SOMERTON VIADUCT



Welcome,

Welcome to your July edition of the Somerton Viaduct. During June we welcomed our new temporary Finance Assistant Natalie Swiss and we also said a very sad farewell to our Town Clerk Laura Bolter, we thank her for her hard work and dedication in helping us to support our Town.

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Please note that whilst we recruit for a new Clerk, the committee meetings will not be taking place and the meeting recommencement dates will be discussed in September 2024.

We also would like to announce the new Chair of the Land and Properties Committee, Councillor Peter Richardson, who has taken over from Councillor Phil Flowers. We thank Cllr Flowers for his hard work whilst chairing the committee and we look forward to Cllr Richardson's upcoming contributions.

We are very pleased to announce that our grant application to the Somerset Association of Local Councils 'Health is Wealth' well-being project on behalf of the Somerton Cary Community Shed project was successful! We received £2,500 on 10th June 2024 to help get the project off the ground.



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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 August edition must be received by 10th July 2024 by emailing viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Council Meetings	Date	Time
Full Council (Planning if required at 18:30)	9th July 2024	19:00
Planning if required	30th July 2024	18:30

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.

Members of the public are welcome to attend council meetings. Before the meeting we hold a public session to enable the people of Somerton to ask questions of the Council and make comments in relation to items on the meeting agenda. Members of the public wishing to speak will be asked to complete a form and hand it to the Chair PRIOR to the meeting.

80th D-Day Commemorations

Several events were organised by the Town Council to mark the 80th anniversary of The Normandy Landings, often referred to as D-Day. These events took place from Thursday 6th June until Sunday 9th June and included numerous community focused activities for all ages to get involved. Thursday began with a morning proclamation by the Town Crier and the laying of the wreath at Market Square. The celebrations then moved to King Ina Academy School where the children read a poem known as 'D-Day Heroes'. In the evening, Somerton Recreation Ground hosted a Beacon Lighting Event. The events continued on Saturday, with a





celebration dance at Edgar Hall. Lastly, the free family fun day and picnic took place on the Sunday. There was a wonderful congregation of businesses, organisations, and clubs who united to pay homage to D-Day veterans and fallen heroes of the Armed Forces. We give thanks to all members of our community who joined in with our special commemorative weekend to mark a historic anniversary which has allowed the opportunity to create many new everlasting memories.

Somerton Community Awards 2024

On the 20th May 2024 Somerton Town Council hosted the Annual Community Awards Ceremony during the Annual Town Assembly, at Edgar Hall. Nine separate awards were presented to those who have made a positive and profound difference in our community, and nominations were made by members of our community as our local heroes. This year, a new category was introduced to award young people who deserve to be recognised for their volunteering efforts and the contribution their work makes towards the community. We are proud to announce the winners as:

- Environmentalist of the Year AJM Electricals
- Business of the Year Etsome Arms
- Youth Enterprise Award Errol Gabriel
- New Business of the Year Ingersent Interiors
- Good Neighbour Award Annette Sparks
- Volunteer of the Year Mo Fletcher
- Young Person / Volunteer of the Year Jamie Perrin
- Community Group of the Year Tots Life
- Sports Person of the Year Helen Sheerman



Business of the year - Etsome

The awards were presented by our new Chair Cllr Mo Fletcher.^{Arms}

We were especially pleased to have received such wonderful positive feedback from residents and local groups who attended.



New Business of the Year - Ingersent Interiors



Good Neighbour Award – Annette Sparks



Youth Enterprise Award – Errol Gabriel



Young Person / Volunteer of the Year – Jamie Perrin



Deputy Clerk Steph Plowman ready to serve her community with Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and B iscuits.



Community Group of the Year – Tots Life

We are here to support our residents



Sports Person of the Year - Helen Sheerman

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

We are pleased to report that we have received a grant of £2,500 from the Somerset Association of Local Councils in support of our well-being project.





Members are currently working on individual and group projects, the group offer crafting, friendship and a welcome cuppa. If you are feeling isolated, or just want to meet new friends, we are here to welcome you. We would like to offer you friendship and support in comfortable and beautiful surroundings. For those who want to craft, we have lots of ideas for you, all we need is you and your hands to make them a reality.

We are open Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 to 13:00 and some Saturdays too.

Please contact Mo Fletcher 07718 920198, Gary Maughan 07734 705995 or Bill Murray 07717 626568 for further information. We look forward to welcoming and meeting you soon!

