

Somersham *4U*

A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Dec/Jan/Feb 2025

25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



Parish Council



Chairman's Report

Hello Somersham

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the first ever Somersham Community Newsletter called "Voices" which was originally published on 1st December 1999. It was written and compiled by Janice, Jennet and Marilyn with a contribution from John Pearce which mentions the carved village sign (which at present is down for repair). You can find a copy of this original issue in the centre pages of this edition.

It is nice to report some success – the charging points are up and running at the Norwood car park and can be located on the "Zapmap" App. There are four bays active:- two rapid bays and two fast bays.



Some more good news - Somersham Carnival will be taking place next year on Saturday 28th June.

The long-awaited improvements to Station Approach and Chatteris Road started on the 16th of October and will run until 16th December. I can't wait to see this job done.

Now for some bad news - the Remembrance Day Parade has been scaled down this year owing to road closure rules and regulations....**but we will still be remembering....** Next year we hope to be able to comply with the road closure rules and hold a full Remembrance Day parade.

Also, unfortunately on the weekend of the 19th October, both commemorative trees on the Norwood Playing Field were vandalised and broken. These trees were planted in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee at the Norwood playing field for the community to enjoy. The Parish Council are reviewing CCTV to identify the offenders and we hope to be able to replace these trees if possible.

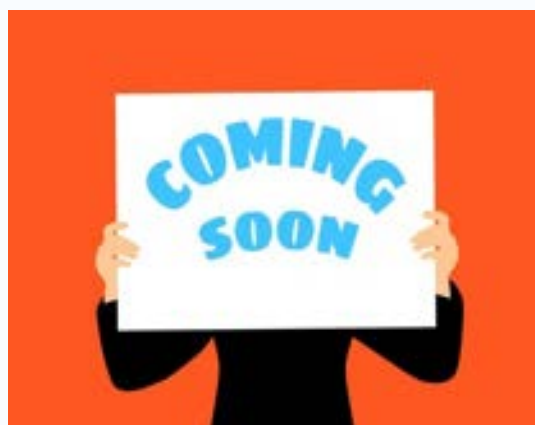
Due to ongoing costs we are unable to keep reinstating property damaged in this way.



Ending with an interesting fact, in England Parish Councils were formed exactly 130 years ago under the Local Government Act 1894.

And we still have parish councillor vacancies – want to be part of the solution? Come on, join the gang! (Details on page three)

Daryl Potter, Somersham Parish Council Chairman



Planning permission has been approved for a new sea container at the Millennium Pavilion which will be utilised as a Repair Café, which is a free meeting place where you will find tools and materials to help make any repairs you need. People can bring along their broken items from home, lend a hand with other repairs, or just have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

A new play surface is due to be laid at the Norwood play area which will replace the existing bark surface.

Sadly our anticipated environmental drop-in session has had to be postponed, but we hope to have a scheduled date in the new year.

SOMERSHAM4U

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor ?

**Responsible to**

All people resident within the Parish

Regular liaison with

Other councillors, local authorities, residents

Period of service

Four years with possible extension.

Salary

This is an unpaid position with some expenses able to be paid in certain cases.

Main purpose

To represent the views of all residents within your parish.

Secondary purpose

- As part of a local council you will have responsibility for running local services which may include: open spaces, play areas, village halls, community car schemes and potentially much more.
- To decide on how much to raise through the Council Tax in order to deliver your council's services.
- To influence and shape the long term development policy for the parish, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications in the parish.
- Improve the quality of life and the environment in their local area.
- Work to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents you represent.
- Work to bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies.

Support and training will be provided. Please email executiveofficer@somersham-pc.gov.uk to apply.

STALLS AT THE CROSS

JULY/AUG/SEPT 24

6th July 2024- Friends of Somersham Church £181.50
7th September 2024 - Friends of Somersham Parish Church
£245.50.

Facilities For Hire!

