

# Somersham 4U

A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2019

## Inside this Edition

- Garden Fete
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- 

Image courtesy of G. Bains Somersham Garden Club



# Parish Council

## Chairman's Report

August—September 2019



Dick Sutton - Chairman

I did not realise that when I was delivering my annual report to the Annual Parish Meeting and bemoaning the senseless vandalism at the Norwood Field, there were people

vandalising the skate ramp.

These peoples' "fun" has made the skate ramp structurally unsafe and will cost several thousands of pounds to restore it, so that it is safe for all to use. We have obtained several quotes, as we are obliged to do, to have the skate ramp repaired and one is being updated in line with the most recent damage. Until the updated quote is received, we must continue to fence it off as a safety measure.

The vandalism was witnessed, and the Police have had access to the CCTV footage. It is a pity that this mindless vandalism will mean that a well-used and popular feature will be unavailable during the summer. A complaint that I have heard is that people do not know how to contact the Parish Council.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019

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)

5th August	28th October
2nd September	25th November
30th September	16th December

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

In Somersham4u, which you are reading at the moment, the contact details of the Parish Clerk, the Parish Office and all the Parish Councillors are always published. In addition, at any Parish Council Meeting there is always a Public Forum at the beginning where anybody is free to raise any topic to the Council. We have notice boards around the village on the Norwood Building (Parish Council office by the skate ramp and play equipment), outside the school, on Tesco, outside the church and on the library all of which advertise parish council contacts and meeting dates. We also have a website [www.somersham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.somersham-pc.gov.uk) as well as [www.somersham4u.wordpress.com](http://www.somersham4u.wordpress.com) which is linked to Twitter and Facebook pages for 'Somersham4u'. The Parish Council have a Facebook page 'Somersham Parish Council'.

On a happier note the carnival was a great success despite the fact that some of the large funfair rides could not come onto the field because of the recent rain making the playing field ground too wet to be safe. By the time you are reading this, The Handlebards will have given us their version of "Much Ado about Nothing". I hope this is not a comment of our work! In the future we will have several large planning applications coming before us and we will look very carefully to see that we have the services to cope with them. Finally, it was with great sadness that we heard that Paul McCloskey had resigned. I would like to thank Paul for all his hard work over many years and wish him well.

# Community News

August—September 2019

The RSPB Huntingdonshire Local Group presents

## **Birdlife and Management of the Nene Washes** *A talk by Charlie Kitchin*

This September, the RSPB Huntingdonshire Local Group welcomes Charlie Kitchin to talk about Birdlife and Management of the Nene Washes.

Charlie's worked as a warden and a site manager for over 30 years at the RSPB. His talk covers history of the Fens drainage, its archaeology, the creation of the washes, and the key wildlife and how the RSPB manages the habitat.

This fascinating talk will be preceded by the group's Annual General Meeting.

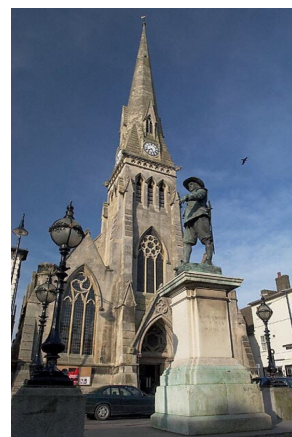
The evening will include an intermission where tea, coffee, and snacks are available. There will also be a raffle, and books, badges, and bird feeders will be on sale.

Everyone is welcome!

**7.30pm**

**Wednesday 25th September 2019**

**St Ives, The Free Church Entry: £4 (members free)**



# Garden Fete

**Saturday 7th September**  
**2 pm until 4.30 pm**

**Join us at BRAUNSTON HOUSE**

**Close to the Cross at Somersham**

**Stalls, Teas and cakes etc.**

**in aid of St John the Baptist Church**

**Admission Adults £1**

**Children accompanied by an adult — Free**

# Katie's Page

## Lets talk about ..... Loneliness



A large part of the ethos of Timebanking is to end loneliness. Through Timebanks friendships are formed, help is provided and social events are held to attend. These all help people get to know others in the community and build up a network, feel part of the community and valued.

So if all this exists, how do we still have loneliness? Loneliness means different things to different people. Someone maybe lonely as they have just moved to the area and do not know anyone.

Another person maybe lonely as they could have lost someone close to them. Someone may feel isolated from others, and sometimes people do not recognise they are lonely.

