



SOMERTON VIADUCT

D-Day 80th Commemoration
Remembering our brave and lost heroes



JUNE 2024

Town Council

Welcome,

Contents

Welcome to your June edition of the Somerton Viaduct. During May we welcomed our new Councillor Melanie Lavender who was co-opted at the full Council meeting on 14th May 2024. Welcome Cllr Lavender!

We also congratulate Cllr Mo Fletcher who has been elected Chair. We look forward to their contributions in the coming months supporting our wonderful town.

There are plenty of up-and-coming events planned for you during June, including the family day in commemoration of D-Day plus 80 years on 6th June, starting at midday. Please come along for a fun family day out in commemoration of those brave souls who gave their lives for our country.

Why not make June your month to join a new group and meet some new friends?

Loneliness awareness week runs from 10th to 16th June 2024. The aim is to raise awareness of loneliness in the community. Why not make a random act of connection, this could be as simple as a brief chat in a queue, smiling at someone passing by, or reaching out to a friend. Please visit marmaladetrust.org to help change the way we think about loneliness.

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Opinions expressed in this publication may not necessarily represent those of the editor, Lydia Mason 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 in the July edition must be received by 10th June 2024 by emailing viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

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Town Council

Council Meetings	Date	Time
Full Council (Planning if required at 18:30)	11th June 2024	19:00
Land and Properties (Planning if required at 18:30)	25th June 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](https://somertontowncouncil.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes).

Grants Awarded April and May 2024

STC2083: Langport Transport Group

Langport Transport Group for support was awarded a grant of £1,000 in support of bringing a local train station back to Somerton/close proximity of Somerton.

STC2084: Somerton Twinning Association

Somerton Twinning Association have been awarded a grant of £500 to support the cost of hiring a coach to take twinning members to Killerton and to support a welcoming event.

STC2111: Somerton Recreational Ground Trust

The Recreational Ground Trust were awarded a grant of £8,000 for general maintenance costs for 2024/25. The sports fields are self-funded and additional funding for the general no income areas of the site covering the general recreation paths, parking and lighting maintenance require support.

STC2112: Somerton Gardeners Club

The Gardeners club were awarded a Grant of £400 in support of the Annual Flower Show, due to be held on 17th August 2024 at Edgar Hall. In addition, the council also awarded an additional £100 for the planting of four troughs in Town, two at the Library and two at the Parish Rooms. It takes over 100-man hours to judge the gardens and to organise the show, in 2023 over 500 entries were received! Judging of front gardens is undertaken in the month leading up to the show. Enjoy working on your front garden and who knows, you might be a winner this year!

STC2113: ACEarts

ACEarts were awarded a grant of £1,270 in support of The Red Dress project which will be visiting Somerton in June. They have been fund raising and this has gone well but require a little extra funding.

Town Council

Somerset Day Event held on 11th May 2024

What a beautiful late Spring Day to hold the Somerset Day celebration in the Parish Rooms. We had four local businesses in attendance; Etsome Arms, Tricky Cider, Oggy Oggy Pasties and Natures Pantry plus we also hosted our newly formed local group Somerton Cary Community Shed. The businesses not only sold their own wares but very kindly were selling Cobbs Wholefoods' and Scrumpy Sisters' produce as due to illness they were unable to attend themselves.

We would like to thank all who attended, both businesses and visitors, who came to support the local traders. The Council would also like to thank the Promotion and Communications committee for facilitating this event amongst many others which are organised for the Town's enjoyment. Last but certainly not least, a very special Thank You to Mr Steve Davis our Town Crier, who opened the Somerset Day Event with a Somerset Day Proclamation.

Official Portrait of His Majesty King Charles III



The Town Council have recently taken delivery of the official portrait of His Majesty King Charles III which is now displayed in the Council office at Edgar Hall.

The portrait is proudly on display in the reception office while that of the late queen is on display in the Conference Room.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24

The 2023/24 AGAR was approved at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 14th May 2024. The AGAR and supporting documentation are available for your review on the Council's website. somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Each month we display on the website the payments made for the previous month and the proposed payments for the current month. This is updated each month and you can find this under the full town council's agenda under finance.

Town Council

Hanging Baskets for 2024

The order has been placed for the Town's hanging baskets. The baskets are currently being grown on and should be in place by mid-June.

