

Somersham *4U*

A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY—MARCH 2019

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Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report

February—March 2019



Dick Sutton - Chairman

The festive season has passed and it is time to look forward to a New Year and plan for things to come.

Before that I must reflect on what has

happened since my last report.

The Christmas Lights were a wonderful spectacle again and our grateful thanks must go to all the hardworking gnomes who made it possible. Not only do they freely give their time in putting up the displays, but also in taking them down and leaving everything neat and tidy. They can now have a short break before planning and preparing for this year's display.

We have set the precept for the coming year and as usual we have tried to be as frugal as possible.

The details can be found elsewhere in this edition.

In the coming year we know that we will have a large planning application, as the sign on St Ives Road indicates, but to date none has been received by Huntingdon District Council. When it comes it will be on our agenda so please watch the Council notice boards for details. As usual there will be a public forum for people to express their opinions.

Groups are already planning for the carnival and the flower festival, and this proves that without our volunteers the village would lose its heart.

Finally, and belatedly, I would like to wish everyone "A Happy New Year" and hope that you have not broken all your New Year's Resolutions.

I resolved not to make any, so I broke that one immediately!

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

14th January	8th July
11th February	5th August
11th March	2nd September
8th April	30th September
13th May Annual	28th October
20th May Annual Parish	25th November
10th June	16th December

Parish Office 01487 841359

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

www.somersham-pc.gov.uk

www.somersham4u.org.uk

@SomershamParish



Somersham Parish Council

Precept 2019-2020

February—March 2019

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2019-2020Routine Expenditure

Parish Administration	15000
Staff training/conferences	2000
Councillor training	1500
Parish Maintenance	4000
Salaries	112,881
Parish Clerk's Gratuity (pension fund)	2,249
Staff pension scheme	8200
Street Lighting	1,300
Elections May 2019	225

Additional Expenditure

Annual rent for Millennium tractor garage	500
Annual rent for Christmas Lights storage	200
Burial land extension - PWLB repayments	5406
Community Library	1500
Contingency	2000
Donations	500
Millennium Sports Field - annual grant	5000
Somersham4uNewsletter	3500
Tractor sinking fund	4000
Tree risk assessment survey	850
Changing Lives project	5000
Skate ramp - sinking fund for replacement	3000
Youth Club	2000

NEW

Office computers - 3 year renewal programme	2000
MAGPAS - donation	200
Christmas Lights	2000
Sea container - Lake area + transport (£500 approx per container)	2895
Lake area 3rd party funding for replacement footpath	3000

TOTAL **190906**

Somersham Parish Council

What we do

February—March 2019

The Parish Council meet every 4 weeks for full council meetings, all full council meetings are open to the public and are advertised around the village on noticeboards as well as the council's website www.somersham-pc.gov.uk. Councillors also attend as representatives on committees across the county and parish working groups relevant to the work of the council. Your Parish Councillors carry out all this work on behalf of you, our residents, for no monetary benefit, they do not even claim expenses.

The Parish Council employs 14 local people. In common with all employers the council has a duty to comply with matters relating to tax and national insurance plus the new legal requirement to offer workplace pensions, all this comes at a cost so we can offer and maintain community services and benefits.

Facility/ asset/service	Owned by	Managed by	Employs local people	Supported by volunteers/management committees	Benefits it provides
Norwood Playing Field Including the multi sports area, skate ramp & play areas	Parish Council	Parish Council	1 employee The fulltime groundsman's work covers all parish owned land & buildings	First Step Playgroup plant the sensory garden annually with the children	Community open space
Norwood Building (Parish Council office & committee meeting room plus squash court)	Parish Council	Parish Council	4 employees Parish Clerk, Trainee Deputy Clerk, Time bank Co-Ordinator Cleaner		Community facilities available for hire. Parish Council office.
Squash Court Charity stalls at The Cross Norwood Building & Playing Field Multi sports area	Parish Council	Parish Council	1 employee The Booking Secretary		The Booking Secretary holds the diary for members of the public to book all these facilities.
Local Nature Reserve including the lake	Parish Council	Parish Council	The fulltime groundsman's work covers all parish owned land & buildings	Somersham Nature Reserve Group (SNRG) Somersham Angling Club All of them are volunteers	Community open space

