SOMERTON VIADUCT

December 2024

Welcome,

Welcome to your December edition of the Somerton Viaduct. During November the Annual Fireworks Display took place, funded by the Town Council and organised by the Recreation Ground Trust who raised approx. £3,000 in donations, which were collected during the display on 2nd November. A big thank you to all those who supported the event raising funds for the Recreation Ground.

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The Council also supported the Remembrance Day Parade which took place on Sunday 10th November, alongside the Royal British Legion. The Town Council set the Budget for 2025/26 on 12th November. We regrettably received the resignation from one of our Councillors, who will be very sadly missed, and we welcome Cllr Becky Kwong who joined the Planning and Promotion & Communication Committees and Cllr Deborah Blencowe who joined the Planning and Service & Infrastructure Committees. Both Councillors were co-opted onto the Council on 12th November 2024.

We wish all our residents a very healthy and happy festive period and a joyous new year. Let us all come together in 2025, ensuring co-operation by supporting others who find themselves in need.

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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 January 2025 edition must be received by 10th December 2024 by emailing viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Council Meetings	Date	Time
Planning if required at 18:30	10th December 2024	18:30

All Council Meetings are held at Edgar Hall

Agendas can be found on the Council noticeboard opposite Burns the Bread in Cox's Yard car park and on the council website www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk under minutes and agendas.

Remembrance Sunday

The war dead roll call, which names those fallen whilst serving their Country during conflict, was called out by representatives of the Armed Services and the Royal British Legion. The parade began at 9.30am at Etsome Terrace, continued along West Street and back to Etsome Terrace. The Town Council organised the road closure with Somerset Council Highways, and we would like to thank Chevron who supported the rolling road closure for free, and thank the Kingsbury Episcopi Marching Band for joining the parade along with DJ Ray who supplied the Public Address system (PA). A flypast by pilots from Middlezoy Aerodrome completed the parade. We thank all those involved in organising the event including the Royal British Legion for organising the Parade and Jo Gale for her work raising funds through the Poppy Appeal. This event was a wonderful tribute from our residents and youth groups of Somerton to those fallen. The new vicar from St Michael and All Angels Church, Judith Swan, led the Service of Remembrance and gave her sermon using the milk factory bombing as her inspiration. This was a proud occasion for us all. Photos provided by Peter Martin and Avon and Somerset Police.





Finance

Grant Funding

The Budget set for Grant funding in 2024/25 is £51,050, and provides support to local groups and charities, such as the Somerton Library Trust, Somerton Recreation Ground Trust, the Lady Smith Memorial Institute (LSMI) for the Parish Rooms annual insurance, the Somerton Cary Community Shed, plus numerous other local groups which are considered upon receipt of their applications. During the November 2024 meeting the Council agreed to release £10,000 of funds held in Reserves to support the King Ina PTFA outdoor structure, providing shade for students and an outdoor classroom.

During the November Full Council meeting the following grants were awarded. The Library Trust, who drew down the second instalment of their pre-organised and budgeted for financial support, total grant awarded during 2024/25 is £18,000. The Somerton Cary Community Shed were also awarded a grant of £2,000 to support the wellbeing of our residents. The 'Shedders' have now organised the Slinky Bus to stop outside their premises providing easy access for their members.

The grant application form was reconfigured during November to guide applicants in providing greater supporting information to ensure transparency to the Community on where and how their public funds are being spent.

Funds held in Reserve

Reserves are reported to the Community annually, The Town Council hold the funds in Reserve for future maintenance and projects to benefit our community.

Some projects are funded through several years of Precept (The Precept is the demand made to Somerset Council who claim this through your Council Tax) ensuring the funds are not demanded in full in any one year. For example, the Cemetery expansion project could cost anywhere up to one million pounds, a consultant would need to be appointed, land purchased, and then converted into use as a Cemetery, following the testing of grounds and ensuring compliance with Cemetery legal requirements. Projects currently earmarked in reserves include but are not limited to; the West Street Pavement Repair/Replacement, Cemetery Expansion project, Car Park Repair and Resurfacing works, Play Equipment & Public toilet facilities repair and replacement and work at Edgar Hall to improve the facilities. Other funds held are Community Infrastructure Levy, (CIL) awarded to the Council through Planning Applications, paid by developers and transferred to the Council to fund Community Assets. Commuted Sums, are funds held by the Town Council to maintain Capital Projects funded through S106 agreements (S106 funds are drawn down from Somerset Council through Planning Application S106 agreements). These funds are held for the future benefit of our community.

