

# Somersham **4U**

**A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2018**



Image by Martyn Legge from The Somersham Nature Reserve Group

## *Inside this Edition*

- *Become a Parish Councillor*
- *Somersham Baptist Church*
  - *The History Society*



# Parish Council

## Chairman's Annual Report

August—September 2018



Dick Sutton - Chairman

Two years ago there was a collective sigh of relief from the people of Somersham when they realized that they were reading the last report from me. How things have changed! In May we had an election for members of the Parish Council and out of an electorate of just under 3,000 yet only 8, (yes eight), bothered to stand and that included one new

person. This means that there will be severe consequences for our village immediately and in the future. We have lost some of our powers already and in 2020 we will lose our Gold Standard and that is a shame as we were the first Parish, in East Anglia, to achieve this. Also our voice on matters that concern the village, such as planning matters, will not be listened to as much because other people will feel that as the Parish Council is only 8 people out of a possible 15 it cannot properly represent the whole village. Another danger is that we may not be able to discuss important matters as with so few members we might not be quorate at a meeting. I urge everybody to think about becoming a member and do something to help Somersham rather than, as some do, just criticize anonymously on social media. An example of what happens when we work together is the Carnival.

I know that the Carnival Committee cannot take credit for the weather but they can take credit for organising a wonderful event that everybody enjoyed. Think what it would be like if nobody had bothered to help or organize the event.

Also we had the successful flower festival in the church which only happened because of the hard work of volunteers. When you read this we would have already had The Handlebards again at The Millennium Pavilion performing, this time, Romeo And Juliet and if last year is any guide it would have been a great night out and wonderful entertainment.

Our next event when you read this is Picnic in the Park at the Millennium in August which is promising to be bigger than before.

Before I finish it would be remiss of me not to mention that Lucy Bird, our Time Bank Co-ordinator, is leaving us for pastures new and she goes with our heartfelt thanks for all the work that she has done.

Mind you as one door closes another opens and I am pleased to welcome Katie Ixer as our new Co-ordinator. I know everybody will give her a warm welcome and I am not just talking about the Coffee Mornings.

In conclusion please think about what you can do for Somersham and for those with good memories I can report that Eva, Roman, Holly, Poppy, Jessie and Lucy are still behaving themselves.

## SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

There are 7 Parish Councillor vacancies on the above Council following the Elections in May 2018.

If you are interested in applying for a vacancy please contact:-

**Parish Clerk: Mrs P Bryant**

[clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk)

**Tel: 01487 841359**

Candidates will be provided with an application form and associated papers to complete and return to the Parish Clerk prior to the closing date below.

**A proportional vote for the co-option of the new Councillors will take place at the Parish Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018**

# *Become a Parish Councillor!*

August—September 2018

Role Purpose to: Represent the views of Parishioners within and outside the Parish.

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## **Main Duties and Responsibilities**

- To participate constructively in the government of the Parish Council
- To participate fully in the formation and scrutiny of the Parish Council's policies, budgets, strategies and service delivery including the 'Parish Plan'.
- To ensure, with other councillors, that the Parish Council is properly managed.
- To keep up to date with significant developments affecting the Parish Council at local, regional and national levels.
- To promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Parish taking account of the strategic effects on other communities and the Parish Council as a whole.
- To represent the whole electorate; listen, and then represent the views of the whole community when discussing council business and working with outside bodies
- To take an active part in the Parish Council's arrangements to build community capacity and promote measures that contribute to the Parish Council's Vision.
- To attend Parish Council meetings.
- To prepare for meetings and being properly informed about the issues to be discussed.
- To take part in meetings and form sound judgements based on what is best for the community and then abide by majority decisions.
- To represent the Parish Council on outside bodies to which the Councillor is appointed including the Standards Committee and Governing Bodies.
- To maintain proper standards of behaviour as an elected representative of the people.
- To fulfil the statutory and locally determined requirements of an elected member of a Local Authority and the Parish Council, including compliance with all relevant codes of conduct and maintaining high ethical standards, (including not disclosing confidential information and not using council resources for political purposes or for any other reason unless agreed by the Council)
- To participate effectively as a member of any committee or working party to which the Councillor is appointed.
- To contribute constructively to open government and democratic renewal to actively encourage to the Parish to participate generally in the government of the area and provide access to information where appropriate.