Somersham Parish Council

What we do

Facility/ asset/service	Owned by	Managed by	Employs local people	Supported by volunteers/ management committees	Benefits it provides
White Post Area (on the junction of St Ives Rd & Pidley Rd)	Parish Council	Parish Council	The fulltime groundsman's work covers all parish owned land & buildings		
Somersham Youth Clubs	Parish Council	Parish Council	6 employees These are: 1 Youth club manager 1 youth club assistant leader 4 youth workers	Plus 2 volunteers	The junior & senior youth club provides community activities for the young people of Somersham
Time Bank And Changing Lives Project	Parish Council	Parish Council	Our Time bank Co-ordinator works from the parish council office and also is very hands on within the wider community	Time bank volunteers	Somersham & Pidley Time Bank leads the way in community skill sharing and on the wider scale tackles social isolation & improves lives through integration.
Library	Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)	Friends of Somersham Library (FOSL)		Community library volunteers. The lease with CCC is held by Somersham Parish Council on behalf of FOSL & the Parish Council funds all utility / service costs.	Community library
Millennium Sports Facility	Parish Council	Somersham Sports & Leisure Association (SSLA)	(The SSLA employs 1 caretaker)		Community sports facility
The Victory Hall & Scout Hut	The Parish Council owns the land the buildings are standing on & holds a separate lease with each organisation.	Victory Hall Management Committee & 1 st Somersham Scout Committee			Community facilities & activities for all ages

Katie's Page

February—March 2019



What can a Timebank give you?

People join Timebanks for lots of different reasons. Some people join for social reasons and to meet new people, some people join as they want to help others and give back to their community and some people join just to join in!



Timebanking is so flexible that we welcome anyone who wants to get involved in the community, no matter how much or how little. A weekly newsletter is sent out to our members with any requests or offers from members in the Timebank. All the upcoming Timebank events are also listed in the Newsletter. We regularly hold the following events -

- Coffee morning on the 3rd Thursday of the month (10.30 am at the Millennium Pavilion)
- Two walks a month (1st and 3rd Tuesdays, meeting at the Nature Reserve gates on Station approach 10am)
- A weekly knitting group in Somersham (Tuesdays at 7pm, Centurian club) and a fortnightly knitting group in Pidley (Thursdays at 7pm at Pidley Village Hall)

Everyone is welcome to attend these events and Timebank members all receive Time credits for attending any of these groups too!

So what do people use any time credits earned on?

There are lots of spending of time credits. Recently some organisational members used credits to attend a funding workshop and rented a meeting space. Lots of lifts have been requested and given to members and cooking help given to a member after an operation. Gardening help is also another popular exchange.

Time credits earned with the Timebank can also be exchanged for Cambridgeshire Time credit vouchers which can be spent at a variety of locations. Members can exchange 10 time credits a month for 10 time credit vouchers. This link details all the spend opportunities available all over the country! - www.timecredits.com. Nearby spend examples are Adult education courses at the Ivo, The Light Cinema in Wisbech, and One Leisure Huntingdon.

For any further information please contact Katie Ixer on the below details



Timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk



Somersham and Pidley Time Bank



somershamtimebank.wordpress.com



01487 841359

Come and support the **Somersham FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

For the over 60's

After its successful launch the Friendship Club urgently requires volunteer cooks. Could you, or perhaps you and a friend, give just a few hours on a Tuesday morning once a month to cook a meal for the 30 members of the Club.

- Cooking not your thing? The Club also needs volunteers willing to give a few hours each week to help with the routine running of the club, such as team leads, a treasurer and drivers.
- Other tasks you might like to volunteer for, include:
setting-up tables, helping with activities, serving food, meet and greet and collecting monies.

Why not take this opportunity to help your community,
enjoy good company and join-in with the activities?

If you would like to find out more please contact Stewart on **01733 352213** or email
stewart.goodacre@ageukcap.org.uk

www.ageukcap.org.uk



Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with registered charity no. 1165856 Registered Office: 2 Victoria Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6AP. T: 01354 696650

CAP
money:course

A free course to help you manage your money better and learn to budget, save and spend well.



budget. save. spend.

SOMERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH OFFERS TO GIVE YOUR FINANCES A NEW YEAR MAKEOVER

Our Church will again be running the popular CAP Money Course which teaches a simple cash-based system that helps people know **how to build a household budget** in a matter of weeks.

Maureen Davies (CAP Money Coach for Somersham Baptist Church): "Many of us will have used credit cards or dipped into the overdraft to pay for Christmas. Our message is: please don't struggle

on! Now really is the best time to put things in order and we can help to get your head in gear and take the practical steps to sort things out. When you know what you have in your account, and you know where it's going, you can plan for any big expenses like car repairs and the stress is taken away."

A Small team from Somersham Baptist Church gained training from UK charity Christians Against Poverty to put on the courses that now see more than 10,000 people gain money management skills each year.

One person who went on the course said: "I heard about the CAP Money Course from a friend. I wanted to pay off my credit card and stay out of my overdraft. It changed my life! I never thought it could be so easy, but the CAP Money system is so simple."

Maureen says: "Around three quarters of the people who turn to Christians Against Poverty for debt help across the UK say they had problem debt, partly because they didn't have any tuition in budgeting and money management. We would rather people in our area have the skills to avoid serious debt problems and the best thing about the CAP Money system is that it's flexible, so as your income or outgoings change, it can help you stay on top."

The next course starts at 7.15pm on February 13th 2019 at Somersham Baptist Church, High Street, Somersham, PE28 3JB (opposite Tesco's).

To book your place, email Maureen.davies2@tiscali.co.uk or go to the CAP Money Course website (see address below) and search for a course in PE28 3JB and register, or call 01487 741039 if you would like further details.

The CAP Money Course is the biggest provider of adult face-to-face money tuition in the UK.

The free help is for everyone regardless of age, gender, faith or background.

For more about the course see <https://capuk.org/i-want-help/cap-money-course/introduction>

Community News

February—March 2019

HOW YOU HAVE HELPED TO MAINTAIN & IMPROVE OUR PARISH CHURCH

The Parish Church is cherished by many people in Somersham. Since 2008 when the pews at the back were removed to create a social space a great deal about the church has changed.

In 2013 the 'Vestry Project' took place in which an oak/glazed screen was erected at the base of the tower. A toilet with disabled access was provided and refreshment facilities with hot and cold running water were established. Solid oak doors were installed at the South porch entrance along with glazed internal doors.

In 2016 a new lighting scheme in the interior of the church was installed and masonry repairs to the outside of the building were carried out.

In 2017 the roof of the chancel was completely re-slatted.

Last year a new heating system was installed. In addition to these major improvements a number of smaller projects have been carried out.

All of these things have cost vast amounts of money which the Parochial Church Council have to find as they have no source of income other than church collections and fundraising events. Much of the money has been secured in grants from various trusts and some has come from individual bequests and legacies.

The church is open daily from 9 am until 4 pm why not pay it a visit if you haven't been in for a long time?

In 2010 a new organisation "Friends of Somersham Parish Church" was formed. It is an independent body working alongside the PCC to finance specific projects and routine maintenance through fundraising activities. The *Friends* are a group of people who have an interest in this historic building and the churchyard, but who may not necessarily wish to be part of the congregation or worship at the church.

There are about 70 members of the Friends and about 50 people who take part in its 100 Club Lottery. Anyone can join the 'Friends' for only £5 per annum – pick up a membership form from our stand just inside the church porch, fill it in and return it to the address on the form.

Many of you will have helped fund this important work by attending concerts that have been held in the church or bought produce from the monthly stalls that we hold at the Cross.

These are some of the things that the 'Friends' have contributed towards:

Church Bell Repairs	£ 816
Vestry Project	£ 5,000
Path to the South Porch	£ 1,385
Window Guards	£ 1,982
Noticeboard for the Church Gate	£ 243
Folding Chairs and storage rack	£ 1,680
New Lighting installation	£10,000
Re-slating the Chancel Roof	£ 5,000
New Heating	£ 9,000

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED OUR VILLAGE CHURCH



Somersham Book of Remembrance

The Great War 1914 - 1918

Owing to lack of interest expressed so far, it seems that we may not be able to publish this book. We can only apologise if you have already signified that you would like a copy, but unless there is a greater response by the end of February it definitely will not be printed. If you might be interested in purchasing a copy please contact Alan Draper on 01487 741531 or email alan.draper38@googlemail.com if you have not already done so.

