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VIADUCT

September 2020

Somerton

Town Council



working with the community



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 Your new
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co op

It's what we do

Aardvark Motors
 The Garage @ Catsgore

A warm hello from us!

The six month MOT exemption introduced during the COVID-19 outbreak, has now ended.
 If your MOT is due on or after 1st August, please call to book a slot ASAP.

7am slots available for anyone needing to come in before work/home schooling!

We are open for **safe** MOTs, following the current guidelines and all vehicles/keys are being sanitised.

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

Aardvark Motors, Catsgore,
 Somerton, TA11 7HY
office@aardvarkmotors.co.uk
 (between Lime Kiln Pub and Podimore Roundabout)

Class 4 MOT Centre

the Good Garage Scheme

OVERT LOCKE

Chilli Jam Recipe

Ingredients:
 8 red peppers, de-seeded and chopped
 8 red chillies, chopped
 5cm piece of root ginger, finely chopped
 5 garlic cloves, finely chopped
 400g tin of chopped tomatoes
 750g granulated sugar
 250ml red wine vinegar

Method:
 Combine all the ingredients in a large pan. Heat gently, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil and skim off any scum that has formed. Reduce the heat and simmer gently for about an hour, stirring occasionally. Raise the heat slightly and cook for a further 10-15 minutes, stirring frequently. Allow to cool slightly, then spoon into hot sterilised jars. Cover and seal.

Makes approximately four 8oz jars

Overt Locke, West Street, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 7PS
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Black & white quarter page: £30
Black & white half page: £45
Black & white full page: £75.
Colour half page (inside front and back cover): £55
Outer back cover: £120.00
Full centre spread: £120.00

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

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

Spice Gallery

OF SOMERTON
Indian Restaurant & Takeaway
TEL 01458 274 666/ 270 077
www.spicegallerysomerton.co.uk

OPENING HOUSE

Sunday to Thursday
12.00pm to 2.00pm &
5.30pm to 10.30pm
Friday: Lunch Time Closed
Re-open 5.30pm to 11.00pm
Saturday: 12.00pm to 2.00pm &
5.30pm to 11.00pm

13 Brunel Shopping Centre
Somerton, Somerset TA11 7PY

Somerton Town Council - September 2020

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council	8 th September	7 pm (after Planning)	By Zoom
Promotions & Communications	15 th September	7 pm	By Zoom
Land & Properties	22 nd September	7 pm (after Planning)	By Zoom
Planning (if required)	8 th & 22 nd September	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.

Jude Raybould joined Somerton Town Council as Deputy Clerk in June 2014. She undertook her CiLCA training and certification and on the resignation of Terry Philpott in March 2019, Jude was promoted to Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer. She has now left the council to pursue her career interests elsewhere and we thank her very much for her hard work and diligence, especially during the challenges Covid has presented, and wish her all the very best for the future. **Lisa Newby** has been appointed Town Clerk and will join the council in mid September.

News

WESSEX HOUSE

Residents and staff at Wessex House enjoyed cries of "Oyez" from Somerton Town Crier, Steve Davis, after which all enjoyed tea & cakes and a singalong. See cover picture.

VIADUCT

After many years of hard work Martyn and Mo are stepping down from their roles producing the monthly Viaduct. We are therefore looking for new editors. If there is anyone out there who would like to put themselves forward please contact our Assistant Clerk Claire for further information and to register your interest. There will be plenty of support for a new editor!

SOMERTON SPORTS CLUB

Somerton Sports Club welcomes members back - bar opening times are Fri/Sat 7.00pm - 11.00pm. If sports (Rugby and Football) are on field the bar opening times will tie in with matches.

The snooker room is open to members daily from 9.00am - 10.00pm, Bar times will change once skittles starts.

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

YEOVILTON AVERAGE WEATHER STATISTICS FOR JULY 2020

	Max temp	Min temp	Rain mm	Sun hrs	So July 2020 was very slightly drier but otherwise very similar to the 55year average
July Average	21.4	11.7	41.2	195.5	
55yr Average	21.7	11.9	54.9	198.2	

SOMERTON LIFELINE UPDATE

We have dealt with over 1400 requests since we began in March - so well done everyone! We handle less requests now with only 27 prescriptions and 10 shopping orders during week commencing 3rd August, so the scheme is winding down at the end of September. More residents are feeling confident to go out and shop or pick up prescriptions or have family and friends who are no longer self-isolating to do it for them. Twelve of our volunteers have completed a course in Mental Health Awareness and will also be doing a Safe Guarding course. Many thanks for the incredible help from so many, especially those receiving telephone requests.