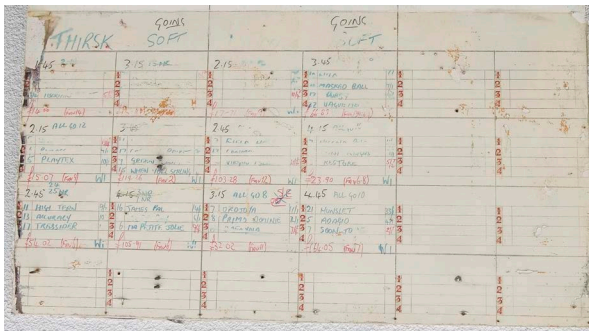
The hanging baskets will be a multi floral display and will be placed along West Street and Market Place.

We will also have floral displays at the Cemetery and in the concrete tubs located at Market Place, the Triangle and Badgers Cross.



Photo by L Mason

Fascinating Find in Sutton Road



Historical find by Ex-Councillor P Keenan.

Mr Keenan called Cllr Flowers to photograph and document this old betting shop board which was discovered boarded over when a property in Sutton Road was being renovated back to a residential dwelling.

Photo by Cllr Flowers

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.

About Town

Would you like to join the Somerton Cary Shedders?

We have ideas for projects to make either singly or as a group.

Membership forms are now available. Contact Mo or Bill by calling 07718920198 or 07717626568. or by emailing:

fletcher080@btinternet.com

Annual membership subscriptions £25.00

Per attendance £3.00

We are seeking further donations such as pyrograph, wood glue, wood in the form of scraps or planks



**Somerton & Cary
Community Shed**



Shedders craft table, photo by Cllr Fletcher

Somerton Library Regular Activities

Contact details: W: somertonlibrary.com/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

Board Games including Chess - 10:00 to 12:00

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



No Need to be Bored!

Join us in the Library on Saturday mornings (10:00 to 12:00) to play Board Games



About Town

Somerton History Society

Our next meeting is on Thursday 27th of June and the speaker for the evening will be Dr Francis Burroughes. He will talk about Benjamin Ferry, a Victorian architect, who worked on many buildings in the West Country, including Wells Cathedral, but who is now almost forgotten. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms, but doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments. Members attend for free, but guests are very welcome at £4 per person.

For further information please contact Joan by emailing j.banbury@mypostoffice.co.uk

St Michael's, Somerton

Please join us for a Summer Concert on Monday 10th June, starting at 19:00. at St Michael's Church. Performances by music students from Millfield School. There is no admission charge, but there will be a retiring collection. Refreshments and drinks will also be available. Please come along and support these young musicians at their first public concert.

This promises to be a busy week at St Michael's, as you are also invited for an afternoon of tea and cake on Friday 14th June. Come along to the church at any time between 14:00 and 16:00 for a friendly chat, accompanied by tea and cake.

Please note that these are in addition to our normal pattern of Sunday and midweek services in Somerton and around the Benefice.

Somerton WI's Activities Continue Throughout the Summer

We meet on the third Tuesday afternoon of the month at 14:30 in the Parish Rooms. Our June meeting will be held on 18th June. We will be welcoming Theresa from Somerton TSB Bank who will be providing us with useful advice and insight into life in a local bank.

Our Rummicubs and Kurling groups continue to thrive, as do the Book Group and quiz evenings with other groups. Planning for the next year's programme is well under way and we are fortunate to have so many interesting speakers who share their enthusiasms with us.

New members and visitors are always welcome, so do come along. We promise you a warm welcome!

About Town

Somerton Merry Widows

Our meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at The White Hart in Somerton at 10:30. Our next meeting is on 4th June and we will be hosting Age UK who will be talking to us about Power of Attorney at 11:00. Come on in, order your drink and find us in the Barn. Everyone receives a warm welcome, support and friendship.



Our coffee get-together is on 18th, same place and time.

Join the Half Inch Club, our Lunch Clubs and our Social WhatsApp group.

For more information call Dru 07799262047 or email perrydruscilla@gmail.com

Bereavement Group

We meet every third Wednesday of the month at The Barn, St. Cleers, Polham Lane from 10:30 to 12:00.

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 please contact Denise Peacock T: 01458 898242 or E: denisepeacock1941@gmail.com

Laburnum Drive Committee

We thank everyone who supports us.