Budgeting 2025/26

The Council Committees proposed a draft budget increase of £16,586 (2.651%) for 2025/26, but following agenda item STC2251 on the 12th of November 2024 an adjustment to the Administration Budget will be made and the Budget brought back to the Full Council Agenda in January 2025 to finalise.

The Administration Budget will increase due to salaries and the increase includes the changes to National Insurance Contributions (following the Chancellor's Autumn Budget update on 30th October 2024, increasing employer NIC from 13.8% to 15%, and the reduction of the NIC threshold reducing from £9,100 to £5,000). Following the adjustments, the final Budget will be brought back to the Janaury agenda at £654,248, which is an increase of £28,656, (4.581%). The Budget will be finalised before the Precept demand is discussed and set for 2025/26. (The Precept is the demand made to Somerset Council who claim this through your Council Tax, this funds the Services the Town Council manage on behalf of our residents).

December Event Reminders

Christmas Lights Switch-on & Fayre – Sunday 1st December 2024 from 3 - 7pm The Christmas Lights event starts at 3pm, with entertainment, market stalls, and the Grand Lights Switch On is set for 5pm. The event will include, Live Music, Food, Crafts & Stalls, plus Father Christmas will be making a special appearance! Local businesses will also be open, so please support your local shops by shopping locally! Entry: by donation. Location: Somerton Market Place.

The Town Council are very sad to report that we have been unable to hang Christmas lights along Broad Street this year, as we have not been granted permission from Somerset Council - Highways Trees, to pollard the trees that enables us access to hang wires required to support the lights. However, there are plenty of other festive decorations being hung in the Town, which includes in addition to the icicle lights, two new snowflake decorations, two large trees (Market Place, 20ft and Cow Square, 16ft,) that will complement the 60 smaller Christmas trees which run through the Town Centre.

Community Heroes & Thank You Volunteers Event – Edgar Hall – Friday 13th December 2024 at 7pm – 9pm

Please join us to celebrate and recognise the significant contribution made to our community by our volunteers and heroes through acts of service and support. The event is open to all so why not pop along to see what Somerton has to offer! Find us at: Edgar Hall, 8 Cary Court, Somerton Business Park, Somerton. TA11 6SB

Sports Club up and coming Events..

Bingo - Sunday 8th December start 7.30 pm over 18s only. **Quiz night** - Thursday 28th November at 8.00 pm.

New Year's Eve knees up! The Club@Somerton presents The Quasars. Bringing Rock n Roll all the way from Mars! Tuesday 31st December 2024 at 8 pm till late. Members and Guests £10 per head. Adults Only. New Members Welcome. Tickets available from The Club@Somerton and Cobbs Wholefoods, Brunel Shopping Centre, Somerton.

Membership Application Forms available from The Club@Somerton

Somerton SpeedWatch

Another year is coming to a close and we would like to thank so many of you for your support and wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. Any time of year can be dangerous for motorists, riders and pedestrians, but with the darker mornings and evenings we ask you to consider each other and respect the speed limits.

You might be interested to know that during October the highest speed of vehicles travelling along Sutton Road has been recorded at 41 mph approaching the town and 57 mph leaving. West Street recorded speeds of 50 mph coming in, and 69 mph going out, whilst at Langport Road speeds of 98 mph were recorded coming into Somerton and 121 mph leaving. This is why SpeedWatch are determined to keep supporting the safety of the community and will continue to keep going as although these statistics are extreme, we are fortunate that they are not common. A new system which records persistent and high speeders will flag up this type of driver and the police will follow up. SpeedWatch do not want to report anyone, but for the sake of children, older pedestrians and everyone inbetween we ask you to be a careful and thoughtful driver. We will continue to work with the police to ensure safe and sensible driving through Somerton. If you are able to give a few hours a month occasionally and feel you would like to help please call David on 01458 897224.

Carol Singing Saturday 14th December, 10am -11am Outside the Co-Op

Carol Singing to raise funds for the Salvation Army Working to support the homeless.

