

VIADUCT

January 2023



Editor's Letter



Hello,

And Happy New Year! When I was a child, I loved programmes like Fireball XL5 and Dr Who. And the thought of living in a century that was numbered in the 20s seemed far, far away and improbably futuristic. Yet here we are in 2023.

To start the year well, the town council asks us all to dispose of our winter bins and recycling thoughtfully, ensuring bins are well secured against gusty winds. ACEarts invite you to enjoy the culmination of their Flock Together project, and there are new walks to discover, bus rides for just £2 and an update on the Kirkham Street Field plans.

Keep warm and safe this January and protect yourself against the icy winds and freezing cold.

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 13 January 2023.**

News from your town council

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council	3 Jan 2023	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Planning if required	10 Jan 2023	6.30pm	Edgar Hall
Planning if required	24 Jan 2023	6.30pm	Edgar Hall
Committee meetings have been postponed until our new Clerk, Laura Bolter, joins us Monday 6 February 2023.			

Somerton Town Council wish all our residents a Wonderful New Year.

Don't rubbish Christmas

Due to the increase in rubbish and recycling in December and early January, it would be very helpful if you make sure the rubbish and recycling you put on the roadside is secured when there is inclement weather. Somerset Waste Partnership will do their best over Christmas and the New Year to collect the excess recycling and black bins as quickly as possible.



Let's have no slip ups

Somerton has numerous grit bins around the town should you have difficulties with icy conditions on roads and footpaths. The locations are as follows:

1. Cox's Car Park by the Unicorn Skittle Alley.
2. Half Moon Car Park right side of entrance.
3. Pestors Lane left side entrance to Wessex Rise.
4. Market Square left side of Parish Rooms.
5. Beech Grove top of hill to the Viaduct Fisheries.
6. Edgar Hall holds sand, grit and sandbags should you need them.

For help or more information, please contact Fiona Richardson at Access & Highways by emailing her at fiona.richardson@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

News from your town council



Somerton Community Town

Thank you to all those who have given views on the topics to be included in the Survey.



Somerton needs you to reshape its future

From your ideas we will work with our Smart Community Advisor to select 30 questions for the survey. The topics which cause most concern will have more questions allocated.

These will be added to the Survey Monkey System in January and our survey will be live for a three week period from 20 Feb to 24 March.

The link to it and the QR Code will be published in the February Viaduct; on Somerton Facebook/ websites; the Town Council website; and the Town Plan website www.somerton-cp.uk; the Electronic Noticeboards plus there will be many posters advertising how to take part around town.

If you cannot access the internet, we will have drop in sessions to help you complete it, or someone who has passed the government's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) can come to your home if you are not mobile.

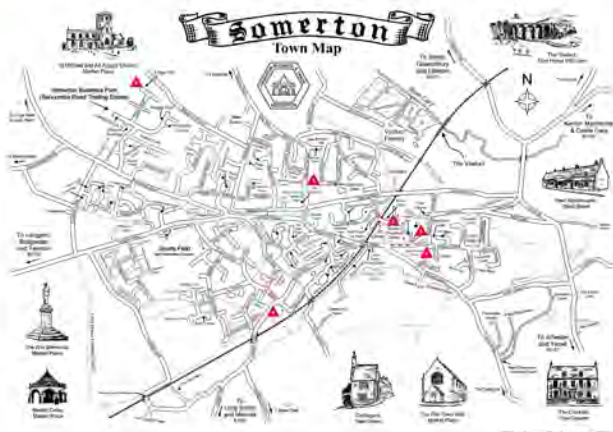
If you wish to become a volunteer to do this please contact Mo Fletcher on 0771 8920198.

The Steering Committee thank the Somerton Coop for their kind donation of chocolate doughnuts and other nibbles and items for drinks at the meeting. They were much appreciated.

Shocking good news

There are six registered defibrillators available for emergency use in Somerton.

Located externally and available 24/7	
1.	Market Square – telephone box
2.	Brunel Precinct – outside Co-op supermarket
3.	Fire Station
4.	St. Cleers Chapel
Available during opening hours	
5.	The Parish Rooms/LSMI – Main Hall
6.	Edgar Hall



News from your town council

Will you deliver?