Somerton Library

The Summer Reading Challenge will start on 6th July and runs to 7th September 2024 and this year it is called "Marvellous Makers".

In 2023, Somerton Library broke previous records and achieved a 42% increase in participation compared to the figures for 2022.

Our message this year is : It's never too soon to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge! You can sign up online at: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk or in the Library.

Set your reading goal and read anything you like! Each time you finish a book, add it to your profile and leave a review.





Somerton History Society

Are you fed up with hearing about the election? Do not let that deter you from coming to hear about Political Somerset of old from our speaker, local historian Janet Seaton.

The meeting takes place in the Parish Rooms in Somerton on Thursday 25th July starting at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments. Members attend for free, but guests are very welcome at \pounds 4 per person.

For more information, please contact Joan Banbury at j.banbury@mypostoffice.co.uk

Arrival of new Priest at St Michael's

The Wait is Nearly Over! The C of E churches which together form a benefice covering The Charltons, Kingsdon and Somerton have been without a full-time priest for almost two and half years. During that time, every attempt has been made to ensure the worship and ministry of care has been faithfully maintained and it is hoped parishioners have felt that their spiritual and pastoral needs have continued to be served. Now the news of the appointment and official welcoming of our new priest can be shared. Rev Judith Swan, currently an assistant priest in Ilminster, will be officially inducted during a service officiated by the diocesan bishop, Rt Rev Michael Beasley, in St Michaels Church, Somerton on Thursday 25 July at 7:00pm. Representatives from all the current parishes, together with those from Long Sutton and Pitney - which, in the near future, will be added to the benefice – will participate in the service and it is hoped many will join the gathered congregations in welcoming Judith and celebrating the start of a new chapter of witness and service for our local churches.

Charity Theatre Trips

Lots of Bristol Hippodrome coach trips to come. Starting in August with 'Come From Away', then the ever popular 'Grease' in September, whilst 'Mary Poppins' flies in, during November and 'Goldilocks' pantomime rounds off 2024 in December.

2025 trips are booking up well, and include 'Only Fools and Horses', 'Hairspray', 'Cinderella' ballet, 'Tina Turner', 'Chicago' and 'Riverdance'.

For dates and prices go to www.charitytheatretrips.com where you can also book your places. You can also e-mail charitytheatretrips@btinternet.com or phone 01458 273085

All trips raise much needed funding for British Red Cross.

Somerton Good Neighbours Memory Cafe

The Somerton Memory Café enjoyed flower arranging at their last meeting. There were some very artistic designs.

If you would like to join our lively group, please come along to meet us. Meetings are held in the West Street Church Hall on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 2 to 4pm.



There is an opportunity to meet other people with memory problems, join in activities such as dominoes and cards, and enjoy a cup of tea and piece of cake. Come along and join us for an afternoon of fun!

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

Laburnum Drive Committee

Friday 12th July starts our special get together this Month, with a Cream Tea and a Chat. 3.00 - 4.30pm costing £4.

Regular activities, Tuesday Coffee mornings (and more Chat!). Thursdays our "Not to miss" Bingo at 2pm.

Our Coach trip this month is to Weymouth on 30th July, departing at 10am. Costing \pm 11pp to. All are welcome.

D-Day Commemoration Bell-Ringing at Tara's Orchard

Ahead of the 80th D-Day celebrations we were delighted along with some friends to ring our peal of 6 simulator bells at our home to honour both D-Day and the memory of Squadron Leader Mark Long .

We feel very privileged to be able to use our skills not only for our own enjoyment but for the acknowledgement and recognition of many occasions across ours and our nation's lifetime.

Wessex House - 10-year anniversary Celebration 25th May 2024

Wessex House would like to thank everyone for the support received from the Community, Family and Friends, Former and Present Staff to make the day such a success. It was a day full of fun and joy.

Somerton Business and Trade Association (SBTA)

This is not an easy decision to make, and I've talked long with my wife and some members. I intend to step down as Chair of SBTA at the AGM in November. An interesting and often challenging four years with COVID in the middle! We've had some sterling work – the directory to 12,570 homes, and the current project to update the website; we've run the Christmas event twice which has been well received. We've had some trials too – most notably the WWU works in the run-up to Christmas. Thankfully after discussion the last works were pulled forward, otherwise they would have been in June. Not ideal for the town and expected footfall.

I'm letting you know well in advance as we need someone to step up as Chair if the SBTA is to continue; if not then I would assume it will need to cease as an organisation.