What can you do?  
Smiling at someone while passing in the street, chatting to someone while waiting in queue at the shops or if it is someone you know better, asking how they are and if there is anything you can do for them. Just by making that little bit of effort you may brighten someone else's day!

The Timebank has regular events that everyone is welcome to, and you do not need to be a Timebank member. There is always a friendly face to chat to—why not recommend our get togethers to someone or come along yourself?

1st Tuesday of the month—Nature Walk 10am meeting Station Approach gates to Nature Reserve, Somersham

3rd Tuesday of the month—Health and wellbeing walk 10am (same meeting place)

3rd Thursday of the month—Coffee morning 10.30-12.00 Millennium pavilion, off The Trundle Somersham

Every Tuesday evening—Knit and natter 7pm-9pm Centurian Club, Somersham.

Alternative Thursday evenings —Chatter and natter 7pm-9pm Pidley Social Club.

We also hold one off events, these can be found on Facebook, our web site and on posters in the village.

For more information on the Somersham and Pidley Timebank or any events we run please call  
Katie Ixer on 01487 841359 / email—[Timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk) /  
Facebook—Somersham and Pidley Timebank

# Community News

August—September 2019



On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, Somersham Primary School joined Cambridge Primary Education Trust (CPET), a family of like-minded schools committed to providing high quality education for all children in the community. CPET consists of Histon and Impington Junior School, Histon and Impington Infant School, Trumpington Park Primary School and Hatton Park Primary School in Longstanton. Staff at Somersham are now working alongside staff from the other schools to harness school improvement and positively move

the school forward.

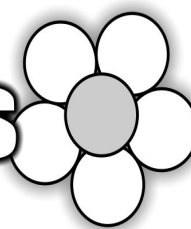
It's been a busy term with lots going on in school. Children have had lots of curriculum enrichment opportunities and it's been lovely to have so many parents in school too. Highlights include Sports Day, the Year 5/6 production of *The Tempest* and a visit from the Animal Experience in Key Stage One.

Our Early Years children have been to South Angle Farm, while our Year 4 children went for three days on a residential trip to Thetford Forest. Our Year 5 children have developed Safer Cycling skills as part of the 'Bikeability' scheme and a team of four Year 5 children represented the school at the final of the Cambridgeshire Year 5 Maths Challenge at Duxford. Our Year 6 children have visited their new secondary schools and we have welcomed our new Early Years children ready for September. There has been something exciting going on every week!

The school is looking forward to continuing to work with the village and its various groups as part of its role in the heart of the community.

Jonathan Clarke, Head of School

## Somersham Open Gardens Weekend 2019



Over 350 visitors attended the tenth Somersham Open Gardens Weekend on June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Encouraged by the glorious weather, visitors came from Somersham and the surrounding villages, across Cambridgeshire, and even so far as Norwich to the east and Newport Pagnell to the west.

As well as the dozen glorious gardens of all shapes and sizes across the village that opened, visitors were treated to a splendid performance from the Somersham Town Band and delicious teas and home-baked cakes served at *The Limes*.

A big thank you from Somersham Garden Club to all who supported this most enjoyable event.





# *Police and Crime Commissioner*

August—September 2019



## **Supporting victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse**

POLICE and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite has today (8<sup>th</sup> July) published details of what services he intends to put in place to support survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse from April 2020.

The document, called ‘Commissioning Intentions’ sets out what elements of support will be funded over the next four years through a countywide support service.

This marks the start of a formal re-commissioning process which kicks off with an engagement event for potential suppliers later this month.

The Commissioner launched a two-pronged consultation in June asking for the views of service users and stakeholders (professionals who refer people into services) on existing provision. These surveys will remain open until July 18 and have already seen more than 65 people complete them.

Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite puts supporting victims of crime at the heart of his Police and Crime Plan. “I have seen first-hand how the right support can transform a victim’s life,” he said.

“The feedback from service users about the staff, called Independent Sexual Violence Advocates, who provide much of that one-to-one support, has been amazing. This is why I have decided to ring fence money for a fully funded ISVA Service for both adults and children.”

Funding will also be made available for a Community Emotional Support Service.

In Cambridgeshire, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner leads the commissioning of sexual violence support services on behalf of partner agencies. A pooled budget arrangement, with Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and NHS England, ensures best value is achieved and an equitable service provided.

Cambridgeshire is one of five areas selected to take part in a sexual violence local commissioning test with the Home Office. This means the county’s allocation from the national Rape Support Fund is devolved to the Police and Crime Commissioner. This is not all new money but allows the funds to be used to respond to local commissioning needs.

