Somershay Avoice for the community Dec/Jan/Feb 2026



Parish Council



Chairman's Report

Hello Somersham!

I am pleased to start with some good news that the Post Office has reopened! What an asset to have this facility available in the village, so please give it your support so that it remains viable.

I would like to give a warm welcome to our new Councillor Francis Reid. He should be able to give the Parish Council a younger perspective on matters.

The Lake Fun Day took place on 6th September and was very well attended by people from all over the country, proving how hospitable Somersham is.

On October 12th Apple Day was hosted around the lake, and again was a very well attended event, showing what an attraction the Lake/Nature reserve has become.

A big shout out to all those involved in organising both events. THANK YOU!!

Another big THANK YOU to all those volunteers who help tend to the church yard. The grass area, unlike other church yards, is cut by volunteers from the village and working parties who are involved in general 'tidy ups'. Just another example of Somersham people giving nature to the community.

Just a note to say that the two commemorative trees on the Norwood playing field have been planted with protective cladding to ensure that they get a start in life. Unfortunately the last trees located here were vandalised.

The Somersham Youth footballers continue to make good use of the Millennium sports facility, with some very exciting games taking place. Why not get some fresh air and come over treat yourself to a bacon butty and watch a game.

The Connections Youth Bus on a Monday night is well attended, and I would remind everyone that the Millennium Sports Facility is a dog free area. Unfortunately, the Parish Council had reports of dog mess found on a football pitch the other week.

All I can say after the above is there are a lot of good-hearted people in Somersham and please carry on the good work.

Daryl Potter, Somersham Parish Council Chairman

PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners:

Steve Kirsop....December/Jan/Feb (Winter-current front cover)
Steve Kirsop....March/April/May (Spring)
C Christison....June/July/Aug (Summer)
I Christison....Oct/Nov (Autumn)

Keep posted for the winning photographs to appear on the front cover of our upcoming issues

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025

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 www.somersham-pc.gov.uk

MONDAY 24th NOV 2025 MONDAY 15th DEC 2025 MONDAY 12th JAN 2026

STALLS AT THE CROSS

JULY/AUG/SEPT 25

5th July - Friends of Somersham Church £105.70

6th Sept - Friends of Somersham Church £75.10

TO CHANGE THE HIGH STREET ZEBRA CROSSING TO A PELICAN OR PUFFIN CROSSING

Thank you for all those who responded to our poll.

We received 38 responses from the community, of which 80% voted for the existing crossing on the High Street to be upgraded.

Of those 80%, 90% voted for a Puffin crossing as opposed to a Pelican crossing

The Parish Council will discuss moving this forward at a future meeting.





We Need You!

Somersham Parish Council has five vacancies for Councillors



About us:

Somersham Parish Council operates at the most local level of Local Government. The Councillors work for the Parish in a voluntary capacity and are supported by a team of paid staff headed by the Executive Officer. The Full Council meets on a Monday 7.30pm monthly at The Millennium Pavilion.

So, what do Councillors do?

Councillors make decisions that influence how the Council works helping people get access to services they need when they experience difficulties, working closely with our local Huntingdonshire Councillors.

Why would I want to be a Councillor?

You may wish to become a Councillor to speak on behalf of the local community and help local people contribute professional skills to your community, and/or to shape the future of your local community. Councillors play a vital role in shaping and directing the effectiveness of local services for the benefit of local people. They work with public, private and charitable bodies to improve their community. Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who receive the appropriate training to carry out their role. At times the work is fascinating, always interesting and often challenging. Above all it is a chance to make a real difference in the place where you live. Could you do it?

It is important that the Council represents a cross section of all the walks of life of our community and that Councillors have different levels of education, knowledge, and experience. Using your own skills and experience will help you make a real difference to your council and your community.

How much time will it take?

Every Councillor approaches their role differently, but it does require a significant commitment. You will be required to attend meetings of the Full Council and meetings of any Committee that you are a member of.

The Small Print:

To be a Councillor you must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a British, Commonwealth or EU citizen
- Be on the electoral register, or have lived, worked, or owned property in the parish for at least twelve months before being co-opted
- You cannot be an employee of the council.

How to apply?

Please contact the Executive Officer on 01487 841359 or executive officer a somersham-pc.gov.uk to express your interest.





Space for Men



As part of our Skills Exchange Programme for Mental Health, the Somersham & Pidley Timebank is pleased to announce 'Space for Men'.

