

VIADUCT

May 2021

Somerton

Town Council



working with the community



More reviews received into our MOT CENTRE. Our new 'Covid Friendly' waiting room has been a massive hit with our 'while you wait' MOT customers!

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Honest, genuine & unbiased MOT Testing for Somerton and surrounding villages since 2014

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Welcome!

It is with great delight and excitement that the May issue of the Viaduct is finally here- it is my very first edition as the new editor! Since starting at the beginning of April, I have really enjoyed engaging with the wider community in order to bring you valued and up to date information about the town. The Viaduct is a well-established publication and is a cherished resource of the town, which I can see is loved and valued by many. Please do get in touch with your thoughts, comments, content, photos, ideas and views and let's collectively start a brand new chapter.

In light of the darkness within the past 12 months, we are all slowly emerging from lockdown, as well as enjoying the fact that spring has most definitely sprung. And with the tortoise safely out of hibernation now, it really does feel like a new beginning and in my new role as editor, I can't wait to get stuck in and meet you all. I would like to encourage you all to enter the front cover photo competition. No-one knows this town better than you, so get your thinking caps on for eye catching photos of the town. Please don't forget entries need to be in portrait layout, a minimum 300dpi in a jpeg or png format, thank you. Living in lockdown for so long, we understandably lost the 'What's On' section which I would like to reinstate, so please do regularly send in your event details to be included. We also have a brand new last submission date which is now on the 21st of each month for items to be included in the following months issue. I am currently creating a media pack for all those who wish to advertise, but for now, please see page 22 for the current details and I very much look forward to working with you. Finally, may I take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Sue, Sheila and Lisa for making me feel so welcomed.

Until next month....

Laura

Viaduct Editor

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Viaduct No. 211 May 2021

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T&C's: Opinions expressed are those of the contributors for which STC and editors cannot be held responsible. 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.

SUBMISSIONS: by the 21st of each month

Somerton Town Council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council & Annual Town Assembly (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	Wednesday 5th May 2021	7pm	Remote (via Zoom)
Promotions & Communications	18th May 2021	7pm	Remote (via Zoom)
Accessibility and Highways (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	25th May 2021	7pm	Remote (via Zoom)

Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be opportunities to ask questions.

Planning applications may be viewed on the SSDC website.

All agendas and minutes are available on the STC website, along with how to join the zoom meetings.

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.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh

Somerton Town Council joined the nation in mourning the death of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh. As a mark of respect there was a minute silence at the Town Council meeting on the 20th April.

New Councillors

We have two new councillors on Somerton Town Council following the recent uncontested election, a welcome return to both Councillor Peter Richardson and Councillor Brian Raybould.

The Annual Town Assembly

The Annual Town Assembly is usually held in May in Somerton. Due to COVID restrictions last year, the requirement to hold this meeting was exempt. The current legislation that permits council meetings to be via a remote platform ceases on 7th May 2021. STC has therefore decided to hold this year's Annual Town Assembly on 5th May, before the scheduled Town Council meeting.

STC would like to invite local organisations to attend. Meeting details will be available nearer the time on the STC website. Local organisations that have received a grant from STC will be contacted and asked for a short report on how their grant money has been spent.

