

VIADUCT

October 2022



Editor's Letter



Hello,

What a sad month this has been, losing our beloved Queen. But I wish King Charles III and Camilla, Queen Consort the very best in all their endeavours. The Chairman of Somerton Town Council expresses the thoughts and wishes that I'm sure we all share on page 10.

Of course, this month encompasses Halloween, and the library have some fun in store for school children in half term. There's also plenty of advice on who to contact should you need any support during these difficult financial times.

I'm also happy to say, last month's issue raised a lot of feedback, which I love to receive. It concerned the article on saving money and energy; so we have now asked an expert to explain it for us and hopefully we'll all have a better understanding of how we put the advice to good use. Finally, I'd like to thank Colin Brown for his beautiful cover shot.

Best wishes to you all,

Editor, Viaduct

Contents

- 3 News from your town council
- 5 News from around town
- 10 Have your say
- 14 Local clubs
- 16 Advertisers' directory

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News from your town council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	11 Oct 2022	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Planning if required	25 Oct 2022	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Committee meetings are now postponed until a new Town Clerk has been appointed			

Planning applications may be viewed on the South Somerset District Council website. Go to southsomerset.gov.uk and scroll down the homepage to 'Planning Search', Insert the Application Reference, then click on the 'Documents' tab to view plans and supporting documents.

A reminder if you have any concerns about law and order, please report all incidents to the police by calling 101, or going online at avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/.

Planning for the future

The Town Council are currently predicting and planning for changes which will filter down to us through the changes to the structure of Somerset County and District Councils, the new unitary authority which will take affect from 1 April 2023. Somerset's County and District Councils are now working together to deliver the new council for Somerset that will bring together existing council services. The five councils are also working with partners, Town and Parish Councils and residents to create a new council which delivers for everyone. For more information on the New Somerset Council please visit newsomersetcouncil.org.uk/.



Budgeting for the future

The council will be undertaking the annual review and setting of next year's budget. The aim is for the precept for 2023/24 to be agreed at the full council meeting in November 2022. The budget review process will investigate things such as services in the town managed by the town council, including play areas,

bus shelters, litter bins, car parks, toilets, cemetery, verges, the market square and Edgar Hall amongst others. This thorough review will enable us to carry out our duties on behalf of our residents as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Photograph courtesy Howard Lake CC BT-SA 2.0

Any comments or questions about anything in this report, or in general, please direct them to the Clerk's Office by calling 01458 272236 or by emailing Lydia at clerk.assistant@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk, Claire at office@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk or Steph at deputy.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk. Please note that the office staff work part time hours, and we endeavour to respond as promptly as possible.

News from your town council

All change in the office

During September we received the resignation of our Town Clerk Lisa Newby; she is off to pastures new and reducing the days she works in the process. The Town Council wish to thank her for her two years of service to Somerton and thank her for implementing processes and procedures which will keep the office functioning well, even in her absence.

Sue Burton, The Town Council's Responsible Financial Officer is also leaving after two years of service. Sue has worked extremely hard over this time and we would like to thank her on behalf of Council.

We wish them both well in their future endeavours. It has been a great pleasure having them on the team.



Glorious fruits, veg and more

Held in the first weekend of September in the Edgar Hall, the Flower Show was very well organised and well attended. Judging categories included jams, curds and marmalade, fruit, vegetables, animal on a plate, flowers, baking, wine making, knitted items, cross stitch, quilting, and patchwork. A fabulous weekend was had by all.

Cross in safety

An additional zebra crossing is being installed in Langport Road opposite North Fields development near Russet Road. The work is planned for the week beginning 19 September, although this could be subject to change if there are any unforeseen circumstances.



Lighting up the sky

A Firework display is planned at the recreation ground on Friday 4 November at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start of the display. In addition to the display there will be food stalls and a kids' disco in the Sports Club.



News from around town

A most poignant remembrance

Remembrance Day had its beginning in a solemn remembrance of the sacrifice of those who fought and died in the First World War. At 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month each year a two minute silence is observed to commemorate the Armistice. Sadly, terrible though it was, it was not the war to end all wars as many had hoped and our remembrance of the fallen has kept sombre pace with the conflicts of subsequent years.



