

VIADUCT

October 2021



Editor's Letter



Hello,

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Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who has emailed me saying how much you like the new look of Viaduct; it's always gratifying to know you're doing something people like. And secondly, I'd like to thank once again all the contributors who have made this issue such a great read. Please do remember, if you have something to say, or if you'd like to submit an apt photograph or illustration for any particular month to be considered for the front cover, simply email me at viaducted@gmail.com.

I hope you find this month's Viaduct interesting and informative.



Editor, Viaduct

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Opinions expressed in this publication may not necessarily represent those of the editor or Somerton Town Council. Nor can we be held liable for loss, damage or omission caused by errors in printing of advertisements which we assume are reasonable and fair. Submissions may be included, changed or modified at the editor's discretion. All articles for inclusion must be received by 18th of each month.

News from your town council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	12 Oct	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Accessibility and Highways (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	26 Oct	7.00pm	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.

September Council Meeting

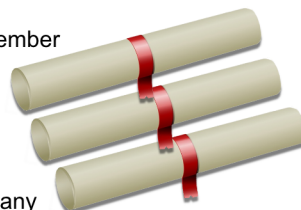
STC met on the 12 September at the Edgar Hall. The agenda included discussion and agreement on the purchase of a flat bed truck, the requirement for a Christmas Lights Infrastructure upgrade and the approval of the Memorial Garden Landscaping Tender.

Somerton Community Awards

Following last month's launch of the Community Awards the nomination boxes are out around the Town. You can find them in the Library, Coop and Cobbs Wholefoods. We are trying to have a stock of nomination forms with the boxes, but if you need a form they are also available online at www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

We are still aiming to hold the event on the evening of Tuesday 14 December 2021, as long as there are no restrictions in place.

The Covid Care Supporter category is for anyone who you feel has gone above and beyond during the Pandemic. Give us the name and your reason for nominating, and everyone will receive a certificate. The other awards will have one winner and a runner up. We haven't set out any criteria for the categories because we want to hear from residents why they feel a business or individual deserves that particular award. STC really hope everyone will get involved and support this community event.



A railway station for Somerton

Councillor Peter Simmonds is the Council's representative on the Langport Transport Group, which is lobbying for a railway station in the Somerton/Langport area. A feasibility study, to be completed this year, is being funded by the Department for Transport. Progress will be reported in the Viaduct as information is received from the Group.

Additional Deputy Clerk

STC would like to welcome Steph Plowman, who joins us as an additional Deputy Clerk on the 1 November 2021.

News from your town council



In November, more than 190 world leaders will come together for the United Nations COP26 climate summit in Glasgow to try and agree urgent action on climate change.

To support this global effort, the Levels Climate Forum is inviting more than 400 parishes in Somerset to the SCOP26+ Climate Forum at the Edgar Hall in Somerton on Saturday 6 November from 1pm-6pm.

SCOP26+ (Somerset Coalition of Parishes) is a free event that will bring together parish representatives to discuss practical measures that will better prepare the county for a rapidly-changing climate.

The afternoon event will include talks on land management and climate adaptation, as well as workshops on producing a Parish Green Charter and a Heat Defence Plan.

It will also host the launch of a climate adaptation pack for schools produced by South Somerset District Council in partnership with the Carymoor Environmental Trust.

There will be ample time to network with other parishes, find common ground and share ideas.

Members of STC have been involved in the planning of this event and the Council will be supporting it and sending representatives. To register your interest in attending, or for more information, contact SCOP26+ organiser Mo Fletcher at mo.fletcher@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.



News from around town



Join us for a whizz, bang, pop of a night on 7 November

The Recreation Ground Trust, with the support of the Town Council, is pleased to announce that there will again be a free organised fireworks display at the Somerton Recreation Ground. Starting at 5.30pm, there will be a free disco in the Sports Club with the band Kindred playing, and there will be pizza and burger stalls as well as a bar, so bring the whole family for a great night out. The Sports Club will be open from 5pm. The fireworks will be start at 7.00pm. Walking is advisable as there is very limited parking.

Library update



Now that we are almost back to normal with the services we offer, the library now wishes to offer periodicals and magazines to be read in the library. If you have recent copies of popular magazines that you can spare we'd appreciate having them, so can you please take them to the library? We also hope to start a chess club, and you can find out more at somertonlibrary.com. Please note, the Local Information Centre is not open, and remember, we strongly encourage the wearing of masks when you're in the library. Hand sanitiser is readily available too.