# Katie's Page

August—September 2018



## Hello from Katie!



This is my first time writing for this page. I am taking over as the Timebank coordinator from Lucy and we have spent the last few weeks working together while I am learning about all aspects of Timebanking. I am also getting to meet all of the timebank members and trying my best to remember everyone's name!

I have had the privilege of joining at a really busy time for the village and the timebank.

We enjoyed a 'Pom Pom' bomb of the nature reserve at the beginning of Carnival week. We had an amazing amount of farm animal themed Pom poms made, there must have been over 100 in total!



On carnival day itself, the timebank members did a great job helping out with many different tasks. They helped set up, marshalled traffic for the parade, manned the sweets and drinks tent and helped clear away at the end. The



carnival committee commented that the timebank volunteers were 'greatly appreciated'.

This was a great example of how the timebank can get involved and help out at events organised by other committees.

If you run a group or committee and have an event you may like some help at, or want the timebank to join in, please do contact us to discuss. Organisations can also be members of the timebank as well as individuals.

I would like to finish by saying a huge thank you to Lucy (and her family) for everything she has done over the last 6 years for the timebank and the wider community of Somersham and Pidley. She will be missed!





# Taster Day

Saturday 1st September

10am-1pm,

Millennium Pavilion, The Trundle

Have you heard about Changing Lives, an exciting programme for local people living with long-term health conditions, for older people, carers and friends? Would you like to find out more? Perhaps try out some of the activities on offer or just chat and have a coffee.

**Come along and have a go!**

- ♦ **Taster Sessions in Chair Based Exercise, Nordic Walking and Adapted Tai Chi**
- ♦ **Refreshments available throughout the day and a buffet lunch**
- ♦ **Information stands**

## Regular activities:

- Tuesdays, 2.00pm Fun Seated/Standing Exercise, The Millennium Pavilion
  - Wednesdays, 2.30pm Adapted T'ai Chi, The Victory Hall
- Thursdays, 10am Step 1, 11.15am Step 2, Nordic Walking, The Millennium Pavilion
- We also run coffee mornings and information events, visit our website for details.

The programme is open to those living in Somersham, Earith, Colne, Bluntisham, Broughton, Old Hurst, Woodhurst, Needingworth and Warboys. For more information visit [www.https://changinglivesomersham.wordpress.com](https://changinglivesomersham.wordpress.com)  
Follow us on Facebook 'Changing Lives'  
Call 01487 841359 or e-mail [changing.lives@somersham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:changing.lives@somersham-pc.gov.uk)



# *St John the Baptist Church*

August—September 2018

Wishing you all a lovely summer! It has been a busy one for the church as we put in the new heating system and we have had a number of weddings and baptisms and sadly some funerals as we said goodbye to some very special Somersham people.

One of the people we are remembering this year is the Rev. John Graham.

## **John Graham Memorial Plaque**

Many residents will have known John Graham who lived in Somersham and died aged 92 in November 2013. He was a much loved and greatly missed guide, mentor and friend to many of us. As well as taking services and helping with others in the Somersham Benefice Churches, and also singing in the choir, he spent much of his time and energy in compiling crosswords for The Guardian, the Financial Times and for the magazine "1 Across" which he founded in 1984. He also devised 'bespoke' crosswords for individuals who wanted to celebrate a special event or anniversary.

