

VIADUCT

June 2021



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Laura Pinkney, Viaduct Editor

Welcome!

Wow! What a month it has been! Thank you to all those who got in contact with their feedback, I really appreciate you taking the time to let me know your thoughts and I hope you all continue to enjoy reading the Viaduct magazine as much as I enjoy putting it together. As lockdown easing continues, general consensus from Viaduct feedback is that it's just a little too early for events, businesses, clubs and societies to return fully to our new 'normal' way of life, but there is hope it won't be much longer. Having had a member of the family admitted to hospital this month for what turned out to be a 12 day stay, I have had my eyes opened to the relentless pressure the NHS has been working under throughout the pandemic, so this is not the time to become complacent. We all need to continue to stay safe and adhere to the government's core message of 'hands, face, space', so we can protect one another and return to our new normal life as quickly and as safely as possible. I hope you all enjoyed Somerset Day on the 11th May. The town centre looked fantastic adorned with Union Jack bunting and so many flags! Although very blustery, we were blessed with glorious sunshine in the morning and lots of Somertonians came out to show their support and celebrate our fantastic County. With the Town Crier proclaiming there was a real energy in the town and the BBC came to Somerton to do some filming. Why not check out our short video from the day on our Somerton Town Council facebook page. Finally, may I say congratulations to Fiona Richardson, our front cover photo competition winner this month of the Town Crier on Somerset Day. Please keep your entries coming, we have 4 front covers to go! (portrait, 300dpi, jpeg or png)

Until next month...

Laura
Viaduct Editor

Advertise within the Viaduct

For all those who would like to advertise within the Viaduct magazine, please contact me for our current rate card and artwork information, thank you.

Laura Pinkney (Viaduct Editor)

07971 776004

viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Contents

Somerton Town Council: pg's 8 & 9

News: pg's 4, 6, 11, 12 & 13

From the residents: pg 10

How well do you know pg 10

Somerton?

Viaduct No. 212 June 2021

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FRONT COVER WINNER

Fiona Richardson

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SUBMISSIONS

by the 21st of each month

Full steam ahead for Somerton's festival

Plans for this summer's Somerton Music & Arts Festival remain on track following the latest Government announcement on the lifting of Covid restrictions. It is now looking more likely that most of the regulations will be lifted by June 21st meaning that festival events planned for July, including the Somerstock music festival and our Funday, will go full steam ahead.

"We're hopeful that by July things will be feeling much more normal" says festival chairman Fred Bassett. "It would be great not to have to wear masks, but we will certainly be following whatever guidelines are in place at the time."

The festival opens on 2nd July with the first of many events taking place throughout Somerton.

Sunday the 4th July will see our improved Funday commencing at midday and continuing through until around five o'clock. This free community event will have something for everyone. You could just relax at our live music stage and listen to the talented local bands with a drink from our bar. If you feel more energetic we have children's activities including bouncy castle, inflatable obstacle course and sporting activities as well. Perhaps just browse through our community and trade stalls and play some traditional summer fair games like splat the rat and hook a duck. We haven't forgotten about those with the "need for speed", so come along and look at the vintage vehicle show and vote for your favourite vehicles. There will also be several displays throughout the afternoon. Pawsability will be showing off their dog agility skills in their fantastic display, but remember we have special permission to have the agility dogs on the recreation grounds so sorry but your dogs cannot come and watch. The Fire Brigade will also be conducting a display but of course this will depend if they are available on the day, lets hope they are! All in all we are planning for a really great start to the Somerton Music and Arts festival with this free community Funday. If you would like to get involved or have a stall on the day then please do contact us via the website listed below.

During the week there will also be talks, musical performances, a service at St Michael's and All Angels Church and lots of bands playing at the local hostelrys. The culmination comes on Saturday 10th July when Somerstock hits the town with 16 bands headlined by pop and soul legends The Christians. There's something for all the family with non-stop music across three stages plus the famous Motionhouse dance troupe, a silent disco, food, drink and kid's zone.

Advance tickets for all events are available online now, and the festival ticket office will open at Somerton Library on 29th May, selling tickets for all the town events as well as Somerstock and Oktoberfest, the festival's own German beer festival billed as the ultimate Bavarian party night on 9th October at Edgar Hall.

With people eager to get out and about again, Fred Bassett advises buying tickets sooner rather than later. "As a precaution, we have had to limit the number of tickets we are able to offer and advance tickets to most events are already selling well online" Early bird ticket prices for town events run until 5th June.

For more information and tickets visit www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk

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Somerton u3a

A National u3a day is being held on Wednesday 2nd June. Somerton u3a will be promoting the event from 9am to 1pm so come and meet us outside the Library and find out what we are all about. There are over 50 interest groups to choose from social, intellectual, physical and educational and all of them enjoyable.

Our monthly Zoom meeting will be held on Friday 25th June: “New Orleans to New York” a presentation by Roger Browne. This talk focuses on the links and influences between jazz born in New Orleans and musical theatre in New York.