OPENING HOURS

Day	Times
Monday	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Tuesday	Closed all day
Wednesday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Thursday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Friday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Saturday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm



SOMERTON
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

News from around town

Remember them

This year we hope to have a Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 14 November, leaving from the old infants school at 9.30am. There will be a laying of wreaths by Somerton groups. If, because of Covid, we cannot parade, members of the Royal British Legion will lay the wreaths.

There will not be street collections for RBL charities because of Covid risks, but collection boxes will be in shops around the town and a special table of other memorabilia will be outside the COOPERATIVE STORE in the mornings.



We look forward to your continuing support. We are also looking for new members. Contact Mo Fletcher on 07718920198 or at fletcher080@btinternet.com for more details.



Let's be safe out there

As many of you are probably aware, SpeedWatch have been about a lot covering various roads in town over the last few months. We have been pleased to see so much support from drivers and pedestrians for our efforts in reminding people to drive within the legal limit. It is also noticeable that we are reporting fewer vehicles and, for those of you who drive considerably, we thank you. The cars we report are entered on a central data base and if you are seen to be a persistent and/or a high speeder, you can expect more than a warning letter. The Police Enforcement Team are out with us and are using their cameras and issuing speeding fines. Enforcement is also covering our usual sites when we are not there and they are not wearing standout yellow jackets, so please be aware that they can record your speed well before you attempt to slow down. We have a few new members, but if you can spare a few hours a month and would like to join us, please call David Cundle 01458897224.

Bus times have changed

On 6 September the bus timetable changed with buses approximately every 1½ hours to Wells and Taunton and every 45 minutes to Yeovil. If you would like to be on the list for updates, please email martynandsue@hotmail.com.



Printed copies of the bus timetable are available free in the library, but a donation for the Devon & Somerset Air Ambulance would be appreciated. If you have any timetable queries (bus, train, coach), email the above address or give Martyn Smith a call on 01458 273058.

News from around town



Garden without the backache

You may have heard of 'No dig' gardening but might think that it's too good to be true. Come along to listen to the Somerton Gardeners' Club 'No Dig Gardening' Talk with John Cavill at the Edgar Hall on 13 October at 7.30 pm. You'll learn how to grow vegetables using a method that is better for the environment, and without the backbreaking task of digging over your beds each year. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age and gardening ability.

On 3 September we held our first meeting after many months and had a light hearted quiz,

which was organised by John Saunders, with very enjoyable refreshments. Somerton Gardeners' Club meets at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Edgar Hall.

Our future meeting schedule is as follows :-

13 October	'No Dig Gardening' – A talk by John Cavill
10 November	'Success With Rockeries' - A talk by Castle Gardens
8 December	Christmas Meal

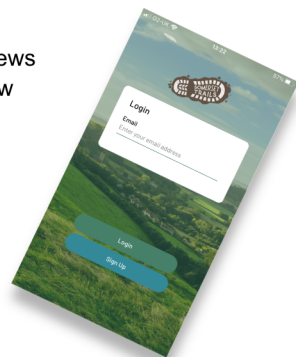
Put nature in your pocket

Somerset Wildlife Trust have launched a new app – Somerset Trails – which lets you explore the great outdoors with all you need to know in your pocket.

Designed by partnership project Co-Adapt, Somerset Trails is funded by Somerset Rivers Authority and the EU's Intereg 2Seas Programme. The app combines walking maps with video-guided tours, including a section specially designed for children. While you're on the trail and using the app, video content that was filmed on location will be triggered at key points, featuring tour guides such as Somerset Wildlife Trust's Shelly Easton, as well as local experts. These include talks about landscape features, climate change and how nature-based solutions can be used to help us adapt.

The first trail begins in the centre of Wedmore, taking in breathtaking views across the Somerset Levels, and meanders through meadows, past dew ponds and over historic ridge and furrow field systems. Later this year, a second trail will be launched by the National Trust, featuring behind-the-scenes footage of one of their most intriguing projects – beaver reintroduction and stage zero river restoration on Exmoor.

You can download this free app on Google Play and Apple's App Store.



News from around town

Caught in bed, on camera and in the making, it all happens at the WI

We have an expanding programme for the next few months, for our regular monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Parish Rooms.

In September we had an intriguing talk on "Beds I have slept in". How do we follow that? In October we will be looking at an extensive collection of World War I postcards – and the personal and family histories which have emerged. November brings a talk about, and examples of, the various types of wood found in Somerton and items hand-made from them. In December you will be able to make a Christmas table decoration to take home with you.



