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July 2021



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*Hello,
and a
warm
welcome
to you!*

We have a jammed packed issue for you to enjoy this month, from events to cultural surveys to our new Somerton Spotlight feature. By the time you read this we will have 2 weeks of our extended restriction easing period left to run and the data is very clear. Those who have received their 2 doses of vaccine are far less likely to be hospitalised after catching the virus than those who haven't and although the number of cases of the Delta variant keep climbing, in contrast the number of deaths are thankfully decreasing, so vaccination is working. If you are yet to have your vaccines, here are the NHS contact details to book them in, Tel: 119 or visit www.nhs.uk

Accepting the fact that Covid-19 will remain part of our lives, we, as a market town of central Somerset are poised and raring to go without restrictions. We have events, clubs, classes, societies, charities and businesses all awaiting our new normal life and I have been in total awe watching the energy and strength demonstrated consistently within our community. On reflection of the boundless support you have kindly offered me, I would like to dedicate my introduction to saying 'thank you' to all those who have engaged with and contributed to the Viaduct since I started my new role as editor in April because without you all 'doing your thing', Somerton and this publication would not be what it is today.

Thank you to Mandy McAllen, Fiona Richardson and Br Yonten Phuntsok for your front cover images, Somerton Town Council for your continued support for the Viaduct, Sara Powell (ACEarts & Somerton Market), Mo Fletcher (Somerton Health Walks & Somerton

Friendship Club), Alex Sannett (Archies Xtra), Ian Laker (Somerton.co.uk), David Cundle (Speedwatch), local residents Jenny Brown, Lina Thomas, Colin Buckland and John Saunders, Emma Green (Wessex House), Rowena Wallace (Christian Aid Week), Sue Partington & Jeremy Greenop (Somerton Library Trust), Jon Sackett (Somerton Music & Arts Festival), Rachel Mason (Litter Picking Campaign), Sue Haigh (Somerton u3a), Martyn Smith (various content), David Osmond (Somerton Recreation Ground), Sheila Crothers (Somerton Good Neighbours), Peter Simmonds for the 'How well do you know Somerton' feature, Andrea de Berker (The Charltons Walking Jumble Sale), Christian Lazenbury (Somerton Fire Station), Garry Sharp (Reggie the Robot), Pauline Saunders (Somerton WI), Brian Pearson (Patients Participation Group), Chris Cox (British Red Cross), Beccy Willmetts (Somerset Wildlife Trust), Phil Flowers (SID), Keith Brackstone (Somerton Running Group), Verity Baum (Spark iT), Nettie & Tammy Oakley-Prior (Craft House Chocolate), Judith Hurley (Kirkham Field Trust), Mandy McAllen, again! (Somerton Group of Artists), local artists Lesley Cruickshank, Val Sangwine and Ann Fry, the entire team of volunteer Viaduct deliverers and to Mr Ken Edmunds for providing the weather report content for years.

And of course not forgetting all our lovely advertisers past and present, Hayley (Aardvark Motors), Tony Kirby (Bubbles & Suds), George Gray (George James Properties), Shelley (Overt Locke), Peter Jones (Somerton & District Bowls Club), Shannon Nutkins (Lendology), Jane Toft (Just the Basics), Lucy Mead (AJM Electrical Services), Rhiannon Gogh (Rhiannon Gogh Financial Advisers), Tyler Butler (Somerset Electricians), Spice Gallery, David Badman, Jo & Roger Bateman (West Country VW Camper Hire), Matt (Coop), Chris (CGW Contractors) Graeme Best (Somerton Printery), Dave Walton (Somerton Town Youth Football Club) and finally Mike Underhill (MJU Building Contractors) a huge thank you to you all and I am so looking forward to working with you in the future.

Until next month...

Laura
Viaduct Editor

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Somerton Town Council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Land and Properties	6th July 2021	7pm	Edgar Hall
Full Council (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	13th July 2021	7pm	Edgar Hall
Promotions & Communications	20th July 2021	7pm	Edgar Hall
Accessibility and Highways (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	27th July 2021	7pm	Edgar Hall

Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be opportunities to ask questions. Please refer to the Somerton Town Council (STC) website for Covid 19 related information.

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.

Climate Change and the Environment

STC recently presented our Environmental strategy to the Levels Climate Forum. This Strategy 'A Postcard from Somerton' seeks to identify the environmental challenges facing Somerton and the actions that we can take to help mitigate these challenges. Some projects are already underway, but we cannot address all the issues alone and will need the help and support of other organisations. The Levels Climate Forum is one way where we can work with neighbouring towns and villages to fight climate change and deliver our Strategy. The Strategy can be viewed on the STC website. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact Cllr Susan Pither, STC Environmental Champion, susan.pither@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Fly Tipping

This continues to be a real problem in and around Somerton. Fly tipping is a crime punishable by a fine or imprisonment and it is a blot on our lovely town and landscape. It is also a threat to human health and animals through injury or by polluting the environment. If someone is taking waste away for you please check that they have the right licence and ask them where the waste will go. Fly tipping should be reported to the District Council. Every time we clear fly tipping it costs Somerton residents £160. Please help us in the fight against the fly tippers.