This will be held fortnightly on Wednesday's at the Millennium Pavilion in Somersham focusing primarily on men's mental health.



Scan the QR code for current dates, times & venues for each meeting.



Somersham Garden Club is an active group of like-minded people living in Somersham and the surrounding villages who share a love of gardens and gardening. Whether you're new to the village or have spent your whole life here, you'll find Somersham Garden Club has a welcome for gardening novices and seasoned experts alike.

We held our AGM in October, at the end of a busy SGC year. The backbone of our programme is a lineup of talks from expert speakers, and over the last 12 months we've been entertained by the changes to the Burghley House gardens over the years, the ins and outs of Day Lilies, the *Hardy Planters Winter Survival Kit*, and much more.

We had our annual potting-up session in April to prepare for our Spring Stall at the Cross in May, and in June about 25 of us enjoyed a *Walking Tour* of five members' delightful gardens. Our subsidised coach trips are always popular and in the summer we visited Kew Gardens, and travelled to the charming Suffolk village of Walsham le Willows for their *Open Gardens*.

Our first *Somersham Gardener's Question Time* in January was a great success – so we'll be enjoying that again in 2026. Also next year, SGC will run the biennial *Somersham Open Gardens Weekend* which attracts hundreds of visitors from near and far to admire the dozen or more gardens in the village that open their gates.

We are a very sociable club, and we have free food and drink, and chat at our talks; we hold various social events through the year; and run a members' WhatsApp group for garden photos, news and advice. And for all this, our subscription fee is just £10 per year. If you'd like more information or to join us, please email: SomershamGardenClub@gmail.com or phone 209426 (Mary)











Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support in Cambridgeshire

We have a team of fully trained Dementia Advisers who are here to support everyone affected by dementia or worried about memory, their family members and carers.

As well as providing you with information, we can help you to understand dementia better, for example, helping with communication, eating and drinking, washing and dressing, etc. We will work with you to find strategies to cope with the difficulties that you face. Our staff will offer you a listening ear and a safe space to discuss the emotional impact of this. Our service is free and confidential, and can be accessed at any point and as often as needed.

We can help you to access benefits and any other services that may support you. We can also help you to plan for the future. We have a range of services including one-to-one support, groups, information sessions and are available in over 60 GP surgeries around the county.

If there is any way we can help you, please give us a call on 01223 620962 or email at

cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk.







Engagements 2025 Nov - Dec

Nov

Sun 9th 10.45 11.00-12.00	Wreath Laying at The Cross, followed by Remembrance Service, St John the Baptist, Somersham
Sat 29th 14.00-16.00	Godmanchester Christmas Bazaar St Mary the Virgin, Chadley Lane, Godmanchester
5un 30th 17.00-18.30	Village Hall, Drovers Close, Ramsey Mereside
Dec	
Mon 1st 18.30-19.30	Christmas Lights Switch on, The Cross, Somersham
Sun 7th 14.00-16.00	Godmanchester Christmas Concert St Mary the Virgin, Chadley Lane, Godmanchester
Fri 12th 19.00-21.00	Christmas by Candlelight St John the Baptist, Somersham
Sat 13th 19.00-21.00	Tinsel and Brass St Thomas A Beckett Church, Abbey Green, Ramsey
Sun 14th 14.00 -16.0	Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester
Fri 19th 19.00-21.00	Christmas Concert, Corn Exchange The Pavement, St Ives
Sat 20th 10.00-12.00	Carols at The Cross, Somersham

This engagement list will be periodically updated at the notice board at The Cross.

Wed 24th 10.00-12.00 Carols at The Cross, Somersham



Pastor Contact information

e-mail: joshua@somershambaptist.church Phone & WhatsApp: 07743 225 597

Day off: normally Wednesday

Join us at 10:30am every Sunday in the Chapel on the High Street opposite Tesco.



November 9th - Remembrance Sunday

Joint service with St. John's At the Cross and then St. John the Baptist Church

Matthew 6:9-13 - Teach us to pray

16th November	Matthew 6:13a	Testing
23 rd November	Matthew 6:13b	Deliverance
an inotember	Principle in Grand	Leavenne

Advent - Come and see

30th November	Luke 2:22-40	Hope	
7th December	Luke 2:8-20	Peace	
14th December	Luke 1:39-45	Joy	
21 ^{er} December	Luke 7:36-50	Love	
24th December	Carol Service - 10:30an	Carol Service - 10:30am with lunch	
25th December	Luke 17:11-19	Meeting Jesus	

Into the New Year

28th December	John 1:14	The King of our Salvation
4th January	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Unity

Royal apprenticeship — A slow walk with James

11th January onwards

Readers Letters

HAVE YOUR SAY !!