Fly the Flag for Somerset

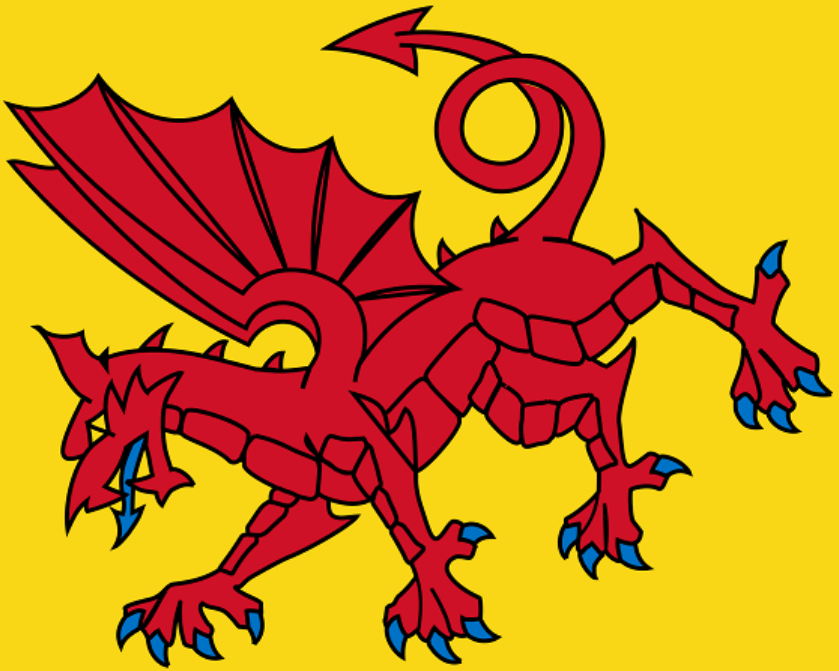
Flags will be flying around the Market Square on May 11th for Somerset Day. It would be wonderful if we could turn Somerton into a sea of flags and bunting on the day. For more information and to get involved, including how to download printable flags and bunting, you can go to www.somersetday.com

VE Day

Sadly due to Covid we are again not able to hold any events to mark VE Day. Somerton Town Council is, however, planning an event for later in the year which will include a commemoration of the centenary of Somerton's War Memorial. More details will follow in future editions of the Viaduct.

Somerset Day:

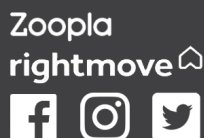
Cut out this Somerset flag to display in your window, car, office or garden on May 11th.



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T: 01458 272626 W: www.overlocke.co.uk

Facelift at Somerton & District Bowls Club

Consequent to a generous bequest in the will of a late Club member in 2018, it was decided to use this money to upgrade the facilities of the Bowls Club, resulting in a significant programme of work being undertaken over the two years since. Initially a new equipment shed was erected, replacing the old shed that had assumed an agricultural appearance over the years. Subsequently a new resin-bonded pathway was installed along the entrance side of the green, replacing flagstones that were prone to movement. The most significant development however was the installation of a new frontage on the main Clubhouse building. The original Clubhouse has stood since the mid-eighties and the windows and doors were badly needing replacement. It was decided to take the opportunity to extend the building forwards and install a new glass-panelled wall that would provide more room, improve lighting and enable a weather-proof viewing facility. This work was conducted over the winter and is now complete and the resin-bonded path has been extended in front of the extension. It is expected that these new facilities will greatly enhance the experience of both members and visitors to the Club.

Whilst the present pandemic has greatly restricted much sporting activity, outdoor sports played in the summer months are likely to be the first where restrictions can be relaxed. Already Bowls England have produced their own road map for the guidance of member clubs suggesting that with the exception of some early season restrictions, activities should return to some sort of normality.

From late April onwards, the Club will be open and anyone wishing to try the sport can attend roll-up sessions on Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons, where equipment can be supplied and coaching given. Enquiries about membership are always welcome. To get a flavour of the Bowls experience and social activities of the club, together with contact details, please visit the club website at www.somertonbowlsclub.co.uk

ACEarts

We were so pleased to be able to reopen our revamped shop and welcome so many of you back – we look forward to seeing even more of you as the year unfolds. From Tuesday 18 May the upstairs gallery will also be open, showing our first exhibition of 2021 – local artist Leonard Green's "In Search of Northern Soul" where energetic movement in the dances related to Northern Soul music provide the energy for his paintings. We will also be showing the work of Emma Housley in our new second space gallery, which has been created to introduce local, emerging artists to exhibiting professionally. As always, entry is free to all our spaces and details of opening times, exhibitions and other events can be found on our website www.acearts.co.uk

Somerton Health Walks

We will be restarting on Thursday 6th and Thursday 20th May meeting outside Somerton Library to register at 11.15 am and then leave at 11.30 am.

