

Editor's Letter



Hello.

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Our king is crowned, Somerset Day has been celebrated and awards have been awarded. Summer has certainly got off to a good start... and this is just the beginning. Dip into this month's pages of Viaduct and you'll find there's a lot in store for June.

The History Society promise to lead you up the garden path with a talk on the origins of the privy. The Charltons invite you to inspect their gardens, including Charlton Court's. The WI will disclose the real stories behind the headlines, and the Somerton Arts Group guest artist will create a piece of art right before your eyes.

The above is just a taster of what's on offer. Read on and you'll have no excuse for having nothing to do this upcoming month. And finally, we hope you like the front cover shot of Councillor Dean Ruddle with His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, Mohammed Saddiq.

Best wishes.

Editor, Viaduct

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Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Council (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	13th June 2023	7.00pm	Edgar Hall
Land and Property Committee (Planning if required at 6.30pm)	27th June 2023	7.00pm	Edgar Hall

Welcome to your June edition of the Viaduct. We had an amazing month of May with the many local community events, and the coming month brings you the results of the community plan survey for 2023-2028.

King Charles III Coronation on Saturday 6th May 2023 was inspiring, historic, and very moving.

Set fair for Coronation Fayre

After much planning and anticipation, Somerton Town Council's day of celebration on 7th May arrived with weather cloudy but fair. A wonderful afternoon was had by all, and Somerton Town Council thank all those who attended the King Charles III Coronation celebrations and give thanks to all volunteers who made the day such a success.

The Chair of the Council, Cllr Dean Ruddle, accompanied by our town crier, Mr Steve Davis, opened the Fayre at 12 o'clock. His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset was greeted by a guard of honour from the Scout's Association, Guides, and our Royal British Legion Standard Bearer. He joined in with our celebrations to unveil the town's King Charles III Coronation Bench.

HM Lord-Lieutenant was very charming and thanked those who greeted him personally. After dedicating the Coronation Bench, he invited the Assembly to sing "God Save the King," accompanied by the Somerton

Concert Band. This was followed by a flypast of three biplanes which flew over Somerton from the airfields based at Westonzoyland and Middlezoy. The Lord Lieutenant was then presented with a gift from the town by the Wessex Junior Youth Club; a painting of the Buttercross by the late Somerton artist, Ivor Tankard.

The programme for the day included fancy dress, Britain through the Ages, The Little Gem Majorettes, Dr Turbervilles Morris Troupe, music from the Somerton Ukekele Band and Ray's Disco. There was plenty of food, refreshments, and stalls. Children's craft activities were organised by the Brownies, the Cubs and Somerton's Group of Artists.

Town Assembly and Community Awards

On 24th May the Annual Town Assembly and Community Awards were held at Edgar Hall. Updates were provided from the town council along with reports from local organisations.

Cllr Ruddle summarised events of the preceding year which included marking various Royal commemorations, a variety of well-received community events including fireworks, lighting of the Queen's Beacon, turning on of the Christmas lights, supporting local organisations by means of grants paid, and various improvements around the town such as renovation of historic fingerposts and new play equipment installed.

A selection of presentations was given on the evening from groups who received grants during 2022/23, details of which will be reported through the minutes of the meeting and displayed on the town council website in due course. Please visit the council website at somertontowncouncil.gov.uk for details.

Thanks is given to the Somerton Guides who served teas and coffees on the evening.

And the award goes to...

The award for outstanding community service was given to Cllr Mo Fletcher for her years of dedication and energy, providing support and driving progress within the community.

Community awards were presented to:

Annette Sparks – Good Neighbour of the year

Dan Dury – Sports Person of the year

Etsome Arms – Business of the year

Greg Mason – Young Person of the year

Jeanette Harding – Volunteer of the year

Max Patten – Youth Enterprise

Nature's Pantry – Environmentalist of the year

Peachy Beauty Studio – New Business of the year

St Cleers Chapel and Somerton Rugby Club – Community Group of the year



Councillor Mo Fletcher

New Somerton Guide

A new mini-guide for Somerton has been published by Somerton Business & Trade Association, with support from Somerton Town Council and the Somerton Tourism & Heritage Partnership. Copies are available in the library and other outlets in Somerton as well as in neighbouring towns and villages.

Become a local hero

Calling all community heroes to step up and become a town councillor. Join our team who are so very proud of Somerton; help us build our community spirt and drive progress for our lovely town.

What do councillors do?

Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood. Councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups, and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with district and borough councils to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.

What do councils do?

