

VIADUCT

August 2022



Editor's Letter



Hello,

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to K Conway, Sara Dyer and Barry King who all wrote to let me know that Somerton is well blessed with defibrillators. These are vital life-saving pieces of equipment and you'll find full details on page 10.

There's also plenty going on in town as usual, from the annual flower and produce show to art exhibitions and exciting events run by the Laburnum Drive Residents' Committee. And, if you have room in your home and your heart, there's an appeal for much-needed foster parents, see page 7.

Plus, in this month's issue, there are two pages you may want to pull out and keep; these are the town map and a list of useful numbers should you need to get in touch with the council, utilities or local police.

Finally, thank you again to Phil Flowers for another fabulous cover shot showcasing the town's flower and produce show from pre-covid times.

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 August 2022.**

News from your town council

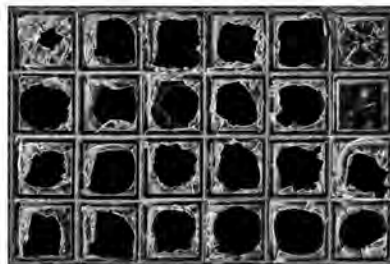
Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Planning (if required at 6.30pm)	9 August 2022	6.30pm	Edgar Hall
Planning (if required at 6.30pm)	28 August 2022	6.30pm	Edgar Hall

There are no Full Council or Committee meetings held in August. Planning applications may be viewed on the South Somerset District Council website.

A reminder that the Town Council offices are open to the public Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday between 9am and 12 noon. Phone calls will be answered during this time. Outside of these times, please make an appointment to visit the office, or leave a message.

Consideration for all

There have been increased incidents of graffiti and other anti-social behaviour in Somerton in the past few weeks. Please report all incidents to the police online at avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/ or by calling 101. If you go online, you can even upload supporting photos if necessary. As always, in an emergency please call 999.



Reporting any information about criminal activity is beneficial to the community. Even if you do not have the full picture of an incident, report it as someone else could have the other half of the picture which the police can piece together. If you believe you have useful information please report it, as only by pulling together as a community can we tackle the anti-social behaviour in our town.

You can also report anti-social behaviour online at southsomerset.gov.uk/report-it/, or by calling South Somerset District Council on 01935 462462. Incidents you can report include anything from abandoned vehicles to vehicles parked on a grass verge and many other nuisances such as broken glass, dog fouling, graffiti, even overgrown hedges, shrubs or flower beds. A full list of what you can report to the District Council is on the report-it website.



Photographs: above Jim Choate, below Alan Stanton

Highways and byways

If you see something wrong on our roads, report it. It can be anything from gullies and potholes to damaged road signs and bollards, even mud and weeds on roads and pavements, damaged drains or drain covers. Just go to somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/ or call the County Council on 0300 123 2224.

News from your town council

PLAYDAYS

2 - 25 AUGUST 2022

Locations and Dates:

- Castle Cary 4 August
- Wincanton 2 August
- Milborne Port 9 August
- Yew Tree Park, Yeovil 10 August
- Charlton Adam 3 August
- Somerton 18 August
- Kingsbury Episcopi 23 August
- Aller 25 August
- Ilminster 16 August
- South Petherton 24 August
- Chard 17 August
- Crewkerne 11 August

10am - 2pm

Extra Information:

- a) Children remain your responsibility. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult or responsible family member.
- b) No age limits, you know best what activities are suitable for your children.
- c) We reserve the right to change activities due to weather conditions or other factors. Check Facebook for updates.
- d) Activities on site are free but any food or drink on site must be paid for.
- e) Events may be filmed/photographed for marketing purposes.

PlayYouthSouthSomerset

South Somerset District Council

News from your town council



Struggling with bills? **Support is available...**

The Household Support Fund is designed to provide short-term urgent financial help to Somerset residents who are struggling to afford household essentials such as buying food, paying for energy and water bills and other essential household items such as beds and white goods.