We also have plans for a possible trip to Exeter Christmas Market, a chance to take part in a carol service at Wells Cathedral, and a coffee morning in a beautifully decorated local house with grand piano accompaniment to carols and seasonal music. Do come and join us, a warm welcome is guaranteed.

Do you know where this is?

And do you know its correct name or acronym? Last month's picture showed the 'listed' milestone at Hillhead, which is at the east end of New Street at the junction with New Hill and Acre Lane. Thank you to Peter Simmonds for keeping us on our toes with our eyes peeled.



New contact details for our vicar

Reverend Alan Symmonds will be retiring from the Benefice with his last Sunday being 9 January 2022. As a result there are now new email addresses for the Vicar and the Benefice Office. These are somerton.vicar@gmail.com and somerton.benefice@gmail.com respectively. There are also new telephone numbers, 01458

273499 and 07483 137623. These should be used from now onwards. The "office" itself will be shortly moving into St Michael's Church but is likely only to be used occasionally.

Serving up some great fun

Somerton Tennis Club is a friendly and active club which warmly welcomes all new members. Our new winter membership begins this month with a full adult membership for just £55. For more details and how to join, please see our website somertontennisclub.co.uk or call Wendy Driver, membership secretary, on 07788 451098, 01458 396006 or email her at wendyjdriver@hotmail.co.uk. We're also on Facebook and Instagram.

Club coach Neil Driver plans to start a Rusty Racquets Course this Autumn. If you'd like to give it a try, call Neil on 07752 272830, 01458 396006 or email him at neilrdriver@gmail.com for more details. Information regarding Junior coaching is also available at somertontennisclub.co.uk.



News from around town



A farewell message from Margaret

As the scary times of the pandemic are left behind, efforts to save Kirkham Street Field for the community continue with great determination. Since the first suggestion to save the field in Kirkham Street was sent to Somerton Town Council by a resident in Feb 2019, I have led the community in action to save this gem of a green space. However now that my term as Trustee is coming to an end, I am standing down from the Trust from 1 October 2021 for personal reasons.

Saving this small piece of land in Kirkham Street, just beyond the Square and in the built-up area of historic Somerton, is so important to everyone in the Town. It will bring a balance of public green spaces to Somerton for the well-being of all – visitors and residents alike.

Simple green spaces can improve the mental health of residents both old and young, give children freedom in the open air, provide for wildlife, especially pollinators which fertilise crops in the surrounding fields; also give the opportunity for informal exercise both gentle and mildly vigorous, gardening, volunteering, community cohesion. These ideas now appear daily in every newspaper and magazine throughout UK since the environmental revolution began seriously a couple of years ago.

I want to thank the Trustees for their hard work and commitment; I wish them every success in the coming months as they continue to negotiate a partnership with a non-profit organisation, as reported in the Viaduct in September. Let's do it, Somerton... let's save Kirkham Street Field. Margaret Chambers, Chairperson.

Message from the Trust

Margaret called the very first meeting about the Field back in March 2019 to confirm community interest in saving it as a green space. She has worked tirelessly to that end since, seeking out help and support in every way possible. Without her and the support of the community, the Trust would never have reached the position we are in now.

We owe her a big thank you and our very best wishes.

We are keen to attract new Trustees to carry this important project forward, if you would be interested in joining, please contact the secretary Judith Hurley on 01458 273079, 07971 723163 or see our website for contact details of all Trustees at kirkhamstreetfield.org.uk.



Spotlight on u3a

Our roving reporter has once again been busy, discovering what is so great about u3a. However, this will be the last submission as future articles will be written by individual contributors. So thank you for all your great work Roving Reporter.

“Join if you want to find friendship, fun and stimulation,” says Barbara, one of Somerton u3a’s 400 members. Having met Kay and Judi, both hard working members of the u3a committee, for a coffee and chat, I quickly found out why.

u3a originated in France, with the UK movement founded over 35 years ago and based on the French model. The aim of the organisation is to encourage groups of people who are retired, and also those who do not work full time, to come together to continue their enjoyment of learning. There is no minimum age and the learning is not formal, but rather led by the interests of members. Any member can set up a group and in Somerton the groups range from Aviation to Art, Birdwatching to Bowls and Ukulele playing to Upwords (a scrabble type game which sounds great fun).

“You can get involved in as much or as little as you want to,” explains Kay, “as a group leader you are not the teacher but rather a facilitator. Any member of the group can organise an activity.” The unofficial motto of u3a is ‘by the members, for the members’.