St John the Baptist Church

February—March 2019

As I write this just before the end of 2018, it is hard to imagine that we will be embarking on a new year but today I also noticed signs of new life pushing up from under the dead leaves. I expect by the time you read this, the crocuses and snowdrops will be visible, hopefully not covered with snow. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a 2019 filled with hope, new beginnings and peace. We remembered Jesus birth at Christmas, but we know he is with us always and we are invited to be part of his family.

Here are some dates of events and services for February and March.

Sunday 17th February meditative **Taize Service** at **Old Hurst** Church 6pm

Creative Minds Thursday 28th February and Thursday 21st March 2.30-4pm in Church for 'mindful art' tea, cake and chat. All Welcome.
(please check website)



Bereavement Coffee Mornings at The Rectory, Rectory Lane, 10am Tuesday 26th February and Tuesday 19th March.

Messy Church 'Valentines' Sunday 10th February 4-5.30pm and 10th March for crafts, Lego, singing, story and party tea. All aged children and bring an adult.



Little Acorns – Baby and Pre-school group meet in church every Thursday during term time for play, craft, story and singing and homemade (usually) cake and drinks for all. 9.30 (but open from 9am) 11.00am.

Wednesday Lent groups will begin from 13th March meeting at 10.50 and in 7pm in the evenings (venue tbc). Lent Lunches in the church from 12pm every Wednesday – all welcome.

Services Sundays 10.30am (1st and 3rd with activities for children and 4th Family Service for all ages). Evening Prayer 6.00pm (1st Sunday) and Mid Week Communion 9.30am every Thursday morning followed by Coffee.

The church is open every day in daylight hours for quiet reflection and prayer.

If you would like more information about weddings, funerals or baptisms or are interested in exploring your faith please do get in touch by phone or email.



Many Blessings,
Rev Sue Simpson
01487 840676
Rector@somershamparishes.org
www.somershamparishes.org

Somersham Baptist Church

February—March 2019



Somersham Baptist Church

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

As I write this, the year of 2019 is almost here and I am wondering what happened to 2018 as it seems to have gone by very quickly!

We read, everyday, of the problems of Brexit, Wars, Floods, Murders around the world but whatever happens in 2019 we will have our Lord Jesus Christ to guide us through the year. Reading the Bible, plus a daily quiet/prayer time brings peace of mind to us all.

Our Church, ***right on the High Street***, is open on a Wednesday evening from 8pm to 9pm and you will find a time of peace and quiet to rejuvenate your body and mind.

The Christmas Shoe Box collection went very well with some villagers bringing along boxes filled to the brim with goodies for the children. They are being sent to those children around the world who are living in poverty and never have a present. Some people are saying that the boxes only go to Christian children. This is simply not true, there is NO religious discrimination.

All our activities through the week are up and running. Little Sparrows on Wednesday at 9.15am to 11.15am. Explorers 6pm on 2nd Friday each month plus Dynamite on 1st and 3rd Fridays monthly. On Sundays, Explorers have their own meeting and there is a Creche for Mums and Carers.

We are starting, early in the New Year, a CAP course to help people with money worries showing them how to budget their income. For details see the CAP article on page 7

On Sundays our service starts at 10.30am and ends around 12am when coffee, tea and cakes are served as people stay and have a chat with friends and family they have not seen during the week.

May God bless you all in the coming year.
from a Member of the Church.

Community News

February—March 2019

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Somersham Library and St John the Baptist Church are joining together to present a general knowledge quiz on Saturday 2ND March. It will be held in the Victory Hall from 7.30pm. Please arrive from about 7.15pm to get settled before the questions start. Teams can have up to 6 members and tickets, which cost £5 per person can be obtained from the library in advance or on the door. If you do not have a team don't worry as you can always join one on the night. We do not provide any refreshment so please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Questions are stimulating and light hearted general knowledge. You'll be surprised how much you know! This is a great opportunity to exercise that little grey cell whilst supporting two fantastic community causes. We look forward to welcoming you and friends for a fun evening. For further information please call the library on 01487 840266

A Warm Welcome at St John's Church

Last year we reported that a new heating system was being installed in the Parish Church. Work started at the end of April and was not completed until the end of September. The new system is made up of tall radiators at both ends of the church and a number of fan convectors situated in various places around the building.

