

A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2017



Inside this Edition

- A14 upgrade & ecology
- Changing Lives launch
 - First Friday Films



Parish Council



In the last newsletter, I shared the bad news that Whippet was withdrawing their bus services to Somersham and the surrounding villages. The good news is that the County Council has agreed to step in and subsidise a continued 21

service, provided by Dews, for up to 12 months. Unless patronage increases dramatically, this is not a sustainable solution. A review will take place to consider how some form of Community Transport could affordably meet local needs. A reminder of the 21 service timetable can be found on the back page of this newsletter. Our much heralded Changing Lives project was launched by our MP Shailesh Vara on Sept 2nd. Many people in all communities are living with various neurological conditions. Once again Somersham is leading the way in how we support our residents. Over the coming weeks and months, events and activities will help people manage their symptoms and link in with support networks such as our own Time Bank. We have had many enquiries and people are signing up, so please consider joining. Details are on page 3

Having received joint funding from the County Council to help improve safety at White Post junction on St Ives Rd, the parish council has now approved the plans and decided to proceed with the project. Work to change the junction layout will commence later this year.

Parish Office 01487 841359 Open 9:00AM-3:00PM Monday-Thursday www.somersham-pc.gov.uk www.somersham4u.org.uk @SomershamParish

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2017

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

23rd October 20th November 18th December 15th January 2018

Chairman's Annual Report CO-OPTION OF

PARISH COUNCILLOR

October—November 2017

There is a Parish Councillor vacancy on Somersham Parish Council caused by a resignation.

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs P Bryant

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 20th November 2017.

<u>CLOSING DATE</u> FRIDAY 17th November 2017



Changing Lives' Programme

October—November 2017

On behalf of Somersham Parish Council, project leaders Penny Bryant (Parish Clerk) and Lucy Bird (Time Bank Co-ordinator) were delighted to welcome Shailesh Vara MP to the Changing Lives launch event on Saturday 2nd September 2017.

Shailesh Vara spent the first hour watching the Taster Day sessions and speaking with many attendees before formally launching the Changing Lives project with an excellent supporting opening speech at around 11 am.

This exciting project was unveiled through the free Taster Day at the Millennium Pavilion in Somersham from 10am-3pm. 'Changing Lives' is a programme of activities specifically for people living with neurological conditions living in Somersham and its surrounding villages; Colne, Bluntisham, Earith, Pidley, Old Hurst, Woodhurst and Broughton.

The activities are targeted towards those who are affected by a neurological condition such as, but not exclusively, Parkinson's, Dementia, MS or Stroke. The invitation extended to family, friends and carers who were welcome to share in any of the workshops on offer, refreshments, a buffet lunch and a chat with leading support organisations.

Cllr Steve Criswell, Chair of the County Council's Communities and Partnership Committee and also Somersham Parish Council Chairman was at the launch and said *"This is another example of the local community looking after its residents. The Changing Lives initiative helps people to live with certain conditions and remain a valued and active part of the community"*

Julie Wilson, Area Development Manager for Parkinson's UK, says: "Research has shown some promising results of the benefits of exercise for people living with Parkinson's including improvements in mobility and balance. This project will help people with long term neurological conditions to manage their symptoms, improve their social support and emotional wellbeing. I am really delighted to be part of such a vibrant and positive initiative, and cannot wait to see the outcomes from this project as it progresses."

The activities available to try included Seated/Standing Exercise tailored to your needs, Nordic Walking or have a taste of the outdoors with 'Into the Woods' (Nature Ventures). All instructors are fully qualified and have experience working with neurological conditions. Attendees also created Community Bunting to enable participants to show off their creative talents. We were thrilled to report a number of new Dementia Friends were created on the day following training with Hilary Shepperd from the Alzheimer's Society.

The Taster Day will be followed by 12-week blocks of regular events hosted in Somersham, which will also include a workshop with local creative artist Syrah Arnold. Lucy Bird, Co-ordinator of Changing Lives and Somersham and Pidley Time Bank says, "We are really excited to be able to reach out to people living in this area to create a network where those affected by neurological conditions feel supported locally". The project is a priority action and is funded by Cambridgeshire County Council's Innovation Fund.

For more information visit the website <u>https://changinglivessomersham.wordpress.com/</u>. You can book onto any of the workshops by calling Lucy Bird on 01487 841359 or email changing.lives@somersham-pc.gov.uk





October—November 2017







in St John the Baptist Church Somersham on Saturday 25th November 10 am - 5pm & Sunday 26th November 12.30 pm - 5pm

All organisations in Somersham have been invited to decorate a tree.