“One of our many older but very active members is Pamela, now in her 80s,” adds Judi. Pamela enjoys all kinds of activities with u3a, and she has a very important role welcoming potential new



Scan this code to visit Somerton
u3a's website



Spotlight on u3a

members at the monthly meetings at the Edgar Hall. "She puts people at their ease," says Judi, "she always has something interesting to say."

I asked Kay what her most memorable moment or event was. "It was a conference I arranged for the birdwatching group," says Kay. "It was a whole day with guest speakers from the Somerset Wildlife Trust, and a lovely lunch." Lunches seem to feature quite a bit within the activities on offer and a highlight sounds like the Christmas Lunch at the Edgar Hall.

If you want to try before you join that is OK. You can go along to one of the regular Friday meetings to meet people and find out more. "I love it that at the Friday morning meetings, people I don't know start talking to me. People are so friendly," says Dave another member.

Membership costs £18 per year. There is a monthly newsletter, co-edited by Kay, which gives members all the current news, including on the different groups. There is also a website which gives more information, and Somerton are active on Facebook and Twitter.

"Come along and meet us," says Kay, "make new friends, learn new things and just enjoy yourself." You can also contact us in any of the following ways:

Website u3asites.org.uk/somerton/home
Email membership@SomertonU3A.UK
Telephone Marilyn on 01458 899773



Photographs: opposite page: top, enrolment day; bottom left, walking in Kimmeridge; this page: above, having fun on the East Lambrook walk; below bottom left, Helicopter Museum, Weston; bottom right, The Mahjong Group playing in Paignton.



Have your say

A breath of fresh air

Our October walks will be on Thursday 7 and 21 October, meeting by the Library at 11.15am for an 11.30am start. Our Friendship Club will meet Thursday 14 October at 10.30am at Somerton Sports and Social Club by field french doors. Entry is 50p and there will be tea and coffee available. For more information, call Mo Fletcher on 07718 920198.



Laburnum Drive Residents' Committee

Extra events this month as well as our usual coffee mornings on Tuesdays at 10.00am are bacon butties on 5 October at 10.0am and a Lasagne Supper and Music on 12 October at 5.00pm. Don't forget to join us for bingo each Thursday at 2.00pm, always a great time. There's a Hot Dogs Supper on 12 November to look forward to and we have planned ahead to Year End, so keep your diaries free!



Also, at our Macmillan Coffee Morning, the Committee raised £186.38. A big thank you to all our friends and supporters for helping a good cause.

Two kindnesses in one day

Dear editor,

Would it be possible to put the below message (expression of thanks to the community) in October's Viaduct.

Thank you to all the people who stopped to help me and my dog when I fell into the Langport Road on the 24 August and broke my kneecap. I am so grateful to everyone who stopped to help me get off the road and into my home. Again many thanks.

Linda Hobday

Dear Editor,
On Tuesday 24 August, a young man was walking down School Lane when he heard and answered a cry for help.

My husband was returning from his daily walk, when, as he reached the garden pathway, he fell over. This young man saw the problem and alerted me to the situation. Without hesitation he took the lion share of weight and helped my husband into our home and onto a chair. I'm unsure of the young man's name, but I think it may be Will. We are deeply grateful to him for his kindness, strength and courage. What a shining example of the younger generation! A truly Good Samaritan.

Pamela Short

Have your say



Don't miss Oktoberfest

Tickets are still available for Somerton's very own Bavarian Oktoberfest, one of the much anticipated events in the Somerton calendar. The event will be held at 7pm on Saturday 9 October in the Edgar Hall.

Somerton Music and Arts Festival are pleased to welcome back the fabulous Wagonkered Bar with a selection of fine German beer, as well as a wide range of other beverages.

The entertainment will once again be the Sherbavarian Stompers with yourselves providing the usual audience participation! This will be followed by dancing the night away to music from The Painkillers.

VIADUCT

Advertise with us

The Viaduct magazine has been going strong for 18 years and is much loved by the community, making it an excellent advertising medium.

To place your advert, contact

Lisa Newby, Town Clerk

viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Stockists of Viaduct include

Craft House Chocolate, Somerton Library, Co-op, Cobbs Health Food Shop, Premier Country Stores, Somerton Post Office, Tony's Fish 'n' Chips and the Band Veterinary Centre
To become a stockist, or order copies, please contact the Town Clerk.

Beware, rogue traders are after your money



Recently a couple of our residents have been taken in by people offering to do work for them at an agreed price. Then the residents are taken to the bank by the traders to take out a lot more money than was agreed.