4th June. Bacon Butties from 10:00

7th June. D-Day, Afternoon Tea from the era, 15:00 to 17:00

11th June. No Coffee Morning this month

28th June. Ploughman's Supper 17:00 to 19:00. £7, plus 6 - game Bingo.

Weekly: Wednesdays at 14:00 Games, Free. Thursdays Bingo at 14:00 (You won't need a Securicor Van to go home, but you will have fun)

Everyone is welcome to contribute to 'About Town'

Please email Lydia at viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk to submit your content. Where I can, I will include your article on community activities.

About Town

ACEarts Welcomes the Return of the Red Dress



The 14-Year, award winning global collaborative embroidery project comes to Somerton.

When the news broke that funding for the dress's return had not been granted, ACEarts launched a public appeal and started a crowd-funding campaign. The response was overwhelming, with local businesses stepping forward to offer their support.

Thank you to Alfredo's, The White Hart, Behind Clouds, Circle Green, The Etsome Arms, Grays at Home, George James,

Red Dress worn by Kirstie Macleod photo Sophia Scorr-kon
Natures Pantry and Mrs McGregor.

The outpouring of support for the dress has been heart-warming, and it's not just local businesses that are getting involved. Errol, a 6-year-old who lives in the area, has even sold paintings to raise money for the Red Dress fund. It's a true testament to the community spirit in Somerton.

We also want to thank the Somerton Tourism and Heritage partnership for their generous donation as well as Somerton Business & Trade Association for their support. We look forward to exhibiting The Red Dress here in The Old Town Hall from 1-29 June.

'Everyone did their Bit'

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

About Town

Somerton Group of Artists

The next evening meeting for Somerton Group of Artists, will be Wednesday 12th June.

Starting at 7.30pm, at The Parish Rooms Market Sq, Somerton, and featuring Artist Andrea Clark. Andrea will be giving a talk and demonstration on Charcoal Drawing. There will be audience participation so bring along your sketch pads and get inspired by the versatility of charcoal as a drawing tool.



All welcome, members free, visitors £5 on the door. Refreshment available. All details www.somertonartists.co.uk or visit us on Facebook.

Slinky Digital Trial Bus Service for Somerton

Book, Track, Travel. A new Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) system started on 28th May in Somerton and the surrounding parishes.

This on-demand flexible bus service can be accessed through the new Slinky App, the service uses existing bus stops and landmarks as pick-up points to connect users to local amenities and places of interest within the operating area, such as supermarkets, town centres, educational and health care services. The service must be pre-booked up to an hour before the journey time and 2 weeks in advance, which is recommended where possible to secure the journey.

Anyone can use the service, as long as they have registered and do not already have access on a public bus route to make the journey. Bookings can be made directly by customers who are 16 years and over. A journey can also be booked on behalf of someone younger who would like to use the service, by a registered parent or guardian. Children under 5 must be accompanied and registered with the parent/guardian account.

Users can pay in advance for the fare when making a booking on the app or webpage (only available if you are over 18). Alternatively, users can pay on the vehicle via contactless or in cash.

Further Information is available from the website, slinkydigitalbookings.somerset.gov.uk or by contacting the booking office on 01823 359 999 between 9:00 and 17:00 Mon – Fri (excluding public holidays). Holders of a Somerset-issued English National Concessionary Travel Pass and children aged between 5 – 16 are entitled to a 50% reduction in the cost of the fare. The pass must be shown every time you travel and will only be valid for use on journeys from 9:00 onwards. Children under 5 travel free.

Have your say....

Want to be part of an Outstanding volunteer service? Then Route1 is looking for you!



Route1 Advocacy and Independent Visitors service supports children and young people who are in care or have a social worker. They do this by matching volunteers with young people as either short term Advocates, or longer-term Independent Visitors.

The service recently had an independent internal review and was graded as Outstanding; and was shortlisted to the final 3 in the Frontline National Award 2024 'Team of the Year'.

Route1 helps children have happy childhood memories, and ensures their views are listened to and acted upon.

Independent Visitors: These volunteers make a long-term commitment to one child in care. They visit the child once or twice each month to build a trusting, supportive relationship and friendship that can sometimes last many years. This can bring life-changing experiences and opportunities to a child or young person – and their Independent Visitor!

Advocates: volunteers work alongside individual children to ensure their voices are heard, and their wishes and feelings are taken into account when decisions are being made which affect them. Each child's support is usually short term and there is no expectation of a long term commitment to any particular child.

