

# **Editor's Letter**





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Well autumn is certainly making itself felt, although I haven't seen much of Keats' mists and mellow fruitfulness yet. However, when the rain is rattling against the window panes, it's the perfect weather for making yourself snug, sipping a hot drink and reading Viaduct.

Once again, the contributors have filled the pages with articles of great interest and, as Covid regulations continue to relax, more opportunities to go out and enjoy events. Fireworks Night looks to be an exhilarating evening, while coffee mornings, art exhibitions and even theatre trips are all on the cards.

Finally, I would just like to say a personal thank you to all who serve and have served our country. Remembrance Day is 11 November, and the Remembrance Day Parade is planned for 14 November mustering at 9.15am by the Fire Station for a 9.30am start.

Taula Editor, Viaduct

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# News from your town council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	9 Nov	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Promotions and Communications	16 Nov	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Land and Properties (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	23 Nov	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.

# October Council Meeting

STC met on the 12 October at the Edgar Hall. The agenda included discussion on a number of budget and finance issues along with a proposal for a new piece of play equipment at Gassons Lane. There was also discussion on a plan to install an acoustic wall in the Edgar Hall to divide the bar area from the main hall. This would increase the letting potential by making a smaller area of the hall more viable for a wider range of user groups.

# **Somerton Community Awards**

Nomination boxes have been collected and the online votes counted. Winners and Runner Ups will be contacted during November and invited to the awards evening on the 14 December. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote.

# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In 2022 there will be a year-long Platinum Jubilee celebration throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world. We are thinking about how Somerton, as a community, can come together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign. If you have any ideas or you would like to be involved please contact the Chair of the Promotions and Communications Committee, Sue Pither by email at susan.pither@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

# Job opportunity

STC are looking to recruit a Facilities Assistant to support the work of the Council in primarily maintaining the Edgar Hall and other Council assets around the Town. The full advert is on page 17.

# Finally, an apology....

We'd just like to take this opportunity to say sorry to Reverend Alan Symonds for misspelling his name last month and adding an extra 'm'. It must have been a slip of the finger on the Ed's part!



# Keeping our doctors flying

Hopefully, those of you who have collected bus timetables from the library have made a contribution to the Air Ambulance. None of us ever know when we are going to need such an important service. As one who has recently suffered a heart attack, I know how important it is to get swift treatment (fortunately, at the time, I was only 45 minutes by ambulance from the Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge).

I have just emptied the collection box that is in the library and have sent £58.45 to the Air Ambulance HQ in Wellington. As a charitable organisation that receives no direct funding from

the Government or national lottery, your donations are very welcome and much appreciated. Martyn Smith, Compiler of the composite bus timetable and Treasurer, Somerton Library Trust.



Our monthly meeting on 10 November will feature Richard Turner who will demonstrate Pastels over Watercolour. The talk starts at 7.30 in The Parish Rooms, Somerton, Tea and coffee will be served, entrance is free for members. otherwise £5 on the door. For more information please visit our website somertonartists.co.uk.



# How well do you know Somerton?

Last month the picture challenge was The Muga at the sports recreation ground. And once again, Peter Simmonds has set an intriguing challenge. He discovered this sign while out walking, but apparently there is no Wrexey Lane on the Somerton map. So where is it? Do you know?

# Get ready for Christmas

St Michael's Church is holding a pre-Christmas coffee morning with stalls on Saturday 4 December from 10am. Meet your friends, relax and chat and then do some Christmas shopping in town.





# Courthouse Gallery now open

The Courthouse Gallery, situated in the Courthouse Mews development on West Street, has now opened with an exhibition featuring works by Moish Sokal.

The gallery marks the expansion of Somerton's Arts Quarter, and it will hold regular ever-changing selling exhibitions of contemporary masters. Moish Sokal's exhibition runs until 6 November and will be replaced by one of authenticated lithographs and prints by Henri Matisse, supplied by the famous Goldmark Gallery Rutland. This will run from 19 November until 24

December, and will be a considerable draw to Somerton for art lovers. It will include various suites of Matisse's work including 'The Last Works' (Edition unknown 1954), 'Ronsard' (Edition 320 – 1948) and 'Poésies Antillaises' (Edition 250 – 1945-46).

The Courthouse Gallery is open from 10am-5pm Wednesday to Saturday. For more information visit courthousegallery.uk.

