

VIADUCT

January 2022



Editor's Letter



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Hello,

A new year beckons, and I'm sure I'm not alone in hoping that at last we'll be able to enjoy a happier one than in recent times. Yet even in times of adversity, as a community we do pull together, and nowhere is that better reflected than in the long list of people who put others before themselves and were rewarded with recognition of their generous spirit in the Council's Community and Covid Awards. Well done to everyone.

Of course, the Christmas season is just fading away, and that meant we had an even tighter deadline than usual to get Viaduct out for the beginning of the month. It also meant there were fewer submissions this time, but I do hope you'll enjoy the content which is full of interesting news, helpful information and practical tips.

Here's wishing you all a very good 2022.



Editor, Viaduct

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News from your town council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	11 Jan 2022	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Promotions and Communications	18 Jan 2022	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Accessibility and Highways (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	25 Jan 2022	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.

Somerton Community Awards 2021

The Somerton Community Awards evening was held on the 14 December at the Edgar Hall. In a rather paired back event, due to Covid 19, we just invited the winners, runners up and their guests to come along to be presented with their awards and certificates. There was entertainment from the talented u3a Ukulele Band, along with mince pies and mulled wine. Due to the early print deadline this month there are no photographs from the event but we are hoping to include one in the February edition.

We have listed all the winners and runners up below as well as those who have been awarded a Covid Care Supporter Certificate. Due to a restriction on numbers, the Covid Care Supporters' Certificates could not be awarded on the night. The Certificates are available to collect from the STC Office at Edgar Hall. If you are unable to get up to the Edgar Hall please let us know and we will get your Certificate to you.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the nomination forms and congratulations to all our winners and runners up. All of you have gone above and beyond in your support to the residents of Somerton. What a fantastic community we live in.

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Business of the Year	Cobbs Wholefoods	Craft House Chocolate
Environmentalism of the Year	Gregory Mason	Margaret Chambers
Good Neighbour Award	Sheila Crothers	Neil Taylor
Volunteer of the Year	Lesley Phillips	Jude Hurley
Community Group of the Year	Community Food Bank	Love Somerton
Sports Person of the Year	Dave Walton	Daniel Dury

The winners of the Covid Care Supporters Certificates for 2021 are listed overleaf.

News from your town council

Covid Care Supporter Certificate Winners 2021

Kirsty Schmidt	Mareille Bowditch	Ramon Fito	Annya Patten
Adam Gregory	John Lyon	Jo Gay	Colin Powell
Anita Redman	Stephanie Plowman	Michael Horder	Ben Richardson
Angela Rodger	Alexis Pulham	Monika Horder	Sam Richardson
Jane Hollowell	Bella Rowe	Laurence Ireland	Meg Russon
Stuart Avison	Gabriella Thomas	Georgina Jefferies	Sam Russon
Rachel Garrett	Jane Bradley	Sally Kavanagh	Sue Spratt
Steve Garrett	Jasmine Brain	David Mason	Dave Spratt
Justin Maynard	Jacky Calderwood	The Schofield Family	Dannie Taylor
Rachel Maynard	Jadi Carlyon	Brian Raybould	Christine Ward
Henry Holland	Richard Carlyon	Keith Harrison	Emily Wharton
Ruth Holland	Sue Cave	Emma Higgins	Tracey Williams
Alan Symonds	Natalie Collins	Miriam McMahon	Bridget Wood
Sandra Symonds	Jane Corbett	Rachel Mason	Andy Woods
Richard Montague	Veronica Devereux	Eve McArthur	Sue Woods
Jacqui Barwell	Nellie Do Santos	Geoff Melling	Martyn Smith
Claire Lucas	Tiffany Eaton	Linda Melling	Jeni Clegg
Becci Angood	Vivienne Elmes	Andrew Moore	Martin Cuthbert
Nicola Barnard	Julie Eyre	Teresa Oulds	BOOTS
Terry Bastyan	Ginny Facey	Mary Palmer	THE WHITE HART
Sonia Betts			

Celebrating our Queen

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. She acceded to the throne at just 25 years old in 1952 and has served us gallantly for 70 years.

Throughout the year, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion, culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June, will provide an opportunity for communities to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.

The United Kingdom's long tradition of celebrating royal jubilees, weddings and coronations with the lighting of beacons will be continued to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories and here in Somerton.

The Promotions and Communications Committee would like to invite all organisations and individuals who are interested in helping to plan our celebrations to a meeting on 18 January 2022 in the Edgar Hall at 7.00pm. This will be our opportunity to hear how Somerton would like to celebrate this momentous occasion. Please do come along if you have any ideas and are willing to help.



News from around town

On tour, the red dress

We are all so excited here at ACEarts to be able to welcome the internationally acclaimed 'The Red Dress' from 8 to 29 January 2022, before it heads off again to Pakistan on the next stage of its world tour. The artwork by local artist Kirstie Macleod is a global collaborative embroidery project 12 years in the making. The free exhibition will present the unique garment alongside images and stories of the artisans who helped her create it, including the stitched work from eight local embroiderers who have contributed to the Red Dress. There will be a talk by the artist at the gallery on 12 January 2022 from 10am until 12 noon, and anyone wishing to attend will need to book in advance. Other events may also be scheduled, so to make sure you can see this beautiful artwork, or to book a group viewing, please check our website acearts.co.uk or pop in for further details.



