

VIADUCT

April 2022



Editor's Letter



Hello,

Seeing all the bulbs bringing forth bright colours in my courtyard, I'd say spring is definitely making headway. Sadly, there are still so many problems and troubles in the world that it dampens the joy somewhat. Yet reading this month's articles, it's good to see that our community spirit is still strong. Plans are afoot for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, many clubs and activities are opening again, and with Easter fast approaching, St Michael's Church has plenty on offer to feed the soul.

I hope you enjoy all the contributions so generously provided by local residents.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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 at viaducted@gmail.com by 15th April 2022.**

News from your town council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council (Planning if required at 6:30pm)	12 Apr 2022	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Land and Properties (planning if required at 6:30pm)	26 Apr 2022	7.00pm	Edgar Hall

Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions during the public session. Please refer to the Somerton Town Council (STC) website for COVID 19 related information.

Funding good causes

Town Councillors in the March meeting discussed a number of grant applications. Grants were approved for Somerton Recreation Ground Trust (£6,250), Somerton Arts Festival Funday (£1,240), and the STC contribution for the Wessex Youth Club rent at the Wessex Rooms was increased to £825 per quarter.



Councillors are delighted to support a local scout who has been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea. A donation was agreed of £850 towards the required fund raising of £4,150. Details of further fundraising can be found via a Just Giving fundraising page, which is featured on the STC Facebook page.

The situation in Ukraine is deeply concerning, and Councillors are keen to support the relief effort in the best way. Rather than sending physical aid items to Eastern Europe, the decision to make a £5,000 donation on behalf of STC and residents of Somerton was made. The funds will be forwarded directly to the Disaster Emergency Fund (DEC), to be allocated where required. The DEC is the fund where (currently) the value of up to £20 million will be matched by the UK government by the UK Aid Match scheme.

Don't forget to vote

Elections for Somerton Town Council, and also for Somerset Council, the new Unitary Authority, take place on 5 May 2022. Closing date for nomination forms to be delivered to South Somerset District Council offices is 4pm on 5 April. For further details about being more involved with the Town Council as a Councillor, please contact the STC office.

Charging off

The electric car charger in Cox's Yard car park is currently out of order. Attempts to repair the charger have proved unsuccessful, therefore this well used service is not available at the moment. The STC (Access and Highways Committee) are exploring options to replace the single charger with a double charging provision in the near future.

News from your town council

Jubilation and celebration

Thursday 2 June 12.30pm Somerton Town Council and Somerton Festival present the Royal Proclamation in the Town Square

At 1.00pm Steve Davis, the Town Crier, will read the Royal Proclamation which will be followed by everyone singing the National Anthem accompanied by the Somerton Town Band. Mid Wessex Singers will sing the 'Platinum' verse and then some excerpts from the Halleluiah Chorus and Les Miserables. Somerton Town Band will then play for a further 30 minutes.

Thursday 2 June 9.45pm Somerton Town Council and Somerton Festival present the Lighting of the Beacon in Somerton Recreation Ground

There will be live music, food and a bar between 6.30pm and 10.30pm, with the beacon being lit at 9.45pm.

Friday 3 June 10.00am ACEarts and Somerton Group of Artists present the Jubilee Market Fair

There will be Pavement Art for Children by the Church. This event is an extension of the Friday Market. If you would like to have a stall, please contact fundraising@acearts.co.uk.

In the afternoon people are invited to hold street parties.

Saturday 4 June 12.00-6.00pm South Somerset Council present the Family Picnic in Somerton Recreation Ground

Ray Jones will provide the music with his free disco (spot prizes available), the Scouts and Guides will host Kiddy Crafts, plus there will be children's entertainers and much more. Somerton Rugby Club are providing hotdogs and beefburgers and the Sports Club Bar noodles and ice creams.

Sunday 5 June 10.00am the Royal British Legion and Local Churches present a Town Parade and Thanksgiving Service

The parade will leave Etsome Terrace at 10.00am and march to St Michael's Church where the service will be given by the local churches.

In the afternoon people are invited to hold street parties in cul-de-sacs to prevent road closures in town.