If anyone wants to have a chat and find out more about the SBTA or to potentially put yourself forward as Chair of the SBTA, do feel free to drop me an email sbta@cphm. co.uk or call me on 07850 958641.

Thank you for the support and positive comments over the last four years. I'll be around until November! Colin Powell, Chair STBA.

Gardeners Club

The Gardeners Club have planted up four containers in the Town for your well-being. Two outside the Parish Rooms and two outside the Library. Funded by a grant from the Town Council.

Gardeners Club Awards 2024

Reminder that the awards ceremony will take place on Saturday 17th August at 3:30pm at Edgar Hall during the Annual Flower Show.



There will be refreshments available and we hope that you can join us to celebrate residents of Somerton who have 'gone the extra mile' to ensure that their front garden is full of colour and 'does Somerton proud'

Bus Times

There has been some confusion over the times of the 54 Taunton to Yeovil service resulting in two sets of changes in June. On the latest timetable, four buses per day (including Saturday) divert at Northover to travel via the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton, which will increase the journey time by 10 minutes and hopefully increase the number of users of this important service.

If you would like to be added to the list of those who receive an update when the timetable is changed, email me with Bus Times in the subject line. martynandsue@ hotmail.com

Copies of the Bus Times are available in the Somerton Community Library for which we invite a donation to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.

Somerton Town Youth Football Club

Are recruiting for U14 girls team and Weetabix Wildcats!



Have your say....

Cyber Crime and where to Report It. Please visit www.ncsc.gov.uk

Detail in this article has been taken from the National Cyber Crime Agency website to educate the community on cyber crime.

Phishing: Spot and report scam emails, texts, websites and calls

What is phishing?

'Phishing' is when criminals use scam emails, text messages or phone calls to trick their victims. The aim is often to make you visit a website, which may download a virus onto your computer, or steal bank details or other personal information.

Why you should report phishing scams

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) is a UK government organisation that has the power to investigate and take down scam email addresses and websites. Reporting a scam is free and only takes a minute. By reporting phishing attempts, you can:

- Reduce the amount of scam communications you receive
- Make yourself a harder target for scammers
- Protect others from cyber crime online

How to spot scam messages or calls

Scammers try to quickly gain your trust. They aim to pressure you into acting without thinking. If a message or call makes you suspicious, stop, break the contact, and consider the language it uses. Scams often feature one or more of these tell-tale signs.

Authority

Is the message claiming to be from someone official? For example, your bank, doctor, a solicitor, or a government department. Criminals often pretend to be important people or organisations to trick you into doing what they want.

Urgency

Are you told you have a limited time to respond (such as 'within 24 hours' or 'immediately')? Criminals often threaten you with fines or other negative consequences.

Emotion

Does the message make you panic, fearful, hopeful or curious? Criminals often use threatening language, make false claims of support, or tease you into wanting to find out more.

Scarcity

Is the message offering something in short supply, like concert tickets, money or a cure

Have your say....

for medical conditions? Fear of missing out on a good deal or opportunity can make you respond quickly.

Current events

Are you expecting to see a message like this? Criminals often exploit current news stories, big events or specific times of year (like tax reporting) to make their scam seem more relevant to you.

How to check if a message is genuine

If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. Don't use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website. Remember, your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email or call and ask you to confirm your bank account details. If you suspect someone is not who they claim to be, hang up and contact the organisation directly. If you have paper statements or a credit card from the organisation, official contact details are often written on them.

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to report@ phishing.gov.uk

Forward as many suspicious emails as you like, send emails that feel suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam -they can check. Don't click on any links in a suspicious email. You don't need to forward suspicious emails you find in your spam/junk folder.

If you have received suspicious text messages, and what to do if you think you've responded to a scam text.

Report a text message you think is a scam

Most phone providers are part of a scheme that allows customers to report suspicious text messages for free by forwarding it to 7726. If you forward a text to 7726, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and arrange to block or ban the sender, if it's found to be malicious.