To apply, you must

- Live in the County of Somerset
- Be over the age of 16 and living independently of parents/carers
- Not have sufficient money to pay for essentials
- Provide proof of your identity:
 - ✦ Provide a document showing your Somerset address
 - ✦ Provide proof of income (most recent bank statement)

You can apply if you:

- Are temporarily out of work
- Are unable to work due to illness
- Are long term unemployed and unable to retrain due to multiple reasons such as poor health
- Have a chronic illness
- Have a severe learning or physical disability that affects your day-to-day life
- Are in receipt of pension credit
- Currently use a mental health service, or a member of your household does
- Are a Carer
- Are Pregnant
- Have a child that requires a specialist diet
- Have a child with a chronic illness
- Have a child with a severe learning or physical disability that affects their day-to-day life
- Are or have been a child in care (Child Looked After)
- Are a Care Leaver
- Receive support from Somerset County Council Social Care
- Are fleeing domestic abuse
- Are homeless and have been placed in temporary accommodation
- Are a Foster Carer, Kinship Carer or Special Guardian who cares for a Somerset child and can demonstrate a need for immediate or short-term support, which could not be reasonably paid for from any allowance you may receive
- You or your family currently have a Social Worker and are on a Child in Need Plan or on a Child Protection Plan



You are unable to apply if you have savings over the value of £2,000

News from around town



Photograph: Lachlan Donald

Shed loads of fun

A Community Shed is being set up to cover the area around Langport by a small team assisted by the UK Men's Shed Association and the Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton.

You might ask "What is a Community Shed?" It is based on the Men's Shed concept, started in 1999 in Australia and now spread worldwide. It provides a community space for men and women to connect, converse and create.

Members will be able to access tools, workbenches, skills and opportunities to make and mend things in the company of others. Sheds bring health benefits, encouraging physical and mental activity and improved wellbeing as they provide an enjoyable way for members to stay socially integrated in local communities by being creative, and learning or passing on skills.

We are a small enthusiastic group and we have found a suitable building but we need more people to get involved to help set it up and, more importantly, use it. If you would like to help us set up the Shed, or simply interested in using it once we are up and running please contact us at parrettcommunityshed@outlook.com.

Somerton Flower Show

On Saturday 3 September, Somerton Gardeners' Club are holding their annual Somerton Flower, Veg and Craft Show at The Edgar Hall between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

It is free and open to everyone to enter – members and non-members. You can exhibit produce, plants, home-baking, crafts, artwork, photos, and there is a children's section. There will be refreshments available, a tombola, a raffle and trophies will be presented to the owners of the 'Best Somerton Gardens'.

At every show we hear from visitors, "I have some as good as those in my garden". If you have some great specimens, why not exhibit? We are happy to provide help and advice to new exhibitors. So come along and take part or just come and view the exhibits.

Show schedules, including entry forms, are available from Overt Locke and The Library, or by calling 01458 273668.



News from around town



Support, hope and a home

There are children in our community who urgently need local foster homes, to allow them to continue attending their current school or college, and maintain stability in their lives. Anyone over the age of 21 can be a foster carer, and there is no upper age limit – we have carers of all ages all the way up to 80 years old. What matters most, is that you have the time and patience to support a vulnerable young person in care. In return, you'll receive

ongoing support from a dedicated Supervising Social Worker as well as a weekly fee and allowance. Depending on how many children you foster, this can be as much as £376.82 per week in allowances and £181.80 per week in fees. You'll also need a spare room, but you do not need to be a homeowner. You can foster if you are renting privately or living in a Council or Housing Association property, and we may be able to discuss the possibility of a larger property with Homefinder if you don't currently have a spare room. For more information on fostering, please call 0800 587 9900 for an informal chat with our friendly team, or visit fosteringinsomerset.org.uk.

Keeping the kids busy

Looking for something free your child can do in the long summer holidays? Look no further than your local Somerton Community Library. If they are aged 4 to 11 years and have a library card, they can join the Gadgeteers and the Summer Reading Challenge 2022, and discover the amazing science and innovation behind the world around us.



There are two ways to take part:

- At home by registering on line at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
- At Somerton Community Library where our friendly team will support them

Children set their own challenge, then choose from the hundreds of books available in our brilliant children's section. There are stickers to collect to complete their poster and when they've completed the challenge, they will receive a medal and certificate.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon at Somerton Community Library.