Shopping

Our volunteer team will continue to fetch and deliver shopping on Thursdays throughout September.

Prescriptions

We will continue through September on Fridays to allow you time to make other arrangements. Others may collect your medication but they must have your full name and address and postcode.

Boots can deliver prescriptions for a small charge, although those who are vulnerable may qualify for free delivery. There are other pharmacy companies who will deliver for free.

Mo Fletcher

PS Sheila Crothers is setting up a "ood Neighbours" scheme (see below) .

RE-OPENING SOMERTON LIBRARY – THE OUTLINE PLAN

As summarised in the August Viaduct, work is progressing to reopen Somerton Library for the provision of a limited service in line with government guidelines, Public Health England's recommendations and library-specific constraints.

The plans are based on the best information available when this article was written in mid-August.

We are working towards an initial reopening in early September. The first few days will be set aside for returns, probably from Thursday 3rd September. No hire or overdue charges will be payable.

Because of health concerns about handling books, it will not be possible to browse in the library. The core provision will be an 'Order and Collect' service that allows customers to place an order for a selection of books, talking books or DVDs that staff will hand-pick to be collected from the library. They may be collected by a third party on behalf of the customer.

More information is available at: www.somerset.gov.uk and putting "libraries" in the search box. It is planned that 'Order and Collect' will commence on Monday 7th September.

There will be limited access to two public computers. This will be for pre-booked and time-limited slots scheduled for Thursday and Friday afternoons.

Library opening hours will be adjusted and the current plan is:

Day	Hours	Service
Mon	2.00pm - 5.00pm	"Order & Collect" and Returns
Tue	Closed all day	None
Wed	10.00am - 1.00pm	"Order & Collect" and Returns
Thu	10.00am - 1.00pm	"Order & Collect" and Returns
	2.00pm - 4.45pm	Pre-booked public computer use
Fri	10.00am - 1.00pm	"Order & Collect" and Returns
	2.00pm - 4.45pm	Pre-booked public computer use
Sat	10.00am - 1.00pm	"Order & Collect" and Returns

Any changes to this information will be advertised locally using Viaduct, The Leveller, 'Love Somerton' Facebook and the Town Council websites, as well as notices in the Library windows.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The "Lights Brigade" will be putting up the Christmas lights as usual for 2020 and if you can help, please contact Ian Rodger 07890 507 452. Further details and dates will appear later.

However, Love Somerton are sorry to announce that there will be no special event this year for the Christmas lights switch-on because of the ongoing coronavirus issues



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Thur-Sat: 12 noon - Late
Sunday: 12 noon - 10pm

Food Service Times
Mon-Wed: No food service
Thur-Sat: 12 noon - 2.30pm & 5pm - 8pm
Sunday Roast: 12 noon - 4pm

Takeaway Available
Thur-Sat: 5pm - 8pm
Sunday Roast: 12 noon - 4pm

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Scan QR Code With Your Phone Camera For Menu



This month's cover photo was sent in by Wessex House, and shows Somerton Town Crier, Steve Davis during a recent visit to Wessex House. 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.

Viaduct is published by Somerton Town Council and printed by Somerton Printery. Editors: Neal Barton, Mo Fletcher. Submissions by 12th of previous month to viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ST MICHAEL'S SOMERTON

Holy Communion 10.00am Wednesdays . Sunday Worship 11.00am each Sunday.
People wishing to attend these services need to book in advance by calling 01458 272029 or sending an email to somerton.vicar@btinternet.com
These services are also being broadcast at the same times on video and telephone conference systems. For more details contact the booking office.

LIFE CHURCH SOMERTON

Online Church - <https://lifechurchsomerton.online.church> Sundays at 10.00am and again at 8.00pm
Full details on our Facebook page - Life Church Somerton or contact Conrad on 07891 665 938

ST CLEERS

Virtual service each Sunday, accessible from 10.30am at www.stcleers.org There's also a virtual facebook page where we can keep in touch and share concerns and joys.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Mass on Thursday at 11.15am and on Sundays at 11.00am. Booking is necessary by email to booksuechurchnotices@gmail.com

WEST STREET CHURCH

Hoping to open on Sunday 13th September and it will be necessary to wear face masks and use hand sanitizers. There will be no bibles nor other printed information. Compliance with social distancing will be necessary. Full details at <https://urcmeth.blogspot.com/>

HEALTH WALKS THURSDAYS 3RD AND 17TH SEPTEMBER.