Those attending the regular church services are now benefitting from the improved heating, as are those who come to the regular activities that take place in the church. The Rev Sue is delighted with the new heating which is much better, especially for the older members of the congregation. Jess O'Reilly who organises the weekly 'Little Acorns' toddler and parent group says that it is so much more comfortable, particularly for the little ones. People who come along to the concerts, exhibitions and other events in the church are also expressing their pleasure at this important improvement.

The cost of the entire heating project was almost £70,000 (£66,050). It was paid for by using part of a very generous legacy that the church received several years ago from a local resident, a large donation from an individual and the rest was made up of grants from a number of different organisations – The Friends of the Church, The Rigby Trust and the largest amount, £25,000 coming from WREN's FCC Community Action Fund. WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for the community, conservation and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the landfill Communities Fund. FCC Environment is one of the UK's leading waste and resource management companies. Their approach is to minimise the amount of waste that ends up in landfill by transforming it into valuable resources wherever possible.

Somersham History Society

Our next event including raffle will be on **Tuesday 26 March 2019**
7.30pm in the Baptist Church. Tickets £3 on the door.

Roger Leivers will give an illustrated talk entitled "The House of Spies" which relates to a WWII secret operation centred on Farm Hall, Godmanchester. If you are curious, please do come along and be captivated!

The Poster with more details will be distributed via the SHS Circulation List nearer the date.
All welcome.

Editor's Snippets

February—March 2019

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

**Deadline for the October/November
 Edition of SOMERSHAM4U
 Friday 1st March (3:00PM)**

STALLS AT THE CROSS

3rd November	Royal British Legion	£288.47
22nd December	Somersham Town Band	£137.52
24th December	Somersham Town Band	£186.99

Police and Crime Commissioner's Winter Newsletter



The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Jason Ablewhite, has just published his Winter Newsletter. The actual document (6 pages) will be available at selected libraries throughout the county but can also be downloaded from the internet via this link:

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/PCC-Winter-Newsletter.pdf>

This edition focuses on what is being done to support victims and witnesses of crime in our region. Additionally, you can find out how you could become a volunteer to help victims of crime recover from their experience. There's also information about the Victim Services website: an online, one-stop-shop of available support for the victims and witnesses of crime to help them cope and recover.

Meanwhile, last month, we heard that Cambridgeshire has been chosen as one of only five areas in the country to receive direct government funding for support services for sexual violence. The significance of this is that it can now decide locally how best to support those affected by these traumatic crimes.

Letters to the Editor

Subject: Bus Timetable

Dear Sirs,

It would be very useful if you could have a bus timetable in your magazine.

(Name and address provided)

Dear J. Thank you for your e-mail and very useful suggestion, and you should note that we have published some bus timetables in the past. However, we only print the Newsletter 6 times per year and bus schedules have regularly changed outside of our printing cycle in the past; we can therefore never be relied upon to be timely and accurate. The upshot is that customers would always have to check with the bus company before any journey to confirm departure times in order to ensure they can still make appointments or follow-on travel arrangements etc.

We usually suggest that if someone wants to use local buses, it is advisable to collect a timetable from the library (the company timetables are usually replaced there when schedules change) but then to ring up the bus company before traveling to ensure they get the most accurate departure times. You might also be aware that a major franchise study is about to complete which will likely alter the service delivery in Somersham yet again.

I'm sorry we couldn't be more helpful but thank you again for your correspondence.

duty Compositor

for the S4U Editorial Team

Somersham4U.Newsletter@btconnect.com

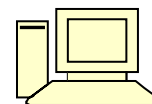
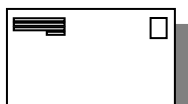
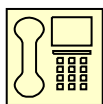
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Contact Page

February—March 2019

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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**

Fresh Air Fitness

A campaign to help promote the gym equipment including a questionnaire to engage the community.