Please wear a mask to register but you will not need it when walking.

We will need to keep social distancing as much as possible and we will be walking for approx 1 hour. Please wear appropriate footwear for the weather conditions.

Contact Mo Fletcher 07718920198 or fletcher080@btinternet.com for further information.

To all Somerton Organisations, Societies and Clubs

Please check to see if your organisation, society or club is listed on the Somerton Community Website www.somerton.co.uk and that your information is correct. The details are listed on the Societies and Clubs pages. Please advise if you have any corrections, deletions or additions to make. There is a facility to have the following information if required:

- The Organisations name
- Contact name and address including post code
- Phone number
- Mobile number
- Email address
- Website address with link

The website also has an Events Page and all entries are free of charge.

We are very keen to have listings of any meeting dates with any information you can give to keep the people of Somerton up to date with what's going on in their town. Please email or send any information to the address below. Please help us to keep local people informed.

Also any sporting fixtures that are held in Somerton that the public can come and watch can be listed. When listing any events please state which organisation/club is being represented.

Please contact Somerton Community Website.

Email: somerton@somerton.co.uk, Phone: 01458 272041

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 7.30-9pm 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.

Somerton Market

Somerton Market will resume on Friday 7 May 2021, with lots of new stallholders and all our longstanding vendors hoping to see you there. The market will continue in 2021 on the first Friday of each month around the Buttercross.

SpeedWatch

SpeedWatch continues to remind drivers that they should respect the speed limit which are generally appreciated by the majority, so thank you for your encouragement. The Police are regularly watching Langport Rd with speed cameras and are issuing fines, which allows us to concentrate on the more residential areas. They are also busy calling on persistent and high speeders who get reported. Please keep within the limits. As you are probably aware the new school will be opened in Northfield by the time you read this and I hope that the surrounding roads which are at present 30 mph will be made into a safer 20 mph zone and a safe footpath will be in place along Northfield itself. Crossing the Langport Rd opposite Northfield

is dangerous at anytime, but with toddlers and young children on the way to school it is a huge risk and a zebra crossing would improve safety no end. So come on councils, both town and county, get moving, spend some money and make this area safer, before it's too late. Please note SpeedWatch is organised by and is in partnership with Avon and Somerset Police and is completely separate from our Town Council although we appreciate the support they give us. You can contact Avon and Somerset Police on 101 or contact the local station officer if you have any questions regarding our activities. If you are interested in supporting SpeedWatch you can contact David Cundle on 01458 897224

Dear Editors,

I was so glad to see your mention of Somerset Day, May 11, in the April Viaduct. I've been an enthusiastic supporter of Somerset Day since its inception in 2015 and voted for the date that was chosen, May 11, the date in the year 878 AD when King Alfred defeated the Danes at Edington, with 'all the men of Somerset' in his army, as the Anglo Saxon Chronicle tells us. I made a string of bunting in 2015 and put it up outside my house that year and every year since. (I was amazed that, in 2017, the red hot pokers in a tub just at the corner of my house, right near the bunting, came into flower at exactly the right time in May!)

As far as I could tell, Somerset Day hasn't really caught on yet in Somerton, but it will be wonderful if it does so now, thanks to your publicity in Viaduct!

Jenny Brown



Robot Spotted in Market Square!

Did you see the Robot? Spotted on the morning of Wednesday 14th April by Lina Thomas while having tea at the Buttercross, he was found standing to attention in the Market Square. A sculpture crafted by a talented visitor, the robot had been created using discarded hubcaps. We believe a talented visitor passing through the town put him there for a short time and he may have even been doing a tour of the Somerset villages and towns.