The Sunday closest to the 11 November is set apart for church services and ceremonies in cities, towns and villages across the nation. Somerton has honoured this remembrance in St Michael and All Angels Church and around the Town War Memorial since 1921.

Remembrance Sunday this year will be particularly poignant – the backdrop of our emergence from Covid, a bloody conflict in Europe, the loss of the most treasured monarch in our long history and the accession of a new King will add their own emotive dimensions to the traditions of the day.

As the remembrance season approaches, Somerton Branch of the Royal British Legion will launch the poppy appeal, and in close cooperation with St Michael's, will bring together the arrangements for our customary parade, service, and act of remembrance on Sunday 13 November. In due course, we will be in contact with parade participants and wreath sponsors and look forward very much to this event that does so much to draw the whole town together.



Helping those in need

During these difficult times, with energy prices soaring, inflation rising and wages barely keeping pace, money worries can build up. But there is help at hand. The Independent Food Aid Network (FAN) is working with local councils and other authorities and they've produced Cash First Referral Leaflets. These leaflets let you know what support is available and where and how to find it. They provide a step-by-step guide so that you can apply for the help you need. You can find out more at foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets, although as yet there is no leaflet for South Somerset.



News from around town

Getting it right... for comfort and budget

We had a lot of feedback from readers questioning the safest way to adjust the temperature of your boiler to reduce energy bills. In response, we asked Open University energy lecturer Roger Bradley to provide further clarification.

It is important to understand the distinction between the temperature of storing water in a hot water tank, or thermal storage system, and the temperature at which hot water leaves the boiler to circulate round the radiators in your central heating system, known as the 'flow temperature'.

Stored water needs to be kept hot enough to avoid the risk of encouraging the growth of the legionella bacteria. This can be achieved by ensuring the stored water heats up to above 60 degrees Centigrade. Many modern hot water systems can be set to run anti-legionella cycles that turn up the temperature to above 60 degrees Centigrade every couple of days. The cycle lasts several hours then the system stores the water at a lower temperature for the rest of the time. It is a similar in principle to using a kettle. Boiling water in a kettle sterilises the water. It will stay sterilised until it comes into contact with bacteria again.

According to Roger Bradley, "Not everyone agrees on the frequency required for running these [anti-legionella] cycles, but I have never heard of any problems as long as these cycles are run every couple of days, or at least once a week."

Flow temperature refers to water in a sealed system rather than the water that comes out of your shower head or taps. In many cases the flow temperature of a typical condenser boiler fitted in the majority of homes today is set too high during installation. So reducing the flow temperature allows the boiler to work more efficiently because less heat energy will be lost out of the flue when the heating is on in your home.

Finding an optimum flow temperature that reduces your energy bill and still warms your home requires trial and error. It also depends on your home's insulation rating. If you live in a draughty home, the savings will be less compared to a home that is well-insulated. This is why insulation is the key role in reducing energy usage and carbon dioxide emissions.

Roger Bradley offers his home as an example. He lives in a 50-year-old bungalow and says a flow temperature of 47 degrees Centigrade is sufficient to keep his home warm and snug.

For more information, watch this helpful YouTube video produced by the Heating Hub... [youtube.com/watch?v=T022zY9I__0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T022zY9I__0).



News from around town

A change for the better

On Saturday 5 November 2022 from 10.00am to 4.00pm, at Edgar Hall, Somerton there will be a Climate Change Convention.

The Levels Climate Forum, a collaboration of over 26 Parish and Town Councils in Somerset invite Parish and Town Councillors and members of local businesses to attend their SCOP 2 Conference. Its aim is to allow all of us to share and network our ideas for adapting our impact and mitigating the effects we have on our environment to better cope with the threats of Climate Change. We will be focusing on the Home, Energy and Food.

This is a free event and is supported by Somerton Town Council and several local businesses. Please confirm your attendance to Mo Fletcher on 07718 920198 or mo.fletcher@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.



The staff and stuff of life

If you are struggling to make ends meet, Somerton Foodbank is here to help.

We work with the Lord's Larder in Yeovil, where any food that is donated at Somerton Co-Op is taken to provide food parcels which we order and deliver to you. We use any money that has been donated to us to supplement your parcels with fresh fruit and vegetables.