Councils lead on community services such as allotments, footpaths, public seating and litter bins, but also larger projects such as the running of local transport, leisure services, youth services and climate change initiatives. These activities are funded by a local tax, called a precept which is determined by the council.

How long does it take?

Councillors put aside on average, one to three hours a week for council work. Council work often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents, and speaking to local groups and bodies on behalf of the council.

You can stand for election if:

- · You are a British citizen a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union
- . 18 years of age or older
- · Live in an area that is served by the local council

For further information please contact the Town Clerk at town.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk or by calling 01458 272236.



There are times when problems seem to loom large, but you don't have to face them alone. The Citizens Advice is now available every week, right in the centre of town.

If you would like to talk to someone face-to-face, just drop into the library on Mondays between 10.00am and 1.30pm, no appointment is needed. Alternatively, go online anytime at citizensadvicesouthsomerset.org.uk.

Celebrating Somerset

On 13th May we celebrated Somerset Day with some of the best of our Somerset ware, including food and drink. The event was held in the Parish Rooms where local businesses displayed, promoted and sold their produce and services. We'd like to thank everyone who joined us – residents and businesses – to support this event. In particular we'd like to thank Etsome Arms, Nature's Pantry, Oggy Oggy Pasties and Scrumpy Sisters, all featured here.



Community Plan 2023-2028

The results have been collected and analysed, and the Steering Committee are now working on writing up the report. A total of 454 responses were collected – please refer to the data shown by age group below. This Report will guide the Town Council and Somerset Council in making decisions for the future development of the town.



Age	18-25	26-40	41-60	61-80	80+
Total per age group	20	59	138	205	32
Percentage of Somerton's residents	4.4%	13%	30.4%	45.2%	7%
Percentage of Somerset's residents	8.8%	20.4%	31.4%	31%	8.4%

We're here to help

If you have any comments or questions regarding anything within this report, or questions in general, please direct them to the Clerk's office by calling 01458 272236 or by emailing Laura at town.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk, Steph at deputy.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk, Lydia at viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk or Claire at office@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk. Please note that the office staff work part time hours, but we endeavour to respond as promptly as possible.

A tale of convenience

The next meeting of the Somerton History Society will be held on Thursday 22^{nd} June in the Parish Rooms. The meeting starts at 7.30pm, but the doors will be open at 7.00pm for tea and coffee. The speaker this month is John Dando with a talk entitled, A Walk up the Garden Path, a history of privies through the ages. This is free to society members, but guests are very welcome at £2 per person.



Image: outside privy courtesy 1900s.org.uk



Splashing it about

On Wednesday 14th June Somerton Group of Artists have an evening demonstration by well-known local watercolour artist, Kaye Parmenter. The evening is entitled "A Splash of Watercolour" and Kaye will paint a lovely spaniel. It takes place at the Parish Rooms, Market Square, Somerton. This is free to members but visitors are welcome for £5 on the door, which includes light refreshments.

Looking forward to some fine weather the group have also begun their summer programme of outdoor painting meet-ups and painting together days. Full details are on somertonartists.co.uk and on Facebook.



Somerton is gearing up for its annual summer festival, which starts on Friday June 30th with local musicians Cardiff Strings playing in the church, and ends on July 14th with a Jive Night at Edgar Hall, with much more in-between.

"There is so much local talent in our area," claims festival chair, Cliff 'Fred' Bassett. "Visitors to the festival can see it all and even learn some new skills themselves, whether music, history, crafts or walks are their thing".

There's something to suit everyone at various locations around the town and many of the events are free. The festival fortnight includes Somerton's largest event of the year, Somerstock – a family-friendly music festival headlined by rock legends The Blockheads.



This year Somerstock will run over two days with four bands performing on the evening of Friday 7th July. There will also be a full day of entertainment on Saturday where, in addition to live music, there will be street food, bars, stalls and children's entertainment – and children under 12 go free of charge.

On the Friday, the music starts at 6.00pm. Al O'Kane opens the evening with fiery alt/folk-rock, followed by up-beat covers

from Not Like The Others and great new music from Young Martyr. Headlining will be dance and soul band Area 52.

Saturday's headliners, The Blockheads (featured above), will be joined by 13 other live bands providing continuous music over three outdoor stages from 1.00pm. These include Tom and the Clementynes, who delighted festival goers in 2019, Matt Owens (formerly of Noah and the Whale) and the Delusional Vanity Project, upbeat country folk from the Jamestown Brothers, stunning rock covers from The Classic Rock Revival, Ska from the Decatonics and high energy from Nick Parker and the False Alarms (once described as 'A British Arcade Fire'). Somerstock also includes soul from the Charlie Miller Band, reggae from the South West's Barefoot Bandits along with ZANII, Flo Parker Bombosch and Not From Nebraska. Finally, the evening's entertainment will be rounded off by the now-famous silent disco.