This process will be carried out in tandem with the commissioning of the county’s Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

You can read the Commissioning Intentions and Background Information on the Commissioner’s website here: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/victims/consultation-supporting-survivors-of-sexual-violence/>.

# Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

August—September 2019

## RAF Benevolent Fund launches new community scheme to help isolated RAF veterans



Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire have been selected as pilot locations for a new project aimed at supporting RAF veterans who face loneliness and isolation.

The RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity, is launching a Community Engagement Worker scheme to help older RAF veterans get involved in their local communities. The scheme comes in response to research carried out by the Fund which highlighted these challenges as issues which most concern the older generation of RAF veterans.

**Pete Ashcroft, Welfare Projects Manager at the RAF Benevolent Fund, said:**

*"The Community Engagement Worker project is just one measure we have introduced to tackle the issue of loneliness and social isolation among older veterans. Other new initiatives include telephone friendship groups and group wellbeing breaks.*

*This year marks the RAF Benevolent Fund's centenary and we are asking the public to help us reach out to the members of the RAF Family who may have fallen off the radar and let them know, we are here to help. We want to ensure every RAF veteran, no matter how long they served, including National Service, receives the support their service to their country deserves. We want to get these people back onto the radar, and we aim to almost double the number of people we help – from 53,000 to at least 100,000 over the next three years".*

The Community Engagement Workers will get to know the social activities, groups and associations across the four counties and work with individuals to understand what the barriers are to them becoming more socially engaged and help them to overcome that, from attending a veterans' breakfast meeting with someone for the first time, to establishing activities where none currently exist.

Matt Rowe, of Peterbough, will be taking on the Cambridgeshire Community Engagement Worker role. His career in the Royal Air Force means he knows the service well.

**He said:** *"It has always been deeply humbling, the sacrifices that those who fought before us made and as an RAF veteran I have some insight into that.*

*"This is an opportunity of a lifetime, and I feel like I'm part of the RAF family again. Success in this job is going to be very different for each person. This is about individuals and what they need to feel part of the RAF Family, and the wider community again."*

The pilot scheme will run for two years.



Caption: From left Community Engagement Workers Matt Rowe, Cambridgeshire, Sue Grogan, Norfolk, Graeme Spark, Lincolnshire and Declan Geraghty, Suffolk.  
Photo: RAF Benevolent Fund

# St John the Baptist Church



August—September 2019

At the end of June I was very excited to attend two ordination services at Ely Cathedral. On Saturday I was there to support Mark as he was ordained Priest. He had done a placement with us a year ago and I first met him on a 'Cursillo' weekend in Ely - a 3 day residential where you can take time out from busy lives to think about and hopefully grow in your faith. Apparently I had asked if he had considered becoming a Priest that



weekend and so here he was – some years later... and on Sunday I was back at the Cathedral again. This time, for the ordination of Gary Evans who is a Curate (trainee Vicar!) here. Gary has already had a taste of life in Somersham having done a placement here last year. I hope you will enjoy meeting and getting to know him. He will be ministering for about 3 years here and the villages of Woodhurst, Old Hurst and Pidley with me and the rest of the team and is an excellent listener.

Life sometimes offers us all sorts of unexpected and sometimes unlooked for opportunities. We find we have talents we didn't know we had. We hear of people who realise they are gifted artists or who decide to train for a second career in later life or study and learn a new skill. Maybe there is something you would like to do but feel it's too late, or just see obstacles.. why not say a prayer, push the door and see if it opens?

## Dates for your diary

.... **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August** is the **Friends of the Church Garden Party** at The Rectory – 'The Friends' costs £5 per year which helps fund the upkeep and improvements of the church for the future (see leaflet in church). Our next project is an overhaul of the church clock.

Slight change to the dates for the **Messy Summer Club** – now **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. 10am – 12noon** for all age children plus an adult or older teenager. **Wednesday** in the Rectory Garden (if dry) and **Thursday** will be at the back of the church. Each morning will end with a picnic.

**Harvest Supper – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** (All welcome)

**Messy Church** will start again in September on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 4-5.30pm. The theme will be **Baptism** and we look forward to baptising three children. We will finish with a party tea. All welcome.