We also work with Citizens Advice, the Village Agents and Housing Associations who can provide you with a benefit check, financial and debt advice and a raft of other help and support including how to access the Local Assistance Fund.

If you need a food parcel, please call or text our number 07561 651372 and leave us a message. We will call you back to discuss your needs and how you can best be supported.

Can we tempt you?

This month's Somerton History Society meeting in the Parish Rooms is on Thursday 27 October. It starts with coffee at 7.00pm, followed by a dive into a world of luxurious decadence with a talk entitled The History of Chocolate by the ladies from Craft House Chocolate. Members don't pay, but guests are very welcome at £2 per person.



News from around town

Crimes and some crafty spookiness

On Thursday 6 October from 2.30pm to 4.00pm, two local authors will be sharing their experiences of writing crime fiction set in the West Country in Somerton Community Library. This is a free event but please register your interest beforehand by leaving your name and contact number at the library as space is limited.



On Wednesday 26 October from 10.30am to 12.00pm, drop in for a Craft Morning. This is a free event at Somerton Community Library for children during the half term. Craft activities will be based on Autumn and Halloween. No need to book.

Photograph by Bohan Shen CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Make a fashion statement

The Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton are holding a Fashion Show on 8 November 2022 at the Edgar hall in Somerton, to raise funds for local Dyslexia and Cancer charities.

This should be an exciting evening of fashion and fun. A ladies' night out with a difference. As well as a live Catwalk Show, you can try on and buy this season's Designer and High Street brands all at bargain prices, with up to 60% off. Tickets are £10 in advance, including a glass of wine. Doors open 6.30pm – show starts 7.00pm. Contact Maureen Nethercott on 07765 392883 or Maureen.net@sky.com or Joy Bailey on 07528 845691 or bailey23cc@gmail.com.



In The Club and raising funds

Somerton Sports Club has been renamed as The Club. In keeping with moving on and upwards, we have refurbished the bar and skittle alley. But remember, the club is not purely for sports but for all social occasions. In the last year, at dances organised by Dave Steel, The Club has raised £1,000 for the Alzheimer's Society.



News from around town

WHY? Because it does a lot of good

A jumble sale at the Parish Rooms, Somerton on Saturday 22 October from 10.30am till 1.00pm is raising funds for cancer counselling charity We Hear You (WHY). The charity provides free counselling and emotional support for children and adults affected or bereaved by cancer or any life-threatening condition. Adults' and kids' clothing, bric-a-brac and homeware will be on offer, alongside a cake sale and kids' lucky dip. The event has been organised by some of the team heading off on an Icelandic 'Northern Lights' trek to raise funds for WHY in March 2023.



Among the team is We Hear You's CEO Lucy Kitchener, who said, "We have so much on offer for the jumble sale, thanks to many generous donations from people in the community. Come down to the Parish Rooms, pick up a bargain and support WHY. I joined We Hear You as Chief Executive Officer in March this year and have been so impressed by the fantastic support the charity receives from the community, as it goes about its incredibly important work. The jumble sale is one of several events as we aim to raise £10,000 for WHY in 2023, hope to see you there!"

To find out more about We Hear You or refer yourself for support, visit wehearyou.org.uk. Above, left to right are Ruth Knagg, Lucy Kitchener and Carys Dunstan, the organisers of the jumble sale.



Music and movement

Somerstock moves to a new site for 2023. As a backdrop we have Somerton's glorious viaduct, and we're only a short walk from town. "This move gives space for more music, stalls, refreshments and entertainment," says festival chairman Cliff Bassett.

Somerton Music and Arts Festival also announces Fun Day will not take place in 2023. "With increasing visitor numbers, we require an event plan we cannot resource," explains chairman Bassett.

Finally, Bassett announced, "We are pleased to donate £1,000 to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance from 2022 funds. It was great to see everyone having fun. And to help a great cause is a bonus."

Photograph by Polyrus CC BY-ND 2.0

Have your say

And so we say goodbye

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of her Majesty the Queen of England on 8 September 2022. She was 96 years old and had served as our monarch for 70 years.

Her Majesty the Queen enjoyed the affection of generations from all over the world, including the Commonwealth. She was the longest serving monarch of our country, and one of the few last surviving people in the country to have served her country in the Second World War.



