Somersham,

A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY Sep/Oct/Nov 2025



Parish Council



Chairman's Report

Hello Somersham,

I am pleased to report that the carnival was a great success, and most importantly brought the village back together again. The weather could have been worse (but also could have been better!!!), and of course a big shout out to all those who helped to make it all happen. (I know many people went home a bit red and suffered the next day!)

The 'Repair Shed' at the Millennium Sports Facility should be open soon - final touches are being made to the electrical supply and access path. Volunteers are needed to provide repair services and/or support behind the scenes. Please contact the Parish Council office if you can help.

The Neighbourhood Plan is continuing to evolve and many thanks if you stopped by to make a comment at the Carnival – many of you did.

Why not enter our front-page competition by sending through your locally taken photographs of wildlife or scenery in the village? Details on the back page.



Here is a photo of Somersham award winners at the Huntingdon County Bowls finals.

Left to right:- Pauline Whittlesey, Sandra Day, Lynda Childs, Logan Strang, Elliot Jakes, Lynda Brailsford, Mandy Ramnought.

And finally, the Parish Council have a pool table for sale. Please call the office on 01487 841359 if you are interested.

Daryl Potter, Somersham Parish Council Chairman



Pool table for sale

4 x 7ft

Blue cloth (recently replaced)

Includes working jack

Coin operated "Push Mechanism"

Located on the 1st floor Community room in the Victory Hall, Somersham. Will need to be carried down a flight of stairs. Collection only.

£1500 ONO (Priced for a quick sale)

Suitable for a Pub, Social club or personal use

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 8th SEPT 2025 MONDAY 6th OCT 2025 MONDAY 27th OCT 2025

STALLS AT THE CROSS

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 25

21st April - Women's Institute £149.30

3rd May - Friends of Somersham Church £191.40

8th May - Royal British Legion £285.85

31st May - Somersham Garden Club £934.00

PETITION TO CHANGE ZEBRA CROSSING TO A PELICAN OR PUFFIN CROSSING

The Parish Council are aware of resident concerns regarding the effectiveness of the Zebra Crossing on the High Street by the Parkhall Road junction. As such the Parish Council are considering applying for funding to change this to either a Pelican or Puffin crossing.

We need your input to help by way of a residents petition. If you would like to participate, please either click on the link below or tear off the strip at the bottom of this page and post through the letterbox at the Somersham Parish Council Office.

Pelican crossings are activated by pressing the button at the side of the road to control the flow of traffic. Pressing the activation button prompts the traffic lights to switch to red. The 'red man' signal for pedestrians will turn to a 'green man', letting the pedestrian know it is safe to cross.

Puffin crossings are a slightly smarter version of the pelican crossing. Not only do these crossings have activation buttons but they are also equipped with sensors that detect when pedestrians are present. These make the crossing more efficient and safer by detecting whether pedestrians are crossing – which prompts the crossing to hold the red traffic light longer if someone is crossing slowly.

We would prefer electronic responses. Please click on the QR Code or the link below:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3SVVCH5 If you are unable to complete the form online please fill in the form below.





TO CHANGE THE CROSSING ON HIGH S	STREET SOMERSHAM AT THE JUNCTION OF PA	ARKHALL ROAD
I feel that the existing crossing on High Street Somersham should be changed to a new style crossing		
My preferred option isPelican Crossing		
or Puffin Crossing		
To be returned to Somersham Parish Council, The Norwood Building, Parkhall Road, Somersham PE28 3HE		





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.

Matthew 6:9-13 — Teach us to pray

^h September 21st September 28th September 5th October 12th October 19th October 16th November 23rd November

Matthew 6:9b Matthew 6:9c Matthew 6:10a Matthew 6:10b,c Matthew 6:11 Mathew 6:12 Matthew 6:13a Matthew 6:13b

Our Father What's in a name? Kingdoms Heaven on earth The basics Forgiveness Testing Deliverance



November 9th — Remembrance Sunday

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

Visiting preachers — "Giving"

14th September 26th October 2nd November

Paul Hills Paul Hills Wayne Carlson

Dynamite (Tweens youth group during termtime)

 $E\text{-}mail\, \texttt{dynamite@somershambaptist.church} \, for \, further \, information.$ Games, table games, tuck, and time to think about God. Different 'special' activity each time.