Somersham Church has been given permission to install a simple memorial plaque on the wall of the south aisle. The plaque has been paid for by contributions from John's family and his many admirers. It will be dedicated by the Bishop of Huntingdon in a service on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 2.30 pm. All are welcome to attend this special service. It would be helpful if you could let Alan Draper know that you are

planning to come by phoning 01487 741531 or email [alan.draper38@googlemail.com](mailto:alan.draper38@googlemail.com) as we would like to know what we need to provide in the way of light refreshments after the service.

As I write this at the end of June we are in the midst of a heat wave and I am hoping that the weather will continue to be fine for our annual Friends of the Church garden party on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August at The Rectory (£5/year to join 'The Friends').

Thank you for all who supported the flower festival in June, the church was completely transformed and it was good to have a chat to people over cake.

We will be having a summer break for Little Acorns but look out for holiday activities which will be advertised (Probably Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>/Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 10-12 at the Rectory). We look forward to starting back again in September.

Sunday Services are held at 10.30am and Evensong 6.30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

Children are welcome and we have activities/Sunday School.

Messy Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month from September 4 -5.30pm

All Age Service 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

Midweek communion followed by coffee – Wednesdays 9.30am.

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals or any pastoral help please contact me



Wishing you a good summer, Rev. Sue (Rector)

Many Blessings,  
Rev Sue Simpson  
01487 840676

[Rector@somershamparishes.org](mailto:Rector@somershamparishes.org)  
[www.somershamparishes.org](http://www.somershamparishes.org)

# Community News

August—September 2018



## Wedding Dresses

With the Royal Wedding approaching it seemed very appropriate that our April speaker, Fran Saltmarsh, took us through the history of Wedding dresses and memorabilia.

Beginning with a slide show the first we saw was a famous painting depicting a couple in their wedding finery, dating back to 1434. Using the painting Fran explained why they were dressed as they were in such elaborate finery. The first and basic layers were of wool and silk, with wonderfully coloured

over-garments in silks and satin and brocades, with finishing touches of exotically fur lined capes. The happy couple were very wealthy and this important occasion was a chance on which to display through their wedding attire their wealth and prominence in society. We were taken on a fascinating journey of how wedding dress styles had changed through the ages, including shots of some of the royal weddings. Fran had brought along a huge collection of wedding dresses going back many years, some of which she herself had designed and made, even her own and those of her daughters. They were beautiful.

It was a privilege and pleasure to meet such a talented lady.

## Beauty Time

In May we were delighted to welcome back the inimitable Kay Ball from Tropic Skin Care, the all-natural products range created by a contestant from TVs "The Apprentice".

On her previous visit Kay told us everything we needed to know about taking good care of our skin. This time it was how to successfully apply make-up with minimum effort and time and importantly with a minimum amount of make-up. One of our members bravely stepped forward to have her face made-up and was absolutely delighted with the result. We were able to try and buy these fabulous natural products. Such an absorbing and fun evening.

## June .... Carnival Time

As always it was a pleasure to be able to take part in Somersham's Carnival. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and we were absolutely delighted to be voted as having the Best Stall. Thanks to all our members for the time and effort they put in. Hard work and great fun!!

*For details of our future meetings  
Contact Hazel McElligott Tel: 01487 41666*

## It Starts With You

Our local Healthwatch in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are launching their 'It Starts With You' campaign to encourage more people to share their experiences of using local health and care service.

The campaign will run from July to September 2018 and will tell the stories of local people who are helping to improve the services we all use.


Last year, Jason, who is Deaf told us about visiting A&E and not getting a British Sign language Interpreter for over 7 hours even though he had a serious lung condition. Thanks to Jason and other people who shared their experience, we are challenging the local NHS to do better for disabled people.

**Have you got a story to share?** Tell us about your experiences and ideas to help services understand what works, what doesn't and what you want from care in the future.

No matter how big or small the issue, tell us about it. If it matters to you then it's very likely it matters to someone else. Sharing your opinions with Healthwatch is quick and easy and could make a big difference. Tell us what you think and help make care better for you, your family and community.

Volunteer as a Community Listener and help us find out what people who live locally think about their health and care services. You will get training, support and out of pocket expenses.