We give thanks as a nation and a kingdom for the extraordinary life of her Majesty the Queen. On behalf of all residents in Somerton, we offer condolences to all her family at this very sad time.

Chairman of Somerton Town Council

And yet we carry on in Laburnum Drive



Happy planning for October. Come and share our good times. There's Bingo every Thursday at 2.00pm. Coffee and natter mornings are on Tuesdays at 10.00am with a subscription of just 50p. On 4 October we're having bacon butties and cuppa, starting at 10.00am – you pay just £2. (Please note, there are no bacon butties on 18 October.)

On Tuesday 11 October at 10.00am we're serving buttered jam scones and cuppa for £4 – all proceeds to Macmillans. Join us for breakfast on 17 October from 9.00am, it's £4 per person.

On 18 October we're going on a Mystery Coach trip (even we don't know where we're headed). We depart from Laburnum Community Hall at 10.00am and tickets are £11. Saturday 22 October, come along for our chicken curry night – starting at 5.00pm. It'll be followed by lemon meringue pie, and it costs

just £8.50. A full programme of our notices is displayed in our Community Hall.

Have your say



From fields to factories

After a successful Flower Show last month, see below, the Somerton Gardeners' Club will meet next on the 12 October. This will be about the History of Food growing and the meeting starts at 7.30pm at the Edgar Hall. All visitors are welcome.



To winning ways

And here are all the lucky winners of the Somerton Flower Show 2022. Well done to everyone who took part.

Category	Prize	Winner	
Best in Show Exhibit	Club Trophy & £15	Carol Pitman	Yellow Dahlias
Most points in show	President's bowl & £20	Ian Burton	
New competitor most points	Novice Cup	Nigel Pitman	
Best Pot Plant in Show	Helen Goff Cup	Carol Pitman	Class 45
Fruit and Vegetables	Derrick Jefferies Cup	Ian Burton	
Any Other Fruit	£10 voucher	Angela Spiller	
Flowers	Harold Bartlett Cup	Ian Burton	
Flowers	£10 Voucher	Carol Pitman	Decorative Dahlias
Flower Arrangements	Mable Ann Cup	Sylvia Jefferies	
Flower Arrangements	£10 voucher	Sylvia Jefferies	Arr in cup and saucer
Homecraft	Jefferies Cup	Mary Billing/ Sylvia Jefferies	
Homecraft	£10 voucher	Rebecca Wreford	Lemon Curd
Children Classes	Kelways Children's Cup & £5	Mary Farquhar	
Photography	£10 voucher	Joshua Brown	Photo-Blue
Handicraft	Joyce Bird Cup	Linda Sambell	
Handicraft	£10 voucher	Liz Barker	Wonky Donkey
Specialist	Gardener's Choice Tray	Nigel Pitman	
Specialist	Gardener's Choice Vase	Eric Salt	
Homebrew	Wine Tray	Sue Burton	

Have your say



Tap those toes

Treacle Eater Clog are celebrating 40 years of being the local North West Morris side in our 2022-2023 season.

Whether or not you were able to watch us dancing at local hosteleries and events during the hot summer of 2022, we would love to introduce all interested adults to our dances and music so that they can be part of the entertainment and fun next year.

Why not come and give it a try? Dancers will require a reasonable level of fitness but age is no barrier. Feel free to bring a friend or two, put on your dancing shoes (or trainers) and join us for a free taster session.

Practices happen on Monday evenings 7.30-9.30pm at Rimpton Village Hall, Back Lane, Rimpton BA22 8AH (what3words decreased.defected.automatic). We would particularly love to see beginners when we resume on the 3 October, but if you can't come then, come on the first Monday you are available. You will be welcome – see the listings pages for details on contacting us.



Somerton
Group
of Artists

And paint those faces

Our next monthly meeting will be on 12 October at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms. Artist Heather Ford will discuss Portraiture. It's free for member and £5 on the door for non-members, tea or coffee included.

Have your say

Never forget

On 29 September 1942, local resident Margery Puddy, then aged just 18, set off to cycle to work in Langport. With so many men away in the forces, women and girls stepped up to fill some of the gaps they had left. Margery had gone to help in the Langport Rural District Council office, dealing with Highways issues. She describes herself as "a general dogsbody", answering the telephone and replying to correspondence, and sometimes supervising the arrival of road-mending materials deposited on the forecourt.