# Remembering all who served and serve

On Sunday 14 November Somerton Branch British Legion will parade in memory of fallen comrades. We muster at 9.15am outside the Fire Station, stepping off at 9.30am led by the Fire Serivce, and will march along Behind Berry to St Michael's church. Kingsbury Episcopi's band will be playing outside the church and will play again when we leave to lay wreaths. We will then march back to the Fire Station along West Street. A collection will be taken outside the church, and please wear a mask if you come into the church. Poppies and memorabilia are available in advance outside



the Co-op. And if you'd like to join the British Legion, we'd warmly welcome you.

On an historical point, on 21 October Graham Taylor climbed 100 steps to the top of St Michael's Church to raise the Union Jack to commemorate Trafalgar Day. Leading his fleet in HMS Victory, Lord Nelson overcame the combined Spanish and French fleets at the Battle of Trafalgar. Of his 821 crew, 102 were wounded and 57 killed, including Horatio Nelson himself.



Photograph courtesy Mr John Waller.

# Don't forget the fireworks

Venue Somerton Recreation Ground Firework bar opens 5.30pm Food stalls open 5.30pm Band "Kindred" plays 6.00pm – 7.00pm Firework display 7.00pm

There will be a free Disco in the Sports Club, both before and after the display, and as there is limited parking, walking is advisable.

# A new priest for St Dunstan's

Many of you will be pleased to know that St Dunstan's Catholic Church on the Langport Road has a new serving Parish Priest, Father Dominic Findlay-Wilson. Fr Dominic has been at the Church of the English Martyrs in Chard since 2018 and will now also serve the parish of St Dunstan's. Dominic will have a lot of miles to cover and we wish him a happy and safe ministry in this area.



St.Margar

During the uncertain times since the first lockdown began in March 2020, Father Jean Patrice of the Holy Ghost Church, Yeovil has said Mass at Somerton. He has been supported by a devoted lay team which has overseen the church and ensured covid safety for those attending Mass. Many thanks to all. Father Jean Patrice will continue to say Mass in Somerton on Saturday evening. More information on The English Martyrs see our website emchard.org.uk.

You are most welcome to come to Mass and help to restore the community of St Dunstan's, Somerton. Social distancing and the wearing of face masks at Mass continues.

### Contact details

Father Dominic via Parish Secretary Maggie Wheedon at Chard Parish Office chard.englishmartyrs@cliftondiocese.com, 07483 120603 or email somerton.stdunstan@cliftondiocese.com Messages can be left on 07955 868150

### **Regular Mass Times**

Friday at 10am Saturday evening 7pm (Father Jean Patrice) Sunday at 9am Confession after Mass and home visits by request



# Festival gives back to the community

Local organisations have reaped the benefit of another successful Somerton festival, despite the challenges of a global pandemic and some sub-tropical weather.

The organisers of the Somerton Music & Arts Festival have donated £450 to the Somerton Recreation Ground Trust from the profits raised at its Somerstock music festival. This comes after a previous donation of £500 to

St Margaret's Hospice from money raised at the same event.

Presenting the cheque to David Osmond, chair of the Trust, Festival Chairman Cliff (Fred)
Bassett said "We are delighted to be able to make these donations, especially after such a
difficult year. This has only been possible through the hard work of our committee and volunteers
who all give their time for free and, of course, the support of the Somerton community who
turned out in great numbers."

Plans are already underway for the 2022 festival. "We have a great headline act in the pipeline for Somerstock," added Fred. "We'll be making an announcement very soon so keep an eye on our website somertonartsfestival.co.uk and social media channels."

Photographs: Fred Bassett presents cheques to David Osmond, Chair of Somerton Recreation Ground Trust (top), and to Kara Frampton of St Margaret's Hospice (bottom).



# Rocks and dirt, it's all part of the fun

Do you have a rockery, or would you like one? Did you dig a pond and wonder what to do with all the earth which came out? Help is at hand. Come to the Edgar Hall on Wednesday 10 November at 7.30pm when Somerton Gardeners' Club has a visit from Castle Gardens. As always, they offer an informative and entertaining talk, with lots of plants and ideas. We are pleased to welcome visitors, and many choose to join us.

On 8 December we have our Christmas meal and entertainment in the Edgar Hall. This time we start at 7pm so we have plenty of time without being rushed. If you would like a glass of wine with your

meal, please bring your own bottle and a glass. Soft drinks will be provided. This event is not open to non-members as we have subsidised the cost, but you still have time to join us before the event. The November meeting is the last time to book and make your menu choices.

The January meeting will be our AGM and a Gardeners' Question time, but more details in the December Viaduct. We'll be ready to look ahead to a new gardening year.

# Can't see the wood for the trees?

Somerton has so many lovely trees, but do we take them for granted?

