

Welcome,

Welcome to your May edition of the Somerton Viaduct. During April we welcomed our new Councillor Ray Holland who was co-opted at the full Council meeting on 9th April 2024. Welcome Ray!

We look forward to his contribution in the coming months supporting our wonderful town.

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We have lots of up-and-coming events planned for you, including the celebration of Somerset Day in the Parish Rooms on 11th May from 10:00, our Annual Town Assembly being held at Edgar Hall on 20th May at 19:00. Please come along and find out what has taken place this last year and for coming year.

Your May edition is full of information to enable you to get out and about, join a group and meet new friends.

For information regarding activities of the Council, please refer to our website to review the minutes of our meetings. www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes.

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All articles for inclusion in the June edition must be received by 10th May 2024 by emailing viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Council Meetings	Date	Time
Full Council (Planning if required at 18:30)	14th May 2024	19:00
Annual Town Assembly	20th May 2024	19:00
Promotions and Communications	21st May 2024	19:00
Services and Infrastructure (Planning if required at 18:30)	28th May 2024	19:00

All Council Meetings are held at Edgar Hall

You can find detail of the work the Council are undertaking in the minutes of the Town Council meetings on the Council's website. somertontowncouncil.gov.uk /agendas-and-minutes.

D-Day Commemoration Events

Cllr Jackie Buckle had the pleasure of talking with many of our older Somerton residents who kindly shared their memories and articles relating to WW2.

The magnificent photo of Audrey Cole below celebrates her war work with the WAAF piloting airplanes from the manufacturing depot in Southampton to the many wartime airfields around the country.

Would you like to share your memories or do you have a family member who you could ask to recount their stories and then share their memories with us?

Calling all Evacuees, POW's, Land Army and members of restricted occupations. Find those stories and write them down so we do not lose our history. We owe an enormous debt to each and every one living or deceased, and we salute your sacrifice and courage.

We ask all Somertonians for any stories, pictures or artefacts that you would be willing to share with us on the weekend of 8-9th June 2024.

Please contact Cllr Jackie Buckle by calling 07789 074874, or email Jackie.buckle@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk



The Town Council are planning several events to mark the anniversary of D-Day from Thursday 6th June to Sunday 9th June 2024. Please come along and join us to support the commemorative events.

Programme of D-Day Commemoration Events Thursday 6th June

08:00 Proclamation Event with wreath laying, Town Square 19:30 to 21:40 Beacon Event, Somerton Recreation Ground. Music from Somerton Concert Band and DJ Ray. Food and Sports Bar.

21:15 Beacon lighting at with Tribute and Standards

Saturday 8th June

20:00 to 23:00 D-Day Dance, Edgar Hall- 40s Dress optional - Spot prizes.

Berties Big Band and the Somerton Drama Society Singers - £10 a ticket including a glass of wine from Cobbs – only 110 tickets available!

Fish and Chips will be available to purchase with £1 donation to Forces Charity.

Sunday 9th June

12:00 to 17:00 D-Day Family Picnic and Funday, Recreation Ground – Free Entry and we will be collecting for Charity during the afternoon.

Sports bar, music, food outlets, ice cream van and stalls. Displays of D Day memorabilia, The Barnes Collection from Yeovilton, Wessex Military Vehicles, RBL Motor-bikers.

Music - HMS Heron Band, Singer Danny Aspey, DJ Ray.

Kids Fun Activities – Circus skills, Crafts, Climbing Wall, Drum Bus, Old Time Races, Fancy Dress Parade.

We would like more stalls and volunteers for these events. Volunteers are needed to help the events be successful – if you can help, please contact the Councillor and Volunteers Team on 07718 920198.

Help us Celebrate Somerset Day 11th May 2024

Somerton is celebrating the best of local Somerset wares, in the **Parish Rooms** on **Saturday 11th May 2024** from 10:00 to 14:00. Please join us to enjoy goodies from Cobbs Wholefoods, Tricky Cider, Oggy Oggy Pasties, Scrumpy Sisters, Etsome Arms and Natures Pantry. You will also be able to come along and find out more about the Somerton Cary Community Shed. Anyone wishing to be included in



our celebrations please contact Martyn George to find out more by emailing martyn.george@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk or by calling 07984 602170.