Come and see the trees, have a look at the twinkling lights, enjoy the atmosphere and have a drink and something to eat whilst chatting to friends.

Admission: Adults £2 Children Free All children must be accompanied by an adult



We received some criticism at the church earlier this year because the flag was not flying all of the time on the flagpole on the church tower. The effects of wind, rain and frost during the winter causes flags to gradually disintegrate and shorten their lives. The Parochial Church Council have decided that the St George's Flag will be flown from Easter time throughout the summer until the end of September. The exception being the Queen's Official Birthday when the Union Flag will be flown. In addition the Union Flag will be flown on Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday and the days in-between. St George's Flag will also be flown from Christmas Eve until Epiphany.

This will be subject to weather conditions and the availability of suitable people to raise and lower the flags with due consideration to their Health and Safety. It is hoped that people who like to see the flag flying will appreciate that it is a somewhat hazardous operation to raise and lower the flag and additionally we only have a limited number of people who are fit and able enough to do it.



October-November

Somersham Community Library (FOSL) Change to opening times

We always aim to open our library at varying time to suit all residents. We currently open on Thursday evenings from 6pm to 8pm, so that those who return from work after 6pm can still use the library. Over the last year our Management Board has been reviewing the usage of, and our ability to provide volunteer staffing for, our Thursday evening sessions. We found that the usage during 7-8pm was significantly lower than 6-7pm. Emergency closures due to volunteer shortages also happened more often for 7-8pm. Therefore, with regret we have to close the library at the earlier time of **7.00pm** with effect from 1 October 2017.

Residents can visit the library on Saturday mornings. The library is also open every 2nd and 4th Sundays every month from 11am to 1pm. Elsa Evans, Chairman, FOSL

New Opening Times from 1 October 2017 Monday

Tuesday Tuesdav 2pm – 6pm 10am – 12pm 2pm – 6pm

Thursday Friday

2pm – <u>7pm</u> 2pm – 6pm Saturday 10am – 12.30 pm



Be Annuel イドイーション

Featuring the Rythym of Life Singers & Somersham Town Band

Enter into the fun of a 'Proms Concert' with a rousing finale featuring the band, choir and audience all joining in with the 'Proms' favourite music.

> Friday 20th October at 7.30 pm in St John's Church, Somersham

Tickets - £8.00 in advance £10.00 on the door (subject to availability) Ticket includes interval drink - glass of wine or fruit juice



Available from Strands, the Library or Alan - Tel: 01487 741531

Concert organised by the FRIENDS OF SOMERSHAM PARISH CHURCH (Reg. Charity No 1152257) Raising funds for Church improvement projects.

Community

HANDLING TIPS

If you find an injured hedgehog, wearing thick gardening gloves, pick it up by holding it in both hands round the middle, scooping it up. Put it into a cardboard box lined with newspaper and give a small towel or tea towel for it to hide under.

If your hedgehog is very poorly or is cold, you can also give it a hot water bottle or a drinks bottle filled with warm water and wrapped in a tea towel, to snuggle up to.

If you will have it for any period of time before it can be taken to a rescue centre, then offer dog or cat food in a shallow bowl, plus a non-tip dish of fresh water.

DO'S AND DON'TS TO PROTECT HEDGEHOGS IN YOUR GARDEN

- Do leave some areas of wilderness where the hedgehogs can snuffle for insects.
- Do put out water for drinking.
- Do put out a bowl of dog food or meaty cat food around dusk.
- Do install, in a quiet part of the garden, a hedgehog house.
- Do look to see if your hedgehog is limping or appears to be injured, or in late Autumn look out for underweight hedgehogs
- Don't put out bread and milk
- Don't pick up fit hedgehogs
- Don't leave black sacks lying around.
- Don't use slug pellets or other chemicals, they may poison hedgehogs and other animals.
- Don't light a bonfire without checking to see if a hedgehog or other wild animal has moved in.
- Don't fork over compost heaps in case hedgehogs or other animals have taken up residence.

FILM OF THE YEAR 2 BAFTA' AWARDS



LAST CHANCE! First Friday Films SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL Friday 6th October

A five-year-old Indian boy gets lost on the streets of Calcutta, thousands of kilometres from home. He survives many challenges before being adopted by a couple in Australia; 25 years later, he sets out to find his lost family... Will he find them?

Should we continue to hold film nights in Somersham?

Those of you who came to one of our film nights last winter know that it makes a really good relaxing evening among friends.