Churches Together In Somerton (CTIS), will be singing in the Precinct outside Co-Op on Saturday 14th December between 10am - 11am. This is to raise funds to support the outstanding work of the Salvation Army in Bridgwater. Please come along, listen, donate and possibly join in the singing!

Co-op Community Fund 2024 - 2025

Somerton Community Library has been chosen by Co-op as a beneficiary of their Local Community Fund for 2024 - 2025

We encourage members of the local communities to visit the Co-op website and choose to support their Community Library.

Distribution of funding is no longer linked to member's purchases.

Members can decide which local group they would like to support by going online <u>www.coop.co.uk/local-causes</u>.

Supporters of Somerton Library who are not Co-op members can join at their local store or online at <u>www.coop.co.uk/membership</u>.



Viaduct Bagging

Would you like to join our team of volunteers who deliver the Viaduct each month?

The Council are looking for willing volunteers who might be able to step in when cover is required e.g. due to holiday or illness.

Please contact the office (01458) 272236 or email deputy.clerk@somertontowncouncil. gov.uk for further information.

Laburnum Drive Committee

Time to send Christmas wishes to All! and offer a big "thank you" to all our supporters, (now friends).

Bacon Butties 3rd December. Weekly Bingo on 5th December, with a special Christmas Bingo on 19th! be sure not to miss it! Wishing all a lovely Christmas.

Wessex House

Christmas Bingo 12th December, doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.00pm. Please come and join us and have some fun, all are welcome. We will be drawing our Christmas Hamper Raffle on the same evening. All monies raised go to our Resident Amenities Fund.

Christmas Stamp Appeal

Don't forget to save your Christmas postage stamps for the Somerset Marie Curie Nurses! All postage stamps are required, just tear them off the envelope leaving a little paper around the stamp - including overseas. Every stamp counts! Please drop them off at Cobbs Wholefood shop, Selwood House Antiques (opposite AceArts) or for more information call Judy on 01458 270265. Thank you so much - Happy Christmas.

Somerstock 2025 Announces Line Up

Somerstock, the family friendly music festival in the heart of Somerset, has announced a great range of live music including Cut Capers, The Brit Pop Boys and Nick Parker. The festival opens on the evening of Friday 11th July, followed by a full day of music and family fun on Saturday 12th. The Somerstock site is on the edge of Somerton, with on-site parking and camping available. Tickets are available online, with the advice to book early to get the cheapest deals. Go

to www.somerstock.co.uk where you can find full details of all the bands and to get your tickets. Image by Victoria Welton

Photography.

An NHS Initiative to keep you healthy.



My name is Michelle Bell and I am an infection control nurse working at NHS Somerset.

In recent years the NHS has seen a noticeable increase in men over 70 developing urinary tract infections. Good hydration is known to significantly reduce such infections and prevent visits to emergency services. This project aims to provide hydration advice and resources to men over 70 living in their own homes. We will achieve this by providing information and

education relating to hydration and providing resources which include a water bottle and other goodies to serve as ongoing reminders to keep drinking during the day.

We will ask you to complete a very brief questionnaire to establish base data of your current hydration and health. We will also ask for your consent to being contacted 1 month later to identify any level of improvement gained from your involvement in the project.

We have until the end of December 2024 to attempt to reach a minimum of 2500 participants across the county of Somerset. If you fit the description and would like to be involved in the project, please contact us on either: somicb.somersethydrationproject@ nhs.net or on 07880 171088.

Enjoy a Festive Evening out with Mid-Wessex Singers!

As our 25th anniversary celebrations continue, your local choir, the Mid Wessex Singers invite you and your family to join us for our Christmas Concert on the evening of Wednesday 18th December at St Michael's Church, Somerton at 7.30pm. Our Musical Director, Alice Dicker, has selected a varied programme on this year's theme of 'The Light of Christmas'. This includes both traditional and modern carols. Light refreshments will be available. Early-bird tickets, priced at £12 (free for under16s), are available from choir members and from Cobbs Wholefoods, Somerton (£15 on the door). Proceeds from this Concert will support the Lord's Larder Food Bank.

Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) 80th Anniversary, 8th May 2025

A public consultation meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at Edgar Hall to begin organising the Somerton shared moment of celebration for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Time to be confirmed. Reminder and further information will be placed in the Viaduct in January.