Edgar Hall

As we slowly emerge from the Covid 19 Pandemic we are seeing our clubs and organisations making plans to restart face-to-face events. This has led to a busy time in the Office for Edgar Hall bookings which have been coming in at a fast rate. If you would like to book the Edgar Hall, details including prices can be found on the website www.edgarhall.co.uk or do call Claire on 01458 272236. Further details also on page 6.

SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL Deputy Clerk Vacancy



Part time (21 hours per week), permanent, salary range £21,748 to £23,836 (pro rata). Benefits include access to the Local Government Pension Scheme. 24 days annual leave plus Bank holidays (pro rata)

Somerton Town Council is a large, proactive Town Council, likely to increase in size, that works with local residents and businesses to provide services which include recreation areas, a conference centre and a cemetery.

This role requires a person who can undertake administration and finance processes. The applicant will need to be able to deal with people calmly, without judgement, firmly and politely. The successful candidate will undertake a variety of tasks including responding to enquiries from the public, updating the Town Council's website, providing support, which includes Town Council meetings and organising Town Council events and competitions. Knowledge of cemetery administration, finance, (purchase orders and payments) and experience in minute taking would be an advantage. The role will suit a person who likes working in a small team whilst having a busy and varied workload.

We welcome enquiries from everyone and value diversity in our workforce.

Application packs containing a full job description and the main terms of employment can be downloaded from www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk telephone: 01458 272236 or e-mail: town.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Closing date: Monday 26th July 2021 at midday.
Interviews will take place on Monday 2nd August.

Where Will Your Next Event Be Held?... EDGAR HALL!
New Reopening Prices Until October 2021



Main Hall: £20 per hour

Capacity 90 people max under the COVID 19 4m sq radius regulations and latest Government Guidance. 2385sq ft (53ft x 45ft)

Bar Area: £15 per hour

Capacity 10 people seated at a table each. 920sq ft (23ft x 40ft)

Conference Room: £15 per hour

Hot water urn provided on request. No hot drinks, refreshments or crockery supplied at this time. Capacity 10 seated with a table whilst social distancing with a safe 4m sq radius. Can seat 20 theatre style - no tables. 726sq ft (22ft x 33ft)

Green Room 1: £6 per hour

Hot water urn provided on request. No hot drinks, refreshments or crockery supplied at this time. Capacity 3 seated with table whilst social distancing with a safe 4m sq radius.

Green Room 2: £6 per hour

Hot water urn provided on request. No hot drinks, refreshments or crockery supplied at this time. Capacity 3 whilst social distancing with a safe 4m sq radius.

Advanced block bookings of more than 3 months qualify for a 10% discount per booking. Evening package between 5pm - 11pm = £135. Wedding weekend package from 1pm on Friday until 1pm on Sunday = £720. Variety of equipment available for hire.

For bookings, please email: clerk.assistant@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk or Tel: 01458 272236



Players and Coaches Wanted

Somerton Town Youth Football Club have spaces for boys and girls of all ages from school years 1 through to 11 to join a burgeoning and successful community football club. The focus is on fun, development and inclusivity with training sessions and matches throughout the normal football season. Although children of all ages are welcome, we are particularly on the lookout for those in school year 4 from September to form an U9 team. This team would also require a coach so if any parents would like to take up this rewarding pastime then also get in touch. You can find contact details on the STYFC website somertontownyfc.com or call the Club Chairman Dave Walton on 07476206224 for more information.





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Sunday 10:00 - 16:00



It's what we do

Christian Aid Fundraising in Somerton, May 2021

I'm delighted to report that our fundraising this year, consisting of house-to-house collecting, delivery-only envelopes to houses, and proceeds from our pop-up charity shop, totalled £7,202, and an estimated £519 was added to this through Gift Aid.

This is an amazing total! Thank you so much for helping to change lives for the better this year! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rowena Wallace on 07929 803097

Announcing the Summer Reading Challenge 2021

The UK's biggest annual reading promotion for children aged 4-11 returns for the summer in Somerton Library on Saturday 10th July until Friday 10th September. The theme this year is Wild World Heroes, to help everyone think about ways we can help to look after and improve our environment. Check it out now at the official Challenge website, www.wildworldheroes.org.uk. There are two ways to join in:

- At home, parents can register their child online at <http://bit.ly/WildWorldHeroes>
- In Somerton Library, where our friendly team will support them

Children set their own reading challenge then choose from the hundreds of books available in our children's section, many brand new. There are stickers to collect from the Library to complete their poster and when they've completed their challenge they will receive a medal and certificate. We look forward to seeing you soon at Somerton Library. It's FUN! It's FREE! It's LOCAL!

SpeedWatch

I take this opportunity to remind you that we are still having to report more speeding drivers than we should have to and we really don't want to. It really is pointless slowing down when you see us, we have probably already caught you a distance away on the radar so help us and yourself and drive within the limit. Speeding is dangerous and unnecessary and makes life for many of us more stressful than it need be. We have been doing our best to monitor the Langport/Russet Rd junction now that the school has opened. It is without doubt the most DANGEROUS crossing point for parents and children going to and from the school. I have had reports of some close calls and one in particular. That stretch of Langport Road carries up to 500 vehicles an hour, it's 30mph but many drivers exceed this and are completely unaware of the accident that is waiting to happen So please SLOW DOWN, look out for all the pedestrians crossing there and help make it safe for everyone. If you drive slower then the traffic behind will also have to slow making it a bit safer until a proper crossing system is in place. If you are interested in helping SpeedWatch you can contact David Cundle 01458 897224



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A warm hello from us!