Annual Assembly and Community Awards

The Town Council is hosting the Annual Parish Meeting/ Assembly on 20th May 2024 at 19:00 at Edgar Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of all the local government electors for the Parish. Please come along and join us, refreshments will be available.

The evening will include speeches by some of our Councillors and local group representatives and we will



also recognise and celebrate our local volunteers by presenting awards and certificates. The awards are presented following receipt of your nominations, closing date Friday 3rd May 2024.

Somerton Best Front Gardens Competition 2024

Each year Somerton Town Council awards trophies and certificates to residents of Somerton who have "gone the extra mile" to ensure that their front garden is full of colour and 'does Somerton proud'.

Members of Somerton Gardeners Club carry out the judging in June and submit the results to the Town Council. There are 10 members of the judging panel, and it takes over 100 hours to check every front garden in Somerton and then decide on the awards. There are four categories of garden: Traditional, Pots and Gravel, Pollinator Friendly and Newbuild (less than 5 years).

The awards ceremony is held at the Annual Flower Show, which is being held this year on the 17th of August at Edgar Hall.

To ensure that your garden is in with a chance, fill your garden with colourful blooms and watch out for the judges in June!

We are here to support our residents

If residents have any comments or questions regarding anything within the magazine, or questions in general, please direct them to your editor by emailing **viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk**. Or by contacting your Clerk's office by calling **01458 272236**, by emailing **office@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk** or **deputy.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk**.

Please note that the office staff work part time hours, and the office opening times are **09:00 to 12.00 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.** We endeavour to respond as promptly as possible.

Somerton Cary Community Shed - May News





The shed is located at Wild Meadow Farm, Park Lane, access is secured but you will find phone numbers on a sign by the gate. Please call to gain access where we can welcome you with a cuppa. It is a beautiful setting where you can come to join in, learn, relax and make new friends.

We are open on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 13:00.

We are collecting membership subscriptions of £25.00 per annum from your first visit or after you try up to 2 taster sessions. Plus £3 per session/attendance after that. We can take cash or card.

We hope that the membership fees will cover the next year's insurance and the attendance monies will cover the monthly rental and electricity costs. We have ideas for projects to make either singly or as a group. Membership forms are now available. Contact Mo by calling 07718 920198 or emailing: fletcher080@btinternet.com.

Would you like to help with fitting out the shed?

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Mo Fletcher on 07718 920198.



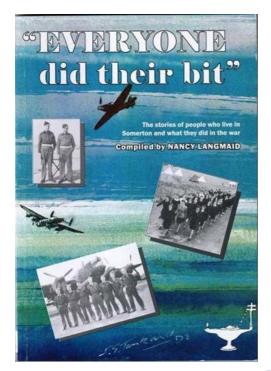
Somerton History Society

The next meeting is on Thursday 23rd of May. Come and find out if you would have sided with the Royalists or the Rebels at the Battle of Sedgemoor from military historian, James Porter. The meeting starts at 19:30 in the Paris Rooms. The doors will open from 19:00 for refreshments. Members attend for free, with guests very welcome at £4 per person.

'Everyone did their Bit'

The book includes stories from nearly one hundred people who lived in Somerton during the war, many of those who contributed have since passed on. They recounted their war stories as soldiers, sailors, evacuated children, factory workers, nurses and from many others. The stories were collated by local lady Nancy Schooling (formerly Langmaid) , but this was a community effort to ensure this part of Somerton's history lived on. Copies are now being sold in remembrance of D-Day + 80 years.

The book is available to purchase from Stationery House in the Market Square at the nominal cost of £5.00 per copy to cover the cost of producing the book.





Somerton Merry Widows

Our meetings are on first and third Tuesdays of every month at 10:30 in The Barn at The White Hart in Somerton.

On May 7th we have a Fire Officer talking to us about safely living on your own in your home - every person living on their own is entitled to a home visit from the Fire Service.



Come in to The White Hart - order your drink and come on down to the Barn where a warm welcome awaits you.

For more information call Dru 07799 2632047 or email perrydruscilla@gmail.com

Stepping Stones Bereavement Group

Starting in Somerton on Wednesday 19th June. We will meet at The Barn, St. Cleers, Polham Lane from 10:30 to 12:00 every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

There will be a warm welcome and a friendly chat over tea or coffee and a chance to offer and receive support from one another.