Thursday 8th May

- Proclamation by the Town Crier @ 9am.
- Hymn "I vow to thee my Country"
- VE Day tribute to be read by the Royal British Legion
- Beacon and Lamp Lights of Pearce lighting ceremony at the recreational ground at 9.30 pm.

Saturday 10th May – Dance, 40's themed evening at Edgar Hall. Time and ticket prices to be confirmed.

Please join us to share your ideas and take part in this "shared moment of celebration".

Free Trees

13 DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF TREES ARE AVAILABLE FROM APRIL 2025 FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT AMANDA.WORSDALE @ SOMERTONTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

Have your say....

COMBATING LONLINESS

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- Connect with others. * Share your feelings it's good to talk!
- Volunteer a chance to connect and help others.
- Do things you enjoy. * Be creative!
- Make something, painting, drawing, cooking, dancing.
- Join groups find a new activity you enjoy, or restart an old hobby.
 * Join a walking group, or other outdoor activities.
- Learning something new take a class, meet new people.
- Scheduling time to stay in touch with family and friends, neighbours, colleagues.
- Joining social groups, coffee mornings, to meet new people and make friends.
- Adopt a pet pets can provide unconditional love and companionship, and can also help to connect with others with similar interests.

Spotlight

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F 3

If you would like your event to be included in the January 2025 edition, please contact viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk by 10th December 2024

When	Who and Where	Contact
Sunday	Life Church at Edgar Hall. 10:30 to 12:00	Conrad Lucas - 07891665938 E: conrad@lifechurchsomerton.co.uk E: admin@lifechurchsomerton.co.uk.
	Somerton Saxons U6 - U8 Rugby at Gassons Lane - Eirian Williams Memorial Pitch. 9:30 - 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
	St. Cleers Chapel, Polham Lane at 10:30	Justyn Maynard 07977 753637 juma321@aol.com
Monday	Tot's Life at Edgar Hall 9:30 - 11:00	Kerryanne Lucas - 07715 926923 E: kerryanne.lucas@btinternet.com
	Somerton Cary Community Shed 9:30 - 13:00 at Wild Meadow Farm, TA11 6JA	Mo Fletcher 07718 920198 Bill Murray 07717 626568 Gary Maughan 07734 705995
	Yoga Classes in the Parish Rooms. 11:30 - 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	Gentle Pilates with Age UK Somerset in the Parish Rooms 10:30 to 11:30	Age UK Somerset 01823 345624 E: ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk
	Gentle exercise class to music, 11:30- 12:30, Parish Rooms	Charlotte on 07764 301304 or charlotte19313@gmail.com
	Women's Institute (WI) in the Parish Rooms. 14:30 - Third Tuesday	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

When	Who and Where	Contact
Tuesday Cont	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
	Scouts Ages 10.5 to 14 years - 19:00 - 20:30	Somerton Scout Hall
	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
	Somerton Cary Community Shed 9:30 - 13:00 at Wild Mead- ow Farm, TA11 6JA	Mo Fletcher 07718 920198 Bill Murray 07717 626568 Gary Maughan 07734 705995
	St Michael's Church Service 10:00	Parish Assistant email somerton.benefice@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 Gronw-Lewis 01458 273008 hello@acearts.co.uk
	Knit and Natter 10:30 to 12:00	Somerton Library Somertonlibrary.com/activities
	Somerton Probus Club at the Sports Club. 11:30 - Last Wednesday	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
	"Stepping Stones"Bereavement Group, 10.30 at St Cleers Chapel - Third Wednesday	Denise Peacock 07702 317031 Free of charge.

When	Who and Where	Contact
Wednesday Cont	Somerton Group of Artists at the Parish Rooms. 19:30 - Second Wednesday	Mandy McAllen E: mandymcallen1@gmail.com Free to members or £5 to visitors
	Somerton Gardeners Club 19.30 at St Cleers Chapel - Second Wednes- day	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
	Story Time from 10:30 to 11:00	Somerton Library Somertonlibrary.com/activities
	Somerton Tai Chi 10:30 to 11.30 - West Street Church Hall	Jacqui 01458 270258
	Friendship Club at the Sports Club. 10:30 - Second Thursday	Mo Fletcher 01458 274631 E: fletcher080@btinternet.com
	Health Walks Somerton Library 11:30 - First and Third Thursday	Mo Fletcher 01458 274631 E: fletcher080@btinternet.com
	Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Support Group 12:15 - 13:15 at The Globe - Fortnightly from 22/8/24	Ask The Globe staff for 'Tracy' upon arrival.
	Girls Rugby Club (10-16 yrs) at 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
	Rugby Club - Men's over 18s a t Gas- sons Lane - 19:00	Gary Saunders 07870 861731
	Strictly Jive - Edgar Hall 19:45 beginners /21:00 improver/ intermediates	Roy Warry 07811018284 roywarry42@ gmail.com

