Somersham, Au

A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018

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- Become a Parish Councillor!
- Community Poppy Display
- The Great Pilgrimage 90-years on

S O M E R S H A M 4 U

Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report

October-November 2018



I am finding this a very difficult report to write as fears that I expressed last time have actually happened faster than I anticipated. At our September meeting

we were not quorate, so nothing could be discussed or decided. This meant

Dick Sutton - Chairman

that a planning application could not be commented upon and no financial decisions could be made. The worst consequence was that we had five people who had offered themselves for co-option and we were unable to proceed. This is the first time in the history of the Parish Council that it has been inquorate.

Hopefully by the time you read this we will have managed to resolve the issue with an emergency meeting.

With the good weather we have had several successful events including the HandleBards and Picnic in the Park. We hope to have them both again next year. The comment I heard about The HandleBards was "I didn't know Shakespeare could be so much fun".

The High Street, between Tesco's and Feoffees Road, is due to be resurfaced during the first part of November and the road will be closed at night so that the work can be done. The Chatteris Road is going to be rebuilt which means that it will be closed during November for almost a month as well.

I shall not be able to lay a wreath this year at The War Memorial on 11th November as I will be at The Cenotaph in London taking part in The Parish Clerk prior to the closing date Peoples' Thankyou Parade where a special memorial wreath will be laid from Somersham. Also, The Christmas Lights team will be busy putting up the Christmas lights and hopefully Father Christmas can be persuaded to visit us again for the switch on.

Finally, even with the new proposed councillors we are still short of Councillors as Debbie Dew has resigned.

I would like to thank Debbie for all the work that she has done while she was a councillor.

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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

Tel: 01487 841359



Candidates will be provided with an application form and associated papers to complete and return to the below.

A proportional vote for the co-option of the new Parish Councillor will take place at the Parish Council meeting on 29th October 2018.

CLOSING DATE FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2018

Katie's Page

Why do we need a Timebank?

October-November 2018

I have only been coordinating the Somersham and Pidley Timebank for 3 months, but over that short period I have already learnt so much about how a Timebank can be an integral part of a community.

The core of a Timebank is the giving and receiving of time, the sharing of skills, the helping of others. However I have learnt that the Somersham and Pidley Timebank is a lot more than that to its members.



The members have become friends; they visit each other; look out for each other and care about each other. In this day and age, we are increasingly becoming more reliant on digital technology for communication and people have to travel further for work. The community support that the Timebank offers is valued and appreciated by its members.

The Timebank also organises social events, which are open to all to attend, not just members. We hold a weekly Knit and natter group, twice a month guided walks and a monthly coffee morning. All the groups are friendly and welcoming to anyone who would like to come along.

On Sunday 7th October we have our annual Apple day in conjunction with the Nature Reserve. This is held in the Community Orchard from 2pm-5pm. There will be a 'Great Somersham Bake Off', apple activities, face painting, hot dogs, apple juicing and Cider to buy. This is a wonderful event for all the family, so please come along and enjoy yourself!



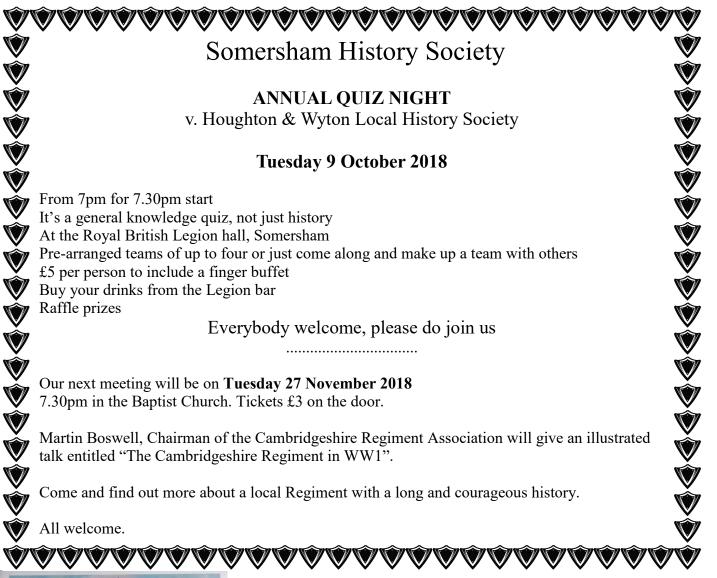
For further information on any events or about the Timebank please contact Katie Ixer on the below details -

Website www.https://somershamtimebank.wordpress.com/ Somersham and Pidley Time Bank' Somersham 201487 841359



Community

October-November 2018





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'Somersham Surroundings'

St John the Baptist Parish Church Somersham 2019 CALENDAR

Somersham Calendar

A new calendar featuring photos from the Photographic Competition held earlier this year is now available, with all profits going to St John the Baptist Church funds.

