

A close-up photograph of Nandina leaves. The leaves are green with prominent veins and are covered in a layer of white frost. In the background, there are clusters of small, bright red berries. The overall scene is a winter or late autumn setting.

VIADUCT

December 2021

Photograph of Nandina courtesy John Rickard

Editor's Letter



Hello,

I'm delighted to bring you another jam-packed Viaduct that is full of great articles, news and information. I'd also like to thank all the contributors, and apologise to those who I simply couldn't fit in this time. To keep the costs down, Viaduct is limited to 24 pages, and to keep the content fresh, I try to feature articles that offer something new and interesting for you to read. Of course, it's important that regular updates are included too, and I do my best to get the balance right.

Also, as Christmas approaches, I must let you know that the deadline for the January issue is very tight; I need all your contributions by 6 December latest so that the printers have time to do their magic.

Finally, with the festive season in mind, I wish you all a very merry time.

Editor, Viaduct

Contents

- 3 News from your town council
- 5 Have your say
- 6 News from around town
- 12 Spotlight on EW Engineering
- 14 Local clubs
- 16 Advertisers' directory

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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 at viaducted@gmail.com by 6th December.

News from your town council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Planning if required	14 Dec	6.30pm	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.

SCOP26+ Climate Conference

Somerset held its own COP26 event on Saturday 6 November hosted by The Levels Climate Forum, with STC as a delivery partner. The event, held at the Edgar Hall, attracted councillors, community volunteers and climate activists from across Somerset.


With the Somerset Levels on the front line of climate change, the invited speakers spoke passionately about the threats we face and the need to adapt our buildings, our communities and ourselves.

The conference heard presentations from Will Barnard, from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG), on land management and encouraging farmers to collaborate in 'moor associations' to present a collective voice to decision-makers. Rupert Farthing from Carymoor Environmental Trust, on inspiring communities, children and young people to engage with our living environment through workshops that deliver measurable change. Melissa Taylor from Glastonbury Town Council on climate anxiety and building emotional resilience in the face of epic planetary change. Bruton Town Council's retrofit officer Justine Mallinson on the need for 20,000 'retrofit assessors', currently only 1,000 exist to date. Bruton TC is the first parish in the country to employ a retrofit officer. Jon Cousins, Mayor of Glastonbury, closing the conference with a call to everyone present to return to their parishes and organise a citizen assembly on climate change to bring their communities up to speed on what we face and how we can all help prepare for what's coming.

Midway through the conference, everyone met in smaller groups to discuss the benefits of councils putting in place a Green Charter that sets out how that council will care for its environment in all it does directly and indirectly, and to influence others to do the same.

Everyone agreed that by bringing together the parishes and towns of Somerset to listen, discuss and share ideas and best practice, we can make a real difference. With over 9,000 parish and town councils in England, serving over 16 million people, we can hold the Government to account and be a real force for change. The conference talks will be posted up shortly on the Climate Levels Forum YouTube Channel for anyone who wants to learn more.

The next Levels Climate Forum will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 26 January 2022 from 7pm and will focus on divesting pension pots away from fossil fuel to greener alternatives. If you would like to join the discussion, contact Cllr Stephen Tate (Langport TC) at clrtate@langport.life.



Top, the county of Somerset 2021. Below, all that will remain of the county (in green) if climate change is left unchecked. The blue represents the sea.

News from your town council

Bad behaviour is just anti-social

Sadly we have seen an increase in the level of anti-social behaviour in Somerton and we are aware of the numerous recent incidents. STC have met with the Police to discuss the situation and to request more patrols and appropriate action. The Police have asked that all residents continue to report incidents of ASB to either 101 or, if necessary, 999.



What a great show it was

STC were pleased to be able to fund this year's firework display and be part of the team that delivered such a fantastic evening. Well done to everyone involved, what a fabulous community event.

And the accolades go to....

Mandy McAllen! Congratulations for winning the Viaduct Front Cover Photograph Competition. The standard was very high and we had some excellent contenders but the final vote went to Mandy's photograph of the viaduct, used in May.

The competition will no longer be running, but please do continue to send your photos in if you'd like them to be considered for a Viaduct front cover. Just email a high resolution jpg to the editor at viaducted@gmail.com.