We would love to hear views, comments or interesting facts from our readers.

Do you have any upcoming events that you wish to let

people of Somersham know about?

Have you any news or information that you think would benefit members of our community?

Has anyone you know, or yourselves, been involved or will be involved, in any activity, adventure or achievement that you are proud to share?

If so we would love to hear from you.



Contact the editorial team
Irene Healiss Jane Turney
Nicola David Daryl Potter Christine Dolby

01487 841359

somersham4U.newsletter@somersham-pc.gov.uk



Coffee With A Cop Saturday 16th August

It was a lovely morning with some good discussion points raised by the local community. I feel they also enjoyed a little more insight into what we do daily and as I'm quite new, a brief discussion on what is required of my role when you first join the police.

There were a few concerns raised about anti-social driving in the town of which the police are aware of a few candidates. It also seems that the 20mph limit change is having a positive effect on the community. Residents raised a few concerns about the ease of calling in and when to call the police. We explained 999 should be used for emergencies and 101 for non-emergency calls. Also to call 101 if they have any information about antisocial behaviour or drug dealing/use, no matter how small, as it builds a picture for us and intelligence is vital. Overall a productive discussion for both sides.

PC 596 M Hayden Cambridgeshire Constabulary



Spotlight On Youth We would love to hear from the youth of Somersham about any fundraising efforts, sporting achievements, exciting projects etc. Please send articles by email to somersham4u.newsletter@somersham-pc.gov.uk

Community News On This Day.....

12 Feb 1554 At the tender age of 16, the 'nine days queen', Lady Jane Grey and her husband Lord Guildford Dudley were beheaded; he on Tower Hill, she on Tower Green, after being implicated in the Wyatt's rebellion. The rebellion arose out of concern over Queen Mary I's determination to marry Philip II of Spain, which was an unpopular policy with the English.

19 Dec 1783 William Pitt the Younger became the youngest British Prime Minister, at the age of 24 years, 6 months and 21 days.

6 Feb 1804 The world's first locomotive, converted from a steam-hammer power source and developed by Cornish engineer, Richard Trevithick, ran on a line near Merthyr Tydfil, Wales.





17 Feb 1938 A surprise item was shown at the Dominion Theatre, London. It was the first public, experimental demonstration of Baird colour television on a big 12 ft x 9 ft screen. Transmitted from Crystal Palace, the short programme consisted of fashion plates and a cartoon.

12 Jan 1970 The Boeing 747 completed its first transatlantic flight, from New York to Heathrow. It is still often referred to by its original nickname, Jumbo Jet, or Queen of the Skies. The 747 was the first 'wide-body' ever produced. It held

the passenger capacity record of 660 (in single class layout) for 37 years until October 2007 when the Airbus A380 took to the skies, with a maximum passenger capacity of 850.



SOMERSHAM WOMENS INSTITUTE



We are happily planning to 'poppy bomb' the Church once again this Remembrance Sunday – our ladies are busy knitting or crocheting more poppies or creating brand new crepe paper designs for our display on Sunday 9th November! Our one remaining Speaker talk will be at our November meeting when we will have a talk and demonstration on how to make a Christmas Wreath. The Christmas Tree Festival at the end of November is very much on our agenda and there are bold plans for our display! We'll end the year with a lovely Christmas Party at The Windmill.

Meetings are held once a month, either with a guest speaker or with in-house quizzes or games, and we also enjoy a monthly social afternoon get together with a Coffee & Chat. Our plans for the new year are to extend this to a 'Wine & Chat' evening once a month so that our members who are working will have the chance to enjoy socialising and getting to know each other better. Also we hope to start an evening 'Craft Group' so that ladies can learn various skills from each other in a friendly, relaxed way.

Visitors are always very welcome, please do come and join us for an evening's entertainment followed by (free) refreshments and lots of chat!