The calendars cost £5 each.

For more information or to place an order please call 07910 323147.





HELP WANTED



to ensure another spectacular show this year we need more help

Somersham looks a treat at Christmas with all the seasonal lights. This costs time and money, time by volunteers and money that is raised during the year.

Can you make the difference and be a volunteer?

The more volunteers there are, the less time it takes. Only a few weekends a year are needed to repair and PAT test all the shapes and strings of Christmas lights. November is when the lights are installed and everything has to be ready for 'switch on' by 1st December. On the night we need extra people to sell raffle tickets, man the road closures, escort Santa and generally help set up.

Are you the volunteer we are looking for?

Contact: Mervyn - 01487 842255 or k.greaves1@talktalk.net

Many hands make lights work



October-November 2018

KEEP FIT **GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT AND VEG** Somersham Feoffees Charity has an allotment to rent along the Colne Road, Somersham (just past Cranbrook Plants) It's not for the faint-hearted as it's a lot of hard work but the satisfaction you get from growing and eating your own crops is immeasurable, and you get to meet similarly-minded people The rent is only £18 p.a If you are interested

please contact the Charity's Clerk,

Judith Bullard on 01487 840059

St John the Baptist Church Somersham On

Saturday 24th November 10 am - 5pm **Sunday 25th 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 twinkling lights, the 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

Household news

October-November 2018



Cambridgeshire Cambridgeshire Energy Switch County Council

The Cambridgeshire Energy Switch is a scheme that builds on the strengths of Cambridgeshire County Council, the District Councils and residents, and brings them together in order to get a cheaper energy tariff. Taking part in the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch is free and without obligation. The more people that participate in the scheme; the more likely we are able to achieve cheaper energy prices.

The Cambridgeshire Energy Switch holds its next energy auction on the 9th of October. The supplier who offers the cheapest tariff in the auction will offer registered households a new energy contract. From the 22rd of October personal offers will be sent out and households will be able to see straight away how much money they could save on their annual energy bill. They then decide if they want to accept the offer or not.

We are working with **iChoosr** to provide the energy auctions. **iChoosr** is an independent and completely impartial service provider. They aim to provide a better energy deal and also ensure that the switching experience is simple and convenient. **iChoosr** do not supply energy, but across the country **iChoosr** have successfully switched over 40,000 families who have collectively saved nearly £6 million; making a difference to their household budgets. In February 2018, over 400 Cambridgeshire families switched energy suppliers through this scheme and between them made savings of over £70,000, saving each household an average of £167 a year. There are a number of advantages with the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch:

Signing up is free and without obligation. You decide whether you wish to accept the offer or not. You can count on the assistance and support of our Customer Care team before, during and after your switch.

How can I sign up for the Cambridgeshire Energy Switch?

- Go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/switch
- Find your annual energy statement or recent set of energy bills
- Click on the button "Sign up now"
- Fill in your energy details and confirm your registration

Throughout the year and particularly as the winter months draw in, we begin using our fires, burners and chimneys once again to warm our homes.

Follow our 'top tips' below to ensure your home is kept safe and warm all year round.

Chimneys and Fires

 Have your chimney swept once a year or more frequently if you burn wood

•Only burn fuels suitable for your burner

Do not overload the grate/ appliance

•Do not bank fires too high and remember to let them burn out well before you go to bed

•Use a fire/spark guard to prevent accidental fires and make sure it has the kite mark or conforms to British/ European standards

•Inspect your chimney breast, particularly the roof space. Make sure it is sound and sparks/fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.

Wood/Multi-Fuel Burners

A qualified and competent engineer should install all wood/multi-fuel burners and boilers – regular maintenance should be undertaken to prolong the working life of the appliance. Specialist servicing and maintenance will usually be provided by the company you purchase the appliance from but you can also refer to <u>www.solidfuel.co.uk</u> for advice and information

•Ensure correct ventilation is in place when the appliance is in use

•Wood burning appliances should only use the right quality wood recommended by the supplier

•Avoid wet or newly felled wood as this will cause tars/ creosote deposits forming in the burning appliance and chimney

•Using laminated chip boards will leave binding glue deposits

•At the end of each burning season and at least once during the season the entire system should be cooled and thoroughly cleaned to maintain top performance. **Most importantly**

•Fit a smoke alarm that carries the kite mark or British Standard Number 5446 and test your alarm weekly by pressing the test button and know the life of your battery.