Season's greetings to you all

Somerton Town Council would like to wish everyone in Somerton a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas. This year has brought its challenges, but it has shown us the power of communities. Somerton is a special place to live, let's hope we can all look forward to better times in 2022.

Have your say



Be in the know

The Somerton Community Website, somerton.co.uk, is the place to be. You can list or find all the local clubs and societies in town, plus advertise any upcoming event on our calendar. What's more, it's all totally free.

If you'd like to list your club, society or event, email somerton@somerton.co.uk. If you've any questions, please call 01458 272041.

Fancy some company?

Somerton Good Neighbour Volunteers are now able to meet you face to face in your home or take you out for a coffee if that is what you fancy. Volunteers have been DBS checked and trained and our insurance cover has been extended to provide these extra activities. We follow the national guidance for COVID and are very pleased to be able to offer this service.

Volunteers are still providing our usual activities such as shopping, collection of prescriptions and telephone chats. We can also help if you are self-isolating due to Covid or are waiting to go into hospital for a procedure. We are very grateful to Somerton Town Council for awarding us a grant of £300 to cover our expenses for the next year, as we are a nonprofit making organisation, and we look forward to supporting the residents of Somerton for another year.



If you, or someone you know, is in need of support please contact Lead Coordinator Annette Sparks on 01458 258947.

Laburnum Drive Residents' Committee

Happy Christmas and New Year to all our supporters, thank you for your friendship, and to the Viaduct who keep us in touch. On 7 December, Bacon Butties at 10.00am (£1.80 includes a cuppa), 15 December, Floral Afternoon at 3.00pm, £7. On 23 December, Special Xmas Bingo at 2.00pm.



In 2022, 7 January, New Year party and Games Afternoon suggested. Cards, Dominoes, Scrabble... interested? Telephone 01458 272620.

News from around town

Looking for a new home?

Scott Gould House in North Street has a vacancy. One of the six self-contained flats is available for an older lady with a modest income and local family connections. This first floor flat consists of a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.

Residents pay a subsidised weekly maintenance charge which includes central heating, hot water, general maintenance and water rates.

If this sounds like the place you'd like to live, please apply to The Clerk to the Trustees on 01458 272049 or 07989 437964. Scott Gould House is a registered charity, number 208887.



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.

And where is this?

Once again, Pete Simmonds asks the question... just how well do you know Somerton? It's a listed building somewhere in town.

Last month's challenge was particularly intriguing – a railway bridge named for a lane that doesn't exist. So the answer was Ricksey Lane where you can see, if you face east on the bridge, the site of the future railway station, and if you look west, the line going into Somerton Tunnel. Perhaps the lane's original name was Wrexey and over time misspellings have brought it to its present day name.



News from around town



Books and boards

The Library continues to offer as near-a-normal service as possible; find full details at somertonlibrary.com. And there's good news, the library has been chosen by the Co-op as a local beneficiary of their Community Fund 2021/22. Find out more on our website.

Although the need to maintain sensible social distancing precludes the return of many library activities such as 'Story Time', the Library has started a Chess Club that operates on Saturday mornings between 10:00am and 12:00 noon. Tom Richardson – recently Secretary of the Warwick University Chess Club – will lead sessions for players of all abilities (under 2000 rating). The sessions will involve fun games such as hand-and-brain chess, chess puzzles, and handicap games. A large part will be games for everyone to implement what they've learnt. You can contact Tom on somertonlibrary.com/activities/ or by completing a form in the library.

On a sadder note, someone stole the Donations Box from the Library foyer. This money is used to help meet the running cost of your library. In future all donations and money from books on the trolley should be offered to the librarian or volunteer at the desk.



Opening times

Day	Times	Service
Monday	2.00pm-5.00pm	Browsing and internet computers
Tuesday		Closed all day
Wednesday	10.00am-1.00pm	Browsing and internet computers
Thursday	10.00am-5.00pm	Browsing and internet computers
Friday	2.00pm-5.00pm	Browsing and internet computers
Saturday	10.00am-1.00pm	Browsing and internet computers

A library at your front door

Did you know Somerset libraries offer a Home Library Service to individuals who cannot access the library due to ill health, mobility or caring reasons? Our volunteers will choose and deliver books to you on a regular basis. If you or anyone you know might be interested in volunteering, or receiving this service, please contact the Home Library Manager on 07814 079831 or email KJenssen@somerset.gov.uk, who will be happy to help you.