For further information on how to join us please visit the Somerton u3a website at www.u3asites.org.uk/somerton/home or email membership@Somertonu3a.uk

Chess Players Current and Future: Where Are You?

Inspired by “The Queen’s Gambit” or always wanted to learn how to play chess? Once Government guidelines permit, Somerton Community Library is planning to start a Saturday morning Chess Club. We are looking for some experienced players who would be willing to teach and encourage those who would like to learn and play.

Ideally we will have a training session followed by free play.

If you are interested please leave a message on the Activities page of Somerton Community Library website www.somertonlibrary.com or fill in a form at the library.

Archies Xtra Somerton Needs You

Are you interested in working with the young people who live in Somerton? If yes then why not come and join our well established team of volunteers who make up the Archies Xtra team. We meet every Thursday from 7.30pm -9pm at the Recreation Ground where we talk to the young people who are around and offer them free refreshments. Our volunteers come from all backgrounds and the number of sessions they commit to a month varies; some help out weekly, others monthly. Please contact Judith on 01458 273079 or Alex 01458 272047 if you want to know more. We would love to hear from you.

Christian Aid

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated money and brought in the envelope delivered to their home. Also to everyone who has given items to sell, and bought things from our pop-up shop in West Street. We are closing the shop at 4pm on Saturday 29th May, so by the time you read this I expect it will be no more. I'll report further in July's Viaduct.





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Somerton Town Council

Mo Fletcher



Following the recent election this is a list of those currently serving as Somerton Town Councillors. To contact anyone please use the following email address format;

firstname.surname@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk



Phil Flowers



Anouska Harrison



Stephen Harrison



Vince Holland



Tim Kerley



Susan Pither



Brian Raybould



Fiona Richardson



Peter Richardson



Dean Ruddle (Chairman)



Peter Simmonds



Sheila Taylor



Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	22nd June 2021	7pm	Edgar Hall
Promotions & Communications	24th June 2021	7pm	Edgar Hall
Land and Properties	29th June 2021	7pm	Edgar Hall

Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be opportunities to ask questions. Now we are back meeting in person at the Edgar Hall please refer to the Somerton Town Council website for Covid related information and guidance.

Planning applications may be viewed on the SSDC website

All agendas and minutes are available on the STC website

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

Councillor Structure 2021 – 2022 Summary

Access & Highways	Land & Properties	Promotion & Communications	Planning
Chair: Fiona Richardson	Chair: Peter Richardson	Chair: Sue Pither	Chair: Peter Simmonds
Phil Flowers Stephen Harrison Brian Raybould Peter Simmonds	Phil Flowers Vince Holland Tim Kerley	Mo Fletcher Anouska Harrison Sheila Taylor	Mo Fletcher Brian Raybould Fiona Richardson

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Tel: 07976 556 054 or email: clerk.assistant@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

From the residents...

Reggie the Hubcap Robot... Spotted!

Some of you will remember the feature last month about a robot being spotted in the Market Square by Lina Thomas while enjoying tea at the Buttercross Tearooms. Well, I am really pleased to report that this mystery has been solved by Garry Sharp, a local resident, who got in contact to introduce Reggie the Robot. In 2016 Garry started getting annoyed and frustrated at all the hubcaps left on the side of our Somerset roads and began collecting them. After a couple of months he had amassed 100 and Reggie the Robot was created. Reggie is used to promote and teach the hugely important message of 'Reduce/Reuse/Recycle/Repair' and having been on display to encourage and inspire all over the County, he is clearly very effective. Reggie will even have his own colouring book highlighting his story and valuable message which is due to be released in July. I will publish more information in due course. In the meantime, if anyone would like to use Reggie the Robot at a venue or an event he can be contacted via email: reggie.on.tor@gmail.com



Garry Sharp and
'Reggie the Robot'
on Glastonbury Tor



News from Wessex House

Congratulations to Joan Hunt (Buckland) who celebrated her 102nd birthday on 15th of April. Joan was born in Compton Dundon and moved to Somerton with her then husband about 80 years ago. Joan celebrated the occasion observing Covid rules with limited visits from family who would like to thank the staff at Wessex House for making it a memorable day. Many happy returns to you Joan!

How well do you know Somerton?



Last month's picture, on the left, was of the old petrol pump on the wall of "The Old Pump House" in Langport Road. It must date from the earliest days of motoring. Sad and neglected, and in so much need of restoration!

This month's mystery picture, on the right, is a "where is it?" Do you know?



ACEarts

We are so excited to be fully open and bringing you not one, but two exhibitions until 19 June. 'In Search of Northern Soul' by Leonard Green and in our new second space, 'Constellations' by Emma Housley. We are open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm and look forward to welcoming you to see these two exciting, vibrant shows. You can't miss our colourful new flags outside our building! Our gallery shop showcases contemporary craft, handmade pieces created by our wonderful local makers and the online shop contains a curated selection of the fabulous work on offer and is always open.

Somerton Market

The next market will be held on Friday 4 June from 9am until 2pm with a selection of stalls selling vintage, upcycled and handmade goods alongside other offerings, why not pop along and browse in the midst of our beautiful town centre around the Buttercross.