News from around town

Remembering the milk factory

Somerton Town Council are planning a memorial event to commemorate the 80th anniversary for those who lost their lives or suffered in the bombing of the Cow & Gate milk factory on 29 September 1942.

The memorial will be held on Thursday 29 September 2022 in the memorial play park. Further information, including the time of the event, will be published in the September edition of the Viaduct. If you would like to be involved or submit an idea of how to commemorate this event, please email Councillor Martyn George at martyn.george@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk



Art through August and beyond

Starting on 6 August ACEarts will be showcasing the work of South West artist Steve Manning with the 'A Celebration of Sky'. The exhibition will run until 10 September. Alongside this, in our Second Space, we have exhibitions from two young local artists Georgina Towler (6 August until 20 August) and Grace Green (27 August until 10 September), so there's plenty to see when visiting this August. Details of private views and any artist talks are available at acearts.co.uk with more ACElate evening workshops, once they have been finalised. Alternatively join our mailing list to be amongst the first to know about all events and exhibitions – you can email us at hello@acearts.co.uk, contact us through the website, telephone 01458 273008 or just drop in and see us. We love chatting to people about the shows, local artists' work, our community projects and anything art.



This print is 'After the Storm' by Steve.

News from around town



Photograph by Kaptain Kobold

Follow the yellow wellie road

During the summer holidays Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) yellow wellies, accompanied by a different animal, will appear in 12 shop windows around both Langport and Somerton. Look out for posters advising you how you can take part in the trail.

Sunny Somerstock

Somerstock 2022 rode into town on 9 July with 12 hours of non-stop live music and glorious sunshine. Multiple bars and a wide choice of street food from across the globe helped keep the revellers going well into the night. Headliners The Hoosiers and many other live bands provided music covering most genres, and nine live DJs rounded things off at the silent disco. This family-friendly event, which catered for all ages and all musical tastes, attracted more than 1,400 people.



Photograph courtesy Victoria Welton Photography

Chairman Cliff (Fred) Bassett said, "We are so pleased that everyone enjoyed themselves and I would like to thank all the performers, sponsors, committee, stewards, sound and stage hands and everyone who helped to make this such a special day."

Somerstock is just part of the fortnight-long music and arts festival which opened with a performance by the Bath Gilbert and Sullivan society, ending with a Jive Night on 14 July. All the events, many of which were free, were well attended and everyone had a great time.

"We would also like to put out a huge thank you to the local businesses who advertised in the programme and the many people who helped out behind the scenes," says Bassett.

The festival is a not-for-profit community event, organised and run by a team of hard-working local volunteers and any money raised as a result of the fortnight of festivities is donated to local causes. This year's beneficiaries are the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and the Somerton Recreation Ground Trust.

Have your say



Heart-warming news

It appears that there are not just two defibrillators in Somerton, there are in fact six. There were five until Bentham Ltd kindly donated one that is now situated on St Cleers Chapel. The others are located in the Parish Rooms, the telephone box on Market Square, the Brunel Precinct, Edgar Hall and the Fire Station.

There are also three more at locations just outside of town.

Living it up with the Laburnum Drive gang

There are two special treats from the Laburnum Drive Committee this month. First, there's a Coach Trip to Sidmouth Festival on 2 August at 10.00am. The fare is £11. Second, we're throwing a Summer BBQ on Saturday 27 August at 2.00pm and tickets are £6.50 per person. There's a great menu from our 'Chef' John, and music and entertainment by the Shanty Band.



Don't forget there's coffee and a natter on Tuesdays at 10.00am (but not on 2 August), Bingo on Thursdays at 2.00pm and breakfasts from 9.00ish on Monday morning 15 August. So come along, there's plenty for you to enjoy.

Morris Dancers by richardrichard

And the feature was...

Peter Simmonds, who so kindly sets our interesting visual challenges, is taking a break this month. Responding to your feedback, which he loves, he's searching for even more challenging images. Last month's feature which appears across the top of many windows in Somerton, as shown here, is called a "label". In the "The Old Houses of Somerton", it says they are found in 17th century or earlier houses and were copied in the 19th Century.