11.15 outside the Library. We can now take up to 30 on health walks but walkers need to bring a pen and to complete a "Track and Trace" form. We'll walk as usual keeping social distancing. Wear clothing appropriate for the weather. Hope to see you then. More info from Mo 07718 920 198.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

10.30am Sports Club. We will be running on September 10th for details ring Mo on 07718 920 198.
Please bring your own drink and you will need a face covering, but hand sanitiser will be provided.

RARE PLANT FAIR SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

10.00am-4.30pm Bishop's Palace, Wells
The events have proved to be extremely popular over the past few years and this year in view of coronavirus, the nursery stalls will be laid out with plenty of space to protect both the nursery owners and visitors to the event.

Admission will be by advance ticket only (£7 per adult) with hourly allocated slots in order to spread the number of visitors. Palace passholders will have free entry, but must book in advance.
The event is held entirely outdoors, but tickets include entrance to the Palace and 14 acres of RHS partner gardens. See the website: <https://bishopspalace.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.

SOMERTON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Dramatic Society wishes to let you know, if you haven't already heard, that there will not be a Pantomime next year, due to the Coronavirus. It was felt that due to close contact between actors, and "helpers", we would not be able to keep within the social distancing recommendations. It is hoped that other forms of drama will be performed during 2021 - so please look out for that sometime in the New Year.

SOMERTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME - CAN YOU HELP?

Although we can't predict when the COVID restrictions will end, we do need to continue providing help to the more vulnerable people in Somerton. When the Community Lifeline Scheme winds down, there will still be those who can't get out to shop or collect prescriptions, who don't have access to transport to appointments, or who would benefit from a friendly face or voice to lessen their social isolation. 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

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST UPDATE

The trustees would like to thank members of the community who responded to our advert in Viaduct last month by donating a total of £32,000, which is brilliant! Thank you!

Good News! The Trust is pleased to announce that on 14th July, Somerton Town Council decided unanimously to grant £25,000 to Kirkham Street Field, on the condition that we are nearing our target. We have already raised £55,000 through donations and promises all in the space of a bare few weeks since the lockdown began to ease! Our campaign to secure this field for the community will include making contact with possible benefactors and businesses as well as accepting donations via George James Estate Agents, who has kindly put a notice in his window for this purpose.

We are planning a public event for 26th September to open discussion on how the field can best be used for the benefit of the community, using some draft design ideas which are in circulation via Love Somerton and the Trust Facebook page and displayed in local shops and in the Computer Shop window. Times and venue for this event will be detailed in a leaflet delivered to households in early September. If you could help with deliveries please contact Mo Fletcher on 07718 920 198

Thank you for your on-going support. Judith Hurley (tel 273079) on behalf of the Trustees

SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST

Somerset Wildlife Trust is pleased to announce that it has received a grant of over £13,000 from Aggregate Industries through their Local Partnerships Development Fund for 'Mendip Habitats Fit for the Future'. The funds will enable the Trust to undertake critical woodland management work in woodland areas of the Cheddar Wood Nature Reserve. A special butterfly bank will be created at Shute Tip which will use limestone aggregate sourced from the quarry.

Somerset Wildlife Trust has been protecting wildlife and preserving Somerset's wild places for over 50 years and, with over 20,000 members, is the largest conservation charity in the county
For full details, see www.somersetwildlife.org.

HEXT ALMSHOUSES

The Almshouses in West Street were gifted to the town in 1626 by Sir Edward Hext, originally for eight men. After remodelling in 1883 and extending in 1987, there are now seven one-bedroomed units for persons who have a housing need and live in the parishes of Somerton, Langport or High Ham, or have

a strong connection with the local area. The board of trustees comprises nominees from the three town/parish councils plus three co-opted community trustees.

There is a vacancy for co-option of a community trustee - an unpaid position - and the co-optee will help with the overseeing of the running of the almshouses. The duties take very little time and only two or three meetings per year. Expressions of interest should be addressed to :-

Mary Palmer, Clerk to the Trustees, email: cobbler2014@gmail.com mob: 07765 780 733

SPEEDWATCH

Another month has passed and we are busier than ever, we have requests from some of you to cover other areas, but to do this we could need more volunteers, YOUR TOWN NEEDS YOU.

You might have noticed that the police are joining some of our watches and more offenders are being targeted. We would hope that seeing us about reminds you that you must drive within the limit, it's not really difficult and shows that you have control and are considering other road users and pedestrians. Some of the worst offenders are tradespeople who have been reported while using the phone and exceeding the limit so why not make life easier for yourselves and safer and more pleasant for others. If you want to join us or come out and see how some drivers behave, give me a call on 01458 897224.