Looking for a venue for a Party or Group Activity?

Did you know that there is an excellent venue within Somersham that you could hire at a very reasonable rate?



The Millennium Pavilion, off The Trundle is probably best known as the place to play football but other groups also use its facilities -

including sewing groups, local organisations, Girl Guides, as well as the Parish Council for regular meetings.

***Norwood multi-sports area
FREE all weather area***

Please advise the office at Somersham Parish Council on 01487 841359 if tennis nets are required.

**Our Squash Court is located in the
Norwood Building,
Parkhall Road
(adjacent to The Victory Hall)
Only £5 per 45min session.**



**Call 01487 841359 or email
admin@somersham-pc.gov.uk**

For enquiries and information on any of the above

Call : 01487 841359 or Email

admin@somersham-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024 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 somersham-pc.gov.uk

Monday 16th December 2024
Monday 13th January 2025
Monday 10th February 2025

Are you looking for a new interest?

Would you like to make some new friends?

Can you spare one Tuesday evening each month?

We think that our contribution helps to keep hundreds (yes, literally hundreds!) of Somersham people happy and healthy.

What do we do?

What could you contribute? DIY experience?

Computer skills? Record keeping? Gardening?

You would be surprised at the wide range of things we talk and learn about. Sometimes free training is available and this month it is about fire safety.

**We sometimes go into local places
you have never seen!**

To join our team you are required to live in Somersham.

All ages from 18 are welcome. We need 3 more people so you could come with a friend or partner.

**Our names are Richard, Lesley, Sarah, Mary,
Eddie, Elaine, Tony, Kathy, Dick, Brenda.**

We are the trustees of the Somersham Victory Hall.

**Bored with the gym?
Fed up with evening classes?
Tired of XBox?**



**Try another hobby to exercise
both brain and body:
Church Bell Ringing!**



Take part in a great English tradition and join a fun and friendly team. Open to all faiths and none, aged 9 to 90 with no musical experience required! Practice sessions take place every Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 9pm at the Parish Church.

For information contact Mervyn on 07895 312476 or k.greaves1@talktalk.net

BUS FRANCHISING CONSULTATION

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

HELP US IMPROVE OUR BUS SERVICE

You have told us that bus services aren't good enough and we believe the way the region's buses are run needs to change.

Have your say by scanning the QR code and filling out our questionnaire. The consultation will run from 14 August to 20 November 2024.



cpca-yourvoice.co.uk

#ROADTOBETTERBUSES



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Community News



SOMERSHAM WOMENS INSTITUTE

We are always happy to welcome visitors and especially new members! We offer a wide ranging programme of talks and events each year, and are especially pleased to say we will be 'poppy bombing' the Church for the Remembrance Day celebration in November! This is particularly to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day and to remember the service and sacrifice of so many armed forces around the world.

There are many local events in the village and we always enjoy supporting the Carnival, Christmas Lights, the Flower Festival in the summer and the Christmas Tree Festival. The Borneo Girls came to talk to us before their trip and we are looking forward to their exhibition in November of photos & videos from their expedition – big congratulations to these young ladies!

A few of our recent favourite evenings for your interest: a very interesting talk on Forensic Science, plus we heard about the history of Burlesque Dancing and enjoyed a lively demonstration! We've had a talk on the history of Madame Tussauds and soon in November a talk on Sugarcraft. Our WI member Rev Sue gave us a wonderful presentation on her amazing walk along the Camino de Santiago during her sabbatical - we are in awe of her resilience and determination!

We had lots of fun at our Summer Garden Tea Party and really indulged ourselves with an Afternoon Tea at Carriages – all that food!!

There's a great programme lined up for 2025 and we look forward to welcoming you at the Millennium.