We are seeking new volunteers for 2023. If you can spare a few hours at the end of each month to help deliver the Viaduct, please email Mo Fletcher at mo.fletcher@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk



Volunteers needed

In February/March 2023, we have a three week window for Somerton Residents to complete the Town Plan Survey on Survey Monkey. Once the survey is open you will be able to follow the link or scan the QR code at www.somerton-cp.uk. The opening date is to be confirmed and you will find further information in the February 2023 edition of the Viaduct.

We are offering those without internet access to attend drop-in sessions where volunteers will help them complete the questionnaires. We are looking for volunteers who can help and who have iPad/laptop/iPhone. If you can help, please contact Mo Fletcher by calling 07718 920198 or emailing mo.fletcher@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk.

We hope to get as many people as possible taking part in the questionnaire as it is important that everyone's voice is heard. The survey will take 15/20 minutes per person.

The town council give thanks to Matt the Coop Manager, the Coop provided sweet treats to support the 'Thank You' event for our town's volunteers held on 5 December and for the community plan consultation meetings held in November and December.

Rounding up

If you have any comments or questions regarding anything within this report, or in general, please call the Clerk's office on 01458 272236 or email 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.

For more information on the New Somerset Council please visit newsomersetcouncil.org.uk.

News from around town



Birds of a feather stitch together

Culminating our year-long community sewing project is Flock Together. This will run from 14 January to 4 February at ACEarts and will be showcasing all the stitched works created during 2022. Displayed in panels in the main gallery, this large public participation artwork will be a celebration of the new collective and a visual representation of the unity within the community.

Alongside this stunning exhibition, ACEarts will be launching a new community project, aiming to build on the success of the first Flock Together project and involving more and new participants. The new programme, like the first, will be designed to empower individuals, and strengthen and build more physical and online communities through activities that require no previous experience.

More developments in our community

In December, a public Meeting was held by Anna and Sam's team last May to present different ways in which the one third residential and two thirds open green space could be set out, which met with a favourable reaction from members of the community who were present. It was then planned to hold workshops over six months to test community response to the various ideas.

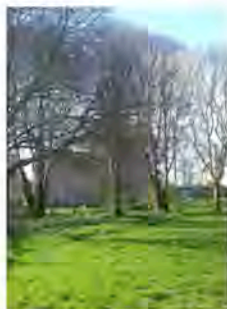
Since then it has been decided to approach the planning authority with the support and expertise of a local professional planning consultant to establish how the ideas for the scheme of the residential one third and two thirds community green space could best be presented in ways likely to gain planning consent.

A more specific Public Consultation could then take place to ensure everyone in the community has an opportunity to be involved.

Anna and Sam are themselves bearing the full costs of their professional advisers and the costs of the public meetings to discuss their proposals. The Trust supports their exploration of these ideas and the Trustees are in regular contact with Anna and Sam. We wish to thank everyone for your support and a very Happy New Year to all.

Somerstock lives on

Somerstock will return to the Rec in 2023 with a night of entertainment on the night of Friday 7 July as well as the standard afternoon and evening of Saturday 8 July. Cliff 'Fred' Basset said "We are delighted to welcome The Blockheads as Saturday night's headliner along with our famous silent disco throughout the day." Area 52 return by popular demand to headline on Friday night. For more details, including how to get tickets please go to somerstock.co.uk.



News from around town

In for a £1... or two

Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes the Government's plan to provide up to £60 million to enable bus operators to cap single adult bus fares at £2. The £2 flat fare starts at the beginning of January and will continue through to the end of March 2023. Most bus operators are expected to adopt the scheme.



This means millions of people across England will save money at a time when many households are suffering massive pressures from the rising cost of living. The move will help people travel for work, education, shopping and medical treatments and provide a much-needed saving in daily expenditure.

The current average single fare for a 3-mile journey is estimated at over £2.80, meaning that the new fare will save passengers almost 30% of the price every time they travel.

In addition, Somerset County Council currently plans to introduce a £1 single/ £2 return bus fare in Taunton, as part of its Bus Service Improvement Plan. Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes this initiative but emphasises the need to procure further funding to enable this flat rate fare to be extended across all of Somerset.