•Always also install a CO alarm in the room where the burner is installed. Chimney Fires continue to be a common occurrence in home fires in the winter months. We experience an average of 81 chimney fires a year in Cambridgeshire alone.

Whatever fire you have, or fuel you burn, it is vitally important you have your chimney swept to avoid a build-up of ash and soot.



October-November 2018

Well, as I write this it is almost time to get back to normal and we at our "Church on the High Street" hope you all had a enjoyable holiday and a rest from the daily routine of your normal life during the summer holidays.

We have had a rest too and are looking forward to getting back into the swing of things. Our preparations for the autumn are underway with the Leaders of LITTLE SPARROWS – Every Wednesday morning from 09.15am till 11.15am, EXPLORERS at 6.00pm on the second Friday of each month and DYNAMITE at 7.30pm on the first and third Fridays working hard on their itineraries for the children.

On Sunday, of course there is the CRECHE at 10.30am for parents to leave their children in the care of our Leaders so they can enjoy the Sunday Service.

Our services are led by a member of the Leadership Team with the assistance of a Speaker from one of our local churches who teach us about God and his work through the various books of the Old and New Testaments. We are currently studying NEHEMIAH in the Old Testament and how he was able to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in the 5th Century BC, despite neighbouring nations doing all they could to stop him.

On 7 October the annual Harvest Service is coming up when we thank the Lord for the food we have harvested. Then on 31 October at 6.00pm till 7.30pm our LIGHT PARTY takes place where we share with the young people food and fun in a Christian way. We have our SHOEBOX SUNDAY (4 November) where we fill a minimum of 50 Shoeboxes with gifts for the boys and girls of countries who, through wars and natural disasters, have no toys to play with.

Our website is <u>www.somershambaptist.org</u> and you will find details of all our activities and names of contacts if you need help with managing your money, chatting over problems you need advice about plus enquiries about our Lord Jesus Christ





October—November 2018



Youth Worker needed in Somersham

The following exciting opportunity is now available to work with teenagers and young people who live and visit Somersham. We are currently seeking a motivated and enthusiastic individual to support the development and delivery of a varied, fun and wide ranging programmes of activities.

Youth Worker – Junior Youth Club (SCP 14) £9.19 per hour

The Junior Youth Club is open every Monday term time only from 5.45 – 7.45pm at the Victory Hall. Applicants must be able to develop and motivate young people and it is desirable that you have skills hobbies or interests that could be used in work with young people.

For Paid Vacancies (age 16 +) :

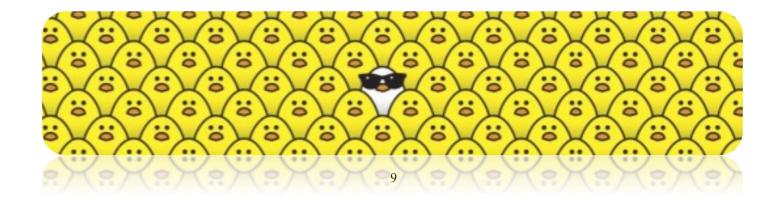
Please download an application form from **www.somersham-pc.gov.uk** and clearly identify what vacancy you wish to apply for.

The job description and person specification can be viewed online at www.somersham-pc.gov.uk

Completed application forms should be returned by email or post no later than <u>9.30am on Friday 26th October 2018</u>

Completed applications to be returned to

Email: clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk Postal address: The Norwood Building, Parkhall Road, Somersham PE28 3HE





The Programme

Seated/standing Exercise:

Tuesday afternoons starting at 2pm, The Millennium Pavilion, off The Trundle (PE28 3JS). Each session, led by Becky Adams, will be approximately 45 minutes followed by refreshments.

T'ai Chi (adapted half seated/half standing)

Wednesdays at 2.30pm, at the Victory Hall (PE28 3HE). Each session, led by Mike Tabrett will be approximately 1 hour and will be followed by refreshments.

Nordic Walking:

Thursdays mornings led by Sam Godfrey. Step 1 starts at 10am and Step 2 (Intermediate) starts at 11.15am. Each Step is approximately 30 minutes of walking and is followed by refreshments. Meet at the Millennium Pavilion (PE28 3JS).

All sessions £4. Subsidised transport can be provided on request.

Free Coffee Mornings:

We hold free coffee mornings and information events throughout the programme. Visit our website for any upcoming dates.