Each film licence costs us £99 so we need a good size audience to make any profit. It is a big commitment for our team to run an event every month and our aim is to support <u>your</u> village hall.

We will run a film night on the first Friday of October and November. Unless there is an increase in attendance to boost our funds, we will have to abandon our monthly film nights after that!

These two film nights will be your last chance to keep film nights.

Arrive 7:30 for 8pm start to get a good seat.

Claim your FREE POPCORN! Buy your drinks from the bar.

Ice creams will be on sale in the interval.

Tickets in advance will enable us to start on time. If we have not sold at least 25 tickets in advance we may have to cance!!!

Tickets will be on sale from Thursday 26th September from Somersham Library or from The Rose and Crown. Only 100 tickets! Don't miss out... Adults £4 Under 18s £2 – must be accompanied by an adult.

To find more details about what's on at the Victory Hall please visit our website: <u>www.somershamvictoryhall.com</u>

St John the Baptist Church

October—November 2017

I hope you enjoyed a good summer. We were relieved to have good weather for the Friends of the Church garden party and it was lovely to see Friends, old and new. As I write this I am hoping that the Tea and Trains (the church fete) will also be dry as I have not seen the trains in action yet.



We were pleased to hear that for the second year running, we are to be presented with an award from Bishop David in recognition of the work undertaken to replace the Chancel roof. Thanks to all of you who have supported the church so generously.

As we move into Autumn we give thanks for all that God has given us as we celebrate the Harvest. Although we celebrated our Festival in September we will continue the theme of harvest at -





singing and Remembrance

Messy Church on Sunday 8th October at 4-5.30pm. A time for craft, stories, food for all ages. Messy Church on Sunday 12th November will have a theme.

Remembering Service - Come to remember the name of a loved one and to light a candle on Sunday 29th October at 6pm. We will remember the names of those who died last year and any other names you give me. The service will be followed by refreshments.

Remembrance Sunday – We meet at War Memorial on Sunday 12th November at 10.45am to lay wreaths followed by a service at the church.

All Welcome.

Christmas Tree Festival –25th/26th November. Come and look around the church at all the Christmas Trees dressed by different village organisations. The church will also be open after the Christmas light switch-on Friday 1st December.

Christingle Light Service

Sunday 3rd December 4pm – We begin Advent by remembering Christ is the light of the world and our own baptism. We would really love to see all our baptism families and all are welcome followed by refreshments.

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.

Services 10.30am (1st and 3rd with activities for children and 4th All Age) Evening Prayer 6.30pm (1st Sunday) and Mid Week Communion 9.30am every Thursday morning followed by Coffee.

Many Rlessings

,	Som	ersham History	Society
,		Our next meeting will b	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
,		esday 28th November at	
,	in the Ba	aptist Church Tickets £3	on the door.
	Patrick Lan	nbert will give an illustra	ted talk entitled
		"Roman Roads in Brita	in"
 system of trade at of the humble roa the most enigmat 	nd culture that strea ad on the landscapes ic and mysterious. T	tched from the colds of Scotland to s of Britain remains the most endu The story of Roman roads in Brita	the edge of the world to a central nervous of the luxury of Arabia world. The impact uring of legacies, yet they are also one of in is shrouded in misconceptions and hat the Romans did for us' that matters,
it's how they did i Come along a		discovery, everyone welcom	e.



October—November 2017

Moving protected species, creating new habitat the size of 269 rugby pitches and taking traffic for two and a half million tonnes of construction materials off the road are just some of the ways that a major project to upgrade the A14 in Cambridgeshire is caring for the environment.



Above: one of the ecologists at work releasing some of the water voles into their new habitat in August 2017

The biggest road project currently in construction in the UK is aiming to leave a positive footprint on the local environment once completed by the end of 2020.

People living and travelling in South Cambridgeshire will by now be familiar with the scale of the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon project just by looking at the great number of yellow lorries and diggers working away along the sides of the existing A14 and A1, and the size of the new structures emerging along the route. Less obvious but central to the project is the industry-leading care for the environment that the team is delivering while building the new road.