Somerset Bus Partnership Co-Chair, Peter Travis, said, "Bus usage declined in Somerset in the last decade, and even more so during to the pandemic. We need initiatives like these to restore and improve passenger levels. Encouraging people to choose buses over cars helps to reduce carbon emissions. It is estimated that the Government's £60 million will reduce car journeys by at least 2 million and cut pollution and congestion for all of us."

Somerset Bus Partnership will continue to work closely with Somerset County Council to encourage bus use and ensure implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan across the county.

Our contact details are:

Email: somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com

Website: somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/

facebook.com/Somerset-Bus-Partnership-105704811629827

Have your say

Let's be safe out there

Firstly, Somerton Community Speed Watch Team would like to say a massive thank you to all those Somerton residents who, when they see us at the road side, say thank you and give us a thumbs up. Over that last few weeks it has been a source of immense satisfaction that we have seen far less speeding than we did in the summer. Despite the theft of SID from Langport Road in November, measured speeds along our 30mph roads are within the limits, but less so along the 20mph pedestrian priority roads.



Another pleasing and invaluable source of support is from the local Police's Somerton and Wincanton Community Support team who are joining our CSW teams as well as looking for feedback for incidents of abuse or dangerous and illegal use of the Somerton Roads.



Let there be light

It was a truly magical evening. Many thanks to Sara Powell, aided by husband Colin, and AceArts folk for all the organisation of Somerton's Lights Switch On. Somerton Town Council carried out the road closure and Ian Rodgers and the Lights Brigade put in many hours of work to create a wonderful display. For their part, they'd like to thank One Stop and Stacey's for their kind donations of refreshments for the troops.

DJ Ray, Kingsbury Episcopi Band and carol singing led by St Cleers Choir set the musical scene while the Rugby Club lit us with their floodlights. Santa arrived and officiated in his Grotto in the Church. The many Stall Holders and local shops and pubs supported with good cheer.

Let your boots do the walking

2023 is fast approaching and, after Christmas festivities, many of us will probably be thinking of our waistlines. Walking is a great way of getting exercise and keeping fit, and requires little in the way of equipment.

About 15 years ago, I wrote a series of walks called "Somerton Strolls". The walks are usually about 10km or six miles long, and I am now publishing them online. You can find them at walksbymartyn.weebly.com. I hope you'll enjoy stretching your legs along them.



A thought for January



*"Here's to thee, old apple tree
Whence thou mayest bud
Whence thou mayest blow
Whence thou mayest bear apples enow."
Wassailing Song to be sung on January 5th*

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	Sheena Smith	West Street Church Hall	Tuesday 7.15-9.00pm	info@midwessexsingers.co.uk www.midwessexsingers.co.uk	07768 704883
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	

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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

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of application for the GRANT of a PREMISES LICENCE

Proposed licensable activities:

LIVE AND RECORDED MUSIC (FRIDAY 7/7/23 1800 - 2300)
(SATURDAY 8/7/23 1200 - 2330)

SALE OF ALCOHOL FOR CONSUMPTION (FRIDAY 7/7/23 1800 - 2300)
(SATURDAY 8/7/23 1200 - 2340)

Name of applicant: SOMERTON MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL (CIC)

Address of Premises: SOMERTON RECREATION GROUND

SOMERTON, SOMERSET **Post Code:** TA11 6HS

**Date by which Responsible Authorities and other persons
may make representations:** 28/1/2023

**A record of the application made to the Licensing Authority
will be kept on a register at the address given below and
the register may be inspected during normal office hours.**

**All representations regarding this application MUST BE IN
WRITING and sent to:**

**South Somerset District Council
Licensing Department
The Council Offices
Brympton Way
Yeovil Somerset BA20 2HT**

**It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in
connection with an application and is subject to an unlimited fine on
summary conviction for the offence.**



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SATURDAY 8TH JULY**

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Decatonics * Jamestown Brothers * Matt Owens and the Delusional Vanity Project
Nick Parker and the False Alarms * Tom & The Clementynes
Al O'Kane * Not Like The Others * Young Martyrs * Area 52

*HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all residents*

From Somerton Town Council

**We wish everyone a
wonderful 2023**

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*subject to eligibility

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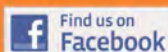
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