John England is coming to the WI meeting on Tuesday 16 November at 2.30pm in the Parish Rooms. He will talk about trees in general and specifically about trees around Somerton, and will bring examples of the various types of wood and their uses. John enjoys working with wood and will bring some items, like this child's high chair that he has made from the types of wood which we find in Somerton.

Our December meeting on 21 December is very close to Christmas. We shall have a light-hearted entertainment and also a 'Guess who this is' quiz. Please bring an early photo of yourself in an envelope with your name on it to the November meeting and give it to the quiz compiler so only they will know who's who.



# Gifted, an artisan Christmas market

Starting on Saturday 30 October 2021, ACE will be hosting 'Gifted', an artisan Christmas market running until 24 December. Evolving over the whole period, the event will comprise works by local artists and designer-makers in the gallery alongside Christmas trees with decorations and further gift ideas. Alongside 'Gifted' ACE will be holding drop-in sessions on each Wednesday from 3 November until 22 December giving you the chance to make your own star decorations – we hope to end up with a display like that of the glorious angels from 2019, all made by the local community.

# Thank goodness for good neighbours

It was a wet dark night when Somerton Good Neighbours volunteers attended a social evening and AGM on Tuesday 19 October. It was the first AGM after the organisation was set up last year, following a handover over from Lifeline which initially provided support at the start of the pandemic.

Chairperson Annette Sparks welcomed everyone and introduced the committee. Annette reported that 87 Somerton residents have been supported in the past year with volunteers carrying out shopping, collection of prescriptions, gardening and befriending those who are housebound.

Twenty-six volunteers attended and, after the short AGM, enjoyed meeting each other for the first time and getting to know fellow volunteers. Two recognition awards were presented. One was to Mo Fletcher (top left) for setting up Lifeline so promptly after the first lockdown was announced, ensuring that anyone who was shielding or at risk from COVID was supported with shopping. The second award was to Sheila Crothers (bottom, right) who

worked tirelessly to set up Somerton Good Neighbours on a formal basis last summer. The organisation now has 35 active volunteers who continue to support any resident in Somerton in need of help.

If you need help or know anyone who would benefit from our support, please contact Annette Sparks on 01458 258947 or email annettes 2853@gmail.com.



# Brilliant blow-out at the Oktoberfest

Last Saturday, Somerton Music and Arts Festival recreated Bayaria's Oktoberfest in the Edgar Hall in Somerton.

A sell-out crowd, many in Lederhosen, were greeted by a decked out Bavarian hall, with steins of genuine German Beer provided by the Wagonkered bar. The Sherbavarian Stompers Oompah band played all the old favourites and had the audience swaying, toasting and participating in the frolics.

The evening ended with music from Flic Keirle and Bill

Osborn, packing the dance floor from start to finish.

The organisers would like to thank Somerton Rugby club for providing the excellent BBQ, Supermix for the sound and Flic and Bill for standing in at the last minute.





# Have your say

## Laburnum Drive Residents' Committee

Bacon Butties on Tuesday 2 November, £1.30 from 10.0am. Do join us too, on Friday 12 November at 5.00pm for our Hot Dog supper plus a Quiz with prizes, £4 entrance. December 15 will be our flower workshop when you can make a display for Christmas – these make great gifts. It is good to have our Community Hall back again and all are welcome to visit and see us, and our notices of events. For more information call 01458 272620.

# The Somerton Music and Arts Festival need your help

We'd love to know if anyone would like to suggest a topic for one of our events next year. Maybe there's an area, building or business in Somerton that you would like to know more about. Or perhaps you're interested in the natural world around us. Or maybe you'd like to know more about the work of our Town Crier. All reasonable suggestions are welcome.

Likewise, if anyone has specialist knowledge about some area, skill, topic, and is willing to give a talk, we'd be delighted to hear from you. You can email me, Mary Palmer, at cobblers2014@gmail.com.



# Keep your speed down and your eyes peeled

After another month of covering many of the roads in Somerton, we are getting mixed results regarding speeding. There are still a few people who seem to forget that one of the pedals in their vehicle only has to be lightly touched (the brake) and they will slow the vehicle down, making it safer for everyone and less work for the police. The police have been busy following up persistent high speeders and have issued Section 59 cautions on some of these drivers. Thank you to many drivers who are keeping within the limits, and because you do, the cars behind have to slow as well.

We are aware that you sometimes get tailgated, this is an offence and when we see this we do report it, so please don't be intimidated by doing the right thing. The clocks will have gone back by the time you read this so please take even more care on our roads as the darker evenings bring other dangers, mainly for pedestrians who have either no pavements or very narrow ones to walk on. If you are interested in supporting SpeedWatch, you can contact David Cundle on 01458897224.