Have your say

A hunk, a hunk of burning love

The Sports Club is really going to town for you. On Saturday 13 August your entertainment is Young@Heart. Tickets are just £5 from behind the bar. And then on Saturday 24 September, Elvis will be in the building... well, Tim Bassett as Elvis – a show not to be missed. Bingo is back too.

To find out about all upcoming events, take a look at our Facebook page. New members are always welcome – the joining fee is just £2. We look forward to seeing you.



Photograph by kind permission of Tim Bassett

Theatre and the Red Cross



Charity Theatre Trips supports British Red Cross. We start in Curry Rivel, picking up in Langport and Somerton then en route using the A35 or A37 to Bristol Hippodrome. For pick-up details and a description of each show see charitytheatretrips.com

Trips planned all take place in the evening, starting at 5.00pm. Upcoming shows are listed below. The upcoming payment dates for 'Joseph' and 'Beauty & the Beast' fall in August.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat 5 September £47/£56

Disney's Beauty and the Beast 20 October £53 /£73

Raymonda, English National Ballet 24 November £42/£47 (special offer)

Cinderella starring **Craig Revel Horwood** 12 December £53

Good things come in threes

Welcome to Edwina, Teresa and Ann who have recently joined our Good Neighbours team. Our volunteers carry out a varied range of tasks to help Somerton residents. For anyone who is housebound we can collect shopping and prescriptions, arrange for weekly telephone chats or set up a weekly meeting for a friendly chat and go out for a coffee.

Transportation may be available for medical appointments for those who are housebound without family nearby. If you need it please contact Linda Moore on 01458 274297. For further information if you, or someone you know, is in need of support please contact Lead Coordinator Annette Sparks on 01458 258947.