Patrick Howard, ecology lead for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon project for Highways England, explains: An important part of any road construction project is the planning of environmental mitigation so that, by the time a project is completed, its footprint on the surrounding natural environment is as small as possible. Protecting the environment now and in the future is one of the golden threads that runs through all aspects of the scheme, from design to construction, project management to efficiency and delivering value for taxpayers' money. What the A14 team is doing in terms of both environmental mitigation and environmentally-minded project management goes well above and beyond the usual requirements. It sets the standard high in terms of reducing the overall impact of a road scheme on the local environment during construction and after the scheme completion. Pat continues: We began thinking about the environment at a very early stage in the project, well before construction started. There are a number of things we have to do by law, like survey the land where the road will be built to assess how the scheme might affect wildlife, or talk to environmental organisations to get their advice and give them the opportunity to feedback on our proposals. And we have to look after protected wildlife species such as great crested newts, water voles, bats, badgers and a number of birds that breed on the site of the scheme. But we've also decided to build into the project ways to minimise our environmental impact now and to leave a positive legacy for the future.

Work on building the £1.5bn upgrade to the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon started in November last year. The project includes widening a total of seven miles of the A14 in each direction (across two sections), a major new bypass south of Huntingdon, widening a three-mile section of the A1 and demolition of a viaduct at Huntingdon, which will support improvements in the town.

For the latest information about the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme, visit <u>the project</u> <u>page</u>, follow @A14C2H on Twitter and like our <u>Facebook page</u>.

New habitat

Plants and trees

October-November 2017

Twice as many trees will be replanted which had to be felled to build the road once the project is finished All the vegetation cleared ahead of construction starting, including trees felled, has either been used within the local community or to a biomass facility for energy production locally

866,000 plants from 50 different species will be replanted once the scheme is completed

The trees that will be replanted will be in keeping with existing local woodland and include

Oak, field maple, elm, hawthorn, blackthorn and elder.

A number of rare plant species have been found across the route and have been moved so they can be replanted in the same area along the road verges once the scheme is finished. These include bee orchids, common spotted orchids and slender tare – a rare wildflower found near Girton.



Right: Bee Orchid

Wildlife

Ecologists working on the project are caring for a range of protected species along the route including:

great crested newts, water voles, bats, breeding birds such as yellow wagtail, skylark, corn bunting yellowhammer and badgers

Overall, the scheme will build 1.05 square mile (271ha) of new wildlife habitat across 18 areas around the new road, connecting them where possible to help wildlife move more freely than is currently possible. That's the equivalent of 269 rugby fields.

More than 200 bat boxes are being installed to provide additional habitat and help bats during migration.

5 barn owl boxes have been installed already and more will be installed by the end of the project. All of the ones currently up have been used for nesting this year and 3 of the birds have successfully reared chicks.

Two bird species, the grasshopper warbler and Cetti's warbler, will benefit from additional, newly created habitat

New habitats are being created at 3 different locations along the scheme for water voles, Britain's fastest declining wild mammal. The 10 water voles being re-located to their new Alconbury home moved all in over the summer.

Once the scheme is complete, boxes for kestrels will be installed to nest around borrow pits and balancing ponds.

Activity around 5 badger setts is being monitored along the route and the team is in the process of deciding how best to help the badgers relocate so they are not disturbed or endangered by the new route.

The team is trapping great crested newts and relocating them at a safe location until the scheme is complete, and will create 3 new habitats for them when the scheme is closer to completion.

Hedges with native species found in the local area will be planted near Brampton woods to create corridors and food sources for recently reintroduced dormice.

Energy, water and construction materials

The project team is trialling hybrid generators, solar powered lights and hydrogen powered vehicles throughout site in an effort to reduce our use of fossil fuels.

100% of the energy used across the project compounds comes from renewable energy sources including wind and solar powers.

Only non-drinking water is being used for construction purposes so as to minimise the impact on the local drinking water supply. The water comes from water treatment plants, the scheme's borrow pits, and local watercourses (up to a maximum of 20m3 per day).

Instead of having to source externally the 5 million tonnes of materials needed to build the new road, more than half of it is being supplied from the site itself through borrow pits within site. The project also has onsite concrete batching plants to create the building blocks for the scheme's 34 bridge and other structures. This means less long-distance transport needs and less energy used. It also means less impact on the busy road network locally.

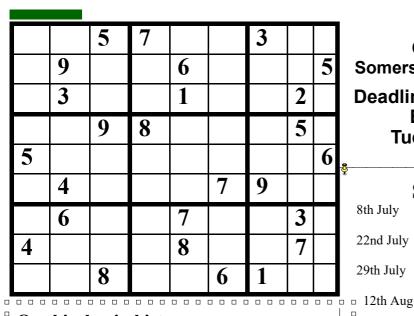
Editor's Snippets

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On this day in history

21 Oct 1805 - At the Battle of Trafalgar, Nelson gave his famous signal, 'England expects...' which flew from the HMS Victory shortly after 11:00 a.m. The British won this important battle against Napoleon's combined French and Spanish fleets off Cape Trafalgar, southwest of Spain and left Britain's navy unchallenged until the 20th century but Nelson was one of the day's casualties.