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!

"I'll be back, this place is excellent! I got a text to confirm my booking, staff are polite, friendly and cheerful"

"Excellent experience from arrival to completion. Waiting room is cleaner than my doctors surgery"

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While You Wait or Drop Off – please stay safe

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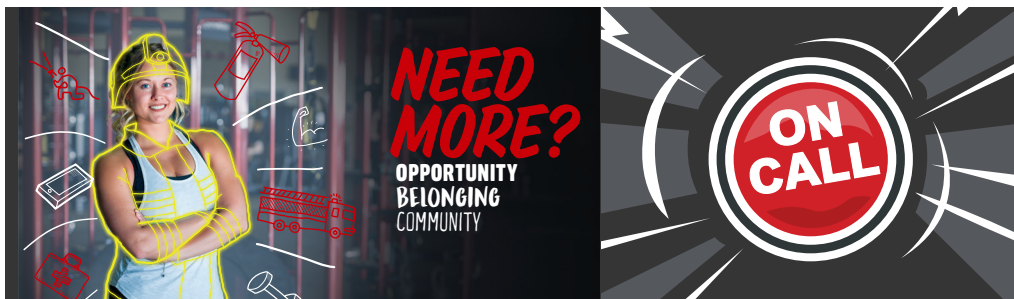
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office@aardvarkmotors.co.uk

(between Lime Kiln Pub and Podimore Roundabout)



We are looking to recruit on-call firefighters in your area
For more information call 01392 872294

  www.oncallfire.uk

www.dsfire.gov.uk

Somerton Fire Station Needs You!

Recently Somerton Fire Station started a recruitment campaign searching for on-call firefighters. They currently have 3 vacant posts and would very much like to attract potential candidates within our local community. If you think this could be you, please contact; Christian Lazenbury, Watch Manager, Station Commander, Somerton Fire Station, Etsome Terrace, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6LY, Somerton Fire Station: 01458 274397, Mob: 07554 128767, Direct line: 01935 701229, Email: clazenbury@dsfire.gov.uk, Website: www.dsfire.gov.uk or call at the Somerton Fire Station on a Thursday evening between 7pm - 9pm for further information. Thank you.



What is an on-call firefighter?



Apart from a few hours a week for training sessions and to carry out other prearranged duties, on-call firefighters only attend the fire station when they have received an emergency call out.

On-call firefighters may be self-employed or have other occupations, but when the call comes they drop whatever they are doing and become part of a dedicated team trained to deal with fires, floods, road traffic collisions, chemical spills and more. Depending on the type of cover given, an on-call firefighter may respond from home and/or work, day and/or night.

On-call firefighters support their communities not only on emergency calls, but also attending various events such as school visits, displays and carnivals.

To apply, you must:

- be able to reach your local fire station from where you live or work in five minutes
- have patience, flexibility, understanding, empathy, enthusiasm and working as part of a team
- understand and respect the diversity of your community
- have support from your employer
- be over 18 years – no upper age limit
- have a good level of fitness
- be ready to take on a challenging role.

We want to reflect our diverse communities and welcome applications from **anyone** who fits the above criteria.



Am I fit enough?

You do not have to be an athlete to join, however it is a tough job and you will need to maintain a good level of fitness. You can download a fitness programme from our website www.dsfire.gov.uk/workingforus



Will I get paid?

Yes, you will receive payment for being an on-call firefighter, although this will differ depending on the hours you make yourself available and the stations activity rate. You will receive additional hourly rates of pay for training nights, courses and incidents.

SOMERTON RUNNERS

Since our entries in the Somerton Viaduct in February and March the Facebook Page called Somerton Running Group has seen 128 members sign up and gives runners in Somerton the opportunity to contact other runners to arrange to go out on runs in company rather than on their own. In addition, since Tuesday 30th March 2021 the group has organised training sessions at Somerton Recreation Ground every Tuesday and Thursday evening. There is an early session at 5.30 p.m. aimed at new runners or those returning to running after a long lay-off. At 6.30 p.m. there is a second session aimed at more experienced runners who are looking to compete. Keith Brackstone coaches all four sessions and has been a qualified Endurance Performance Coach since 1979. Over many years he has experience of coaching athletes at all levels from school-age and adult beginners through to an Olympic Champion and several England and United Kingdom representative athletes. If you would be interested in getting involved, please contact Keith by email at coachkeith53@gmail.com or on 07999 511366 or sign-up on the Somerton Running Group Facebook page. There are no charges for coaching but runners are asked to make a voluntary contribution of £1 per session which is donated to the Somerton Recreation Ground Trust for use of their facilities.