The Royal British Legion Somersham & District Branch

Did you know we have a hall (with kitchen) available for hire at a competitive price for both regular and one-off events? Branch members receive a discount on bookings. Please contact Dee Wright on 07852 821296 for details.

Somersham RBL have both a main branch and a Women's Section - new members both to branch and committee are always welcomed! If you would like to become a member, please contact Vernon Kellingray on 07747 782015.

This year's calendar of events will see us busy with:

17th August – VJ Day Celebration Party/event

20th September - Tabletop sale

18th October - Oktoberfest!

23rd October – 9th November - Poppy Appeal

9th & 11th November – Remembrance parade and service

12th November – AGM





Can you spare an hour or two? Why not help with the Poppy Appeal? We launch on 23rd October this year and would be grateful for volunteers!

Could you help distribute/collect boxes to businesses/collectors? Carry out a house-to-house collection? Assist with events?

If you would like to get involved, please contact Tracey Atkin on 07753 982176



You don't have to work with young people to give them skills for life!

If you've got a bit of time to spare, want to build your CV, or help give young people #SkillsForLife, why not become a trustee?

Trustees play a key part in Scouts and keep an eye on our vision. They make sure young people have the best experience at Scouts, and check things are being done safely and legally.

Trustees do lots of different things. They...

- ✓ Meet 4-5 times per year
- Make sure our sections follow the rules
- Help Scouts run activities with young people in the safest way possible
- √ Complete any necessary admin
- Make sure Scouts has enough money for activities
- Check that equipment and buildings are looked after
- And much more... as well as meeting new people and having fun on the way!

Many of our trustees are...

- People looking to build their CVs. You'll gain vital experience to make your job or university application shine
- People established in their careers. You'll put your valuable skills into practice and share your knowledge with your team
- People getting back into work or changing careers. You'll gain transferable skills and experience for your next challenge
- People wishing to keep themselves busy. You'll share your life experience that'll be most welcome and beneficial

Want to find out more?

You can email our Lead Volunteer at <u>GLV@1st-Somersham-scouts.org.uk</u> message us through our Facebook page, or call 07807067477

More detailed information can be found by visiting scouts.org.uk/volunteers

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.

Please use

somersham4U.newsletter@somersham-pc.gov.uk



Contact the editorial team

Irene Healiss Jane Turney
Nicola David Daryl Potter Christine Dolby Dianna Skeggs

01487 841359

or

somersham4U.newsletter@somersham-pc.gov.uk

For those of you that walk footpath number 6 from the far end of the Allotments (crossing College Farm beside the newish hedge) you may have wondered what the machine on the other side of the hedge is.

It is a Farmdroid Robot like that recently seen on Countryfile. It is programmed to plant small seeds precisely where they are wanted using Solar Power and GPS and it knows exactly within 5 cms where every seed is. Later it will hoe between the rows and then, when the plants are big enough, between the plants. It can be controlled by an app on your phone and uses no labour or energy costs. The future of farming?

Ray Woolway. (Don't ask me how to programme it !!)



On This Day

23th Sept, 1641. The Merchant Royal, a 17th century English merchant ship was lost at sea off Land's End. On board were at least 100,000 pounds of gold (nearly one billion pounds in today's money), 400 bars of Mexican silver and nearly 500,000 pieces of eight and other coins, making it one of the most valuable wrecks of all times. The wreck remains undiscovered.



19th Sept, 1970. The first Glastonbury Festival was held at Michael Eavis's farm in Glastonbury, starring T. Rex. The first festivals in the 1970s were influenced by hippie ethics and the free festival movement.

8th Oct ,1965. London's Post Office Tower, once Britain's tallest building, opened. Prime Minister Harold Wilson made the first telephone call.