When	Who and Where	Contact
Thursday Cont	History Society at the Parish Rooms. 19:30 - Fourth Thursday	Joan Banbury E: j.banbury@mypostoffice.co.uk
Cont	Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton 18:30 The Langport Arms	Clive Sills 01458 893637 csills@whsmithnet.co.uk
	Archies Xtra (11-18 Yrs) Sports Ground beside MUGA 19:30-21:00	Alex and Judith 01458 272047 and 01458 273079
Friday	U3A Members – Edgar Hall 10:00 - 12:00 last Friday	Annette Sparks on 01458 258947
	In Stitches at ACEarts. 10:30 to 12:30	Nina Gromw-Lewis 01458 273008 E: hello@acearts.co.uk W: acearts.co.uk
	Strong & Steady with Age UK Somerset at the Parish Rooms -	To self refer call 01823 345614 E: fallsprevention@ageuksomerset.org.uk
	"Bump to 5" Mum's to Be, Pre- schoolers Group & parents/guardi- ans 9.30 at St Cleers Chapel.	Lin Sambell 07548 159626 Free of charge.
	Somerton and District Bowls Club at Sports Ground, Gassons Lane. 14:00	Peter Jones 01458 224212 W: somertonbowlsclub.co.uk
	Strictly Jive at Edgar Hall 19:45 to 00:30 - First Friday	Roy Wary 0781101828 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
	Wessex Country Market 9:00 to 12:00 Unicorn Hotel Skittle Alley	Christine Ward, 07971079391, E: christineward747@hotmail.com
	Men's Breakfast with speaker 8:30 at St Cleers - Third Saturday every odd month (Donation based)	Keith Richardson 07923 530052 Richard Hatt hattrichrd87@gmail.com
	Alpha Course 10:00 at St Cleers. Weekly from 14/9/24 for 12 weeks	Chris Weedon clpweedon@outlook. com Lisa Webb lisa@centricon.co.uk
	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 - 12:00	Somerton Library Somertonlibrary.com/activities
	Lego Challenge 10:30 - 12:00 - First Saturday	Somerton Library Somertonlibrary.com/activities



RESIDENTIAL SALES LETTINGS LAND CONSULTANCY FINANCIAL SERVICES

Community Heroes & Volunteers Event

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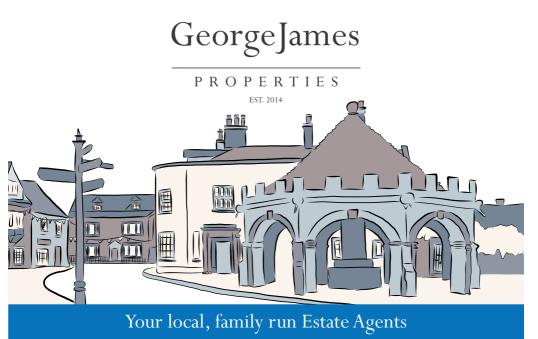
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Licensing Act 2003

Notice of application for the GRANT of a PREMISES LICENCE

Proposed licensable activities:

Live music, recorded music, sale by retail of alcohol (Somerstock 11^{th} & 12^{th} July 2025)

Name of applicant: Somerton Music and Arts Festival CIC

Address of Premises: Recreation Ground, Somerton

Post Code: TA11 6HS

Date by which Responsible Authorities and other persons may make representations: 09/12/24

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

All representations regarding this application <u>MUST BE IN</u> <u>WRITING</u> and sent to:

> Somerset Council, Licensing Department The Council Offices, Brympton Way Yeovil Somerset BA20 2HT Or email: licensing.south@somerset.gov.uk

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

Copies of representations are given to the applicant as required by the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005.



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lucymeiphotography.com lucymeiphotography@yahoo.com Instagram: @lucymeiphotography





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₩ Live in Care

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Home Instead

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