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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

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS AT

Hallr Wood, Charlton Mackrell, park at TA11 7BN

Cabinet of Living Cinema

10th July, 8pm - 10:15pm

As part of their UK tour the CLC will be bringing their immersive cinema experience to Hallr Wood.

An inspiring pop-up outdoor cinema event featuring European short films and live scores composed by professional folk and world performers. A magical night out for all ages.

£15/£5/£0

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Spindle Ensemble

21st August

Spindle Ensemble have garnered much praise for their innovative take on contemporary classical music, rooted in spontaneity and improvisation, performed with deft musicianship and unique instrumental pairing all resulting in truly captivating sonic soundscapes.

Join them for an interactive family-friendly matinee 3pm or a beautiful candlelit evening concert 8pm. More details to follow.

www.spindleensemble.com

Introducing Spark iT!

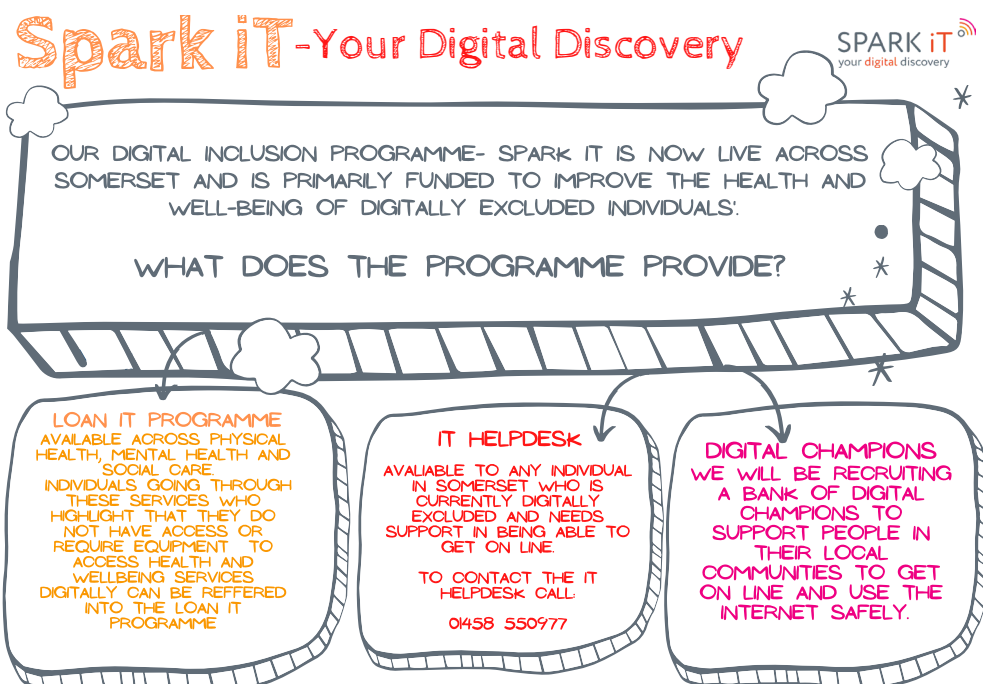
Spark Somerset have launched a brand-new digital inclusion programme Spark iT. This project is specifically aimed at supporting digitally excluded individuals across Somerset who struggle to access health care online. There are 3 main features of the project.

LOAN IT Programme - available across physical health, mental health, and social care enabling digitally excluded individuals to get online and access health and well-being services digitally. Individuals will be able to borrow a tablet and/or MIFI unit free of charge for a period of six months. (*The LOAN IT programme is only available to those individuals who have been referred into the programme by a health professional).

Digital Champions - (volunteers) will be recruited to support people in their local communities with getting online and using the internet safely. Digital Champions will be 18 or over and will be subject to a DBS check. To apply visit Spark iT Digital Champions

IT Helpdesk - which will be open Monday to Friday 9-5p.m and will support individuals to use IT equipment and to access support services available as part of their care pathway within physical health, mental health & social care interactions. Tel: 01458 550977

The IT helpdesk and Digital Champion support is available to any digitally excluded individual in Somerset.



Somerton Spotlight - Craft House Chocolate



Surrounded by the distinctive aroma of roasted cacao beans in the air from the previous day, large window screens upcycled from original and authentic cacao bean sacks, awesome artisan artwork on the walls and an undeniable passion for working with the 'bean to bar' process, I just knew I was in for a real treat when I met Nettie and Tammy Oakley-Prior from Craft House Chocolate in New Street to unwrap their entrepreneurial story....



What is your business?

We are a niche world of luxurious decadence who specialise in handcrafted 'bean to bar' chocolate

which is lovingly made on the premises. We have a retail shop serving our local community with hot chocolates and an array of products and a very busy online store. Before the pandemic hit we ran a variety of successful events and workshops and are eagerly awaiting for them to return post restrictions. We want to offer our customers a unique chocolate experience when they come here and see what we do and by keeping the machinery small we only make small batches at a time which keeps the product rustic and hand-made. While I'm the chocolate maker, Tammy creates all our own packaging, branding, moulds, and artwork ensuring the authentic artisan theme runs throughout the business.



How did you decide a business in chocolate was going to be your future?