News from around town

Friendship Club is back

We will restart meetings on Thursday 14 April at 10.30am at Somerton Sports Club. Come in through the french doors entrance. We're looking forward to seeing you all again. Please wear a mask until seated and use hand sanitiser provided. Cost of entry is 50p with a cup tea being 20p and coffee being 30p. We may play some bingo so do bring a pen along. A free draw will be held too. To find out more, call Mo Fletcher on 07718 920198.



Rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb

The rhubarb is sprouting well and we're looking forward to our rhubarb crumble. However, there was a timely warning at our Gardeners' Club meeting in March. Rhubarb leaves are extremely poisonous – beware. The introduction to "Wicked plants" was fascinating but let's hope that Agatha Christie's poison of choice doesn't feature in Somerton. Colourful Countryside is the subject of Peter Trigg's talk at our next meeting on 13 April, and there will be a

competition table of "Anything to do with Easter". This can be plant or garden-based, or a craft item – in other words something for gardeners and non-gardeners alike.

We're behind you

Unfortunately, Covid meant that we could not entertain you with our panto as usual but we hope to put that right in the Autumn this year. In the meantime, we're looking forward to welcoming you to our new Spring production, "Talk Among Ourselves" featuring excerpts from "Talking Heads" and "Ladies of Letters". The £10.00 tickets for this comedy evening include a ploughman's supper with a glass of wine and can be purchased from Cobbs in the Brunel Centre. We hope to see you there.



News from around town



On the wings of time

Somerton History Society is back. We will hold our first meeting since February 2020 on Thursday 21 April in the Parish Rooms. The meeting starts at 7.00pm with tea and coffee followed by a speaker at 7.30pm. The talk this month, by Alistair Wood, is entitled the History of Westlands.

Future meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Parish Rooms. Heraldry, Political Somerset (including a spy), and the History of Chocolate are just some of the talks lined up for 2022. Membership means there's no fee, but visitors are very welcome at £2 a head.



Country life captured in art

ACEarts has two new fabulous exhibitions taking place from 9 April – Local Heroes by Emma van Zeller in our Second Space and Fifty Bees 5 by Lydia Needle in the main gallery.



Local Heroes, 9-23 April, is an exhibition of illustrations created by Emma van Zeller in 2021 for Country Life Magazine. The Role Models column was a weekly series of satirical stereotypes written by Giles Kime and Kate Green. Emma illustrated the characters in pencil, ink and watercolour, with characteristic charm. An earlier set of Alphabet prints she drew in 2017 for children will also be available to view.



Fifty Bees 5 – The Interconnectedness of All Things, 9 April-14 May, is the new ecological, collaborative exhibition devised by Lydia for which she has sculpted 50 more bee pieces from wool, thread and vintage containers. Another 50 artists were invited to research and create new companion works inspired by the ecology of one of those bee species. This presents a wonderfully unique and diverse narrative about the interconnection between the flora and fauna of our ecosystem.

Enjoy an evening with author Lindsey Davis

Somerset Libraries present an evening with historical novelist Lindsey Davis. You can join this free event on zoom by emailing librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk, scanning the QR code, or going to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/somerset-libraries-presents-an-evening-with-novelist-lindsey-davis-tickets-276679916077>.

Life continues as normal at Somerton Library except now it is no longer necessary to book to come to Lego Club.



News from around town

Discovering new horizons

If you are no longer in full time employment and would like to find new activities to pursue, joining Somerton u3a might be the answer. Somerton u3a is the largest social group in the local area and since covid restrictions have ended, membership has steadily grown.

Somerton u3a offers social events, fun and friendship and now has over 40 interest groups with new groups being set up every month. Now is a perfect time to join this vibrant organisation which could change your life. Find us on our website, Facebook page or come and meet us at the regular monthly meeting at the Edgar Hall. The next meeting is on Friday 22 April at 10.00am. There will be a talk on the work of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance service and you will assured of a friendly welcome.



Learning about the past

The Workers Educational Association invite you to a fascinating talk by Nick Griffiths, a renowned lecturer and illustrator of medieval history and artifacts. Nick will cover three aspects of the medieval church; the buildings, the role of priests, the importance of letters and documents.