Photo: Teresa Stephens, Sent in by: Lina Thomas

Any info regarding this, please contact
viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

News

News from Wessex House...

We celebrated Easter with activities making bonnets and decorating eggs and an Easter raffle where we raised £135 with donations from CC's The Sweet Hive
Tony's fish & chips
The Post Office
Premier Shop
Treat Yourself
Overt Locke
Coop
and Tesco
in Langport with staff and families.
Photo: Val at Wessex House



Christian Aid Week, 10th - 16th May 2021

Last year we were in lockdown and raised nothing for this amazing charity, which helps to change lives around the world. But in 2019, as is usual in Somerton, we collected over £3,000! This year is again different and difficult as we are still battling with Covid-19. As a result, many of our volunteer collectors do not feel happy calling at people's doors, so will simply be popping an envelope through your letterbox, asking for a donation and hoping that you return it to one of the addresses on the envelope. AND, we will be running a pop-up shop!

Arrangements for this are happening now (mid April), so watch out for us in West Street, where 'Lollystick' used to be, opposite Hext Almshouses. We will sell anything saleable for a donation to Christian Aid, and you can drop off your Christian Aid donation envelope there as well as at the Post Office. Many thanks to Kim for allowing this, and to Mr. Sen, owner of the premises we'll be using, for so willingly allowing us to do so.

Your Library Needs You!

Thanks to the support of Somerton Town Council and a group of energetic 'Friends', Somerton has been able to retain its Library. In order to continue we need to augment our terrific team of Volunteers and Trustees. The Volunteer roles vary from shelving, searching and ordering books to assisting our Librarian at the computer. There is a role for everyone. Training is provided where needed.

The composition of the Trustees has been refocussed to include, not only accountable and committed supporters of the Library; it is now also centred on the tasks that have to be undertaken by the Trustees to keep the Library operating.

We are currently seeking the addition of 3 new Trustees with skills and experience in the following fields: Communications and PR, Fundraising and Health and Safety.

For more information visit www.somertonlibrary.com or phone Jeremy Greenop on 01458 270193.

Return to Limited Browsing: from 12 April. The Library has expanded its current 'click-and-collect' service to add limited browsing. Limited browsing will be for up to 4 customers. Entry will be controlled by Stop/Go lights. Masks are mandatory, NHS Test & Trace is in force.



Opening times are:

Day	Times	Service
Monday	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Browsing, 'Library Choice' and Returns
Tuesday		Closed all day
Wednesday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Browsing, 'Library Choice' and Returns
Thursday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Browsing, 'Library Choice' and Returns
	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Browsing, 'Library Choice' and Returns
Friday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Browsing, 'Library Choice' and Returns
	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Browsing, 'Library Choice' and Returns
Saturday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Browsing, 'Library Choice' and Returns

Somerton Music and Arts Festival: 2nd - 10th July 2021

Somerton Music and Arts Festival is back with a bang in 2021, promising a range of exciting performances throughout Somerton from 2-10 July. Time to shake off the last year and enjoy a host of quality, fun shows. All following government Covid safety guidelines!

Thanks to the support of Somerton's fabulous pubs, many of the events will be free. This includes rock band, New Ocean, the Merchant Men for all those enjoying the sea shanty revival, Roadstars; covering music from the 60's-80's and Fiddleback folk, with more acts and entertainment to be announced for the Festival Fun Day on July 4th.

Chairman Cliff Bassett says "We are delighted to announce a full programme of events and very pleased to welcome back the multi-instrumentalist Simeon Wood. We also have the Flute Cake trio, talks, music, the Festival Church Service, dancing and our infamous Quiz."

Talks will look at how birds in Somerton might cope with climate change, a nature walk, and the world as seen by a 16th century kitchen maid in Glastonbury Abbey. Another highlight is the 'Jive Night' in the Edgar Hall on 8th July with Twisted Vinyl and Roy Warry "There will be a full bar too, as we are sure you are going to need plenty of refreshment!" adds Bassett.