About 5 years ago we were both working on Tammy's cotton bag printing business and I realised I was getting bored because I wasn't using my skills or interests and felt a fire in my belly to do more. I went back to college. I did an evening course in cake baking which actually then turned into a 2 year professional cookery and pâtisserie course! I did some private chef work after that and then one night I watched 'Bake Off The Professionals' and I saw Mark Tilling win the first series. He was a chocolatier and his work was so amazing that I wanted to create it and ended up doing loads of his chocolate courses and learnt all the various techniques of the industry and

because I was a trained chef at that point, I knew how to put flavours together. One of my fellow students said 'You can do it Nettie, you can make your own chocolate' and she inspired me to follow my passion. I started with a few chocolates and a chocolate bar, did a few events and shows and began teaching truffle making. It was at the point of taking over the whole house with my chocolate making efforts we realised we needed to expand and move into commercial premises.



The 'Bean to Bar' process...

When did you start your business?

In October 2019. We'd enjoyed our first Christmas and New Year in Somerton which was so busy and then the covid-19 pandemic hit.

What is the creative process when making a new chocolate or chocolate drink?

It's an ongoing thing with me. I don't stop creating as inspiration is everywhere and I drive Tammy mad as I'm always talking about flavours and wish I had more time to be creative. My process is to take a spoon full of chocolate and add whatever herb or ingredient I have in mind and just put it in my mouth and taste it. If it works, I'll adapt it. I'm currently looking at sage and chocolate, and pine needle powder with chocolate. In the past I have experimented with beans on toast flavours and chocolate and it worked too! My belief is that to be a good chocolate maker you need to be a chocolatier and a trained chef.

What made you open the business in Somerton?

We were living in Poole and were looking to move. We had friends in Langport who suggested Somerton as a potential location for the business and so when Cacao House came up on New Street we went and had a look. As soon as we pulled up outside the building, I just knew it was the one! I didn't care what the rest of the property was like, I just knew the commercial building was the right one for us and the retail shop. I could see my business vision here. The support we have received since opening has been fantastic and there are many like-minded artisan people in the town.



How has Covid-19 impacted the business and how have you adapted?

It actually really helped because it gave us the time to look at areas of the business that we just wouldn't have had time for if we had remained open, such as the website and social media, so it meant we just did things in a different order. Thankfully we had enjoyed 6 months of successful trading before the lockdown so we had established our regulars and having the new website up and running kept us going. Also, at that time we were still running Tammy's business. We adapted to the closure by delivering hot chocolate to people who were isolating and offering a click and collect at the door service.

Somerton Spotlight - Craft House Chocolate

You have won many awards, please tell me about them?

We care about and value the integrity of our ingredients and end product and as such work closely with a contact in Canada who goes to all the different fair trade farmers and teaches them how to harvest and ferment cacao beans correctly. This whole process ensures the farmers enjoy a better price for their product and we ultimately source a better bean with some amazing flavour profiles. This then creates a better chocolate and we have won awards in recognition of this. In 2019 we won an Academy of Chocolate Silver Award for our Madagascar Sambirano Valley 53% Milk Chocolate bar and a Great Taste 1 Star Award for our Madagascar Sambirano Valley 65% Dark Chocolate bar. In 2020 we also won a Great Taste 1 Star Award and a Taste of the West Gold Award for our Uganda Mountains of the Moon 65% Dark Chocolate bar, a Great Taste 2 Star Award for our Vietnam Dak Lak 68% Dark Chocolate bar and finally the prestigious Great Taste 3 Star Award and Taste of the West Gold Award for our Peru Ucayali River 70% Dark Chocolate bar.



Do you have any advice for someone wanting to start the business of their dreams in Somerton?

Just do it! Don't start a business in debt, start with £100 and grow it from there reinvesting your profits consistently. When we were setting up the shop we considered what equipment we needed on opening, so my advice would be test your market. Really research what your customers want before spending large amounts of money on any costly asset. Finally, upskill yourself. If you lack in certain skills, go learn them! Ask people for advice and get all your basic business skills in place first.



Editors Conclusion

With only 6 women chocolate makers in the Country, Nettie is on a mission to educate all our palettes into the complex flavours of what a good chocolate should taste like. Ensuring traditional skills don't melt away, Nettie is a shining example of the entrepreneurial spirit that keeps our town alive and it just goes to show what can be achieved when we dare to follow our passion and dreams. So what's next for Nettie and Craft House Chocolate? Well, with so many ideas bubbling away in the background the future is set to be bright and by making the move to our glorious town of Somerton Nettie and Tammy have successfully, and quite literally, hit the sweet spot here.

If you are a Somerton business with an inspiring enterprise story you'd like to share in the Viaduct, I would love to hear from you. Please contact; Laura Pinkney, Viaduct Editor on 07971 776004
viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Patients Participation Group Notes

At the risk of sounding like an old record, the headline news is still about the very heavy demand for all GP services – which, of course, is a reflection of the national problem. Nonetheless, the message from Buttercross Health Centre (BHC) is one of “very much being open for business”. However, it is worth noting that in recent weeks there has been a staggering 30% increase in activity – and as we look around the community and see the new residential developments, it is not hard to predict the trend to come.