# Have your say

# Treading the boards again

The Lion King is roaring back into Bristol in 2022.

And Charity Theatre Trips are planning a trip on Wednesday

9 March. The tickets are very expensive, but I have managed to
get a discount on a limited number in the side stalls which should
give a good view at considerably less than the central ones. Prices
including coach are £78 (side) and £108 (central).

We now have a Groups link on Facebook, if you do such exciting things!

You can sign yourself up to receive the latest news. The link is 'Charity Theatre Trips'.

Finally, if you join the coach at Somerton we have to follow the new one-way system, so your coach from Langport will have to circumnavigate Somerton on the way to the Half Moon Car Park and pick up on the opposite side of the road to where we used to. Take care crossing. Let's hope that we really are able to get going next year.

Book on line at theatretrips.webeden.co.uk, e-mail Charitytheatrerips@btinternet.com or phone me, Chris, on 01458 273085.

### Other events:

Bourne's Nutcracker:
Tuesday 1 February 2022 £41/£51
We Will Rock You:
Wednesday 20 April 2022 £45/\$58
Strictly Ballroom
Tuesday 10 May 2022 £36/£51
Mamma Mia
Monday 20 June 2022 £49/£61
Les Miserables
Tuesday 19 July 2022 £45/£58

## **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.

# Have your say

# Patients' Participation Group update

We are often reminded that the pandemic is not over – a message we do well to heed by continuing to be cautious and by taking appropriate measures to keep ourselves and others safe. Recently, the emphasis has shifted to vaccinating more young people while the Over 50s have been alerted to the rolling out of a 'booster' programme. As before, please do not try to make an appointment yourself but wait to be contacted by the NHS. These offers, which prioritise the most vulnerable and elderly, are happening but please note that there will be a minimum gap of six months between your having received your second dose and receiving the booster. It is also Flu Vaccination season and these will be administered at Buttercross Health Centre (BHC). For this you are invited to contact BHC to make an appointment. Many have done so already but due to delivery issues causing local shortages, some appointments have had to be rescheduled by a week or two. The situation is being carefully monitored and patients will be advised just as soon as any adjustment becomes necessary.

While on the subject of shortages, there continues to be concern, nationally, over the shortage of qualified clinical staff working in primary care (especially GPs and Nurse Practitioners). You may have heard that the government is providing extra funding so more in-person appointments can be offered. While this news is to be welcomed. employing locums is extremely expensive and their personal knowledge of patients is unlikely to match that of our already over-stretched contracted staff, BHC continues to seek additional staff to replace some who have moved on but competition to fill posts is stiff, so, for now, our own staff remain extremely busy. Please bear this in mind as staff strive to deliver the best care they

When will matters improve? Back in 2015 the government set a target to recruit an additional 5,000 GPs by 2020. This was not achieved and due to retirements, resignations and some opting to work fewer hours, the FTE (full-time equivalent) number of GPs (excluding trainees and locums) fell from 28,709 to 26,805, despite recruitment increasing slightly. In 2019 it was announced that a new target of an additional 6,000 GPs by 2025 had been set.

possibly can, given the challenging conditions under which they are working.

Across the country GPs and other clinical staff have had to adopt new ways of working and, in many instances, patients have both accepted this and expressed being satisfied with the service they have received. Perhaps, as a by-product of the pandemic and the national shortage of qualified staff, the gradual emergence of two key questions we should be asking ourselves has prompted us all to adapt to new ways. Those questions are: Do I really need – at least in the first instance – to see a GP face to face? And, more generally: How might I take more responsibility for my own health?

# Spotlight on ACEarts

ACEarts was set up as a charity in 2016 when the potential of the beautiful building was realised as an ideal venue for a new arts venture. The vision was a gallery which helped support both local artists and the community with an annual programme of exhibitions and creative events to complement the shows, alongside a retail space showcasing local artisan products. Five years on, the charity's aim is still to provide art and creative activity to inspire, empower and enable people to develop and grow.

Over the school holidays ACEarts has been exhibiting the community project, 'Putting on a Show'. Three classes from King Ina School worked with local artist Edwina Bridgeman to design and make puppets based on a theme they chose – In a Magical Meadow. Edwina then worked with two groups of older Somerton residents to produce their own puppets inspired



by the children's work, and finally a family friendly session as part of the Summer School. The resultant exhibition combined all the works and was extremely well received.