The event will be in Long Sutton Village Hall, TA10 9NT on 30 April, 10.00am to 4.30pm. Tickets are £30 and you can book by calling 0300 303 3464 and quoting the reference C3533522 .

If you'd like to know more about the event, contact Doreen Harvey on doreenharvey243@gmail.com or on 01458 241711, or Stevie Sales on stephaniesales@btinternet.com or on 01458 241855.

Keeping busy in the WI

In March, Somerton WI celebrated its 89th birthday, with a lively visit from the Beach'd Buoys shanty singers. We've welcomed many new members and are looking forward to a busy year ahead, leading to our 90th birthday next March.

We keep busy with many interests and occupations such as pub lunches, craft taster days, making bunting for the town, and visiting other WIs to join in with their celebratory events.

Our next meeting is on 19 April at 2.30 pm in the Parish Rooms, when we will be hearing more about AceArts, a flourishing Somerton organisation which attracts exhibitions of national interest. Do come and join us.



News from around town

Celebrating together at St Michael's Church

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 10 April Palm Sunday - Morning Worship – 11.00am

Monday 11 April – Compline – 8.00pm

Tuesday 12 April – Compline – 8.00pm

Wednesday 13 April – Compline – 8.00pm

Friday 15 April Good Friday Service – 12.00pm

Sunday 17 April Easter Day – Holy Communion for Easter 11.00am

Monthly coffee mornings have begun again and the next ones are Saturday 2 April and Saturday 7 May, 10.00am to 12 noon. Do come and join us – all welcome.

Photograph by kind permission of Jude Hurley

News from around town

The Road To The Cross

Following the success of previous shows by Oddments Theatre, this contemporary stage show will make you laugh, cry and reflect as we follow the story of Jesus and his disciples from Palm Sunday to Pentecost.

The play is set in the 21st century, and it challenges the audience to think about the Christian message in a new way. It has an innovative set with lighting and sound effects to bring you a visually striking show.

Thursday 21 April – 7.30pm – St Michael's Church – doors open at 7pm.



Tickets are available by calling 01458 272932 or at services in St Michael's Church or by going online at jumblebee.co.uk/rttcsomerton. The cost is £12.00 in advance and £14.00 on the door.

Don't miss the art

Remember, the Somerton Group of Artists is holding its spring exhibition this month.

From Tuesday 5 April to Saturday 9 April, in the Parish Rooms, you can peruse the best of local artists' work, which is also available to buy. Admission is free, so why not drop in?



**Somerton
Group
of Artists**

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 at viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

Stockists of Viaduct include:

Somerton Library, Overt Locke, Cobbs Health Food Shop, Co-op, Somerton Post Office, and Tony's Fish 'n' Chips.

To become a stockist, or order copies, please contact the Town Clerk.

News from around town

Let's get crafty

Somerton's Art & Photography exhibition provides an opportunity to give vent to those creative juices at a series of workshops and forums to run alongside the main exhibition.

Courses include a digital art workshop, felting, drawing, crocheting and flower arranging as well as special craft sessions for children teaching them to make bracelets or bookmarks.



"It's a great opportunity for everybody to get involved in the creative process," says festival chairman Fred Bassett.

The main exhibition, which is a precursor to the Somerton Music & Arts Festival, runs at the Parish Rooms in Somerton from 28 May until 4 June and will showcase the work of local artists, sculptors and needleworkers. It is free to attend and visitors will be encouraged to vote for their favourite pieces, many of which will be for sale.

After an absence of two years, the Art & Photography event is already proving popular with more than 100 local artists showing their work and 500 visitors expected to attend the exhibition.

"The local community has welcomed the return of the exhibition, but places are limited on some of the workshops, so we'd recommend booking early," warns Bassett.

Full details of workshop dates and how to book tickets can be found on the festival website at www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk along with information for artists on how to submit their work to the exhibition. Tickets can be bought at Rocket 68 in Somerton as well as online.

Sing to be happy

Phoenix Voices Choir is delighted to announce that it has been selected by the Co-op as one of their community funded projects.