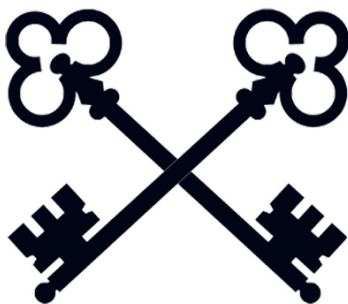
Somerton Health Walks

We have walks on Thursday 3rd and 17th June. We meet outside Somerton Library at 11.15 for 11.30 am start. Please wear a mask to register and bring own pen if possible. Wear suitable footwear for weather conditions. See you then Mo Fletcher and Linda Hobday. Contact Mo on 07718 920198 for more information.



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Somerton WI (Women's Institute)

Somerton WI is looking forward to resuming our monthly meetings and events soon. We will be contacting existing members when plans have been finalised and details will be in the July issue of Viaduct. We look forward to seeing familiar faces again and new members will be very welcome to join us.

Patients Participation Group Notes

The good news is that 'Phase 1' of the Covid-19 vaccination programme being administered within the South Somerset (West) area is nearing completion - two months ahead of the target. This means nearly 20,000 patients will have been vaccinated, with 40,000 doses of vaccine having been administered.

Plans are in place to 'decommission' the Henhayes Centre, Crewkerne – no small task, requiring the removal of all the furniture and equipment which was brought in to facilitate the programme. It is hoped that conversations with Public Health England will result in agreement to administer outstanding vaccinations at local practices.

As you may be aware the Government has suggested that booster ('phase 3') doses will likely commence around October and will take into account new resistant strains. It is hoped it will be feasible for the Covid vaccine to be given alongside the planned extended flu vaccination campaign.

Patients may not be aware of the significant extra pressure on our practice staff, clinical and administrative, as they have provided essential additional support to the operation of the vaccine administration programme in our area. For the past six months many staff have, in effect, been fulfilling two jobs but exceptional

circumstances have necessitated an exceptional response and our local providers have more than played their part by their contribution to the success of the vaccination campaign in South Somerset.

Further indication of the pressure our GP health centre has experienced is evident from the number of calls received during April, which averaged 300 per day. A large proportion of these calls are still made in the morning and early afternoon which results in longer times for them to be answered. Just a reminder that if non urgent calls are made after 3pm it would ease pressure on staff and also reduce response time.

Would you like to volunteer for the Viaduct magazine?

We are looking for 2 or 3 volunteers to join our amazing group of Viaduct deliverers. As an important role getting our magazine out to the community we have rounds available in the Patch Meadow area of the town. If you are interested, please email Somerton Town Councillor Sue Pither at susan.pither@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

The British Red Cross

The British Red Cross have rescheduled their fund raising week to the last week in June this year. With so many new houses we need more collectors, both house to house or in the car parks. There is no qualification needed except the ability to smile. We will also have stalls on the field for the Somerton Fun Day on Sunday 4th July so please support us then. Finally a thank you if you bought my book. £300 has been donated to the Red Cross this month. I still have copies available at £12. Please contact Chris Cox on 01458 273085 or e-mail: cox.cj@btinternet.com

Somerset Wildlife Trust

Somerset Wildlife Trust is really pleased to announce the launch of their brand new 10-year strategy – Wilder Somerset 2030 last month. The launch of this plan, alongside the desire to take a more urgent approach to tackling the challenges the natural environment faces going forward, marks a real moment for the Trust, and they want all of us to be a part of it! (and if possible report on it too). We all know we've got to take a more radical approach to bringing nature back and Somerset Wildlife Trust think this plan stands a good chance of helping to make that happen!

With the climate and ecological crises becoming increasingly urgent, and the UK hosting COP26 in Glasgow this year to accelerate action on climate change, it's vital that we can encourage communities and people across Somerset to take action for nature and make a difference to their local area, as every action for nature adds up.

As part of this plan, Somerset Wildlife Trust want to get more people involved in creating a Wilder Somerset - a place where nature and people can thrive – through an exciting new Team Wilder initiative. This is an absolutely vital element to the success of Wilder Somerset 2030, which aims to get 1 in 4 people across Somerset taking action for our natural world.

Why not get involved and see how you can help? Please visit the following website; www.somersetwildlife.org/whats/wilder-somerset

SID (Speed Indicator Device) Update

Here are the recent findings from SID situated at Sutton Road, a 20mph limit, for the period 8th - 19th May

- The average speed inbounds from Pauls Bridge was 20.7 mph
- The average speed outbound from The Triangle was 22.39 Mph
- Maximum speed recorded (Inbound): 46mph at 7:30am on the 14th May 2021
- There were 11 recorded speeds of more than 40 mph over the period
- Total recorded vehicles was 11,544, outbound was the busiest direction from The Triangle with a daily average of 1154
- Busiest period of the day is mid-morning at 11:30am, as well as 2pm and 4pm



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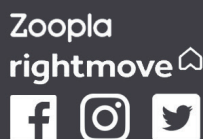
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