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Millennium Pavilion at 7.15 for a 7.30 p.m. start. There is a visitor's fee of £5

> For more information please contact either Claire Callan, President 01354 693546 or Mary Slevin, Secretary 01487 209426

St John the Baptist Church

Although we are still without a Rector, the Parochial Church Council have been advertising the vacancy since the beginning of September. It is hoped that if an appointment is made the new Rector will start sometime in the New Year.



Thanks to the retired clergy who live in the village our normal services are able to continue. Please contact Canon Fred Kilner if you want to arrange a wedding, have your child baptised or would like him to take a funeral service. (07447454851 by text or 01487 842864

We are pleased that the wall in the churchyard that leads from Church Walk down to the Dovecote has been repaired. It is a great improvement; the builders having done an excellent job. Thanks to the Feoffees Trust who paid for the work to be done. The PCC will now turn their attention to the repointing of parts of the Church Tower. This will be very expensive work as it will involve erecting scaffolding. Also grateful thanks to those who responded to our appeal for help in repairing the north porch roof, following the theft of lead on Good Friday. This has now been repaired.

We are not far from Christmas now which is an important time for the Church. Details of services and other events are listed below. 29th & 30th November - Christingle Service at 4 pm.

1st December (Evening) – Switch on - another chance to view the Christmas Trees

12th December at 7pm - Carols by Candlelight Concert with Somersham Town Band - tickets (adults at £10: children £5) will be on sale from Strands, the Library or Alan (Tel: 01487 741531).

22nd December - Carol Service – Bible Readings and Carols. 7pm.

23rd December - Christmas Messy Church – 10am – 11.30am

24th December – Crib Service at 4 pm.

24th December - Midnight Communion Service at 11.15 pm.

25th December - Christmas Day – Family Communion Service at 10.30am.

Somersham Community Library (FOSL)

The summer may now be a distant memory but on October 4th we had our annual presentation ceremony of medals and certificates for the Summer Reading Challenge. 28 children successfully completed the challenge of reading 6 books over the summer holidays and were rewarded for their efforts. We were very fortunate to have children's author Vikki Mamaras make the presentations. We are looking to reinstate Storytime for pre-schoolers after Christmas. Keep an eye out for posters around the village and check our website and social media for more details.

Fundraising

We hope you had the opportunity to join in on our recent (and 1st) Bingo evening in conjunction with the Victory Hall. Also in our annual Winter Coffee Morning hosted by, and in the Rose & Crown which

Our next event is our Christmas Coffee Morning in the Library on 21st December, where you can enjoy tea, coffee, mince pie and shortbread biscuits for a small donation, as well as take part in a very worthy raffle. We always try to have some locally sourced entertainment.

We're hoping to have our new occasional chairs by then, which have recently been purchased with the kind donation from the History Society (recently disbanded).



Your Library Needs You!

We are always seeking new volunteers who have the time to be committed to this valuable community service.

Please get in touch if this opportunity to help and serve your community interests you, and you'll be guided through the process. Other ways to support the Library is to become a FRIEND OF SOMERSHAM LIBRARY (FOSL) by donating just £10 per year towards the upkeep - just call into the Library and pick up a form or find one on the website. www.somershaml

You can support us by attending our Fundraising events, as every little helps!

We also have QR codes displayed in the library and at events where you can donate £5.

Please note the library will be closed for the Christmas break from Wednesday 24th December to Thursday 1st January inclusive.









Community News (Go Green)

Men's Repair Shed

We are hoping to open our brand new Mens Repair Shed early next year and would welcome volunteers to get this set up and running. We are keen to hear from those who would like to provide repair services or who would be keen to support with behind the scenes assistance.

Perhaps you enjoy / are good at:

- Mending furniture
- Fixing mechanical or electrical items
- ♦ Sharpening tools
- Do you possess a skill, hobby or craft you would like to teach someone on a one to one basis?
- Are you looking to share your knowledge and skills to an interested workshop audience?

If this is something that may be of interest to you and you would like to be involved. contact Paula Peck at timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk or call the Parish Council on 01487 841359



Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is inviting residents, businesses and community groups to have their say on the Preferred Options Consultation, which will be open for six weeks from 5 November 2025.

The Preferred Options consultation will form part of The Local Plan, which sets out how Huntingdonshire will grow and develop sustainably up to 2046. It outlines the policies the Council will use to make planning decisions, identifies sites for new homes, jobs, services and facilities, and ensures the right infrastructure is in place to support future communities.