By activity, I mean any sort of engagement with BHC staff – telephone, emails and in-person. We do not need reminding that the effects of the pandemic are still with us and the impact of new variants should be triggering renewed caution, adhering to all the restrictions and guidelines that remain in place. So, staff will continue to support patients in ways that are safest for all concerned while ensuring that services are delivered appropriately and effectively.

In meeting or talking with staff, you may encounter one of the new members.

Please be understanding as they undergo their induction and initial training. Staff tell me that working at BHC is demanding but also fulfilling and dealing with the vast range of enquires and needs – sometimes from patients or carers who may well be anxious – requires special skills. Sadly, we do hear of frontline staff in the caring professions suffering abuse (verbal or even physical). To date this has been a fairly rare occurrence at BHC but should you witness it, please be supportive of staff who are under pressure.

One way in which all patients and staff are supported is through the work of the Patient Participation Group. By joining the Group, members can play a part in shaping the way BHC addresses current issues and offer suggestions for planning future service provision. Currently, the Group is operating with two vacancies, including that of a permanent Chair. Anyone interested in learning more about this important work is encouraged to leave a message at BHC or via email at somppg@gmail.com.

Somerton Health Walks

Thursdays 1st and 15th July. Meet 11.30 am outside Somerton Library. Please wear a mask when registering and bring own pen. No masks when walking just keep social distancing. Wear footwear suitable for weather. Looking forward to seeing you.
Mo and Linda Mo 07718 920198

Somerton Friendship Club

We hope to start Thursday 8th July 10.30 am at Somerton Sports Club - enter from field side. Bring own drink/biscuit. Looking forward to meeting up again. Please ring Mo on 07718 920198 the day before just to be sure we will be running. Love Mo and Team.

Update from Kirkham Street Field Community Trust



We have now raised in excess of £120K which is amazing and have recently been awarded a Grant from SSDC for £12,000 together with their unanimous enthusiasm for the Project which is very encouraging. We aim to seek funding from every source available to us and are grateful for kind donations as they to come in from the public. The Field is registered as an Asset of Community Value which gives the community the right to bid and we are continuing with our efforts to save the Field. Donations most welcome at www.kirkhamstreetfield.org.uk. Thanking you for your on-going support. Once the school relocated, the Trust asked the owners of the field, Somerset County Council, not to mow the grass regularly as part of the National Scheme 'No Mow May' which was set up by Plantlife. The sleeping seeds have sprung to life to produce a meadow which has meant that 200% more bees are visiting Kirkham Field this year. Do take a look at the lovely sight. If you would like to help record the plants which have appeared please contact Margaret Chambers on 01458 272654 or Judith Hurley on 273079

Somerton Market

After the glorious weather for our June market, let's hope it continues for July. The market will be held on Fri 2nd Aug when we are looking forward to welcome stallholders, old and new offering a range of products including vintage, bric-a-brac and arts & crafts.

Somerton WI (Women's Institute)

At long last, members of Somerton WI are looking forward to a regular pattern of meetings. Evening meetings have been difficult for some members, particularly during the winter months, so we are moving to afternoon meetings. We shall be meeting as usual in the Parish Rooms, but in the afternoon at 2.30 pm. Our meetings will be on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Assuming that the current national regulations end on 19th July, our first meeting will be on Tuesday 20th July at 2.30 pm. This will be a social afternoon and we will look forward to meeting old friends and discussing our plans for the next few months.

How well do you know Somerton?



Free Grammar
School door

Last month's picture, on the left, was of the Free Grammar School entrance in Broad Street, which has beautifully carved letters across the top of the door.

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



Where is it?

VIADUCT

Advertise with Us!

The Viaduct magazine has been going strong for 18 years in October and is very much loved by the community and as such is an effective way of advertising at local level and online.

To discuss further, please contact:

Laura Pinkney

Viaduct Editor

viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk
07971 776004

Current stockists of the Viaduct include, Craft House Chocolate, Somerton Library, Co-op, Cobbs Health Food Shop, Premier Country Stores, Somerton Post Office and The Band Veterinary Centre. If you would like to become a stockist of the Viaduct or you run out of copies, please contact the editor above.

Thank you!

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From the residents...

Somerton Lantern

"The lantern now standing at platform 1..." is now on the east gable of the Parish Rooms! It is thought that the lantern was an original to the railway station in Somerton which opened in 1906. Upon closure in 1966, the lantern was "rescued" by Ron Frayne and it was displayed in the Shell garage in The Triangle in Somerton, where Somerton Computing is now based. When Ron died in the early '80s the lantern passed to Ron's son Pete and it was restored by Reg Potts who lived at Welham (on the road to the Charltons). Pete had the lantern on display in the Somerton Hotel which he ran for many years with his wife Terri. Sadly, the pub closed a few years ago, but the lantern was displayed on Pete & Terri's house in New Street. They have now moved from Somerton to one of the nearby villages and Pete asked if we would like to display it on the Parish Rooms. Mary (Love Somerton) Hossack's husband, Anthony, very kindly offered to restore it and Paul Berkley (Flash) very kindly installed it on the Parish Rooms, where I think you'll agree it looks splendid. Thanks to Pete, Anthony and Paul for their generosity to the town. Perhaps I should say "Thanks" to Peter, Paul & Mary!!