**Little Acorns** (Baby, Bumps and Pre-School Group) Thursday Mornings 9.30 -11am termtime only – starting **Sept 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**Morning Services** 10.30 am with Sunday school 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month and Family Service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

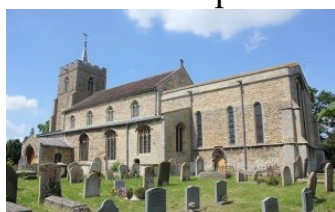
**Evening Prayer** 6.00pm 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month (lovely and quiet – come and try it)

Also a short communion followed by coffee on **Wednesday** mornings at 9.30am. **All Welcome**

If you are planning to get married or would like to discuss a baptism or a funeral do get in touch and also if you would like to explore more about your faith further.

I hope you are having a lovely summer,

Rev Sue Simpson



01487 840676

Rector@somershamparishes.org

www.somershamparishes.org



# Somersham Baptist Church

August—September 2019

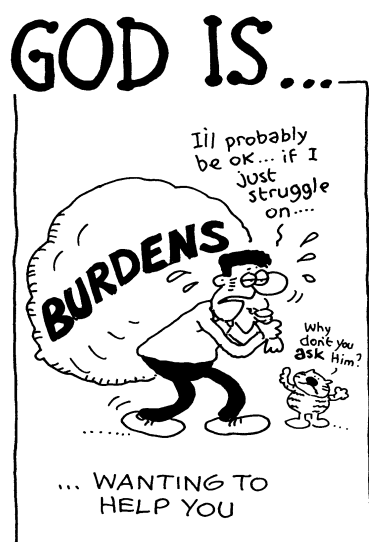


## Somersham Baptist Church

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

I looked back at my first paragraph of the June/July article of Som4U and read about what wonderful weather we were currently having but as I write this the rain has, at last, stopped but I wonder for how long! I read recently that we are in danger of running out of water with all the new Housing and Industrial Estates being erected over all of East Anglia. So maybe we should not complain. However, we are English and that's what we do!

Our "**CHURCH ON THE HIGH STREET**" continues to meet every Sunday at 10.30am where you can hear Sermons on various books of the Bible and their meaning to us today. We are currently studying The Book of Acts which we have learnt was written by Luke, one of the Apostles. He wrote the book as evidence for the defence of Paul the Apostle who was about to go on trial in Rome. Paul, it was claimed, had broken a law in Jerusalem by allowing a fellow Christian to enter part of the Temple when he was not fully qualified to do so. We are grateful to our Speakers who come from churches around the local area and for the knowledge they have given us.



Summer and School Holidays are getting closer as I write and we hope that you all have a relaxing break from the stresses of Exams and for the teachers to have a good rest to return completely refreshed to face the challenges of a new term. We hear, so often now, of students suffering from depression caused by bullying and

the so called "social media" that we hope and pray those affected could find that the Christian way of life would help them to overcome those problems that cause so much worry and concern for them and their parents and other members of the family.

We are open on a Wednesday evening from 7pm for prayer and quiet contemplation and look forward to seeing you then and also at our Sunday Service from 10.30am followed by coffee, tea and cakes/biscuits.

A reminder about our Youth Groups, **Little Sparrows** for Mums, Tots and Tinies every Wednesday at 9.15am until 11.15am

**Dynamite**, for school years 7 – 13 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of each month.

We also run CAP courses for people who need help with organising the family budget.

From a Member of the Church



# Editor's Snippets

August—September 2019

## Public urged to stay fire safe this summer

Cambridgeshire residents have been urged to stay fire safe when outdoors over the summer.

The weather so far has not been as warm as forecast earlier in the year. However with high temperatures still to come potentially there is still the risk of fires in open areas of land easily spreading and becoming out of control.

In June and July 2018 crews attended 551 fires in the open across the county, an increase of more than 50 per cent on the previous year. Last July alone saw crews attend 376 fires in the open in various places around the county. This year we believe the high temperatures will continue into August.

The Service's Combined Fire Control has also seen a sharp increase in the amount of emergency calls they have received reporting incidents in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. Almost 4,000 calls were answered by emergency call handlers in June and July, an increase of 13 per cent from the previous year.

Group Commander Paul Clarke, head of community fire safety at Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We want to help ensure that people enjoy the sunny weather while it's here safely. High temperatures and dry areas of land can be perfect conditions for a fire to spread. Something as simple as not stubbing a cigarette out properly, or using a disposable barbecue on grass, can start a fire that can develop quickly."

There are seven simple steps we urge residents to take to help prevent an outdoor fire:

1. Ensure cigarettes are completely out
2. Do not throw cigarettes out of car windows onto grass verges or vegetation
3. Put disposable barbecues on bricks, do not place directly on grass
4. Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground, the sun's rays reflect through the glass and can start a fire
5. When camping, do not leave campfires unattended and make sure it is completely out before you leave it
6. Use barbecues on a hard, flat surface, away from grass, shrubs or fencing
7. Talk to your children about the dangers of starting a fire.