Alongside this, HDC is also consulting on the Sustainability Appraisal, which tests the draft proposals against environmental, social and economic objectives to make sure they support long-term sustainability. This is a crucial opportunity to help shape the future of Huntingdonshire. By giving feedback now, residents and organisations can influence the scale, location and design of new development, before planning applications are submitted.

The consultation includes a full draft of the proposed Local Plan Update, which sets out the amount and type of housing needed, employment opportunities to support the local economy, and the infrastructure required for growth. It also includes the Sustainability Appraisal, which assesses how the draft policies and site allocations meet sustainability objectives.

Community feedback will directly shape the final Local Plan, making it sustainable, inclusive and responsive to local needs.

A series of in-person engagement events will be held across the district, from **2pm to 8pm**, where people can speak directly with the planning team and learn more about the Local Plan :

Ramsey - 18 November - Ramsey Community Centre

Wyton on the Hill - 20 November - Wyton on the Hill Primary School

St Ives - 26 November - Corn Exchange

St Neots -27 November - St Neots Town Football Club

Sawtry - 3 December - Village Hall

Huntingdon – 4 December – Commemoration Hall

Huntingdonshire

The consultation will close on 17 December 2025, to get involved, go to: preferredoptions - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Somersham Youth Council

Are you in Years 7 – 13 and interested in what is going on in your local community?

Somersham Parish Council want to start a youth council where young people can have a say about what they want to see happen in Somersham.

If this sounds like you please contact Irene at

executiveofficer@somersham-pc.gov.uk

or call 01487 841359

Free pizza and drinks!



SOMERSHAM4U

Community News

NHS

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Make sure you're protected this winter

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough urging anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines to make sure they've had them this winter. Each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria:

- RSV vaccine for anyone who is pregnant, aged 75-79, or anyone who turned 80 years old from 1 September 2024.
- Pneumococcal vaccine for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).
- Flu vaccine for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2025); have certain long-term health conditions; are pregnant; live in a care home; are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance; or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.
- COVID-19 vaccine for anyone aged 75+; those aged between six months and 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment; and people who live in a care home for older adults.

For some people who have got used to have their COVID-19 and flu vaccine together in winter, this might mean a change for them as the COVID-19 vaccine age criteria has changed from people over 65 to people over 75.

To find out more about these vaccines, and how to book them, or find a walk-in clinic, please visit The Vaccinators website https://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators



SOMERSHAM NATURE RESERVE

Lake Fun Day:

This was once again, another fabulous family fun filled event. The photos of all the smiling faces say it all, especially from the top prize winner of the new addition of the raffle. We are still waiting to hear how the scouts faired in their fundraising efforts towards a new scout hut but they seemed consistently busy throughout the day.

With too many to list individually, we would like to thank all of the groups, volunteers and small businesses for their hard work, pitching in to make this event special again this year. Also our local community for attending and enjoying everything this event has to offer, not just on the day but for all of the groups involved going forward for their future.



Apple Day:

Again, the community came out in full to support and enjoy the efforts of all the local organisations involved in the planning and execution of this annual family fun filled event.

The 1st Somersham Scouts provided the BBQ, refreshments and the face painting stall, raising the healthy sum of around £350 to go towards a new Scout Hut.

There were also apple games, nature crafts, wild play and the sale of excess Timebank wool and jigsaw puzzles. We were missing a couple of stalls due to many other Apple/Harvest local events this weekend, and so for this reason (plus the weather changing the nature of when our apple trees fruit) we are looking at possibly of holding Apple Day a couple of weeks earlier next year.

A big thank you to the volunteers who helped with the Bake Off and also thanks to the members of public chosen for the judging. Well done to all those who entered with their sweet culinary creations, whether you won a prize or not, every entry was just absolutely fabulous!

We even had a visit from a very friendly T-Rex!



2025 Switch On at The Cross - 7pm, Monday 1 Dec

Join us for the annual Switch On event with live carols led by Somersham Town Band, followed by the Grand Draw with a first prize of £200 and a special visit from Father Christmas.

Raffle tickets will be on sale every Saturday morning during November outside Tesco and also at shops and businesses throughout the village. The draw will take place after the lights have been switched on with prizes donated by individuals and local businesses.

The Somersham Christmas Lights Working Party are always looking for new volunteers for a variety of roles. No experience is necessary so please contact Mervyn & Kathleen Greaves for more details on 07895 312476 or at k.greaves1@talktalk.net