Our aim is to combat social isolation through singing. One of our current projects is to deliver weekly singing activities to the residents at Wessex House in Somerton as a form of dementia support, to alleviate loneliness and promote well-being. The project will run for 12 sessions as a structured form of informal community music therapy. The end goal is to invite residents and relatives to join with us and take part in a concert, enabled by choir members and accompanied by a small band, to be recorded on DVD.



If you're not a member of the Co-op, do join – it only costs £1. Then, if you select us as your chosen charity, for every £1 you spend in the Co-op, 1p is donated to the choir.

Have your say

From olden days to modern

Our local intrepid photographer has been out again, snapping up images of interest. This month's challenge is where are these plaques? Have you seen this building on your perambulations?

Last month's teaser was amply answered as you can see from the letter below.



A thank you from Chris Cox

Group Leader of Langport & District Red Cross would like to thank the management, staff and all the shoppers at Langport Tesco for generously donating £1,215.50 to the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal. A big thank you too to all the volunteers who held the buckets and smiled all day.

Fielding some positive ideas

The Public Meeting for Kirkham Street Field Community Trust was held on 17 February in St Michael's Church and attracted an attendance of some 80 local people, including our MP David Warburton and our Chair of Somerton Town Council, Dean Ruddle. Thank you to all who came to the meeting and who have expressed interest since.

The presentation by Kindred Foundation (who have local connections) introduced their ideas for preserving two thirds of the field for community use and sensitively building on the remaining third. A video demonstrated how co-housing as a form of development can work in a community; which provoked much discussion and positive feedback from those present. Further details can be found at thekindredfoundation.org and leaflets about their proposal are available from KSFCT.

Workshops are planned soon – open to all – to involve the community in exploring ideas and designs for the project. If you are interested, please call Judith Hurley on 01458 273079 or Gill Locke on 07592 083543, or email info@kirkhamstreetfield.org.uk. To contact Kindred Foundation, email sam@thekindredfoundation.org.

Have your say



Living under pressure

The news headlines of late have come as a stark reminder of the horrors that many people are having to endure. Shock, fear, anxiety, despair; all these emotions and many more have been presented to us in their stark reality, leaving many observers numb with disbelief and incomprehension.

In response, many acts of generosity and personal sacrifice have been recorded while many more will have happened and be continuing away from the cameras and reporters.

Nearer home, quite rightly, the dominant headlines of the past two years have given way but they have not gone away. Covid is still very much with us. Indeed, after some weeks of a steady downturn, last month saw a slight upturn in daily new cases across the UK (approximately 67,000) and in the number of people being treated in hospital (approximately 11,500).

To state the obvious, our healthcare staff are as open to being infected (some might say more so) as any member of the public. It is certainly true that our local surgeries and health centres have experienced a higher level of staff absences due to sickness which has put even greater strain on their overstretched resources. Colleagues are doing their utmost to provide cover and to work extra hours, but there are limits and, as patients, we do need to recognise the continuing reality of pressure upon services and the staff who provide them.

It is readily understood that most patients who contact their healthcare providers do so because they have a concern causing them distress or anxiety, or to seek advice and reassurance. Staff will do their utmost to help but the nature of our response to them matters. Our expressions of appreciation, understanding and gratitude, offered in even just a few words means a great deal.

Celebrating Easter with Laburnum Drive

Happy Easter all! A welcome awaits at our Community Hall. On Tuesday 5 April at 10.00am it's bacon butties and a cuppa, just £2.00. On Wednesday 13 April we're having an Easter Floral Workshop, and you take your creations home afterwards. The cost is £7.00 and we start at 3.00pm. On Thursday 14 April at 2.00pm it's eyes down for Easter Bingo and on Friday 15 April at 5.00pm a tea party and Musical Bingo – cost is £5.00. Finally, the highlight of the month is a Mystery Coach Tour on Wednesday 20 April. We depart at 10.00am from the Community Hall and tickets are £15.00. We put all this on because we do like your company, so come along and join in the fun.