Somerton Group of Artists reunited!



Members are welcome back for a painting day on July 31st at The Parish Rooms, Market Square, Somerton at 10am - 4pm. Bring materials to "do your own thing" or to join a tutored still life workshop with Mandy McAllen, 10.15am - 12.30pm, bring drawing materials, paper, pencil, charcoal, pastels or pens, including some colours, for a simple but intriguing exploration of cubism. £5 on the door. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Current Covid safety regulations will apply, numbers may have to be limited, so come early. For more details go to our website www.somertonartists.co.uk or visit us on Facebook. New members always welcome.

3 Artists @ SomARTon

SOMARTON

Val Sangwine, Ann Fry and Lesley Cruickshank, three local artists, are holding an exhibition at SomARTon Gallery in West Street, Somerton in July. Each artist has a different style, vivid landscapes in oils, beautiful still lifes in watercolour and striking abstracts in oils. Something for every space, taste and pocket. The exhibition will include cards and unframed works and takes place from Tuesday 20th July to Sunday 1st August. Open daily from 10.30am to 5pm.

Ann
Fry



Lesley Cruickshank



Val
Sangwine

ACEarts



Our two new exhibitions started on 26th June and are Materiality, the Somerset Reacquainted Touring exhibition, a new look at everyday objects by Artists from Somerset Art Works; and in our new second space, Endangered by Sky Siouki. We are also excited to announce we will be offering two days of free workshops in the gallery for anyone over 55 on 5th and 26th July. Lead by Edwina Bridgeman, the works that are created will go into our August exhibition Putting on a Show alongside the work she is doing with the pupils of King Ina School. If you would like to book a place on one of the two days please email Nina at curator@acearts.co.uk or drop in, we are open Tues to Sat 10am - 5pm. Look out for other Summer School offerings on our website too, we hope to be able to offer a range of free family friendly workshops during August!

ACEarts Community Survey



As we come out of lockdown and restrictions are easing, ACEarts would like to know how we can best continue to serve our community post-pandemic. To help us do this we are asking local residents to complete this short questionnaire, analysis of the results will be used to drive our programme of events and community projects over the next few years. The more responses we receive, the better informed we will be on how to meet those requirements. Please complete and return to us in the gallery or go to our website at www.acearts.co.uk and follow the link to complete online. We will also have copies and a box for completed surveys on our stall at Somerton Fun Day and Somerstock. Large print copies of the questionnaire are also available, please call 01458 273008 or email hello@acearts.co.uk for a copy if needed.

Have you heard of ACEarts?

- ☐ Yes, I know a lot about ACEarts ☐ Yes, I've heard of you but nothing more
☐ Yes, I know a little about ACEarts ☐ No, I've not heard of ACEarts

If you answered yes to above, what do you know about ACEarts? Please tick more than one if relevant

- ☐ I am a volunteer for ACEarts
☐ I visit exhibitions and/or the shop regularly
☐ I have visited the shop once or twice
☐ I have attended workshop / drawing class / other group meeting
☐ I have been involved in one of ACEarts community art projects
☐ Other

Alongside exhibitions in our gallery, ACEarts plans to restart running cultural activities and events for local people. Would you be interested in attending any of the following? Please tick all that apply

- ☐ Drawing classes
☐ Art/Craft workshops
☐ Artists Talks
☐ Musical Performances
☐ Poetry Recital
☐ Other

What timing would be better for you? Please tick all that apply

- ☐ Day ☐ Evening ☐ Weekend

Are there other types of cultural/arts activities/events/workshops you'd like to attend if they were available?
.....

If you have not selected any of the above, why is this?

- ☐ Too Expensive
☐ Too far to travel
☐ No knowledge of
☐ Does not interest me



As a charity ACEarts raises income through sales in the gallery and shop as well as other fundraising activities. This allows us to provide local art projects for particular groups such as those below. Which project groups would be most beneficial to you or your family? Please tick up to two most beneficial.



- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School age children | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Differences | <input type="checkbox"/> Intergenerational | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Do you have any other comments you would like to make about art and cultural activities in this area or how you would like to become involved?

.....

The following questions are designed to help ACEarts understand our local audience. We promise never to share or sell your information to other organisations or businesses and you can opt out of our communications at any time by telephoning 01458 273008, writing to ACEarts, Market Place, Somerton, TA11 7NB or by emailing hello@acearts.co.uk

Which age group do you belong to?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 65+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | | | |

How many adults in your household?

How many children in your household?

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|

Please provide your postcode

Would you be interested in being added to our mailing list to learn more about ACEarts and what we do?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would be interested in receiving information on news and events | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would be interested in becoming a volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> No thank you |

If you have selected yes to the above, please provide your email address

.....

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, please return to:
ACEarts, Market Place, Somerton TA11 7NB

Safety first at Somerton Music and Arts Festival

Somerton's annual music and arts festival will still go ahead, largely as planned, despite the government announcing a possible four week delay in the lifting of restrictions.

Most events are unaffected but musical entertainer Simeon Wood has now been cancelled along with an evening with classical and folk musicians Flute Cake Trio. Both events were due to take place at St Michaels & All Angels Church.