SOMERSET
Libraries



News from around town

Getting on board with the buses

The future is suddenly starting to look a lot brighter for bus services in Somerset. Over the past decade, public transport has not been an economic or developmental priority for Somerset County Council. Bus journeys in the County have fallen by 43% over the past decade, we have the second lowest bus journeys per head in the country and our bus services have the lowest satisfaction score.



But the Government's Bus Back Better strategy has prompted a major rethink with £3 billion of funding for bus improvements to be shared out between transport authorities across England (outside of London). Somerset County Council has responded and developed a highly ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and is asking the Government to fund the Somerset BSIP with an eye watering £163 million grant.

Somerset Bus Partnership was set up so that the voices of bus users from across Somerset are heard. We now have over 80 "bus representatives" from all parts of the county who ensure we understand and reflect the needs of towns and parishes across the county. Somerset Bus Partnership was invited to attend the launch of the Bus Advisory Board in late November. This is Somerset's first step in establishing a partnership arrangement with local bus companies.

We are looking for extra support within the Somerset Bus Partnership's core team. Have you had management experience of the bus industry or in a transport department within a Council? Please do get in touch if you have. You can contact Tony Reese, Co-Chair, Somerset Bus Partnership at somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com, follow us on Facebook or see our website at somersetbuspartnership.co.uk.

Jim's jams help the Red Cross BritishRedCross

Chris Cox's latest effort to fund raise for the Langport & District Red Cross Group, of which he is the leader, is the publication, just in time for Christmas, of a companion book to his 'Total Experience Corner' memoir of a year in Jamaica. It is the life story of Jim and his ancestors, from an early Victorian eloper to the present Day. It is called 'Jim Jams' and relates the many 'jams' Jim and his relations have got themselves into over the years, many of them highly amusing with a sprinkling of tragic and heart-stopping sadness.

Printed and e-book copies will be available on Amazon from early December, probably at £5 (plus postage) and £2.50 respectively. You can also receive a printed copy direct from Chris for £5 including postage. Total Experience Corner is also still available from Chris at £12 including postage or as an e-book.

All profits will be donated to the British Red Cross to help keep their Langport Centre Shop open. To order copies from Chris e-mail cox.cj@btinternet.com or send a text to 07963 689 699.

News from around town



Christmas services at St Michael's

Keeping the season in mind, we expect everyone to wear masks at these services.

Saturday 18 December

7:30pm Town Carol Service,
(lessons and carols)

Friday 24 December

11am Crib Service
11:30pm Midnight Communion

Saturday 25 December

11am Family Service with Communion

Sunday 9 January

10:30am Holy Communion Service to say
farewell to Revd Alan Symonds

God bless, Alan Symonds
Priest in Charge of Somerton with
The Charltons and Kingsdon

Cheers to Christmas



Our monthly meeting on 10 November will feature Angela Morley, who will demonstrate how to Willow Weave a Star for Christmas. We shall also celebrate with a glass of wine and bring and share nibbles, and we will have a charity sale of Art related CDs and DVDs.

Join us at 7.30pm at The Parish Rooms
Somerton. Members free, visitors £5 on
the door including tea or coffee. For more
information see somertonartists.co.uk.



**Langport Community
Christmas Lunch**

We are happy to resume "normal service" this year and are planning to hold our usual Christmas Day lunch on **Saturday 20th December** at **Hush Episcopi Academy** for anyone in the local area who may otherwise be spending Christmas Day on their own.

We can offer you good company and a traditional Christmas lunch. The event is free but places must be **booked by Saturday 18th December** so that we can organise catering.

Transport will be available if you need it - just let us know.

If you would like to book a place for yourself, or you are aware of anybody who would like to join us, please get in touch.

Due to the current Covid situation and for the protection of both guests and volunteers, we are asking that everyone booked in this event is fully vaccinated.

Please contact Jo Stradling:
01458 252388
or
jostrads@yahoo.com

News from around town



Anyone for tennis?

Somerton Tennis Club is having a makeover. We are currently replacing our clubhouse and hope to improve our facilities ready for the New Year. We are still open for business as usual, in line with our governing body the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). We may be closed some days to carry out work.