On that morning, Margery set off to work at about 8.30am. There was nothing particularly unusual about a low-flying plane, but as she cycled along Langport Road she noticed four or five dots falling from the plane. She quickly realised these were bombs, and that from their position they were unlikely to hit the main part of the town.

The Highways depot in Langport was the base for the group of men who looked after the roads, but their other role was to be part of the Rescue Squad in case of emergency. They also had an important job in safeguarding the pillboxes and keeping the railway line running, as it was of strategic importance. They realised there had been an attack, but Margery's first-hand account gave them much needed details.

When Margery had cycled home from work she discovered that the Cow & Gate milk and dairy factory had taken a direct hit. When she got home after work, her first concern was making sure her family was all right.

Spectators to the damage were not wanted, but news gradually seeped out. Of course she knew the people injured and killed. In a small and close-knit community like Somerton, it was a major catastrophe, but in many respects life continued much as usual.

Margery had already joined the Girls' Training Corps (the GTC) as soon as she was eligible at the age of 17. The organisation started with a dozen girls but quickly expanded. The key role was to be able to deal with incendiary fires and exercises were practised regularly, the girls being deployed in pairs with a bag of sand and a stirrup pump. The GTC was also supplied with six ancient rifles and they became proficient in dismantling and assembling them. The girls looked very smart in their uniforms, practising their marching. Margery still has her uniform – and it still fits her! She smiles when she remembers her Girl Guide belt, with its motto, "Be prepared".

Of more recent years, local primary school children researched the history of the bombing and thanks to their efforts, the names of the victims are recorded on the war memorial. The victims and their families are still remembered.

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	ageingwell@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
Flexercise		Buttercross Surgery	Fridays 2.30-3.30pm		
Friendship Club	Mo Fletcher	Somerton Sports Club	Second Thursday of the month 10.30am	fletcher080@btinternet.com	01458 274631
Health Walks	Mo Fletcher	Somerton Library	First and third Thursday of the month 11.30am	fletcher080@btinternet.com	01458 274631
Martial Arts Self Defence	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 Benn under 18s & 15s	Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch	Tues and Thurs 7.00pm		07870 861731 07919 153205
Scottish Country Dancing	Anita Wilson	Ash Village Hall	Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm	anitaandjim22@gmail.com	01460 929383
Somerton Bridge Club	Joan Davies, Jim Dawson	West Street Church Hall	Thursday 7.00pm	joandavies15@rockemail.com	01458 272418 01458 251228
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
Somerton Group of Artists	Mandy McAllen	Parish Rooms, Market Square, Somerton	Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm £5 includes tea or coffee	i_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	

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 Music & Arts Festival	Jon Sackett	Parish Rooms, Market Square, Somerton	One committee meeting a month at 7.30pm - email for dates	somertonartsfestival.co.uk hello@somertonartsfestival.co.uk	07928 508700
Somerton Probus 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 handstanding 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
Somerton Town FC	Jason Burton-Tuttiatt	Somerton Recreation Ground by The Sports Club (October we move to Huish School 3G until spring)	Tuesday 6.30pm	jasonb52s@yahoo.com	07825 180506
Somerton Town Youth FC	Dave Walton	Recreation Ground	Various times, please contact for details	djwalton79@hotmail.com	07476 206224
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
Treacle Eater Clog (North-West style Morris dance with side band)	Jadi	Rimpton Village Hall BA22 8AH (car share available)	Mondays 7.30-9.30pm Beginners welcome	secretary@treacleeaterclog.org	
Tai Chi	Jacqui	Parish Rooms, Somerton	Tuesday 9.30-10.30am Thurs 9.30-10.30am £20 for four weeks		01458 270258
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

Somerton information

Somerton Community Speedwatch

SLOW DOWN...



Have a speeding issue?

**Would like to be a speedwatch
volunteer?**

**Contact - Dave Cundle
01458 897224**

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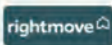


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Sales Progressor



Lisa Cope
Sales Advisor



Rosa Clutterbuck
Lettings Manager

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