The Festival culminates with the Somerstock one day family friendly music festival on 10 July, with The Christians headlining 17 bands performing throughout the day. Just announced for Somerstock are internationally acclaimed dance-circus company Motionhouse with their show, Captive- a thrilling blend of dance and acrobatics.

For all the latest information and to book tickets, please go to www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk

All SMAF events will follow UK Government safety guidelines as published at the time of the event.

Somerton Music & Arts Festival



2nd – 10th July 2021



Saturday 10th July 2021

What's on at the 33rd



About the Festival...

Somerton Music & Arts Festival is a week of music, art, culture and family fun at venues across the town. There is a wide variety of events to suit all tastes and age groups, many of which are free - including plenty of bands playing at the local Somerton hostellers.

Get your tickets now!

Advance tickets are available now online at



www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk/tickets



www.somerstock.com/tickets



Enquiries: 07928 508700

Tickets will also be available to buy at Somerton Library from 29th May.

Let's get social...

Don't miss a thing! Keep up to date with everything that's happening in Somerton this July as well as special offers and competitions by following our social media pages



[somertonfestival](https://www.facebook.com/somertonfestival)



[somertonfest](https://twitter.com/somertonfest)



[officialsomertonfestival](https://www.instagram.com/officialsomertonfestival)



[somerstockmusic](https://www.facebook.com/somerstockmusic)



[somerstockmusic](https://twitter.com/somerstockmusic)



[somerstockmusic](https://www.instagram.com/somerstockmusic)

Diary...

Friday 2nd July – Saturday 10th July

Traditional Music evenings

Festival Quiz Night

Festival Church Service

Talks & Nature Walks

Jive night

All Week...

Great bands playing at the pubs in and around Somerton - all FREE entry

Family Fun Day (Sun 4th July)

Entertainment and attractions for all the family with classic cars thrown in...

Somerstock (Sat 10th July)

Something for everyone with 15 bands on three stages, food & licenced bars

Oktoberfest (Sat 9th October)

The ultimate Bavarian part night

For full details visit

www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk

SOMERSTOCK IS BACK!

Saturday 10th July
Somerton Recreation Ground

Somerstock, Somerton's own one-day family friendly music festival is back, bigger and better than ever!

Headlined by pop and soul legends The Christians and with 15 other amazing bands performing across all three stages, Somerstock has something to suit all ages and tastes.

Our friendly and fun festival offers something for everyone with family entertainment, food, licenced bars and on-site parking.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

In anticipation of Covid-19 regulations and guidelines* we are limiting the number of tickets available to provide everyone with plenty of space.

Book your advance tickets now to guarantee your place and help keep our festival going.

TICKET PRICES

Adults	£32
Students	£25
Children (aged 12-16)	£15
Family†	£78
Parking	£5
Camping	£15

Don't forget, under 12s go FREE!

† Family ticket admits two adults and two children

www.somerstock.com

THE CHRISTIANS

Black Friday * This Is Queen * Whole Lotta Led

Rude Boy Mitch and the Two Tones

Matt Owens * Tom Waters Band * Talisman * Area 52

Jack Humphries * Al O'Kane * Shoun Shoun

EveryPeople * Cover All Bases * Snake Snake Snake

Graffiti Falls * Supermix Silent Disco



* In the event of postponement or cancellation, all tickets will either roll over to 2022 or can be refunded in full.

3rd
Year

SOMERTON MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL
PRESENTS

Oktoberfest



BEER | BAND | FOOD

THE ULTIMATE BAVARIAN PARTY NIGHT STARRING

**SHERBAVARIAN STOMPERS
and THE PAINKILLERS**

**German beers by Wagonkered Bar
Come in Lederhosen, first beer free!**

Edgar Hall • 7pm

TICKETS £16 INCLUDING FOOD

WWW.SOMERTONARTSFESTIVAL.CO.UK/TICKETS

Be part of the solution, not the pollution - The Great British Spring Clean

There is a national campaign, The Great British Spring Clean, organised by Keep Britain Tidy taking place 28 May-13 June 2021, encouraging communities to take ownership of their environment.