A recent trainee volunteer said "I started out thinking 'what on earth can require 5 days of training?' I now know why and think you have it just right."

Your life experience will be highly valued and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills. Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability.

For more information about Route 1 Advocacy and Independent Visitors, you can contact us by emailing: route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk, calling 01749 822801 and our website is www.route1advocacy.co.uk



Events and Clubs June 2024

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

When	Who and Where	Contact
Wednesday	Meditation & Mindfulness at the Parish Rooms. 9:25 to 10:30	07803 497496 E: brotherytonten@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
Thursday	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)
	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 June 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 at Gassons 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 - 12:00 last 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 referral	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 - First Saturday of the month only	Tickets available from cobbs Wholefoods or on the door. £6.00

Beacon lighting event

Thursday 6th June 2024, 7.30 - 9.30pm

Somerton Recreation Ground
Live Entertainment and Food

Beacon will be lit at 9.15pm

WE REMEMBER
D-DAY 80 YEARS
1944 - 2024



SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL

PRESENTS

80TH D-DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DANCE **BERTIE'S BIG BAND**



GET YOUR TICKET
£10 FROM COBBS
WHOLEFOODS.
INCLUDES A
CELEBRATION
DRINK

SATURDAY,
8TH JUNE 2024
7.30PM AT
EDGAR HALL

FISH AND CHIP
SUPPER £11 ON THE
NIGHT. INCLUDES £1
DONATION TO SSAFA

Somerton

Town Council



working with the community



FAMILY FUN DAY AND PICNIC

Sunday 9th June 2024 12 - 5pm

Somerton Recreation Ground, TA11 6HW

**WW2 Vehicle
Exhibition**

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
1944 TO 2024

★ **D-DAY** ★
80th ANNIVERSARY

**Live Music, Climbing
Wall, Circus Skills,
Children's Craft Tent,
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FEATURING

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bands on 2 open
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Parking & Camping Available

SOMERSTOCK WEEKEND

12th & 13th July at Somerton Recreation Ground

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

GET YOUR ADVANCE TICKETS NOW!

Grab your tickets now whilst they're still available
from www.somerstock.co.uk/tickets

Tickets are also on sale at Stationery House in Somerton



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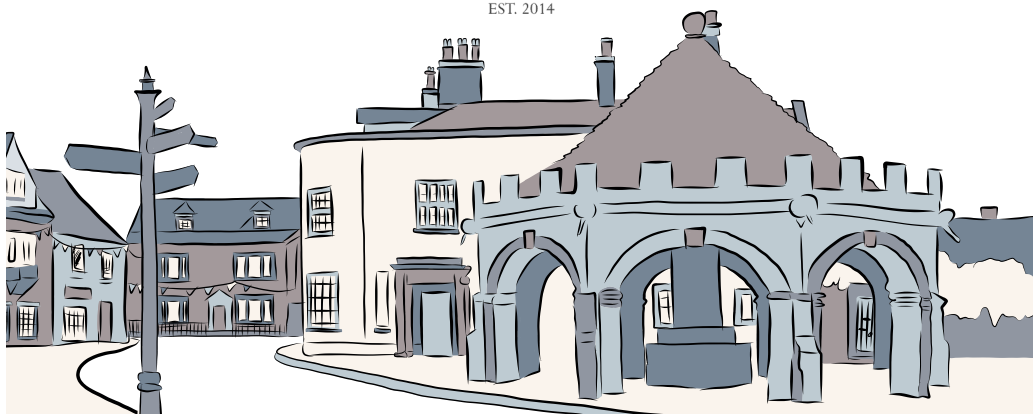
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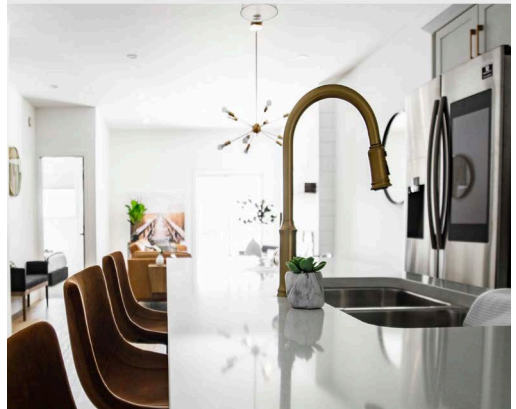
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