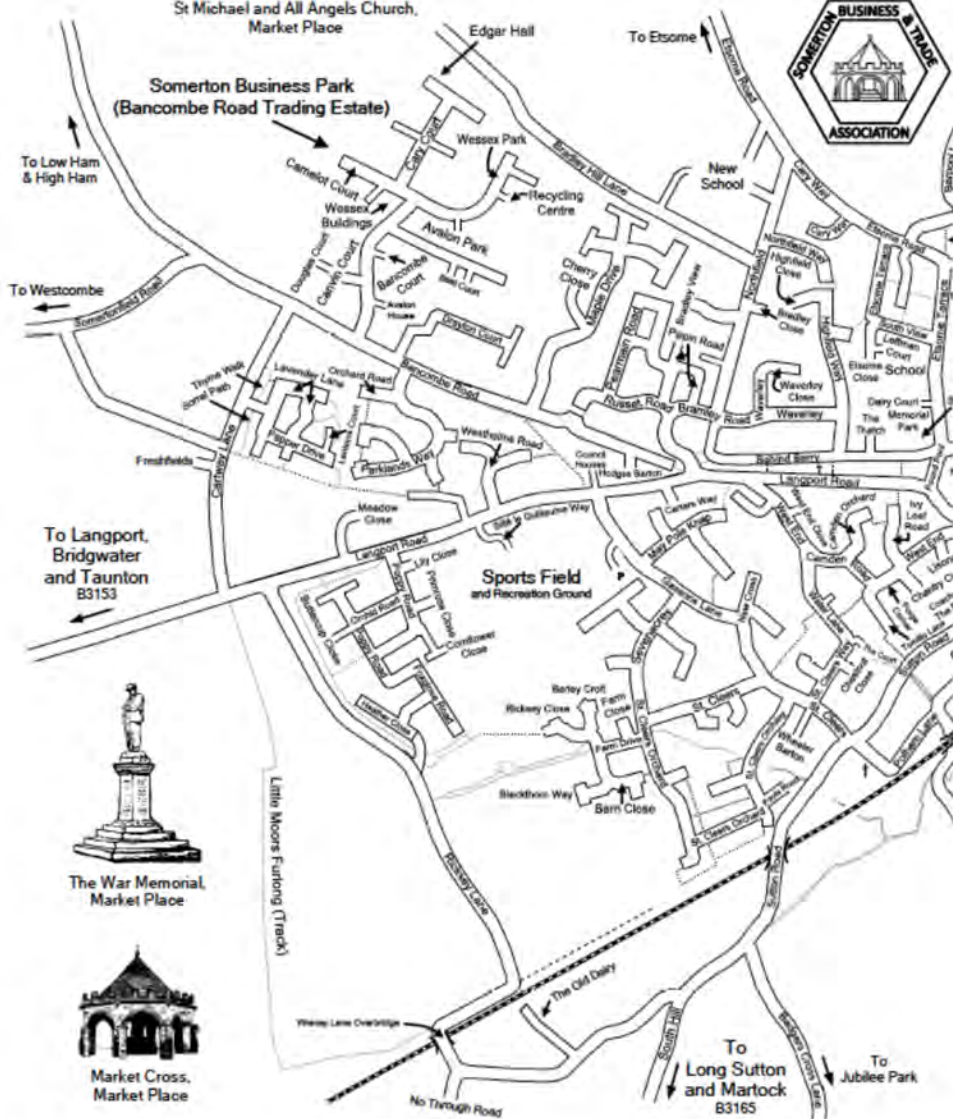


Photograph by qwazymonkey

How to get about town



St Michael and All Angels Church,
Market Place

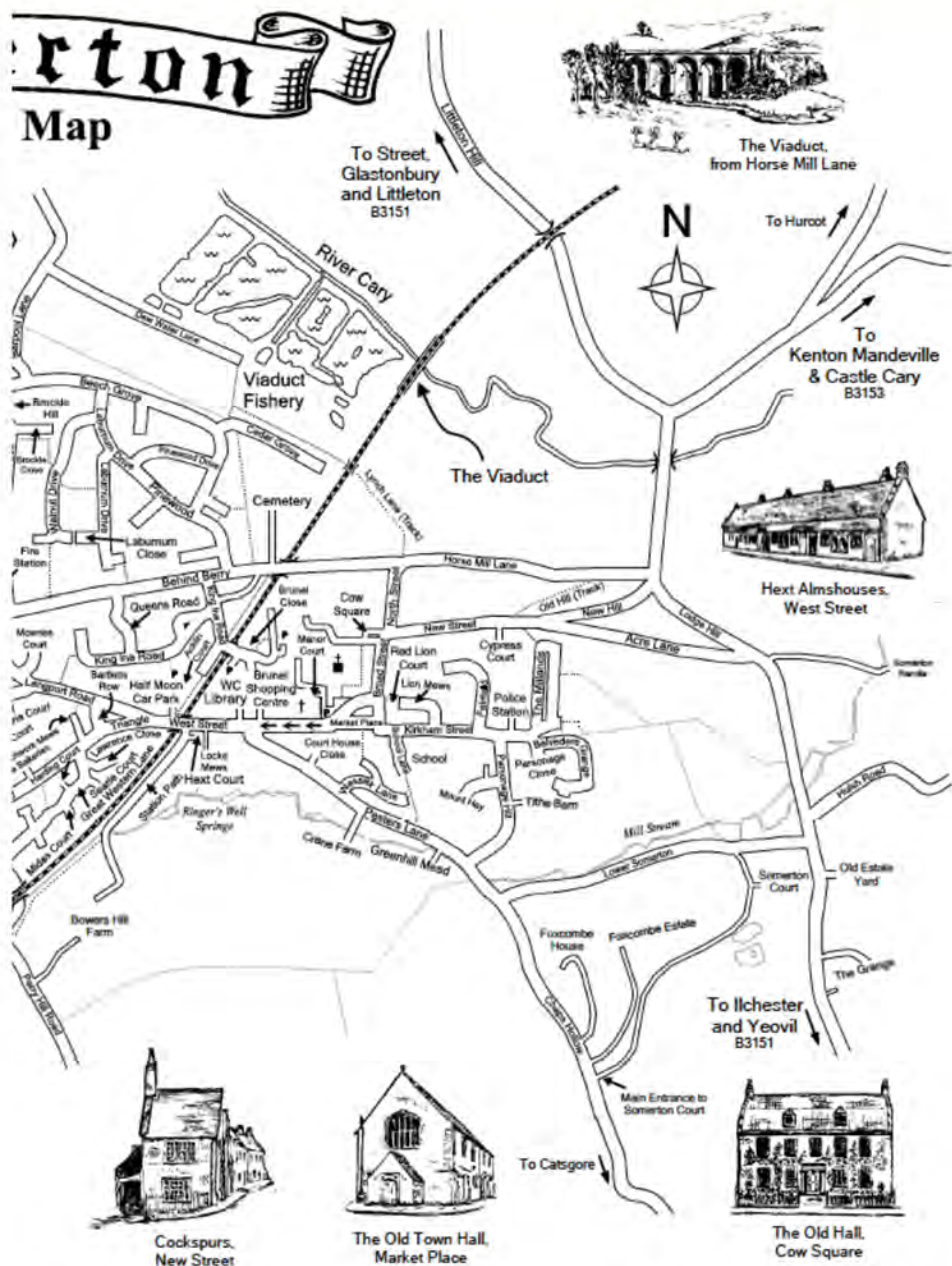


The War Memorial, Market Place



Market Cross,
Market Place

How to get about town



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
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 Judth	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		
Friendship Club	Ma Fletcher	Somerton Sports Club	Second Thursday of the month 10.30am	fletcher090@btinternet.com	01458 274631
Health Walks	Ma 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
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 Berrin under 18s & 15s	Erian 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 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
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 £3 for visitors	Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm	somertongardenersclub@gmail.com somertongc.com	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 viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

GROUP	CONTACT NAME	MEETING PLACE	MEETING TIME	EMAIL/WEBSITE	TELEPHONE
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 History Society	Joan Banbury	Parish Rooms, Market Square, Somerton	Fourth Thursday of the month 7.30pm	j.banbury@mypostoffice.co.uk	
Somerton Proboscis Club	Derek Long	Somerton Sports Club	Last Wednesday of the month 11.30am for 12.00noon start	long.derek1945@gmail.com	01458 274038
Somerton Runners	Keith Brackstone	Somerton Recreation Ground hardstanding by 5-a-side football pitch	Tuesday 6.00pm	coachkeith53@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 Muffitt	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 889773 07738 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

Who to contact if you have a problem

CAR PARKS	SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL
	01458 272236 office@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk
ELECTRICITY	WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION
	08006 783 105 www.westernpower.co.uk