Call our free Information Service if you have a question about local health or care services and need some help with what to do next.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Healthwatch Peterborough work together as one organisation. You can contact us on: Call us on 0330 3551285 or text 0752 0635176  
 [www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk) or [www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk)







# Somersham Baptist Church

... on the High Street in the heart of the community

It is being said in the village, so we are told, that the church has closed, and we write to tell you that we are still **"on the High Street"** and looking forward to seeing you at our regular Sunday Service commencing at 10.30 every week.

The resignation of our Pastor last year meant that we had important decisions to make and these took time as we tried to follow in the path we felt our Lord was leading us. So the usual bi-monthly newsletter did not appear in this Village publication and some activities were stopped.

We are a youngish group and most of us have jobs to do and families to support so our time is limited.

We see the role of our church is the advancement of the Christian faith in the village by providing various community services.

For example, each Wednesday morning from 09.15 until 11.15 there is a Group (**Little Sparrows**) for young Mums and their toddlers where they can relax together and at the same time learn about Jesus Christ and his love of children through games, stories and music.

We also run a Club called **"Explorers"** for school children from Reception age to Year 6 and another called **"Dynamite"** for children at Year 7 to 13 level.

On Sunday mornings we provide a **Creche** so that Mums and Dads can sit and relax and enjoy the service without having to worry about their children.

Several of our Members also enjoy Badminton in St Ives every Monday evening for a couple of hours.

From time to time we run courses for people wanting to know more Christianity and twice a year a course on how to manage money.



The church premises are also available for hire on a regular or ad hoc basis.

So we hope to see you soon and there will be a regular update via this Magazine so that you can see what is happening in the life of Somersham Baptist Church.





# Community News

August—September 2018

## The Millennium Sports Facility need you!

We are looking for a Management Committee member (Trustees) to join us in the general running of the Millennium Sports Facility, The Trundle, Somersham.

The Somersham Sports & Leisure Association (SSLA) are a charity led organisation responsible for the operation and running of the sports facility.

You will be involved in helping us create, shape and develop the charity.

This role involves the governance and management of the charity, you will be responsible together with the Management Committee for its future successes and development including fundraising events.

Ideal candidates should be energetic, passionate, hardworking, and motivated to help us achieve great results.

Why not make a difference and help us shape sport & social activities in Somersham and the surrounding area?

For more information please contact Dick Sutton on [dick.sutton@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:dick.sutton@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk) or 01487 840150



## Somersham History Society

For our next event we have booked an afternoon guided walk by The Littleport Society on the theme of "The Littleport Riots"

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 2.00pm**

Meet at the Parish Council Barn at the rear of the Car Park off Main Street, Littleport CB6 1PH

Entry £3 at the Meeting Point towards the donation to The Littleport Society  
There are the archive & collections (upper floor) to view and the walk (Approx 2hrs) includes a visit to the Church

For further details or to join the SHS emailing list contact David Knights on 01487 841642



## The Great Somersham Garage Sale is back!

**16th September 2018  
9:00am to 12 noon**

Have you got cash in your attic?  
Do you enjoy a bargain hunt?  
Whether you want to flog it or pick up something going for song, this event is for you!  
Only £5 to enter your garage

Entry Forms available from August 1<sup>st</sup> at the library  
Must be returned by 7<sup>th</sup> September to join the map

Organised by and for Somersham Library

# Editor's Snippets

August—September 2018

## STALLS AT THE CROSS

5th May Church	Friends of Somersham Parish £134.00
19th May	Somersham Garden Club £328.10
2nd June Church	Friends of Somersham Parish £ 57.80
23rd June	Somersham Over 60's Club £119.00

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	2						3	7
8			5	1	2			4

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018

Parish Council meetings are held in the Millennium Pavilion, The Trundle, Somersham PE28 3JS with a prompt start of 7.30 pm. Agendas and Minutes can be found on the council's website [somersham-pc.gov.uk](http://somersham-pc.gov.uk)