There will be no charge and it's open to all to enable us to help each other cope with our loss and grief.

For further information contact Denise on 01458 898242.

The Club at Somerton Annual General Meeting

The Club at Somerton (formally Somerton Sports Club) will be hosting our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 13th June 2024 at 19:30 at The Club.

This is an open forum meeting where the previous year will be discussed as well as discussions on our plans for the year to come. We encourage all members of the community to attend and have their say. We are also asking for volunteers to sit on our Committee, as well as any volunteers that would like to take a more active role by filling in one of our Executive Committee positions.

To register your interest in joining the Committee, or being in one of our Executive Committee positions, please sign up using the form which will be displayed in the Club. We look forward to seeing you there.

Laburnum Drive Committee

May will be filled with our regular happy get-togethers, including our Tuesday Coffee mornings from 10:00, Bacon Butties on the 7th, but not on 14th May when we will be off on our coach trip to TEIGNMOUTH! Departing at 10:00 costing £11.00pp. Wednesdays host our free Games afternoon at 14:00 and Bingo every Thursday at 14:00.

Good news is we have a new entrance door, making easier access for pushers and buggies. Booking notices are in the hall, where you will find further information of all events.

A Busy Month for the Gardening Club

On Saturday the 4th May the Gardening Club is taking a coach trip to Exbury Gardens in Hampshire. Exbury has over 220 acres of gardens. The azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons are spectacular! The coach leaves Somerton at 8:00 and will return by 19:30. Tickets cost £40 which includes the cost of the coach, entrance to the



gardens and a steam train ride. There are a few tickets remaining.

On the 8th May at 18:00 the Gardening Club will be visiting Stoberry Gardens in Wells. The cost is £11.75 and includes tea and cake.

On the 11th May the Annual Plant Sale will take place in outside the Library in Cox's yard. Come along between 9:30 and 12:00 to buy plants at very reasonable prices. For further details please contact secretary Annette Sparks on 01458 258947



LTG continues to lead the way in reopening a station for the Somerton and Langport area. The group bid in March for Great Western Railway (GWR) Customer and Community Improvement Funding (CCIF) to

support two pieces of research to further strengthen the case for the reopened railway station to serve Somerton and Langport on the main line between Castle Cary and Taunton. The group continues to work collaboratively with stake holders such as Somerset Council.

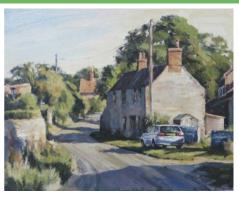
The business case has been described as compelling showing sufficient pathways exist on the line for a new service. Specialist consultants will now need to develop further detail on how an operator could serve the station with a particular service.

For information about the project see www.langporttransportgroup.org

Somerton Group of Artists

Somerton Group of Artists monthly meeting is on Wednesday 8th May at 19:30 in the Parish Rooms, Market Square, Somerton.

"Paul Weaver makes a welcome return to give a demonstration with water soluble oils entitled 'Landscapes: Rural Buildings, Light and Shade" Paul is a full-time artist, tutor and demonstrator based in Bristol. His primary



inspirations are light and atmospheric effects. Townscapes, markets and the bustle of the city are favourite subjects as well as landscapes, marine and coastal scenes. Members free, visitors welcome -£5 on the door. Refreshments available. www.somertonartists.co.uk

St Andrews Flower Festival, Compton Dundon

This year's Flower Festival will be held from 25th to 27th May 2024 in St Andrews Church. We will celebrate all the organisations in the village in flowers and pictures.

The church will be open for viewing from 10:00 to 17:00 and refreshments will be available. There will also be plants and produce for sale. Disabled parking is next to the church gate otherwise Peak Lane is available for parking.