FOOTPATHS	COUNCILLOR STEVE HARRISON
	01458 273058 stephen.harrison@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk
GAS	WALES & WEST UTILITIES
	0800 111 999 www.wvutilities.co.uk
HIGHWAYS/STREET LIGHTS	SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL
	0300 123 2224 www.somerset.gov.uk
LITTER BINS/FLY TIPPING	SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL
	01935 462462 www.southsomerset.gov.uk
PLANNING MATTERS	SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL
	01935 462462 www.southsomerset.gov.uk
POLICE	MAIN CONTROL CENTRE
	01275 818 340 www.avonandsomerset.police.uk
WATER	WESSEX WATER
	01345 600 4600 www.wessexwater.co.uk

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.



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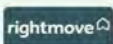


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Lisa Cope
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Cut out and keep

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Chilli Jam Recipe

Ingredients:

- 8 red peppers, de-seeded and chopped
- 8 red chillies, chopped
- 5cm piece of root ginger, finely chopped
- 5 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 400g tin of chopped tomatoes
- 750g granulated sugar
- 250ml red wine vinegar



Method:

- Combine all the ingredients in a large pan. Heat gently, stirring until the sugar has dissolved.
- Bring to the boil and skim off any scum that has formed.
- Reduce the heat and simmer gently for about an hour, stirring occasionally.
- Raise the heat slightly and cook for a further 10-15 minutes, stirring frequently.
- Allow to cool slightly, then spoon into hot sterilised jars.
- Cover and seal.

Preserving is a great way of making the most of your fruit and vegetables which would otherwise go to waste and comes in various forms such as pickling, jam making and even homebrew!

We sell a variety of preserving equipment including:

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- Homebrew Equipment



Makes approximately four 8oz jars

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