For more information visit our website www.https:// changinglivessomersham.wordpress.com, follow us on Facebook 'Changing Lives', call 01487 841359 or email changing.lives@somersham-pc.gov.uk





October—November 2018 Congratulations to the trustees of Somersham Victory Hall management committee on achieving Hallmark 1 accreditation. Hallmark is a nationally recognised quality standard scheme for village halls and community facilities.

We are pleased to announce the trustees at Victory Hall have achieved Hallmark 1 accreditation. The visitors who carried out the accreditation inspection were impressed with the management committees drive in continuing to improve the facility, a recent upgrade has seen new doors and windows fitted after the trustees received funding to cover the installation.

The Victory Hall provides facilities and space for all sorts of community groups including dance classes, art groups, youth club, fitness classes, slimming groups, martial arts, film nights as well as being available for hire to the community for birthdays, weddings and events. We are really pleased the trustees took part in the Hallmark accreditation.

The benefits of the Hallmark scheme for village halls includes formal recognition that the community facility has embedded good practice and procedures, giving residents and hirers confidence that their valuable community venue is being well managed and run by the trustees. There are three levels to the Hallmark scheme and it is hoped the trustees of Victory Hall will soon go on to achieve the next two levels!

Kirsten Bennett, Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire ACRE said: "We would like to congratulate the trustees and volunteers at Victory Hall on their recent success with Hallmark 1. This accreditation is confirmation of the hard work and dedication of the management committee and supporters of the village hall. I wish them every success as they progress through the next two levels of the scheme."

Lesley Minter, Chairman of the trustees, said: *"We are delighted to have achieved the Hallmark 1 award. The process encouraged us to review some of our policies and practices, and the rigorous attention to detail of our visiting assessors highlighted one or two aspects that we had not fully understood and have now been able to address. We run a busy centre for many village activities for all ages and abilities that are organised by a great group of community volunteers and entrepreneurs. We are lucky to have such a very committed team of trustees and employees to enable the smooth running of the hall for all who use it. Everyone involved with the hall contributes to its success."*



Editor's Snippets



For more Information contact Katie 01487 841359 or Phil 07826 858286 October-November 2018

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

Deadline for the December/January Edition of SOMERSHAM4U WEDNESDAY 31st October 2018 (3:00PM)

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018

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

> 1st October 29th October

26th November 17th December

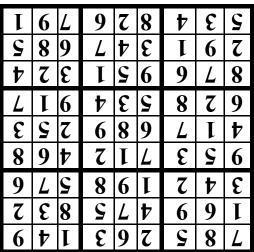
STALLS AT THE CROSS

Friends of Somersham Parish Church £100.80

July 14th

Royal British Legion Women's Section £77.30

August 4th Friends of Somersham Parish Church £89.10



Contact Page

October-November 2018

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Steve Criswell	steve.criswell@huntindonshiredc.gov.uk	740745
Mervyn Greaves	mervyn.greaves@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	842255
Kevin Hawkins	kevin.hawkins@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	843402
Tony Hulme	tony.hulme@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	840152
Paul McCloskey	paul.mccloskey@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	841641
Dianna Skeggs	dianna.skeggs@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	07919 890808
Richard Sutton (Chairman)	dick.sutton@somershamparishcouncil.co.uk	840150
8 vacancies		
Parish Office 01487 841359 Open 9:00AM-3:00PM		
Monday-Thursday www.somersham-pc.gov.uk www.somersham4u.org.uk		
@SomershamParish		
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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

The Royal British Legion Somersham Branch



I recently enjoyed a meeting with a member from Somersham Parish Council in the hope that we can work together on a joint project for this year's Remembrance Day and was surprised to learn that a lot of people do not understand what the Royal British Legion (RBL) do. There is a lot more about the RBL other than turning out on the streets at the end of October each year to sell poppies.



So what do they do?.. Well since The Legion's conception way back in May 1921 the main aim was to support the survivors (and their families) who had fought in World War One but were unable to look after themselves once the war had ended, The poppy appeal started with the aim of selling poppies in the few weeks before the Remembrance Day Parade and using the profits to help the returning service personnel. Some of the milestones achieved by the Legion are as follows:

- The introduction of the Women Section known as The Woman's Auxiliary Section which allowed ex-Servicewoman to be admitted to the Legion the word Auxiliary was dropped in 1922.
- The first Legion Poppy Day was held on November 11th, 1921.
- In 1926 it gained its Royal Charter which gave the Legion its formal status and empowered it with the authority that covered every aspect of the Legion's work with the ex-service community.