We are very lucky to be part of a beautiful green space in the centre of Somerset at

Somerton Recreation Ground. And we hope our new clubhouse reflects this. If you're interested in joining our friendly club, please contact us by email at somerton.tennisclub@gmail.com or telephone 01458 396006 or 07788 451098.

We also have coaching for members and non-members. To find out more, contact our Level 4 coach Neil Driver on 01458 396006, 07752 272830 or email neilrdriver@gmail.com.

It's not cricket...

Well actually, it is. If you think cricket is a slow game, what will you make of walking cricket? But seriously, the emergence of a wide range of 'walking' versions of popular sports – including football, rugby, basketball, netball, hockey, rounders and tennis – has seen thousands of those aged 50+ with conditions which limit their participation in the traditional versions, discover a new way to remain active. Not only is it proving physically beneficial but engaging with others in sports is shown to improve mental health and general wellbeing.

A Walking Sport is, understandably, a slower version of a game and rules are adapted to accommodate the slower pace. Those who are addressing weight-related issues or recovering from operations or treatments and undergoing rehabilitation have found walking sports a real aid to improving their condition. Some who suffer from social isolation or loneliness testify to the positive effect these sports have brought them. So, if you are finding that age or disability mean you are having to make adjustments, then a Walking Sport may offer you an opportunity to continue playing a sport you have previously enjoyed.

Now, in Somerset, it is the turn of cricket to 'take a walk'. Steve Gass is the Community Programmes Manager at the Somerset Cricket Foundation (formerly the Somerset Cricket Board), based at the County Ground in Taunton. He is planning to launch Walking Cricket in the new year and would love to hear from any who might be interested in participating in or even helping to organise sessions – which will be held indoors. You can contact Steve at steve.gass@somersetcricketfoundation.org.



News from around town

Hail fellow, well met

What is The Probus Club? It's a Club that was established in 1992 as a place where retired or semi-retired professionals and businessmen who reside within a reasonable distance of the venue of the Club could meet and socialise. The objectives of the Club, which is non-political and non-sectarian, are to:

- Foster and encourage fellowship amongst its members through regular meetings
- Promote the exchange of views and experiences between members
- Organise social and other activities

The Club meets at 12 noon on the last Wednesday of the month (except December). A lunch is served at 12:30pm followed by a guest speaker. The current venue is Somerton Sports Club.

Our speakers have talked to us on various topics which include *USA by Greyhound Bus*, *The Miracle of Powered Flight*, *The Bismarck and Dorset Shipwrecks*. We organise various visits and have visited such places as Highgrove gardens at Tetbury and plan to visit the Met Office at Exeter, The RNLi Museum at Poole and the Morgan factory at Malvern. Also, we hold regular Summer and Christmas lunches accompanied by wives and partners.

We are actively seeking new members and invite applications from eligible persons to be our guest for their first meeting. After attending a further meeting the guest can be proposed by existing members to join the Club, which is by way of a written application to the Committee for their consideration. If you would like to come along please contact our secretary Derek Long on 01458 274038 or by email long.derek1946@gmail.com.



From wood to warmed wine

At our last WI meeting, John England gave a fascinating talk about wood and trees. Hearing about nine types of tree found in Somerton, discovering where to see them, and handling examples of each type, will make us appreciate the variety around us.

Following on from the Remembrance Day parade, we are looking forward to visiting the Christmas market in Exeter, a country-house coffee morning and a carol service in Wells cathedral. Our final WI event of the year is on 21 December: rumour has it that the words mulled wine have been mentioned...

Our calendar for the new year is filling up and we guarantee a specially warm welcome to anyone new to Somerton.



Spotlight on EW Engineering



EW Engineering is a welding fabrication company located on the Bancombe trading estate. In 2019 my husband Wayne Waterman and I decided to try a new challenge by starting our own company. I knew nothing about the metal industry but knew how to run a business, do the admin and create websites. Wayne has had over 20 years' experience in welding and fabrication.

We are incredibly passionate about the job we do and we have gone from strength to strength, with our customers support. With this happening, Wayne needed help in the workshop so I thought I would give welding a go. I wasn't scared and just wanted to get stuck in. I instantly loved it and wondered why I hadn't done it sooner.