Tickets are for sale online and at Stationery House in Somerton. Numbers are limited so the organisers advise booking early.

For more information about all the festival events visit somertonartsfestival.co.uk/events/ or, specifically for Somerstock, go to somerstock.co.uk.

The Somerton Music & Arts Festival is run for the community by local volunteers, and the organisers hope to see many visitors to the area, as well as local people, enjoying themselves over the summer.



If only my garden was...

After two very interesting visits to open gardens, the Gardeners' Club will now continue monthly meetings in Somerton (see page 15 for details).

Very few people would claim to have perfect growing conditions: too much sun/ too much shade, too wet/ too dry, rarely exactly perfect.





This month's talk has something for everyone. Do come to "Plants for Problem Areas" on Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm in the Edgar Hall. We hope to see you there.

Remove the scales from your eyes

Have you ever wondered about the real stories behind the news headlines? Trisha Perry's "Reminiscences of a Magistrate" will bring her experiences to the next meeting of Somerton WI on Tuesday 20th June at 2.30pm in the Parish Rooms. Do come along to her talk which promises to be thought-provoking, may possibly answer your questions, and even prove to be amusing.



Have your say

Boot sale to bouncy castle... fun for all

Somerton's Community and Fun Day takes place at the recreation ground on 16th July from 12 noon to 4.00pm. If you'd like to be a part of the car boot sale, please email somertoncommunityday@gmail.com to reserve your space. Businesses and associations are also invited to reserve a





pitch, again simply email the above address for details and the cost. There will also be loads of entertainment and activities for all the family to enjoy. Kids can test their skills on a climbing wall or at the circus skills workshop. For the energetic there'll be a bouncy castle and games will include giant Jenga and Connect 4, plus there will be music and dancing.

Walking the dog

Since the easing of Covid lock-down restrictions, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of dogs being exercised in St Michael's churchyard. Many of these are being let off their leads to run around, often being out of sight from their owners.

Unfortunately this has led to an increase in the level of dog fouling in the grass; a cause for concern, not only for anyone cutting the grass, but also for wedding parties taking photographs and using the large grass areas.



Bearing in mind that the churchyard is primarily a cemetery, and consecrated ground, the Church Council, while not wishing to ban dogs, has voted to put in place certain restrictions. Consequently it would be greatly appreciated that in future all dogs in the churchyard are kept on a short lead, and that owners clean up after any fouling.

Photographs: car boot sale by allispossible.org.uk CC BY 2.0. St Michael's by michaelday_bath CC BY-NC 2.0.

Have your say



If that doesn't take the cake!

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, the Memory Café invited our Town Crier, Steve Davis, to come and give a Royal Proclamation and cut a special cake made in the shape of a crown. All our members decorated a crown to wear, and after the proclamation, then enjoyed a cream tea. Cakes were very kindly donated by Burns the Bread.

If you would like to join our lively group, please come along and meet us. Meetings are held in the West Street Church Hall on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

This is an opportunity to meet other people with memory problems, join in activities such as dominoes and cards, and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Drop in and enjoy an afternoon of fun with us.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining, us please contact Lead Coordinator Annette Sparks on 01458 258947 or email annettes2853@gmail.com.

Bacon butties to the sea

There's another month of fun in store with the Laburnum Drive Community Centre Committee. We start on 6th June with bacon butties at 10.00am. Every Tuesday morning from 10.00am (unless we're on a coach trip), it's coffee all round. Wednesdays it's time to move for an hour with Flexicise from 10.00am – young and old, it's just £3. And Thursdays is Fun Bingo at 2.00pm.

On 20th June, departing at 11.00am we're going to Lyme Regis for the day, tickets £11. On Friday 30th June we'll enjoy lasagne and desserts at our lovely Supper Evening, followed by a quiz and prizes. Come at 5.00pm, tickets are just £7. We think of all our supporters as friends and love to see you.