For more information log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk), follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.

**Contact the Editorial team:**  
**Somersham4u.newsletter@btconnect.com**

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

### STALLS AT THE CROSS

4th May	Friends of Somersham Parish Church	£98.60
11th May	Somersham Women's Institute	£97.10
19th May	Somersham Garden Club	£312.20
1st June	Friends of Somersham Parish Church	£120.00
1st & 2nd June	Somersham Garden Club Open Gardens	£1775.00
		(Combined total over both days).



# Contact Page

August—September 2019

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

John Blundell	john.blundell@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	840741
Steve Criswell	steve.criswell@huntingdonshiredc.gov.uk	740745
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Richard Sutton (Chairman)	dick.sutton@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	840150
Christopher White	christopher.white@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	740308
Ray Woolway	ray.woolway@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	840256
Geoffrey Wooster	geoffrey.wooster@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	07734 098528

1 Vacancy



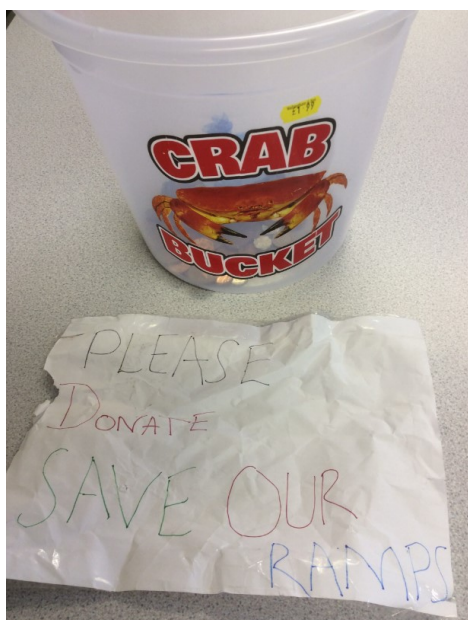
**Somersham Parish Council** Penny Bryant, Parish Clerk,  
Tel: 01487 841359 Email: clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk

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**



## Somersham Skate Ramp— What's happening?

Many of you will be aware our skate ramp has come to the end of its usable life and three local boys took it upon themselves to start fundraising towards refurbishment of the ramp.

Our thanks go to Charlie Peacock-Wright, Roman York and Danny Lamont for taking up the initiative to raise funds during carnival week, they successfully raised a worthy £80.01 which was presented by the boys to the Parish Council at their meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

At that meeting the Parish Council reported they had money in their earmarked reserves of just over £12.5K which is being built up through the annual Precept to replace the current ramp with a concrete ramp. In the interim the original plan was to refurbish the old ramp through a loan from Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC).

However, recent events have overtaken the original plan. Already in process, the Parish Council have taken out a loan for £10k with HDC, this was with the intention of repairing the old ramp. The £10k was the budgeted amount the Council were led to believe would substantially pay for the work to be completed having received quotes in the region of £12k.

However, since the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July, the revised cost of refurbishment has rocketed mainly due to the specialist nature of the skatelite boards which are only produced by two companies both of which are in the US and on top of that the delivery time to receive those boards. The cost for the marine plywood or labour would be in addition to the £15k required for the skatelite boards.

As a result, it has become obvious this would not be a viable or sensible solution or good value for money, therefore, the Parish Council are looking into pooling their resources with the prospect of replacing the ramp far earlier than originally planned and as such are going out to tender for a concrete ramp. The Parish Council will be discussing any shortfall of funding with the aim to source the finance themselves and bring about a solution so that our Somersham skaters aren't without their ramp for longer than necessary.

You will have seen many of the skatelite boards have been removed from the old ramp, this is due to ongoing vandalism despite the area being fenced off and warning signs erected.

We do realise there will be many disappointed people out there but in order to obtain a longer-term solution with potentially less maintenance required, complete replacement is a preferable option.

Once the concrete ramp designs are received the Parish Council will be advertising this and asking for Somersham skate ramp users to look at the options available to us in the space we have and to let us know your preferences.

If anyone has a question to ask or view to make about the skate ramps please come directly to Somersham Parish Council as we may well have the answer to your question!

We are proactively working on this and it's better than speculating... [clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk)

**WATCH this space!**

## SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

There is a Parish Councillor vacancy on the above Council caused by a resignation. 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 Councillor will take place at the Parish Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**CLOSING DATE**  
**FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019**