If you can't take part in our socially distanced event in June, we would still like to challenge our residents of all ages, to make a concerted effort not to drop any litter over these 2 campaign weeks.

A staggering 25 full black bin liners of plastic bottles, cans and general litter are picked up by volunteers every month around our town and surrounding lanes..

So can we do it? Yes we can! "Be part of the solution, not the pollution"

Somerton has also organised our Community Litter Pick the weekend of 5th & 6th June 2021

In association with Somerton Town Council, South Somerset District Council and Somerton #2minutelitterpick we will be aiming to cover as much of the town as possible. We will focus on our paths and pavements, on our housing estates and in the lanes we've walked during lockdown. There are pockets where people like to congregate like the sports field, the play area and the carparks.



We encourage working in (bubble) pairs and you can choose where you go. We will provide all the equipment you need to safely take part. We will be handing out equipment (whilst socially distancing), on both days at the Parish Rooms in the Market Place 9.30am and we look forward to seeing you

To find out more about this event or #2minutelitterpick, contact Gregory & Rachel Somerton.2minutelitterpick@gmail.com 07811491153



Somerton U3A

Are you feeling bored and looking for a new interest? then why not consider joining the u3a. The "third age" is a time to learn for the pure pleasure and joy of learning. It's the time of life after the first stage of childhood and the second stage of full time paid employment and parental responsibility. A National u3a Day is being held on Wednesday 2nd June. Come and meet us outside Somerton Library from 10am to 1pm and find out what we are all about. We have over 50 interest groups on offer. Social, intellectual, physical and educational and all of them enjoyable.

Until we are able to resume our monthly meetings at Edgar Hall, we will be holding two Zoom meetings each month. On Friday 14th May at 11am "Dogs for Good", a presentation by Rosie Blanning. Dogs for Good is a national charity that makes a life changing difference for people with disabilities through the power of expertly trained dogs.

On Friday 28th May at 11am "Japan, Bowing to Tradition", by Jim Holmes. From the northern snow to the southern tropical beaches, Japan is a diverse and complicated country. See how Japan has integrated very traditional aspects of its culture into a modern society.

For further information on how to join us please visit the Somerton u3a website, or email membership@Somertonu3a.uk.

COME & ENJOY LAWN BOWLS

at Somerton & District Bowls Club

"A Warm Welcome Awaits"

People Join our Club in order to –

Enjoy the Sport, irrespective of age or ability

Keep Healthy through anaerobic exercise

Develop new skills

Participate in social activities

Make New Friends

Have fun

Visitors are welcome to attend our roll up sessions on Friday afternoons and Tuesday evenings and experience the Sport without any obligation. Equipment and free coaching provided. See our website for details. The Club is located at the Sports & Recreation Ground off Gassons Lane, Somerton

Enquiries to Peter (01458224212) or Pam (01458274028)

Website: www.somertonbowlsclub.co.uk



Lending with Heart and Mind

South Somerset District Council fund a not-for-profit loan scheme for homeowners and landlords*.

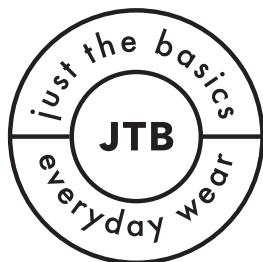
We understand the expense of maintaining your home and we work with you to take the stress out of funding repairs, improvements or adaptations.

We see you as an individual, not a credit score. Our knowledgeable team of advisers will guide you through the process of applying for a home improvement loan.

