed a number of enhancements to the Library premises; these include a new LED lighting system, and redecoration of the emergency fire doors. The lighting project was funded by the Somerton Community Association (SCA) and the painting carried by Jason Brain an acclaimed local painter and decorator. Jason gave his services without charge as his contribution to “a worthwhile local community project”.

Thank you SCA and Jason.

SOMERTON FOODBANK

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has been so generous with their donations to the foodbank, both in groceries and in cash, please keep on giving as everything you donate is appreciated very much.

We are in desperate need of a new venue for the foodbank as we are shortly going to lose our space in the Unicorn, please call us on 07561 651372 if you can help.

The way that you access the foodbank has changed, you can no longer self refer. This is to ensure that everyone who approaches us gets all the help they need in claiming benefits and other entitlements, maintaining their tenancies and getting the ongoing support they need at difficult times.

This is what you need to do:

If you live in a social rented property, such as Yarlinton, you should contact your landlord's tenancy support team for a referral.

If you own your own home, or rent privately, you should contact the Welfare Advice Team at South Somerset District Council or Citizens Advice for a referral.

If you currently have a support worker, please ask them to contact us direct on the foodbank number below. Gillian Hampson

Useful Numbers:

Yarlinton - 01935 404050 - option 3. Email frt@yhg.co.uk

Citizens Advice South Somerset - 0344 488 9623. Citizensadvicesouthsomerset.org.uk - to complete an online form.

Welfare Advice SSDC - 01935 462462. Email welfarebenefitreferrals@southsomerset.gov.uk

Somerton Foodbank - 07561 651372

HUSH & LANGPORT CRICKET CLUB

We regret to announce the cancellation of the Xmas bingo on Nov 25th at Langport Arms.

SOMERTON SPEEDWATCH

We couldn't believe the behaviour of some drivers on Monday 24th August. When the deluge hit Somerton, West St and side roads were flooded and some thoughtless people drove through deep water with total disregard to the wash that vehicles caused to houses and businesses along the road. This caused more water to enter property and houses. You should really be ashamed because your lack of consideration caused worry and distress to others. WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU??

It seems that Somerton is producing selfish, insular and unbelievably bad driving, why can't you behave as you would like others to behave toward you?

We have also, unfortunately found far too many cars in the area uninsured and unregistered, this is on top of speeding. You know who you are and if you fall into this category you can expect a knock on the door and a hefty fine and possibly a ban. Somerton SpeedWatch will continue the efforts in an attempt to remind you that the behaviour of some motorists is not acceptable so be aware we are out and about and we will report you. Perhaps next month I will have something nice to write, but I somehow doubt it. David Cundle.

WESSEX HOUSE

National Fish and Chip Day was celebrated on Friday 4th September with fish and chips from our local Tony's Fish Shop in Somerton.

Thanks to Maria for making the arrangements and Tony's for taking on such a big order at short notice for all residents and staff that day for lunch. Emma Green, Wessex House.

VACANCY - SCOTT GOULD HOUSE

Scott Gould House consists of six self-contained one bedroomed flats intended for older ladies with local family connections and who are on a modest income.

Residents pay a subsidised weekly maintenance charge which includes central heating, hot water, water rates and general maintenance charges.

A first floor flat, offering a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom, has recently become available for immediate occupancy. Details and an application form can be obtained from Clerk to the Trustees 01458 272049 or 07989 437 964.

SOMERTON STROLLS AND OTHER WALKS

It's now 12 years since I wrote the original Somerton Strolls and there have been some changes in gates, fences etc, so they are being republished as they are updated. My great thanks go to Angela & David Locke who are re-walking them and pointing out difficulties or parts where the instructions are not clear. They are still all very good walks and remind me of what a great place Somerton is to live. You can find them on the Community website:

www.somerton.co.uk

"From the bus stop..." is also being updated. Each of the 12 circular walks starts from a bus stop on the 54 Taunton to Yeovil service (although there are indications of where a car could be parked). Each walk is around 10km in length and will be on the Community website as they are updated.