14th Oct, 1878. The first football match played under floodlights took place at Bramhall Lane, Sheffield, in front of a crowd of just under 20,000. Two generators positioned behind each goal powered lights on 30 ft. high wooden towers situated at each corner of the field. The light was deemed so bright that some ladies present put up their parasols to protect themselves from being burned.

30th Nov, 1913. Charlie Chaplin made his film debut - 'Making a Living' sporting a droopy 'gaucho' moustache, not the 'toothbrush' one he became famous for in later films.

12th Nov, 1933. The first photograph of the 'Loch Ness monster' was taken by Mr Hugh Gray. He managed to take five pictures altogether but after processing, four of them were blank and the fifth was not confirmed as being Nessie.



Shaping Somersham's Future: Why the Neighbourhood Plan Matters

Somersham's Neighbourhood Plan is all about putting our community in the driving seat when it comes to shaping the future of our village. From the types of homes we need, to protecting green spaces, supporting local businesses, and improving facilities, the Plan gives us a real say in how development happens here.



Thank you to everyone who visited the Neighbourhood Plan stall at the Somersham Carnival! It was fantastic to hear your ideas and priorities first-hand. Conversations ranged from traffic concerns to the importance of preserving our village character, exactly the kind of input that helps ensure the Plan reflects the views of people who live and work in Somersham.

This is a community-led project, and your involvement is essential. By contributing to the Plan, you're helping to secure a future for Somersham that reflects local needs and values, not just developer interests.

At the Lake fun Day on 6th September, the steering group will be handing out leaflets regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. The group are formulating a vision and key priorities for the plan and we need your help. Pop along to offer support and your views.

Look out for more opportunities to get involved, have your say, and help shape the future of our village.

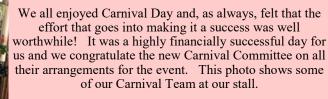
The next steering group meeting will be held on the 15th September 2025 at 7pm at the Millennium Sports Facility, where the group will discuss the vision and key priorities for the plan.



SOMERSHAM WOMENS INSTITITUE



Our member Alison Cooper was the Speaker at our July meeting, and she spoke about *First Aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)*. She is very keen to work towards increasing public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR. And we all had a chance to actually practise CPR which was a first time experience for most of us! This talk ties in with the WI National campaign to increase awareness about the knowledge & use of defibrillators and CPR for saving lives.







And for our annual trip this year, we are looking forward to visiting the Cambridge Botanic Gardens on 8th August. Plenty to keep us busy and involved with village activities.

Come and join us! We love having visitors and new members.

3rd Tuesday of the month at the Millennium Pavilion at 7.15 for a 7.30 p.m. start

There is a small visitor's fee of £5

For more information please contact either

Claire Callan, President 01354 693546 or Mary Slevin, Secretary 01487 209426

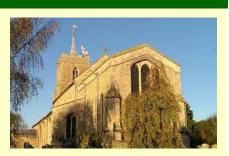
SOMERSHAM4U

Community News

St John the Baptist Church

The Rev. Sue Simpson has now taken up her new position at Boroughbridge in Yorkshire. There are a number of formalities that have to be completed before a new Rector for our church can be appointed and this may take rather a while.

We are fortunate to have several retired ministers living in Somersham – the Rev. Canon Fred Kilner, the Rev. Val Kilner and Rev. Stephen Bowring and they will continue to lead church services especially the Sunday 10.30 am service as well as baptisms, marriages and funerals.



Please get in touch if you would like your child baptised; you are interested in getting married in the church or would like the Rev. Kilner to take a funeral service, please contact 07447454851 by text or 01487 842864 by phone.

We will be holding our Blues in the Pews Concert on 6th September. Tickets will be available from Strands in August.

Among the special events coming up at the Church is the annual Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of $29^{th}/30^{th}$ November. Invitations for local groups to take part in the festival will be sent out in September. If your organisation has not provided a decorated tree in the past and would like to do so this year, please contact one of our churchwardens (Eddie Howlett (email:howletts2000@yahoo.co.uk or mobile 07792 292938).