For a no-obligation assessment or more information visit
www.lendology.org.uk or call 01823 461099

Heatherton Park Studios, Bradford on Tone, Taunton, TA4 1EU

*subject to eligibility



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JustTheBasicsSomerton

SOMERTON BUS TIMES with effect from 19th APRIL 2021

SERVICES TO YEovil																	NOTES	
	NS				NS		NS	NS		NS		NS					NS Does not run Saturdays	
Som Sq	0750	0807	0930	0953	1102	1105	1202	1230	1357	1457	1530	1600	1652	1830	1947		First Saturday 54 leaves Yeovil and Somerton later	
Yeovil	0823	0841	1003	1027	1136	1138	1236	1303	1431	1531	1603	1633	1726	1903	2021			
							NS	NS		NS		NS		NS				
	77	54	54	77	54	77	54	77	54	77	77	77	54	54	77		#Some 77 services start/finish in STREET	
Yeovil	0555	0655*	0850	0850	1015	1035	1145	1145	1315	1335	1440	1535	1615	1707	1735			
Som Sq	0626	0720*	0918	0921	1043	1106	1213	1216	1343	1406	1511	1606	1643	1735	1806			
* 10 minutes later on Saturday																		
SERVICE 54 TO TAUNTON									SERVICE 77 TO WELLS									
		NS		NS		NS		NS					NS		NS		NS	
Som Sq	0720*	0918	1043	1213	1343	1413	1643	1735	Som Sq	0626	0921	1106	1216	1406	1511	1606	1806	
Langport	0732*	0930	1055	1225	1355	1425	1655	1747	Street	0649	0944	1129	1239	1429	1534	1629	1829	
Taunton	0822	1007	1132	1302	1432	1502	1732	1824	Wells	0715	1010	#	1305	#	1600	#	1855	
* 13 minutes later on Saturday																		
	NS		NS		NS		NS					NS		NS		NS		
Taunton	0700	0840	1015	1140	1320	1440	1510	1740	Wells	0720	#	1015	#	1310	#	1605	1900	
Langport	0737	0917	1052	1217	1357	1517	1547	1817	Street	0744	0930	1039	1139	1334	1434	1629	1924	
Som Sq	0750	0930	1105	1230	1410	1530	1600	1830	Som Sq	0807	0953	1102	1202	1357	1457	1652	1947	
Note: ALL services to Yeovil will travel via the Square and West Street.									Produced by MARTYN SMITH									
The 54 from Taunton will go Pound Pool, Behind Berry, North Street, Broad Street, Market Place, West Street, Pound Pool and Behind Berry for a second time																		
01458 273058																		
email: martynandsue@hotmail.com																		

Somerton Recreation Ground Public Consultation on the New Pavilion

We are in the early stages of developing plans for a potential new community pavilion at the Recreation Ground that would house updated changing facilities and multi use social and event areas. We are keen to capture feed back from the community, particularly in relation to its exact location and also the facilities that should be included. To that end we will be showing initial concept plans at the Recreation Ground (by the Muga entrance) from 10.00am to 2.00pm on Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th May.

The information will then be displayed at the Library from the 19th to the 21st May. Alternatively the concept architects have details on their website at www.orme-architecture.com/news/somerton-memorial-pavilion We look forward to hearing from you.

Somerton Good Neighbours

Our volunteers are continuing to provide valuable help to those who need it, collecting shopping and prescriptions and keeping in touch with those who might be feeling a bit lonely. It is important that everyone knows that Good Neighbours will not come to an end with the end of COVID restrictions, but will continue as a service for those in need in Somerton. If you or someone you know could do with a helping hand, please do get in touch. The contact numbers are;

West Somerton - 01458 253414, **South Somerton** - 01458 258947

North Somerton - 01458 274101, **East Somerton** - 01458 273367

We would also love to hear from anyone else who would like to join our band of volunteers. In addition to the tasks mentioned above, we would like to be able to offer occasional gardening and other practical tasks to those who can not afford to pay tradesmen. If you would be interested in this way of supporting others, please contact: Sheila Crothers 01458 273287 or email crothers4@outlook.com



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How well do you know Somerton?