Report a suspicious phone call, if you've lost money or have been hacked as a result of responding to a phishing message, you should report it: In England, Wales or Northern Ireland, visit www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Report a suspicious website to www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams/report-scam-website

How to report an online advert that you suspect is trying to scam you. www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams/report-scam-advert

If you would like your event to be included in the August 2024 edition, please contact viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk by 10th July 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
	St Michael's Church Service 11:00	Parish Assistant 01458 273499 or 07483 137623 somerton.benefice@gmail.com
	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 at 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@somertonscoutgroup. org.uk
	Somerton and District Bowls Club at Sports Ground, Gassons Lane. 17:45	Peter Jones 01458 224212 W: somertonbowlsclub.co.uk
	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

When	Who and Where	Contact
Tuesday Cont	Scouts Ages 10.5 to 14 years - 19:00 - 20:30	Somerton Scout Hall
Cont	Mid Wessex Singers at West Street Church Hall. 19:00 to 21:00	Sheena Smith 07768 704833 E: info@midwessexsingers.co.uk
Wednesday	Meditation & Mindfulness at the Parish Rooms. 9:25 to 10:30	07803 497496 E: brotheryonten@gmail.com
	St Michael's Church Service10:00	Parish Assistant email somerton.bene- fice@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
	Knit and Natter 10:30 to 12:00 - First and Third Wednesday of the month only	Somerton Library Somertonlibrary.com/activities
	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

When	Who and Where	Contact
Thursday cont	Story Time from 10:30 to 11:00	Somerton Library Somertonlibrary.com/activities
	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) a t Gas- sons 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
	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 Gas- sons Lane - 19:00	Gary Saunders 07870 861731 Chris Burrows 07957 091627
	Archies Xtra (11-18 Yrs) Sports Ground beside MUGA 19:30-21:00	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
Friday	U3A Members – Edgar Hall 10:00 - 12:00 last Friday of the month only	Annette Sparks on 01458 258947
	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 15	Age UK Somerset 01823 345624 E: ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk

When	Who and Where	Contact
Friday Cont	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
	Board Games including Chess 10:00 to 12:00	Somerton Library Somertonlibrary.com/activities
	Lego challenge 10:30 to 12:00 - First Saturday of the month only	Somerton Library Somertonlibrary.com/activities
	Somerton Cinema Society at the Parish Rooms. Taking break until September.	Information to follow in August



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Rooms available for hire	Hourly Rate	Maximum Capacity
Main Hall	£25.20	500
Conference Room	£18	50
Meeting Room	£12	10

*Additional charges may apply

To find out more contact us on 01458 272236 or email office@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

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- All services formerly delivered by District and County councils, including council tax, highways, and planning.
- · Bins, recycling and waste
- Environmental health and food safety (i.e., noise)
- Education
- · Care and Support for Adults
- Highways Roads, travel and parking
- Public right of way and footpaths
- Housing

0300 123 2224

EMERGENCY 999 NON - EMERGENCY 101

LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITY

- · Report a crime or incident such as an accident on the road, lost property or anti-social behaviour including suspicious activity
- · Property disputes
- · Community issues such as parking, noise complaints, public disorder and littering/fly-tipping
- Vehicle and road concerns
- Welfare concerns

SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL (STC)



- Car Parks
- Verge Maintenance (only those managed by STC)
- Edgar Community Hall
- Market Square (Cobbled Area)
- Somerton War Memorial in the Market Square
- Water Trough in Cow Square
- The Buttercross in the Market Square
- Information pertaining to STC Meetings
- · Information pertaining to STC

NHS



- GP Surgery, Dentist, Ambulance Service, Hospital care
- · Pharmaceutical inquiries
- Community Services i.e., district nursing
- Mental health services •
- Urgent and Emergency Care
- Specialised services



FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABE ON OUR WEBSITE HTTPS://SOMERTONTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK/REPORTING-PROBLEMS/



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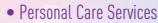
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- Domestic Services
- Complex Care Service



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IMPORTANT NOTICE Received from South West Regional Cyber Crime Unit



CURRENT THREATS

Smishing is the SMS equivalent of phishing. Criminals disguise their phone number to make it look like it is from a reputable source to try and convince you to click onto the malicious link, or share sensitive information.

Commonly, criminals pose as banks and other official organisations to members of the public.

ADVICE

Most phone providers are part of a scheme that allows customers to report any suspicious text messages free of charge by forwarding to 7726.

If you forward a text to 7726, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and if it's found to be malicious, arrange to either block or ban the sender.



If you have lost money or provided financial information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at <u>actionfraud.police.uk</u> or by calling 0300 123 2040.



More information on protecting against phishing of all types can be found on the National Cyber Security Centre website: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams



It's time to fire up the BBQ's!

AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY FOR THE LAST 100 YEARS

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