Jiving the night away is still not allowed within the current restrictions, so Jive Night with Strictly Jive and Twisted Vinyl will move to Thursday 19th August to ensure that everyone can jive to their hearts' content without the need for any social distancing. "We hope that all the people who have already bought tickets will be able to come on the new date" said festival chairman Fred Bassett. "It would be pretty difficult to do a socially distanced jive, so we're delighted that we've been able to move to August."

And finally, Fun Day will lose its tug o' war as well as any contact sports activities. But there will still be plenty on offer for children and adults alike, with the vintage car display, bouncy castles, a full programme of music and licenced bar. However, to comply with regulations, Fun Day attendees will need to download a free ticket, preferably in advance, from www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk/tickets. Tickets can also be downloaded at the gate and stewards will be on hand to help anyone without a smart phone.

"We are disappointed that we have had to cancel two events" says Bassett, "but our first priority is to ensure that everyone is safe. We have a robust event plan in place which complies with all the guidelines as they are currently."

Anyone who has bought tickets for canceled events online will automatically be refunded. Visitors should contact the organisers at hello@somertonartsfestival.co.uk or visit the ticket

office at Somerton Library to get refunds for tickets purchases in person. The same goes for Jive Night tickets for anyone who is unable to attend on the new date.

Somerstock, which is also part of the festival, will also go ahead, minus the adult's silent disco. The children's silent disco will still take place in the morning with parents asked to ensure that all headsets are sanitised prior to use. "We have plans in place to ensure that we comply with the regulations which stipulate that people should not gather in groups larger than 30 and that queuing to enter and for food and drink must be socially distanced," explained Bassett. There will also be additional sanitisation points around the site and the toilets will be sanitised regularly.

Further updates will be published on www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk and www.somerstock.com as well as on social media.

Somerton u3a

A thank you to all who supported the u3a day in June, it was lovely to see you and meet new members. We have two meetings and our AGM in July all via Zoom. On Friday 9th July at 11am "Great British Eccentrics and Rogues" by Paul Robbins. Have you ever wondered why Britain has had so many eccentrics? This is a highly amusing talk which looks at some of the Worlds great eccentrics and rogues who just happen to be British. Friday 23rd July we are holding our AGM via Zoom which is scheduled to start at 10am. This will be followed at 11am by "My Musical Life In Russia and How I nearly became James Bond" by Prof Gerald Seaman. In the past he has lectured at many different universities including Columbia, Brown and Rutgers in the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, Russia and elsewhere. In particular he had the good fortune to spend considerable periods in Russia, including a whole year when he was engaged in postgraduate study at the then Leningrad Conservatory. For further information on how to join us please visit the Somerton u3a website, or email: membership@Somertonu3a.uk

SID (Speed Indicator Device) Headlines

Here are the recent findings from SID situated at the Catholic Church on Langport Road Sutton Road, a 30mph limit, for the period 24th - 29th May

- The average speed was 23.7mph (well below the 30mph)
- The total number of vehicles from the Royal Oak to Gasson's Lane was 18,641
- 94% of those travelling in that direction were below 30mph with 6% over the speed limit
- There were a total of 201 vehicles during this period which were over 30mph
- The maximum number of vehicles in a 30 min period was 205 and that was during 3pm to 3:30pm (school time)
- Of the recorded periods there was a total of 103 30min periods where the 30mph limit was exceeded

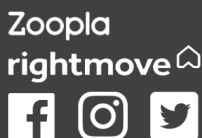
MISSING CAT! Please can you help?

A lady on Queens Road has lost her beloved cat Joe and hasn't seen him now for 4 weeks, please can you help? Joe is a very distinctive cat as he is pure white with one black ear and a pink nose. As editor, I am desperate to help and reunite this local resident with Joe as they have been together for many years and it is out of character for Joe to be gone for such a long period of time. Joe's owner suffers with severe mobility issues and is unable to get out and about easily, so please may I ask you all to keep an eye out for him and have a think if you have seen Joe already on your travels. Any sightings or information would be gratefully received, please phone Jay (the lady's son) on: 07738 192732 or myself Laura, the Viaduct editor on 07971 776004 or email: viaduct@somertotowncouncil.gov.uk, thank you.

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SOMERTON BUS TIMES with effect from 19th APRIL 2021

SERVICES TO YEovil													NOTES
	NS		NS		NS		NS		NS		NS		NO SERVICE SUNDAYS OR BANK HOLS
Som Sq	0750	0807	0930	0953	1102	1105	1202	1230	1357	1457	1530	1600	1652 1830 1947
Yeovil	0823	0841	1003	1027	1136	1138	1236	1303	1431	1531	1603	1633	1726 1903 2021
			NS				NS			NS		NS	NS Does not run Saturdays
	77	54	54	77	54	77	54	77	54	77	77	54	77
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		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

Some 77 services start/finish in STREET

	NS		NS		NS		NS		NS		NS		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

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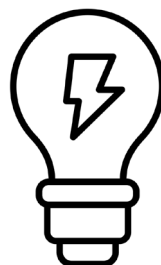
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