Somerton Library - Regular Activities

Wednesday Knit & Natter – 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month - 10:30 to 12:00

Thursday Story Time – from 10:30 to 11:00 Saturday Chess Club - 10:00 to 12:00

Lego Challenge - 1st Saturday of the month - 10:30 to 11:30

For further information please visit: w: somertonlibrary.com/activities

Somerton Cinema Society 18th May 2024, 18:00 in the Parish Rooms

The film this month being screened at the Parish Rooms on Saturday 18th May starting at 18:00 (new time!) is ... "**One Life**", starring Sir Anthony Hopkins. The film is a true story of a British stockbroker and humanitarian who helped rescue adults and children from the rise of Nazi Germany in 1938.

Have your say....

Age UK Somerset is looking for friendly people in our area who would like to get involved with making life happier for local older people.



As we get older, living alone and lacking the confidence or

mobility to get out of the house can lead to anxiety, low mood and devastating loneliness. To solve these issues local charity Age UK Somerset have two wonderful free schemes running here - **Walk and Talk** which matches a volunteer with an older person for a weekly gentle walk and chat, and **Wellbeing Friends** where a volunteer visits each week to offer some friendly company. However, they are **desperate for volunteers to lend a hand** and they have waiting lists for both services. If you can spare an hour a week (flexible) and would like to make a difference in your community please contact them by emailing volunteers@ageuksomerset.org.uk or by calling 01823 345627

Somerset Sight is a local charity that has been supporting sight impaired people across Somerset for over a hundred years and in 2019 we proudly won the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

We are looking for volunteers across Somerset to work one-to-one with sight impaired people.



Our befriending service volunteers visit regularly to provide companionship and support to people with sight impairment. We offer full training and support, and pay all reasonable out of pocket expenses, including mileage.

If you would like to know more about joining our friendly team, please contact us on 01823 333818 or email: admin@somersetsight.org.uk

Further information about us can be found on our Facebook page @somersetsight and on our website:www.somersetsight.org.uk



Christian Aid Week 2024 12th to 18th May A group of volunteers will be delivering a Christian Aid envelope through your door, if you live in Somerton, during Christian Aid week. Please take your envelope to the cash desk in the Co-op if you can. If you would like your envelope to be collected from your house please call 07799 208989.

Events and Clubs May 2024

If you would like your event to be included in the June 2024 edition, please contact viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk by 10th May 2024

When	Who and Where	Contact
Sunday	Life Church at Edgar Hall. 10:30 to 12:00	Conrad Lucas - 07891665938 Andy Barton- 07530 070555 E: conrad@lifechurchsomerton.co.uk
	Somerton Saxons U6 Rugby at Gassons Lane - Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch. 9:30 to 11:00	Dan Dury - 07970 770946
	Girls Cluster Rugby U12+.	Dan Dury - 07970 770946 Keiron Wilce 07419 995866
Monday	Tot's Life at Edgar Hall 9:30 to 11:00	Kerryanne Lucas - 07715 926923 E: kerryanne.lucas@btinternet.com
	Yoga Classes in the Parish Rooms. 11:30 to 12:30	Sue Knight 07854 641950 E: itssue@mail.com
	Cubs Ages 8 – 10 .5 years 18:00 – 19:30	Somerton Scout Hall
	Pilates - Inhale to Prepare Edgar Hall. 18:00 to 19:00	Gill Hampson 07526 534889 E: gill- hampson6@gmail.com
Tuesday	Women's Institute (WI) in the Parish Rooms. 14:30 - Third Tuesday of the month only	Sue Long and 01458 274038 and Ray Loveall 01458 272095
	Squirrels Ages 4-6 years 16:30 – 17:30 Somerton Scout Hall	Fiona E: info@somertonscout- group.org.uk
	Somerton and District Bowls Club at Sports Ground, Gassons Lane. 17:45	Peter Jones 01458 224212 W: somertonbowlsclub.co.uk
	Somerton Town FC at Huish School (Oct - Spring) 18:30	Jason Burton-Tuttiett 07825 180506 E: jasonb52s@yahoo.com
	Somerton Runners at the Recreational Ground - hardstanding. 18:00	Keith Brackstone - 07999 511366 E: coachkeith53@gmail.com
	Men's over 18s Rugby Club Gassons Lane. Elrian Williams Memorial Pitch. 19:00	Gary Saunders 07870 861731 Chris Burrows 07957 091627
	Mid Wessex Singers at West Street Church Hall. 19:00 to 21:00	Sheena Smith 07768 704833 E: info@midwessexsingers.co.uk