Martyn Smith

GREEN GARDENERS

Green Gardeners-committee members met recently and decided that due to Covid 19 restrictions it would not be possible to hold club meetings at present. Future information will be found on the website- www.greengardeners.org.uk

OKTOBERFEST SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

Sadly, due to ongoing coronavirus issues, the Festival Committee regrets to announce the cancellation of Oktoberfest for this year.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

This year we will be holding a Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday 8th November in St Michael's Church at 10:50am. This service will start with the Act of Remembrance and the names of those we are remembering will be read out. It will then continue with our usual remembrance day service.

We are limited on the numbers who can attend this service, due to Covid 19 restrictions, so it will be broadcast at the same time on video and telephone conferencing systems so everybody is able to join in at home if they wish.

To do so simply call 0330 606 0403 from your home telephone and when prompted put in the access code 769 354 followed by the # key. Calls are at local landline rates.

Or go to www.zoom.us/join/ and when prompted put in the Meeting ID: 781 317 8193 and then the Passcode: 776870.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Sadly because of the rule of six we cannot meet for the foreseeable future.
Keep Safe. Mo and Team.

ACEARTS

Creative Clay - If you, or someone you know live in Somerton or one of the surrounding villages, and would like a free clay-based craft pack contact Outreach@acearts.co.uk. Packs vary and include all the materials and instructions you need to successfully complete the project whatever your ability – we can even supply instructions in braille! Packs supplied free of charge thanks to donations from Tesco Bags of Help Covid and Somerset Community Fund.

Look out for the new “Artisan Somerton” map, available at various outlets around the town. Designed and currently funded by ACEarts as a trial to showcase to visitors some of what the town has to offer. Let us know what you think at hello@acearts.co.uk.

SOMERTON U3A

With nearly 500 members and over 50 interest groups, Somerton U3A has enabled people to make new friendships whilst participating in the activities they enjoy and maybe even learning new skills.

Due to the guidelines on social distancing, groups have not been able to meet in the same way as before but depending on restrictions in place, many groups are managing to keep in contact, either outdoors, in smaller numbers indoors or by Zoom. The recently introduced online newsletter gives members the opportunity to see some of the activities that have been taking place during lockdown. To find out more about Somerton U3A, its members and activities, please visit the Somerton U3A website.

HEALTH WALKS

We can still do our Health Walks with up to 30 people as we are classed as a Covid Safe Outdoor Activity. Walkers need to bring a pen to complete a Track and Trace form and meet at 11.15 am on Thursday 5th and 19th October outside the Library. Wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather.

SOMERTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME - CAN YOU HELP?

Our plan to set up a Good Neighbours Scheme has already been reported in previous editions of the Viaduct. We need to organise now to ensure Somerton can again rise to the challenge and provide the support needed. Our present suggestion would involve a list of volunteers in each area of Somerton, with a co-ordinator who receives requests and matches them to volunteers. Dividing the town up in this way will ensure no one person is overloaded, and that help can be offered on a neighbourhood basis.

The first priority is to offer a befriending service (mainly by phone) to those who are isolated or lonely, for which we can offer training and support to volunteers. As the scheme develops, we anticipate offering other help, such as transport and gardening, as well as carrying on some of the services currently provided by Lifeline.

If you already volunteer with Lifeline, we would love to know if you are interested in continuing for any or all of these forms of help. If you are not currently volunteering, we would be equally happy to hear if you would like to help.

For more information or to volunteer please contact Sheila Crothers
e-mail: crothers4@outlook.com tel. 01458 273287 mob: 07947 560 818

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Black & white quarter page: £30

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Full centre spread: £120.00

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

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

This months cover photo was sent in by Mia Bailey and shows the water pump/planter outside the old Town Hall, ACE Arts building. Potential cover photos can be sent as email attachments to viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk. Please include some details about the picture: place, subject and date taken, and your full name.

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Thur-Sat: 12 noon - Late
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Food Service Times

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Sunday Roast: 12 noon - 4pm

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OF SOMERTON

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Re-open 5.30pm to 11.00pm

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5.30pm to 11.00pm

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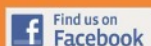
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