Alongside the exhibition ACEarts ran Summer School, a series of family friendly workshops covering various creative activities including collage, charcoal drawing and printmaking, attended by people of all ages and abilities the project embodied the ACEarts ethos. The charity plans to continue the courses in 2022.





# Spotlight on ACEarts

Although the past 18 months has meant ACEarts has not been able to carry out any of its other planned community projects, the charity is currently liaising with several local organisations looking at joint creative ventures and preparing next year's schedule of events. Nina Gronw-Lewis, Gallery Manager, said "We are delighted to be working again with Laburnum Drive Residents and in talks with Archies Xtra to provide art based activities and to be planning next year's project with King Ina School".

As part of this restart ACEarts is asking residents of Somerton what they would like to see from the charity via a short survey, available until the end of November via a link on the website acearts.co.uk. You can also find more information on the exhibitions, workshops and other events coming up. Analysis of the results will help the charity provide art experiences for the whole community.

The shop and gallery are open Tuesday to Saturday between 10am and 5pm and everyone is welcome to browse or just pop in to learn more about what we do.



Photographs: opposite page: top, Edwina and the Summer School Workshop; bottom left, our beautiful building; bottom right, Putting on a Show; this page: above, Nina Gronw-Lewis, Gallery Manager; below Putting on a Show.



# 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 clerk.assistant@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

GROUP	CONTACT NAME	MEETING PLACE	MEETING TIME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
AceArts Life Drawing	Book on website or in Old Town Hall	The Courthouse, West Street, Somerton	Wednesday 10.30-12.30	www.acearts.co.uk	
Ageing Well	Age UK somerset	Parish Rooms £4.50 pay as you go	Monday 10.15am Friday 11.30am	ageingwell@ageuksomerset.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		
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
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 Benn 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 clerk.assistant@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

GROUP	CONTACT NAME	MEETING PLACE	MEETING TIME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
Somerton Gardeners' Club	Pauline Saunders	Edgar Hall £2 for visitors	Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm		01458 272769
Somerton Group of Artists	Mandy McAllen	Parish Rooms, Market Square, Somerton	Second Wedsnesday of the month 7.30pm £5 includes tea or coffee	i_dissagree@hotmail.com	
Somerton Probus Club	Derek Long	Somerton Sports Club	Last Wednesday of the month 10.30am	long.derek1946@gmail.com	01458 274038
u3a		Edgar Hall £2 for visitors	Fourth Friday of the month 10.00am		
Womens' Institute	Sue Long Pauline Saunders	Parish Rooms	Third Tuesday of the month 2.30pm		01458 274038 01458 272769

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S					Yeovil		Yeovil	Som Sq		Som Sq	_		Taunton	Langport	П				Som Sq	Yeovil		Yeovil	Som Sq			Som Sq	Langport	Taunton	Taunton	Langport	Som Sq		

The 54 from Taunton will go Pound Pool, Behind Berry, North Street, Broad Street, Market Place, Note: ALL services to Yeovil will travel via the Square and West Street. West Street, Pound Pool and Behind Berry for a second time

Produced by MARTYN SMITH 01458 273058 email: martynandsue@hotmail.com



# Wanted Facilities Assistant

Somerton Town Council wish to recruit a Facilities Assistant.

Duties will include supporting the work of the Town Council, primarily in maintaining Edgar Hall and other assets around Somerton. You should have experience in a range of trades and skills and hold a clean driving licence. A background in caretaking or other maintenance work will be an advantage.

Hours are a minimum of 16 per week
Benefits include 21 days annual leave plus two statutory days and bank holidays (pro rata)
Annual salary is dependent on qualifications, skills and experience

Closing date for applications is 26 November 2021
For more information, and to apply, please contact the Town Clerk on 01458 272236
or email town.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk



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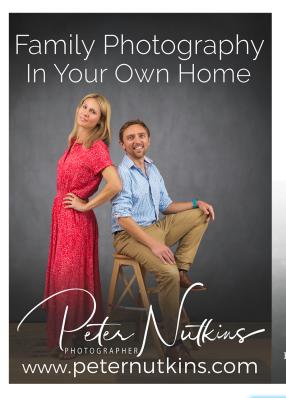
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\*subject to eligibility



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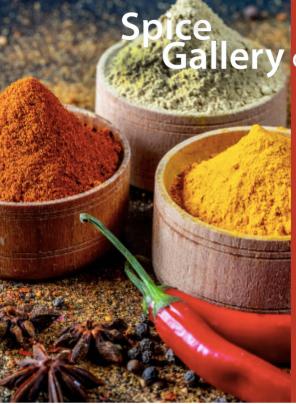
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