Events and Clubs May 2024

When	Who and Where	Contact
Wednesday	Meditation & Mindfulness at the Parish Rooms. 9:25 to 10:30	07803 497496 E: brotheryonten@gmail.com
	In Line We Dance 10:00 to 12:00 at Edgar Hall	Mat on 07548 601518 info@inlinewedance.co.uk
	Create and Connect at ACEarts 10:30 to 12:20	Nina Gromw-Lewis 01458 273008 E: hello@acearts.co.uk W: acearts.co.uk
	Somerton Probus Club at the Sports Club. 11:30 - Last Wednesday of the month only	Barrie Davies 07811 770061 E: barrie.davies@btinternet.com
	Beavers Ages 6-8 years 17:00 to 18:15 Somerton Scout Hall	Fiona E:info@somertonscoutgroup. org.uk
	Somerton Group of Artists at the Parish Rooms. 19:30 - Second Wednesday of the month only	Mandy McAllen E: mandymcallen1@gmail.com Free to members or £5 to visitors
	Somerton Gardeners Club 19.30 at St Cleers Chapel - Second Wednesday of the month only	Annette Sparks 01458 258947 annettes2853@gmail.com somertongc. com £3 for visitors
	Somerton Saxons Rugby Club at Gassons Lane - Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch. 19:00 to 20:30	Dan Dury 07970 770946 Julia Holland 07934 641544 U9s (yr 4), U10s (yr 5), & U11s (yr 6)
Thursday	In Line We Dance 10:00 to 12:00 at Edgar Hall	Mat on 07548 601518 info@inlinewedance.co.uk
	Drawing for all at ACEarts 10:30 to 12:30	Nina Gromw-Lewis 01458 273008 E: hello@acearts.co.uk W: acearts.co.uk
	Friendship Club at the Sports Club. 10:30 - Second Thursday of the Month only	Mo Fletcher 01458 274631 E: fletcher080@btinternet.com
	Health Walks Somerton Library 11:30 - First and Third Thursday of the Month only	Mo Fletcher 01458 274631 E: fletcher080@btinternet.com
	Girls Rugby Club (10-16 yrs) at Gassons Lane - 18:00 to 19:30	E: crc@somertonrfc.co.uk
	Wessex Junior Youth Club at the Wessex Rooms. 18:00 to 19:30	Clive and Sara Dyer 01458 273655 or 07970180608 E: sarad53@hotmail.com

Events and Clubs May 2024

When	Who and Where	Contact
Thursday cont	Somerton Bridge Club at West Street Church. 19:00	Joan Davies & Jim Dawon 01458 272418 & 251228 E: joandavies15@rocketmail
	Rugby Club - Men's over 18s a t Gas- sons Lane - 19:00	Gary Saunders 07870 861731 Chris Burrows 07957 091627
	Archies Xtra (11-18 Yrs) Sports Ground beside MUGA 19:30-21:30	Alex and Judith 01458 272047 and 01458 273079
	Somerton History Society at the Parish Rooms. 19:30 - Fourth Thursday of the Month only	Joan Banbury E: j.banbury@mypostoffice.co.uk
	Strictly Jive at Edgar Hall 19:45 beginners & 21:00 improvers	Roy Wary 07811 018284 E: roywary42@gmail.com
	U3A Members – Edgar Hall 10:00 – forth Friday of the month only	Annette Sparks on 01458 258947
Friday	Strong & Steady with Age UK Somerset at the Parish Rooms - Please contact Age UK for referal	To self refer call 01823 345614 E: fallsprevention@ageuksomerset.org.uk
	In Stitches at ACEarts. 10:30 to 12:30	Nina Gromw-Lewis 01458 273008 E: hello@acearts.co.uk W: acearts.co.uk
	Somerton and District Bowls Club at Sports Ground, Gassons Lane. 14:00	Peter Jones 01458 224212 W: somertonbowlsclub.co.uk
	Gentle Pilates with Age UK Somerset in the Parish Rooms 11:30 to 12:30	Age UK Somerset 01823 345624 E: ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk
	Strictly Jive at Edgar Hall 19:45 to 00:30 - First Friday of the month only	Roy Wary 07811 018284 E: roywary42@gmail.com FaceBook - Strictly Jive
Saturday	The Langport Cycle Club 9:00 The Bridge Cafe in Langport	07775 670546 E: tvb@btinternet.com W: langportcycleclub.com
	St Michael's Monthly Coffee Morning 10:00 to 12:00	Parish Assistant please email somerton.benefice@gmail.com
	Somerton Cinema Society at the Parish Rooms. 18:00 start - Second Saturday of the month only	Tickets available from cobbs Whole- foods or on the door. £6.00