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 viaduct@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, booking required for a place	Monday, Thursday and Friday	agingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk for details and to book a place	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
Creative Writing Group (Somerton)	Geri Gibbons Yolande Lane	Charltons Community Centre, Top Road, Charlton TA11 7BE	Every other Friday from 8 April 10.00am-12.00pm	geri.ringibson@gmail.com yolandelane@supanet.com	01458 851287 01458 273130
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
Marital 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@realitymasd.co.uk	07484 849157
Mild Wessex Singers	Rowena	West Street Church Hall	Tuesday 7.15-9.00pm	info@midwessexsingers.co.uk www.midwessexsingers.co.uk	07929 603097
Rugby Club	Gary Saunders & Steve Benn under 18s & 15s	Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch	Tues and Thurs 7.00pm		07870 851731 07919 153205
Scottish Country Dancing	Anita Wilson	Long Sutton Village Hall	Thursday 7.30-9.30pm	anitaandjim22@gmail.com	01460 929363
Somerton Bridge Club	Joan Davies, Jim Dawson	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 250603

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 viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

GROUP	CONTACT NAME	MEETING PLACE	MEETING TIME	EMAIL/WEBSITE	TELEPHONE
Somerton and District Bowls Club	Peter Jones	Sports Ground, Gassons Lane	Tuesday 5.45pm Friday 2.00pm	somertonbowlsclub.co.uk	01458 224212
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 Wednesday of the month 7.30pm £5 includes tea or coffee	l_dissagree@hotmail.com	
Somerton Probosc Club	Derek Long	Somerton Sports Club	Last Wednesday of the month 11.30am for 12.00noon start	long.derek1946@gmail.com	01458 274038
Somerton Runners	Keith Brackstone	Somerton Recreation Ground hardstanding by 5-a-side football pitch	Tues 5.30pm beginners/returners, 6.30pm experienced runners. Thurs 8.15pm experienced runners.	coachkath53@gmail.com	07999 511366
Somerton Tennis Club	Membership Secretary	Somerton Tennis Club, Somerton Sports Ground, Gassons Lane TA11 6HS		somerton.tenniscub@gmail.com	01458 396006
Tai Chi	Jacqui	Parish Rooms, Somerton	Tuesday 9.30-10.30am Thurs 9.30-10.30am £20 for four weeks		01458 270258
Somerton u3a	Marilyn Muffett	Various venues and Edgar Hall fourth Friday of month 10.00am	40 different groups meet at various times - details online	Full information including speakers at u3asites.org.uk/somerton/groups	01458 899773 07736 425426
Wessex Junior Youth Club	Clive and Sara Dyer	Wessex Rooms, Broad St, Somerton TA11 7ND	Thursday 6.00pm to 7.30pm £1 entry, free first night for new members	sarad53@hotmail.com	01458 273655
Womens' Institute	Sue Long Pauline Saunders	Parish Rooms	Third Tuesday of the month 2.30pm		01458 274038 01458 272769

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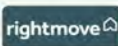
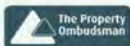


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During the pandemic, our performances were limited,
although demand was still high. Now restrictions are
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CRAFT

SOMERSET PORTRAITS AND VOICES



**EXHIBITION OPEN 26 MARCH - 5 JUNE
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An exhibition of paintings and drawings by
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crafts and trades

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SOMERSET RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

SRLM.ORG.UK
Glastonbury, BA6 8DB

SW
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Charity No. 1158791



Art & Photography Exhibition

**Amateur artists are
invited to display their
work at the Parish
Rooms from 28th May
to 4th June**

HOW TO ENTER

Fill in our online entry form and
make the appropriate payment.
Entries accepted until 13th May.

www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk/exhibitorinfo

For full details of categories,
max size, display requirements
and T&Cs, visit our website.

Categories...

Sculpture

Up to four pieces of work
Entry charge: £2.00 per item

Needlework

Up to four pieces of work
Entry charge: £2.00 per item

Framed Artwork/ Canvases/Photography

Up to four framed pictures or
canvases
Entry charge: £2.00 per item

Unmounted / mounted Artwork & Photography

Up to five unframed items
Entry charge: £1.00 per item

Cards

Entry charge: £1.00 per item

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[officialsomertonfestival](https://www.instagram.com/officialsomertonfestival)



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Dean Ruddle
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Tim Kerley and Dean Ruddle
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