Lyme Regis photograph by Dis da fi we CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

Somerton Events and Clubs June 2023

If you would like your event to be included in the July edition, please contact viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk by $10^{\rm th}$ June 2023

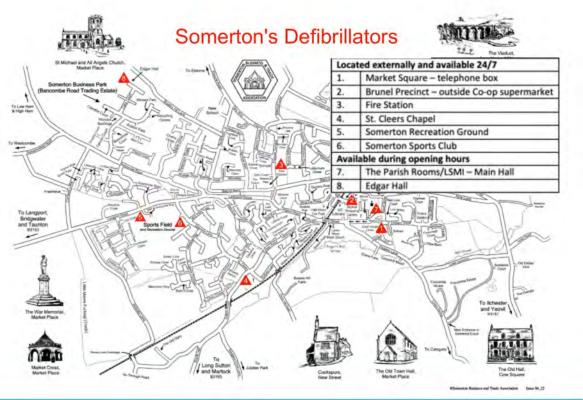
When	Where	Who to contact	
Sundays	Life Church Somerton 10.30am to 12.00pm at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Conrad Lucas 07891 665938 Andy Barton 07530 070555 conrad@lifechurchsomerton.co.uk	
Mondays	Tot's Life 9,30am to 11.00am at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Kerryanne Lucas 07715 926923 kerryanne.lucas@btinternet.com	
	Citizens Advice 10.00am to 1.30pm Somerton Library	For advice, freephone 0808 278 7842 www.citizensadvicesouthsomerset.org.uk	
	Ageing Well, Parish Rooms, Somerton	Age UK Somerset 01823 345626 Email ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.ul for more information and to book a place	
	Pilates – In Hale to Prepare 6.00pm to 7.00pm at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Gill Hampson 07526 534889 giillhampson6@gmail.com	
Tuesdays	Tai Chi 9.00am to 10.30am, Parish Rooms, Somerton	Jacqui 01458 270258 £20 for 4 weeks	
	Somerton and District Bowls Club 5.45pm at Sports Ground, Gassons Lane, Somerton	Peter Jones 01458 224212 www.somertonbowlsclub.co.uk	
	Somerton Town FC 6.30pm at Somerton Recreation Ground (Oct to Spring Huish School)	Jason Burton-Tuttiett 07825 180506 jasonb52s@yahoo.com	
	Somerton Runners 6.00pm at Somerton Recreation Ground hardstanding by 5-a-side football pitch	Keith Brackstone 07999 511366 coachkeith53@gmail.com	
	Rugby Club under 18s and under 15s 7.00pm at Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch, Gassons Lane, Somerton	Gary Saunders 07870 861731 Steve Benn 07919 153205	
	Mid Wessex Singers 7.15pm to 9.00pm at West Street Church Hall, Somerton	Sheena Smith 07768 704883 info@midwessexsingers.co.uk www.midwessexsingers.co.uk	
Wednesdays	Create and Connect 10.30am to12.30pm at ACEarts, Old Town Hall, Somerton	Nina Gronw-Lewis 01458 273008 hello@acearts.co.uk www.acearts.co.uk	
	In Line We Dance 10.00am to 12,00pm at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Mat 07518 601518 Rod 07545 121951 info@inlinewedance.co.uk	

Somerton Events and Clubs May 2023

When	Where	Who to contact
Thursdays	Drawing for All 10.30am to12.30pm at ACEarts, Old Town Hall, Somerton	Nina Gronw-Lewis 01458 273008 hello@acearts.co.uk www.acearts.co.uk
	In Line We Dance 10.00am to 12.00pm at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Mat 07518 601518 Rod 07545 121951 info@inlinewedance.co.uk
	Tai Chi 9.00am to 10.30am, Parish Rooms, Somerton	Jacqui 01458 270258 £20 for 4 weeks
	Strictly Jive 7.45pm to 10.30pm at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Roy Warry 07811 018284 roywarry42@gmail.com Strictly Jive Facebook page
	Wessex Junior Youth Club 6.00pm to 7.00pm Wessex Rooms, Broad Street, Somerton	Clive and Sara Dyer 01458 273655 sarad53@hotmail.com
	Somerton Bridge Club 7.00pm at West Street Church, Somerton	Joan Davies 01458 272418 Jim Dawson 01458 251228 joandavies15@rocketmail.com
	Rugby Club under 18s and under 15s 7.00pm at Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch, Gassons Lane, Somerton	Gary Saunders 07870 861731 Steve Benn 07919 153205
	Archies Xtra (11 to 18 year olds) 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Sports Ground beside MUGA	Alex 01458 272047 Judith 01458 273079
	Ageing Well, Parish Rooms, Somerton	Age UK Somerset 01823 345626 Email ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk for more information and to book a place
Fridays	In Stitches 10.30am to12.30pm at ACEarts, Old Town Hall, Somerton	Nina Gronw-Lewis 01458 273008 hello@acearts.co.uk www.acearts.co.uk
	Somerton and District Bowls Club 2.00pm at Sports Ground, Gassons Lane, Somerton	Peter Jones 01458 224212 www.somertonbowlsclub.co.uk
	Flexercise 2.30pm to 3.30pm at Buttercross Surgery, Somerton	
	Ageing Well, Parish Rooms, Somerton	Age UK Somerset 01823 345626 Email ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk for more information and to book a place