The Police have been involved as the registration number of the vehicle was taken. Please beware of these rogues. Many of our local traders advertise in the Somerton News, the Somerton Business and Trade Association Booklet and even this magazine. They are a safer bet for reliable work.

Local clubs and activities

If any of the details for the current list are incorrect or you would like to be added to the list, please email Claire Lucas at clerk-assistant@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

GROUP	CONTACT NAME	MEETING PLACE	MEETING TIME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
Ageing Well	Age UK somerset	Parish Rooms £4.50 pay as you go	Monday 10.15am Friday 11.30am	ageingwell@ageuksomersets.org.uk	01823 345626
Archies Extra	Alex Judith	Sports Ground, Gassons Lane by MUGA	Thurs 7.30-9.30pm 11 to 18 year olds		01458 272047 01458 273079
Create and Connect at Acearts		Exhibition Space, Old Town Hall, Market Place	First Weds of the month 11am-1.00pm and 2.00-4.00pm		
Flexercise		Buttercross Surgery	Fridays 2.30-3.30pm		1
Friendship Club	Mo Fletcher	Somerton Sports Club	Second Thursday of the month 10.30am	fletcher080@btinternet.com	01458 274631
Health Walks	Mo Fletcher	Somerton Library	First and third Thursday of the month 11.30am	fletcher080@btinternet.com	01458 274631
History Society	Nancy Schooling	Parish Rooms £15/year (£25 for couples) £2 at door	Every fourth Thursday of the month 7.00pm		01458 273859
Martial Arts Self Defence		Somerton Infants School	Thurs 6.00-7.00pm Kids and Juniors 7.15-8.15pm Adults		
Mid Wessex Singers	Rowena	West Street Church Hall	Tuesday 7.15-9.00pm	info@midwessexsingers.co.uk www.midwessexsingers.co.uk	07929 803097
Rugby Club	Gary Saunders Steve Bern under 18s & 15s	Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch	Tues and Thurs 7.00pm		07870 861731 07919 153205
Scottish Country Dancing	Anita Wilson	Long Sutton Village Hall	Thursday 7.30-9.30pm	anitaandjim22@gmail.com	01460 929383
Somerton Bridge Club	Joan and Jim Davies	West Street Church	Thursday 7.00pm	joandavies15@rocketmail.com	01458 272418 01458 251228
Somerton Carers		West Street Church Hall	Second Friday of the month 10.30am		01458 250603
Somerton and District Bowls Club		Sports Ground, Gassons Lane	Tuesday 5.45pm Friday 2.00pm		

Local clubs and activities

If any of the details for the current list are incorrect or you would like to be added to the list, please email Claire Lucas at clerk-assistant@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

[illegible]



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

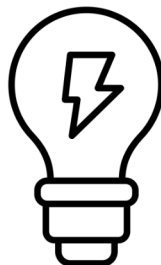
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Dean Ruddle

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How to get hold of me:

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Somerton TA11 6JH



DeanRuddle@icloud.com



07976 556054 (text is best)

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Somerton Sports Club

Despite the name, the Sports Club is not just for sporty people. We pride ourselves on a welcoming atmosphere for people of all ages, including children.

We have a main bar where you can sit and have a social drink at cheaper rates, or you can sit outside on our patio area, built by members of our committee, and we have a separate lounge bar for those who want a quieter spot.

We do show sporting events on our screens during highlighted events (we will be showing the World Cup next year). If you enjoy other activities, we have Darts teams, Skittles leagues as well as quiz nights and bingo – and our adjoining Snooker Club which you can join for an additional membership. The Club is also available to rent for private functions at competitive rates – see below for pricing.

Quiz Night every last Thursday of the month, doors open 7pm – Quiz starts at 8pm

Function Hire Main Bar £30 for the room

Lounge Bar £20 for the room

Skittle Alley – in addition to main bar – £15 for the room

These prices are for exclusive use. Please note, we do not provide food but will accommodate any arrangements made. We are also accepting new members – just pop in and request a form.

If you have any queries, contact us via our Facebook page, email somertonclub911@gmail.com or call us on 01458 273808 during our opening hours (Fridays 7pm-11pm, Saturdays 3pm-11pm).



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ALLERGEN INFORMATION:

*If you suffer from a food allergy or intolerance, please
let us know before you place your order. And if you
require any assistance or guidance with our menu,
please ask our staff.*

*Our chef will be delighted to prepare any dish of
your choice not listed on our menu.*