David Cundle

SOMERTON FOODBANK

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the food bank since it was set up, due to your generosity we now have a surplus of some items but we are still in need of other things.

We are delivering to some young families who are still waiting for their summer holiday food vouchers so if you are considering making a donation it would be helpful if this could include: breakfast cereal, squash, jam/peanut butter/Marmite, tinned rice pudding, biscuits/cake, loo rolls, crisps, small jars of coffee and tea. For the time being we have plenty of: pasta and pasta sauces, rice(dry), soup, tinned tomatoes and tinned pulses.

There is a list of items above the donation box in the Co-op which we will update as things change. Please call us on the number below if you would prefer to make a cash donation as many of you already have, this will enable us to buy fresh items such as bread, milk and fruit. .

We would also like to thank Mike Navarra of the Unicorn for giving us space in the skittle alley to enable us to relocate the foodbank back in the town and to the Co-op for hosting the donation box. If you require a delivery from us, please call 07561 651 372.

ACEARTS

From 1 September we will be open from 10am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm, Wednesday to Saturday. Our exhibition space re-opened from 8th August with 'Somerset' by Jenny Graham, (also online), until Saturday 12th September (see below). This will be followed by 'Towards the Tipping Point' by Rebecca Bruton and Lydia Needle from Saturday 19th September. More details of all we are doing, our latest news and, of course, our on-line shop (always open!) are available on our website www.acearts.co.uk.

JENNY GRAHAM EXHIBITION AVAILABLE AT ACEARTS - AND VIRTUALLY TOO!

Jenny Graham's exhibition explores the varied landscapes of our county in painting, etchings and constructions, and the works were created during and after lockdown. The large paintings drew both on the artist's photos and sketches and her memories from 35 years of living and working in the county; the etchings explore the graphic qualities of our Somerset landscape; whilst the constructions have been made from objects found in the area near her home.

We will again utilise the virtual 'The Abstract Gallery' for Jenny's show. The online exhibition can be accessed at www.acearts.co.uk/exhibition-2020/

For more info call ACEarts on 273008, e-mail: hello@acearts.co.uk or visit the Facebook page.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Planning Authority covering our area is South Somerset District Council and decisions are made by their planning department. Householder developments and small developments are usually decided by planning officers under delegated powers from Ward Members (District Councillors), However, if the application is contentious it will automatically go to Ward Members for a decision. Ward Members can also request a referral to the Area North Committee (comprised of District Councillors representing a geographic area including Somerton) under certain circumstances agreed by the Area Chair. Larger developments will always be considered by Area North Committee.

Somerton Town Council is a consultee, along with members of the general public and other bodies including County Highways, SCC Archaeology and sometimes Natural England and Wessex Water. STC does not have the power to make decisions about planning applications. STC's planning committee considers and comments on all applications in the Somerton parish and any applications in neighbouring areas which may impact on Somerton. All town councillors are members of the town council's planning committee. It should be noted that whilst the SSDC does not have to agree with STC recommendations, it does have to consider their views, which are quoted in the Officers' reports to the Ward Members.

In general the process is as follows:

- Application details - plans, sketches and photos of the site - are received from SSDC. STC adds the application(s) to the next planning committee agenda and the agenda is advertised in accordance with Local Government rules including on the STC website.
- Any applications are considered at the next planning committee meeting. Members of the public may attend the meeting, and will be given an opportunity to address the committee prior to the start of the meeting. The committee will agree comments and recommendations for submission to SSDC and these will be recorded in the meeting minutes. All applications can be seen on the SSDC website.

Planning Considerations: There is sometimes confusion as to what are valid considerations

Valid planning considerations would include the following:

- Traffic generation, highway safety and parking
- Overshadowing, overlooking and loss of privacy
- Noise, disturbance or other loss of amenities
- Relevant planning policies
- Effect on trees
- Design e.g. height/bulk/position of buildings, appearance, affect on the surrounding area
- Inadequate landscaping/means of enclosure

The following would not normally be valid planning considerations:

- Loss of property value
- Issues of market competition
- Loss of a view
- The applicant's motives, character or personal circumstances
- Matters covered by other legislation, including restrictive covenants on land
- Issues relating to ownership/boundaries, including access to undertake development
- Moral or religious issues
- Issues relating to the construction of a development
- The reasons why a developer is making the application or their activities elsewhere.

If consent is granted for a development, this does not grant any rights to obstruct others during construction, nor any right to store building plant or materials on land outside the property, including public land such as road verges.