As part of the celebration of this project, ACEarts will be launching our own year-long embroidery project, 'Flock Together', providing opportunities for everyone to learn new skills, gain access to sewing kits and take part in sessions at the gallery, at home or other venues all on the central theme, culminating in a large public participation artwork shown here in January 2023. For more information or to register an interest in taking part, please contact us. Image by Sophia Scorr-kon.

Somerton Market

There will be no market in January or February 2022. However we will look at resuming in March or April 2022 depending on circumstances. Thank you to all our stallholders and visitors for coming along and supporting us in 2021.



Paint needed please

Somerton Dramatic Society are appealing for donations of unused matt paint for our upcoming pantomime, The Sleeping Beauty. If you have any leftover paint you would be willing to donate, we would be very grateful and are happy to collect. It'll be used for scenery painting, so any colours are welcome – but please, no gloss or silk.

Just call Mark on 07752 593016 or email somertondramaticsociety@outlook.com and we'll happily arrange to pick up your paint. Many thanks in advance. Tickets for Sleeping Beauty can be bought on our website, somertondramaticsociety.co.uk or find us on Facebook.

News from around town



Not just jam and Jerusalem

December provided so many activities for the Women's Institute which were very much enjoyed, that now is the time to take a deep breath and look forward to the New Year. We have several interesting speakers and events planned for the next few months and the full programme will emerge very soon. Do come and join us on Tuesday 18 January at 2.30pm in the Parish Rooms. Visitors are always welcome and we hope you'll enjoy meeting old friends and

new ones. Must remember the note in the diary to get the Seville oranges – the marmalade simply doesn't taste the same without them. In the meantime, all good wishes for a happy and peaceful new year.

Fancy joining in?

Somerton Tennis Club is very lucky to be part of a beautiful green space in the centre of Somerset at Somerton Recreation Ground. We're affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and play in the Yeovil and District League.

We also have coaching for members and non-members, from beginners through Rusty Racquets to experienced players. To find out more, contact our Level 4 coach Neil Driver on 01458 396006, 07752 272830 or email neildriver@gmail.com.



We're a very friendly and sociable club, so if you're interested in joining us, please email the Membership Secretary at somerton.tenniscub@gmail.com or telephone 01458 396006 or 07788 451098. You can also find out more about our club, sessions and coaching by Googling Somerton Tennis Club. We hope to meet you soon.



Red door, what's that secret you're keeping?

Last week, Peter Simmonds challenged us with the entrance to The Old Parsonage, originally known as Parsonage Farm, a Grade II Listed property on Parsonage Hill. And this week, the mystery is, where is this red door? Have you seen it on your perambulations around Somerton?

News from around town



Looking after garden life

After all the Christmas festivities, January is a good time to take stock of the tidying-up jobs which have been over-looked. But don't be too tidy. Our new year resolution might be let's be kind to garden wildlife.

As the shorter days have meant less time spent in the garden, it's easy to forget the permanent residents. Leaving those untidy seedheads can provide an important food source for winter visitors. Making sure there is a constant source of water is essential – a simple plant saucer can be a life-saver, especially if we remember to top it up after a hard frost.

Leaving some longer grass or undergrowth beside fences or hedges can provide vital shelter and warmth. Food for the birds brings many grateful, and interesting, visitors.



Have your say

Notes from Buttercross Health Centre

Buttercross Health Centre (BHC) has temporarily changed the *askmyGP* service times to support their staff as they seek to manage the current level of demand. The revised hours are Monday to Thursday 7.30am to 2.00pm; Friday 7.30am to 12.00 noon. For now, new requests cannot be processed outside of these hours.

Whilst still enabling good access for patients, the change BHC is implementing will support staff as they work through all the requests submitted. It is anticipated that once demand settles, the 'out of hours option' will be reviewed. Just a reminder that BHC operates a three-working-day (72 hour) initial response time and requests are clinically assessed so they can be prioritised. To help with responding most efficiently, when submitting your request, please indicate your availability to receive a call-back. Incidentally, despite the national shortage of primary care clinicians, BHC staff are managing to contact 98% of patients within 72 hours.

Feedback from patients, clinicians and other BHC staff indicates that the adjustments made to handling requests are now being widely accepted as the new way of working. Indeed, telephone or even video calls from clinicians have allowed patients to avoid unnecessary travel, but whenever a face-to-face consultation is deemed advisable or necessary, be assured an appointment will be offered.

The *askmyGP* system does not require you to have a computer or to access it online, although that is a quick and easy way to register your request. If you don't have access to the internet, a BHC receptionist will always be pleased to assist you by taking your request over the phone and submitting it on your behalf. This remains completely confidential and they do not make any clinical assessments – these will always be made by a clinician irrespective of how information is entered into the system.

Finally, if you feel that you have an urgent concern that cannot wait until the next day, you can still call the surgery until 6.30pm, Monday to Friday. However, if your query is non-urgent, please submit a request on the next working day. If there is a life-threatening emergency call 999 or go directly to your local Emergency Department. If you urgently require advice, which could result in a visit to the Emergency Department, call 111 which is a 24-hour service.



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/WEBSITE	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
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	Weds 7.00-8.00pm Kids and Adults Thurs 5.00-6.00pm and 6.00-7.00pm Kids	info@realitymartial.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	07829 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@rockemail.com	01458 272418 01458 251228
Somerton Carers		West Street Church Hall	Second Friday of the month 10.30am		01458 250503
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



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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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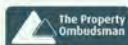


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