The Friends of the Church will be holding their annual 'Prom Concert' on Saturday 4th October with Somersham Town Band and also featuring a Prize-winning male voice choir. Tickets will be available from Strands and the Library in the weeks leading up to the concert.

We are not far from Christmas now and details of the usual seasonal services such as Christingle, Crib and Carol Services as well as Midnight Communion will be published in December.



Somersham Community Library (FOSL)



The library on Church Street continues to be one of the most important community facilities within the village. Entirely run by volunteers since Council closure, the FOSL team have now been running the library for 22 years and have managed to maintain opening hours of 21.5 per week throughout most of that period.

The library depends on donations and fundraising for most of its upkeep. Over the past year we have continued to host fundraising events such as the successful coffee mornings in the library and in the Rose and Crown. If you haven't attended any of our events before, please come along. Also, look out for announcements about our first Bingo night which will be held later this year.

As well as providing full library services (just like any council-run library in Cambridgeshire) we also provide computer and internet services, colour printing and photocopying, local information and a space for local groups to meet.

We host school visits and run the annual Summer Reading Challenge for children, which is now in full swing. These initiatives help children to realise the usefulness and importance of books and it is gratifying to see how many young reading enthusiasts result from the activities. We signed up 100 new borrowers over the past year, many of them under 16s.

If you've never visited the library, please come along and see what we have to offer. For example, not many people realise that a Cambs. Council library card gives you access to 100s of free e-magazines every month.

The library simply would not exist without the help and support of our Volunteers, Trustees and subscribed Members. We are always looking for new people to help in any of our active roles, or to become FOSL charity members. If you are interested, please call into the library or you can find all details on our website at www.somershamlibrary.org.uk or by clicking on the QR code.

John Barrott (Chair, FOSL, registered charity # 1149100)

Somersham Library Opening Hours Monday 1400-1800 Tuesday 1000-1200 and 1400-1800 Thursday 1400-1900 Friday 1400-1800 Saturday 1000-1230



Community News (Go Green)



Men's Repair Shed

The sea container has now been installed at the Millennium Pavilion and work is progressing on the new Repair Shed project. We are presently working on the internal set up to create a practical, warm and welcome space.



A Repair Shed is a free meeting place (usually with refreshments) where there is opportunity to learn all about making practical repairs alongside an expert.

For example: electrical appliances, bikes, jewellery and toys etc which can all be done free of charge.



Donations will be welcome and clarification of what tools are required will be updated in the coming weeks.

At this stage we are keen to hear from those who would like to volunteer 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
- Repairing items of clothing.
- 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?



Our first project will be building bird boxes and other housing for wildlife such as hedgehogs, ladybirds, and bee hotels.

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

Thank you to everyone who has already offered their support!

Watch this space for more updates and look out for more details around the village and on our website somersham-pc.gov.uk

Somersham Nature Reserve

Adam's hard work to try and tempt turtle doves back to breed on the nature reserve through creating areas of ploughed land and providing additional food took a small step forward this summer. Whilst there's still no sign of breeding, we did have two turtle doves visit the ploughed area on a couple of occasions.

The warm weather is providing a bumper year for insects, with large numbers of gatekeeper butterflies recorded on the reserve. Wasp spiders seem to be increasing and lucky observers on July's butterfly and insect walk saw the first silver-washed fritillary recorded on the reserve for a number of years.

The upcoming autumn season brings with it an even bigger Lake Fun Day as well as the regular Apple Day and fungi foray. Work parties will be held on the first Sunday of each month starting September – come and join us in helping to improve this little jewel on our doorstep.

Upcoming events

Saturday 6th September Joint Lake Fun Day 10am - 4pm. Join Somersham Nature Reserve Group, Somersham Angling Club and Somersham & Pidley Timebank for a day of all things watery. Activities will be taking place all around

Sunday 12th October Apple Day 1pm – 4pm. Somersham Nature Reserve Group and Somersham & Pidley Timebank invite you to our annual celebration of apples. Meet at the Community Orchard at the north end of the Nature Reserve Sunday 26th October Fungal Foray 11am - 1pm Join Adam to learn more about mushrooms and toadstools and the vital role they play in nature. Maybe you will find a Rooting Tuff Shank, Cracked Top Boletus or Shaggy Parasol. Meet at the containers at Springfields.