Further changes to its charter happened throughout the Legion history from the Queen becoming its patron (allowing the Legion to use the word Royal in its title in May 1971) to membership being extended to serving members of Her Majesty's Forces in1981. Today the Legion has opened its doors to allow people who have never served in Her Majesty's Forces to join so anyone can now become a Member.

The monies that the Legion collect go to support ex-service personnel and families in a number of ways the range includes Care Homes with Dementia Support, Admiral Nurses who supply advice and support to our beneficiaries who have Dementia, Mobility Equipment including Stair Lifts, Handy Vans which are fully equipped vans and a service engineer who will support with small DIY projects around the homes of our beneficiaries. RBL can also provide a range of service to support our personnel through any form of Mental Illness.

In Somersham we have a branch HQ which is the hall attached to the Centurion which we use for meetings and hire out for private functions. The legion members also run a small bar inside the hall which is open at Sunday lunch time and open to anybody members or not. So if you might be keen to become a member pop along we will only be to happy to see you. You can also contact me Bob Bainbridge (Chairman) on 07786573611or Jan Davidson who is our Membership Secretary.

The Great Pilgrimage 90-years on August 5th to 9th 2018.

Both Janet and myself set off along with others from Cambridgeshire, from Trumpington for this recreation of the pilgrimage of 1918.Others set off from other places in the U.K. There were over 2000 people.

We stayed near Lille so travelled each day to the battlefields and on

the 6th into Ypres for the parade. It was very hot in France and Belgium, but we had the luxury of air conditioned coaches, back in 1918 they travelled by train and charabanc which could not have been comfortable.

On the 6th we travelled south, visiting the Somme, Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval Wood, Ulster Tower, Longueval and the South African Memorial at Delville Wood. Then we travelled to Arras to a huge cemetery and saw the Memorial to the Royal Flying Corp. Ending the day at Vimy Ridge which is where you find the large Canadian Memorial over looking the plain where the battle took place. Back to Lille. On the 7th we travelled north going first to Tyne Cot, the largest cemetery on the Western Front. This is built on the remnants of German Blockhouses and covers a huge area with graves and a large wall of remembrance. From here we visited Crest Farm, the highest point in the area, then on to Passchendaele a very interesting museum. We travelled on to Hill 60 and visited mine craters near a railway cutting. Then on to Ypres were we visited the museum in the Cloth Hall. This is a fantastic museum, well laid out and very informative. We also managed a quick visit to a café in the square soaking up the atmosphere of such a beautiful rebuilt city. Back to Lille

August 8th, parade day, another early start 8 am, and into Ypres. Everything was well organised, on entering the city we had a police escort and only allowed to travel on certain roads as others were closed. We parked in a designated area, and went to a marquee to await the next part. Refreshments were available and also seating as it was along wait. Janet and I separated as Standard Bearers went to one part and wreath layers another. At about 11.30 am the Standard Bearers lined up and walked off to the place along a road not far away. Once they had all gone, the wreath layers did the same, and we lined up along side them in the same street. At 12 noon we heard the clock strike and then the band started to play and the march started. It took a long time to march to the Menin Gate as there were over 2000 Standard Bearers and wreath layers. After a short service, and the exhortation read, the last post was played by the firemen of Ypres and then the wreaths were laid. First by the dignitaries present and then everyone else.



This took several minutes, we all went up through the Menin Gate and down the ramparts ready to march back. After all the wreaths were laid the National anthem was played and sung by everyone there. All the Standards marched off which took about 5 minutes followed by the wreath layers.

Once back at our start place we were given free time in Ypres, before travelling back to Lille via Langemark a German cemetery, which is very different. This gave us chance to see what was happening in the square, were there was entertainment and to revisit the Menin Gate to see all the wreaths.

A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT.

August 9th Travelled back home via Calais and Dover. It was a marvellous experience and something Janet and I will never forget. It was privilege to attend and represent the village and the Women's section of the RBL

Jenny Smith (Chair Women's Section) Somersham



October-November 2018





All members of the Somersham Community are invited to make a poppy to be attached to a display at the Somersham War Memorial in time for Rememberance Day 2018

Come along on Saturday 3rd November to the War Memorial (High Street) between 10-1pm to attach your poppies to the display.

The Poppy Appeal Annual Cake Sale will be running at the same time at the Cross

> Poppies can be made out of any material, but do need to be able to survive the outside weather for a few weeks. We ask for poppies to be an approximate size of 3 inches /7.5cm diameter. A laminator will be avaliable on the attaching day.

Somersham Parish Council Somersham Parish Council on 01487 841359