5 Nov 1909 - Woolworths opened its first British store, in Liverpool. Almost 100 years later, (at the end of the first week in January 2009) the last remaining stores closed, for the last time.

2 Oct 1925 - London's first red buses with roofed-in upper decks went into service, but they had been in use in Widnes, Cheshire, since 1909.

20 Nov 1947 - Princess Elizabeth (Queen Elizabeth II) married Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten (Duke of Edinburgh) at Westminster Abbey. The BBC made the first tele-recording of the event, which was broadcast in the US 32 hours later.

12 Oct 1948 - The first Morris Minor, designed by Alec Issigonis, was produced at Cowley, Oxfordshire.

1 Nov 1956 - Premium Bonds first went on sale in Britain with the winning numbers picked at random by a machine with the acronym 'ERNIE'. The first Premium Bond was bought by the then Lord Mayor of London, Sir Cuthbert Ackroyd.

21 Nov 1958 - Work began on the Forth Road Bridge in Scotland. It was the longest suspension bridge outside the United States and the fourth-largest in the world at the time of its construction. It was awarded Historic Scotland's Category A, listed structure status in 2001.

October –November 2017

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

Deadline for the Dec 2017/January 2018 Edition of SOMERSHAM4U Tuesday 31st October (3:00PM)

STALLS AT THE CROSS

8th July	Friends of Somersham Parish Church	£100.00
22nd July	Somersham Over 60's Club £75.30	

29th July Friends of Somersham Library £112.00

Friends of Somersham Parish Church £110.00

Time Bank members are 'Changing Lives'

A huge thank you to Time Bank members for the amazing support they have offered to the Changing Lives programme. On the Taster Day they turned up in droves, helping people to fill in forms, directing people to where they should be going, making tea, sandwiches and cake, showing their creative side making the new Community Bunting, taking photos and allowing everyone who attended to feel really welcome. Such a wonderful group and I'm so delighted to be part of such a great team.

Lucy (Co-ordinator of the Time Bank & Changing Lives)

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Contact Page

October—November 2017

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Deb Carr	13, Bank Avenue, Somersham PE28 3DH	07545 601763
Steve Criswell (Chairman)	23, The Bank, Somersham PE28 3DJ	740745
Alice Eastham	7, King Street, Somersham PE28 3EJ	07977 504752
Roy Fabb	14, King Street, Somersham PE28 3EJ	840122
Mervyn Greaves	Merle Cottage Parkhall Road, Somersham PE28 3HF	842255
Kevin Hawkins	57, High Street, Somersham PE28 3JB	841359
Michael Hoy	17 Robert Avenue, Somersham PE28 3EX	840523
Tony Hulme	21, Lakeway, Somersham PE28 3JN	840152
Paul McCloskey (Vice Chairman)	4 Meridian Close, Somersham PE28 3YB	841641
Lesley Minter	37 Pennway, Somersham PE28 3JJ	841837
Leah Robertson	49 The Paddock, Somersham PE28 9DU	07972 854937
Graham Siggs	1 Library Walk, Somersham PE28 3FN	840083
Dianna Skeggs	111 High Street, Somersham PE28 3EH	07919 890808
Richard Sutton 1 vacancy	5 Loftsteads, Somersham PE28 3HX	840150

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

District Councillor Graham Bull2, Lancaster Close, Old Hurst, PE28 3BBTel: 07780 511928Email: graham.bull@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

Ramsey - Somersham - St Ives Service 21 MONDAY TO FRIDAY Notes : Ramsey, Great Whyte, opp New Road 09:15 15:55 --Bury, High Street, opp Owls End 09:19 --15:59 Warboys, High Street, opp Church Road 09:26 16:06 --Pidley, Warboys Road, Fen Road 09:30 --16:10

St Ives, Market Road, Bus Station (Bay 2)	
Needingworth, High Street, Church Street	
Bluntisham, High Street, o/s 23 High Street	

Pidley, High Street, Warboys Road

Colne, High Street, East Street

Earith, Greenfields, opp School Road

Farith, High Street, opp Chapel Lane

Somersham, High Street, opp Church Street

Somersham, High Street, opp Parkhall Road

Somersham, The Trundle, opp Loftsteads

St Ives - Somersham - Ramsey

Service 21

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