For more information and updates to events please see our Facebook page.







Engagements 2025 Aug - Dec

Sun 24th 14.30-16.30 Ely Riverside Concert, Jubilee Terrace, Ely

Sun 21st 19.00 -21.00 St Ives Prom Concert, Corn Exchange,

The Pavement, St Ives

Oct

Sat 4th 19.00-21.30 Somersham Prom Concert.

St John the Baptist, Somersham

Sat 18th 19.00-21.00 Oktoberfest, Centurion Club, High St, Somersham

Sun 9th 11.00-12.00 Remembrance Service,

St John the Baptist, Somersham

Sat 29th 14.00-16.00 Godmanchester Christmas Bazaar St Mary the Virgin, Chadley Lane, Godmanchester

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

St Thomas A Beckett Church, Abbey Green, Ramsey

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

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

FOR A MINIMUM £5.00 DONATION YOU CAN BECOME A PATRON OF SOMERSHAM TOWN BAND

Return to .

Title Lot
Mrs. I. Chambers Hereford House,
67 High Street, Somersham, Cambs PE28 3JB
Name:
Address:
1
Email:
Phone:
Pnone:
Donation £
I am a U. K. tax payer & would like

donations to be treated as Gift Aid Payments

I would like to learn to play in the

Band - please contact me!







Lake Fun Day

Springfield entrance to the Lake of Somersham Nature Reserve
Saturday 6th September 2025

FREE Angling coaching available all day 10am—4pm

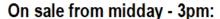
Catch a fish and see up close in the Viewing tank Trophies & prize packs awarded for best catch categories

Adult, Children and family slots available

Spaces limited, booking is advised, Contact Tim: 07707 501 674

Or just turn up from 12 noon to enjoy our other FREE activities:
On site toilet and hand washing facilities provided

Pond dipping, nature trail, wild play, crafts, face painting & more!



BBQ & Refreshments provided by Somersham 1st Scouts Group- Proceeds go towards the new hut! Plus a licensed bar & Franks Ices!

Visit Somersham Lake Fun Day on Facebook for more info: https://www.facebook.com/groups/260492966709640

(07599 628 106/ timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk)

The Annual 'Friends'

Prom Concert

Featuring

The Somersham Town Band

The A1 ACAPPELLA

Male Voice Choir

The concert ends with a rousing finale featuring the band, choir and audience all joining in with the 'Proms' favourite music.



Saturday 4th October at 7 pm in St John's Church, Somersham

Tickets - £10.00 in advance

£12.00 on the door (subject to availability)
To include an interval drink glass of wine or fruit juice.

Available from Strands, the Library or Alan - Tel: 01487 74153

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



are returning to South Africa to help build a school

A MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA for all the family

- On Friday 17th October
- At 7pm
- In the Victory Hall Somersham
- Tickets £10 (Under 12 free) Available at Vintage Peacock or on the door
- Wine Bar available

For more information contact <u>Margeret.taylor43@btinternet.com</u>

Mellon Educate (UK) Charity Reg. No. 1175352



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

We are giving you the opportunity to enter into our competition where you will be in with a chance of seeing your photograph on the front cover of the S4U Newsletter.

We are looking for the best shots showing the beauty of nature in Somersham to feature on one of the front covers of our next four editions:

December/Jan/Feb (Winter)
March/April/May (Spring)
June/July/Aug (Summer)
Sept/Oct/Nov (Autumn)

- Any age may enter
- Entries must be sent as PNG or JPEG (portrait orientation) and please ensure images are of HD quality.
- You may enter as many categories as you wish (MAXIMUM one entry per category)
- Please submit your entries by the end of October via email to: somersham4u.newsletter@somershampc.gov.uk