Somerton Monthly Events May 2023

When	Where	Who to contact
Third Tuesday of the month	Women's Institute 2.30pm Parish Rooms	Sue Long 01458 274038 Pauline Saunders 01458 272769
Second Wednesday of the month	Somerton Gardeners' Club 7.30pm at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Pauline Saunders 01458 272769 somertongardenersclub@gmail.com somertongc.com £3 for visitors
	Somerton Group of Artists 7.30pm Parish Rooms	Mandy McAllen i_dissagree@hotmail.com £5 includes tea or coffee
Last Wednesday of the month	Somerton Probus Club 11.30am at Somerton Sports Club, Gassons Lane	Barrie Davies 07811 770061 barrie.davies@btinternet.com
First and third Thursday of the month	Health Walks 11.30am Somerton Library	Mo Fletcher 01458 274631 fletcher080@btinternet.com
Second Thursday of the month	Friendship Club 10.30am at Somerton Sports Club, Gassons Lane	Mo Fletcher 01458 274631 fletcher080@btinternet.com
Fourth Thursday of the month	Somerton History Society 7.30pm at Parish Rooms	Joan Banbury j.banbury@mypostoffice.co.uk
First Friday of the month	Strictly Jive 8.00pm to midnight at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Roy Warry 07811 018284 roywarry42@gmail.com Strictly Jive Facebook page
Last Saturday of the month	Ballroom Latin Sequence Dance 7.30pm to 11.00pm at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Peter Withey-Tebbey 07738 581292 witheytebby@btinternet.com Admission £6.50 (raffle £1 a strip)
Other Some	erton Clubs	
When	Where	Who to contact
Various times – contact club for details	Somerton Tennis Club at Somerton Sports Ground, Gassons Lane, Somerton	Membership Secretary 01458 396006 somerton.tennisclub@gmail.com
	Somerton Town Youth Football Club at Recreation Ground, Somerton	Dave Walton 07476 206224 djwalton79@hotmail.com
	Somerton u3a 40 different interest groups	Marilyn Muffett 01458 899773 or 07736 425426 www.u3asites.org.uk/somerton/groups
This month	's special events	
Friday 16th June	Strictly Jive's Rock 'n' Roll Night 7.30pm to 11.00pm at Edgar Hall, TA11 6SB	Enjoy a night of rockin' and rollin' to all the great hits
Friday 23rd June	u3a coffee members' morning with invited speaker 9.00am to 12.30pm at Edgar Hall TA11 6SB	Listen to David Boag's talk, 'Iceland, a wildlife photographer's view'



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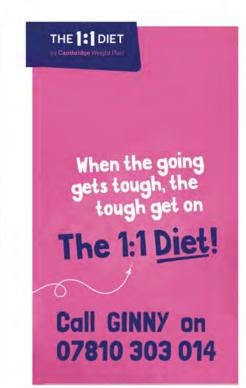
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Somerton Library, Overt Locke, Cobbs Health Food Shop, Co-op and Tony's Fish 'n' Chips. To become a stockist, or order copies, please email office@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Somerton MUSIC & ARTS **FESTIVAL**

Somerstock Weekend

Great bands, entertainment, bars, street food, silent disco and children's entertainment, plus an extra evening of fabulous music on Friday Night!

THE BLOCKHEAD

Plus 16 more great bands playing everything from ska and reggae to folk!

GET YOUR GROOVE ON!

Grab your Somerstock Tickets whilst they're still available...

Tickets are on sale online and at Stationery House, Somerton

July 2023

Festival Events

Art & Photography Exhibition Saturday 27th May - Saturday 3rd June Parish Rooms Twisted Vinyl

Saturday 27th May - Somerton Sports club

TOWN EVENTS

Friday 30th June - Friday 7th July

Talks * Musical Evenings History Walk * Festival Quiz

Craft Workshops * Bee Keeping Cardiff Strings Quartet

... and much, much more!

Plus live music and bands at many of the local Somerton hostelries

Check out our website to buy tickets online and for full details of all events: www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk

Tickets will also be available from 1st May at Stationery House, Somerton

7th & 8th July 2023



WWW.SOMERSTOCK.CO.UK/TICKETS

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Our chef will be delighted to prepare any dish of your choice not listed on our menu.