At that time, a six week Women in Welding course came up at local training provider, Train4All, and I jumped at the chance to have a

go. I passed the coded test at the end of the course and wondered what could I do next? My mum had a big birthday coming up and I wanted to make something special for her, so I set about making a life size horse out of horse shoes. We'd had horses for over 20 years, but sadly have them no longer as they died of old age. However, for all those years, we had the same farrier and he kindly donated horseshoes to me so I could create my gift.

I'd never done anything like this before and it was a massive challenge, but I loved every second and was amazed at how it turned out. So was my mum! It is now at its new home in her garden in Somerton.



Spotlight on EW Engineering

I'm very pleased that I can help out in the workshop, there are not many female welders and I would like that to change because it's so much fun and a brilliant skill to learn. Making the sculpture has inspired me to be more creative so watch this space for more unique metal things from me. But I feel my ultimate goal is go on to teach as this truly is an area of industry where anything is possible and the potential is limitless. I'm lucky to have Wayne to teach and guide me along the way.

EW Engineering are always willing to try anything and help bring projects and ideas to life. We start by providing a drawing which shows what the finished work is going to look like, and then go on from there. We can also do repairs and any type of metalwork you require from gates, railings, sculptures, furniture and welding. We have done a lot of restoration work for churches, bringing old back to new, which gives you enormous pride knowing you have helped bring something back to its former glory. No project is too small or too large.

If you would like to get in touch, our email is sales@ewengineering.co.uk, or you can call us on 01458 270068, we are always happy to help.



Photographs: opposite page top, Emily working on the horse's head, bottom left, Emily welding, bottom right, the finished horse. This page top, handrails in Ilminster home, bottom gate and arch, St Peter & St Paul Church, Heytesbury, Wiltshire.

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
Arts 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
Archives Extra	Alex Judith	Sports Ground, Gassons Lane by MUGA	Thurs 7.30-9.30pm 11 to 16 year olds		01458 272047 01458 273079
Flexercise		Buttercross Surgery	Fridays 2.30-3.30pm		
Health Walks	Mo Fletcher	Somerton Library	First and third Thursday of the month 11.30am	fletcher080@btinternet.com	01458 274631
Martial Arts Self Defence	Dan Palmer	Village Hall, High Ham, Langport TA10 9DA	Wed 7.00-8.00pm Kids and Adults Thurs 5.00-6.00pm and 6.00-7.00pm Kids	info@reallymartial.co.uk	07484 849157
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	Ernan 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	anitasandjmc22@gmail.com	01480 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		
Somerton Gardeners' Club	Pauline Saunders	Edgar Hall £2 for visitors	Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm		01458 272769

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.

[illegible]

**DO YOU HAVE A RELATIVE,
FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR
WHO NEEDS HELP WITH:
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APPOINTMENTS
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IF SO PLEASE CONTACT :**

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Phone: 07516664984
Website: www.cgwcontractorssw.co.uk



Based in Somerton, Somerset

Email: samhct@gmail.com

Telephone: 07753 113304



ABOUT

A complementary therapy called Reiki which assists healing for people and animals. As a fully qualified practitioner, Reiki benefits include:

Accelerate healing in sick, injuries or recovering from surgery / Help reduce anxiety, depression, pain & inflammation / Induce relaxation and stress relief / Lessen the side effects of other medical treatments / Routine self-care for general health and wellbeing / Improve sleep pattern and more...



SERVICE

- Free consultation
- Wear comfortable clothes during treatment
- A Reiki treatment takes approximately 60 minutes including an initial discussion and aftercare
- Home visits for Animal Reiki (dependent on location) and distant/remote treatments also available

New Year Beginners

Tai Chi

Tuesday or Thursday


9.30 to 10.30

Starting January 2022

For further information and to enrol
call

01458 270258

lendology-cic

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South Somerset District Council fund a
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We understand the expense of maintaining your
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We see you as an individual, not a credit score.
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For a no-obligation assessment
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*subject to eligibility



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Friday: 5.30pm to 11.00pm
Saturday: 12.00pm to 2.00pm & 5.30pm to 11.00pm

PAYMENT BY CASH OR CHEQUE ONLY

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07533 079689
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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.