Somerton Arts Exhibition

Parish Rooms, Somerton

Saturday 25th May -Saturday 1st June

A prelude to the Somerton Music & Arts Festival week, the Exhibition is a regular and popular fixture of the local arts scene providing the opportunity for local artists and creatives to showcase their talent.

Opening times

Saturday 25th 10am – 4pm Sunday 26th 10am - 1pm Monday 27th 10am – 4pm Tuesday 28th 10am – 4pm Wednesday 29th 10am - 4pm Thursday 30th 10am - 6pm Friday 31st 10am – 6pm Saturday 1st 10am - 1pm

This is a FREE event

This year, in addition to art and photography in many different formats, there will also be sculpture on display with many local artists taking part. Come and enjoy a browse around the exhibits - many of which are available to purchase.

The exhibition is split into four categories. Visitors will be invited to vote for their favourite three pieces across all categories. and at the end of the exhibition, a presentation will be made to the exhibitor with the most votes.

Let's get social...

Don't miss a thing! Keep up to date with everything that's happening in Somerton this July as well as special offers and competitions by following our social media pages







somertonfestival 💟 somertonfest 🧿 officialsomertonfestival







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What's on at the 36th



About the Festival...

The Somerton Music & Arts Festival is an annual celebration of creativity and community taking place at venues throughout Somerton.

The Festival brings together musicians, artists, performers and audiences from across the region for two weeks of live music, visual arts, workshops and exhibitions to suit all tastes and age groups.

July 2024



Fleetwood Bac

St Michaels Church | 4th July Tickets: £22

Nicole Perez

ACEarts | 5th July

History Walk

Somerton | 7th JulyTickets: £6

Festival Quiz

Sports Club | 8th JulyTickets: £2.50

Bows & Strings

St Michael's Church | 9th July Tickets: £11

Talk: A Somerset Miscellany

Parish Rooms | 10th JulyTickets: £9 Operation Pedestal / The Great Escape

Parish Rooms | 11th JulyTickets: £8 Festival Church Service

St Michael's Church | 14th July Tickets: FREE PLUS: MUSIC WEEKENDER Great live

music and an open mic night at the pubs in Somerton on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July. All FREE entry

For full event details and tickets visit

www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk



For full event details, ticket prices and to buy tickets visit www.somertonartsfestival.co.uk/events

Tickets for all Town Events will also be available from 1st May from Stationery House in Somerton. Ticket prices above refer to standard advance tickets. Early Bird discounts are available for some events, and on-the-door tickets (where these are offered) will be more expensive.





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Tickets are also on sale at Stationery House in Somerton













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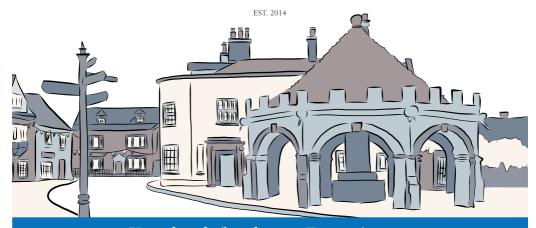
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Modern Jive New Beginner Classes

Thursday nights at the Edgar Hall In Somerton 7.45pm – 10.30pm



Age 16 to 92

No Partner Required

Ideal for people with two

Gradually build your confidence on the dance floor

Roy Warry Email: 07811018284 roywarry42@gmail.com

www.strictlyjive.com



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community by supporting a meaningful cause.

By volunteering you can meet new people, gain new skills, and expand your horizons.

Are you passionate and want to make a meaningful difference in your community, we want to hear from you!

Many organisations are seeking support across Somerset. Including Somerton Town Council

JOIN US!

Call the Town Council 01458 272236