6th August	29th October
3rd September	26th November
1st October	17th December

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1	7	8	9	5	2	6	8	7
9	7	8	6	8	7	2	5	1

Parish Office  
01487 841359

Open  
9:00AM-3:00PM  
Monday-Thursday

[www.somersham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.somersham-pc.gov.uk)

[www.somersham4u.org.uk](http://www.somersham4u.org.uk)

@SomershamParish

Contact the Editorial team:  
[Somersham4u.newsletter@btconnect.com](mailto:Somersham4u.newsletter@btconnect.com)

Deadline for the October/November  
Edition of SOMERSHAM4U  
Friday 31st August 2018 (3:00PM)

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

As the weather brightens up and the sunshine starts brightening our weeks we welcome the longer, brighter nights and the opportunity to enjoy summer days and nights in the garden. When powering up your BBQ's and putting out the garden furniture for the summer season, be sure to take note of our top tips below to ensure you have a fun and safe summer in the garden.

- If cooking outdoors, always check BBQs over after winter storage. Keep them on level ground and ensure they are sited away from sheds, fences, overhanging foliage and property
- Keep children and garden games well away from the cooking area and never leave the barbecue unattended
- If you have a bonfire, build it well away from buildings, tents or other flammable objects and make sure it is properly out when you leave
- When out in the countryside, extinguish cigarettes properly and dispose of them responsibly – never throw a lit cigarette into a field or wooded area
- Don't forget to stay safe around our county's waterways and if you see someone in trouble in water, call 999 immediately with clear details of your location
- When out camping or using a tent, never use candles inside or nearby and always discourage smoking nearby. Never cook inside a tent.

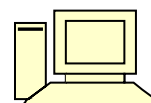
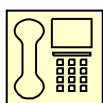
# Contact Page

August—September 2018

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Steve Criswell	steve.criswell@huntindonshiredc.gov.uk	740745
Debbie Dew	debbie.dew@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	07930 474353
Mervyn Greaves	mervyn.greaves@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	842255
Kevin Hawkins	kevin.hawkins@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	843402
Tony Hulme	tony.hulme@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	840152
Paul McCloskey	paul.mccloskey@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	841641
Dianna Skeggs	dianna.skeggs@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	07919 890808
Richard Sutton (Chairman)	dick.sutton@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	840150

7 vacancies



**Somersham Parish Council** Penny Bryant, Parish Clerk,  
Tel: 01487 841359 Email: clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk

The Norwood Building, Parkhall Road,  
Somersham PE28 3HE

**County Councillor & District Councillor** Steve Criswell 23, The Bank, Somersham, PE28 3DJ  
Tel: 01487 740745 Email : steve.criswell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

**Local MP (North West Cambridgeshire)** Mr Shailesh Vara - House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA  
Email: Shailesh.vara.mp@parliament.uk

**Police** - non-emergency calls - **Dial 101**





Keep It Clear is Anglian Water's pioneering, transformational behaviour change programme to tackle the problem of sewer blockages caused by things such as fats, oils and grease (FOG) being put down the sink, or wipes and other bathroom waste being flushed down the toilet.

We call FOG and bathroom waste such as wipes, tampons, pads, cotton buds, etc **unflushables**.

***80% of sewer blockages are avoidable and caused by unflushables.***

Avoidable blockages caused by unflushables lead to sewer flooding of homes and environmental pollution, which is distressing, costly to put right, and potentially devastating for wildlife and our local waterways and seas.

***That's why we have teamed up with the Marine Conservation Society to support their unflushables campaign*** <http://www.wetwipesturnnasty.com/>



Unflushables make up nearly 10% of all beach litter. Find out more on our ***Love our seaside*** page. <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/how-you-can-help/love-our-seaside-campaign.aspx>

***Every 15 minutes our teams deal with a blockage in our network, clearing around 30,000 in a year.***