Last month's picture was of an Ordnance Survey benchmark set in the wall of the erstwhile Half Moon Hotel next to the car park of that name. The Hotel was built to replace the old Half Moon Hotel which was demolished when the railway was built through the town in 1903-1906 to create a new main line from London to the west of England. Benchmarks were used by surveyors to set out and check the construction works.

This month's mystery picture on the right is once again a "what is it?" and a "where is it?"



News from the Surrounding Area

The Charltons Walking Jumble Sale

Have you missed Jumble Sales in Lockdown?

Then this is your answer - The Charltons Walking Jumble Sale !

Come along to the Community Centre in Charlton Adam on Saturday 22nd May to obtain your map of the Jumble stalls which will be situated in various gardens or drives around the villages between 10 am and 2pm. Villagers have been sorting out unwanted possessions with glee after the strange year we have just experienced and there will be lots of interesting things to buy. The Community Centre is on Top Road, Charlton Adam TA11 7BE. There is a car park and toilets there. We will also be serving refreshments. All will follow COVID regulations to ensure everyone is safe. Proceeds will be for Project Charltons which is working to improve the play and leisure facilities on the Memorial Playing Field. Further information can be obtained by contacting: info@projectcharlton.org or visiting the website www.projectcharlton296998028.wordpress.com

Virtual Financial Advice Clinic

Our financial advice clinics are back. Usually held in the Parish Rooms, we are now offering virtual, no obligation consultations. **These will take place every Thursday from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.**

Simply call us on 01458 555078 or visit www.rhiannongoghfp.co.uk/contact and click 'Arrange meeting.' Consultations are held by video or telephone call if you would prefer.



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Get ready for Recycle More



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every three weeks.**

somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more



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Every year we see so many preventable fires caused by disposable BBQs. They are not only a fire risk when they're being used, but also pose a risk when being disposed of, causing bin fires, and further damage to the environment and vegetation that has caught alight. They're not really disposable at all.

The safest place for a BBQ is at home – as long as you follow sensible precautions. All fire is a risk.

The risk of wildfires peaks in Spring. This is when the flammability of vegetation is at its highest, with the most dead leaf and woody matter available to burn.

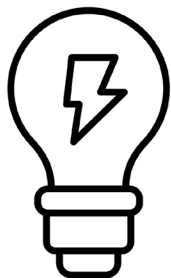
Wildfires take resources away from other emergencies. One of the most resource-intensive fires was at Woodbury Common in April 2017- it was attended by more than 200 firefighters and had 30 fire engines (approximately a quarter of our entire fleet) on scene at the same time to fight the fire.

If you cannot avoid using a disposable BBQ, you should:

1. Think carefully about your surroundings. Is it legal for you to have a BBQ where you are? Are you away from anything that could catch fire, such as trees, dry grass, bushes and fences?
2. Is the surface you're putting the BBQ on safe? Disposable BBQs need to be placed on something flat which won't catch alight e.g. stone/paving slabs. The bottom of disposable BBQs gets very hot and can easily burn what's underneath.
3. Always consider the wind. A gust of wind is all it takes to spread a spark or flame from a disposable BBQ.
4. Stay with your BBQ at all times. Make sure you have a large bottle or bucket of water or sand nearby at all times to control the fire or to put it out when you are finished.
5. Dispose of your BBQ safely and thoughtfully. Coals and BBQ containers can stay hot for hours after you've finished cooking. Do not move a BBQ until it has cooled down and never throw it in a bin until you're sure that it is completely cold. Even a small amount of warmth can start a bin fire and cause significant damage.
6. Never put burnt out BBQs or coals in your vehicle. They continue to emit poisonous carbon monoxide after they have burnt.

Stay safe

Somerton Fire Station



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Monthly submission date: 21st

Please contact the editor, Laura Pinkney at;
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