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

SOMERSHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY

It is the time of year we can look forward to cosy nights in with a good book, or come and make yourself comfortable in the library, we have a large selection of books plus a few magazines if you want to come in and while away some time. Check out our notice boards to see what's going on locally. Our book display is changed regularly with current and relevant books to borrow. We have free Wi-Fi, and the use of our public computers for borrowers; as well as laminating, printing and photocopying facilities for a small fee. If you are not already a library borrower, that can easily and quickly be remedied - just bring along a form of ID. Children have an excellent area all for themselves, with many books and a few toys, tables and chairs - adults can make themselves comfortable too.

We hope you managed to attend our annual November bumper coffee morning fundraising event, kindly hosted by Nicola and Matthew, in the Rose and Crown. There were many bargains to be had on our various stalls, along with delicious homemade cakes to enjoy.

We will once again be involved in the Christmas Tree Festival 🎄 with our own display. The Tree will be taken back to the library at the end of the festival to join the decorations the volunteers will have been busy putting up.

Everyone is very welcome to join us for our Christmas coffee morning in the library on Saturday 21st Dec. @ 10.30. Enjoy the local entertainment, try your luck with the raffle, have a mince pie, shortbread biscuit and a cuppa - for which a donation to help support us is appreciated.

Our last opening day for the festive season is Monday 23rd Dec, reopening on Thursday 2nd Jan 25
Check our website: Somershamlibrary.org.uk OR come in and talk to us ☺

Other ways to support your library:

Become a Friend of Somersham Library (FOSL) by paying a small annual subscription.

Attend our events and support us by buying raffle tickets and goods for sale.

Become a volunteer - **Your Library Needs You!**

We would love to welcome new volunteers to join our current team. We welcome a variety of skills and we will endeavour to match your skills to what the Library requires. We ask that you give a flexible two hours a week of your time, or more if you choose. Basic training is provided to help you become a valued and confident volunteer and you will have the opportunity to learn further skills.

If you are interested in joining us please pick up a Volunteer Registration form from the Library or leave your details for our volunteer liaison, who will then contact you.



Community News

Yesterday's News

The first edition of Somersham Community Newsletter - Dec 1999



A Community Newsletter for Somersham

No.1. December 1999.

WELCOME to this new Community newsletter. We have christened it "VOICES" because that is exactly what we want to hear- YOUR voice.

- Local voices who are born and bred in Somersham and who can teach us local history.
- Mature voices who can help and offer advice.
- Young voices who can tell us what they want.
- New voices belonging to those who have just joined the village.

We need to hear from you all. We need ideas for future newsletters, stories and appeals for help. But most of all we need help. We have taken the initiative to start this newsletter but we must have input in order to continue. This could be in the form of help in compilation of the newsletter, editorial work or help with delivery in your area.

For further details please contact any of the people listed below.

Janice Davidson, 1 Harvey Drive
Tel 840836.

Marilyn Clarke, Spurs Villa,
St. Ives Road
Tel 841697

Jennet Smith, 18 Ibbot Crescent.
Tel 840828



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

The Annual Christmas Lights switch on ceremony will take place on Wednesday December 1st at the Cross. This year we are hoping to involve the youth of the village and have invited local groups to participate by singing a Christmas carol or song or reciting a poem. The ceremony will be performed by the winner of a handwriting competition held in Somersham school.

There will be refreshments provided courtesy of the Parish Council and Somersham WI., The National Women's Register and the Mother's Union. We will be holding a prize draw with lots of prizes donated by local businesses (we hope!). It is not too late for you to donate a prize. Please contact one of the people listed below for further details.

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to our new Rector, the Reverend Eddie Turner, Rector of Somersham with Pidley and Old Hurst, and Pam his wife. His induction took place on November 4th in the parish church. Eddie entered the priesthood after retirement from the police force. Pam works as a Community Physio-therapist in the Fenland area. We would also like to thank John Graham for all his hard work over the last 12 months.

We Need You!

Do you have any skills which could be of help in the running of this newsletter?

We would love to hear from you, don't be afraid to volunteer.

If you have any items of news which you think would be of interest to other people in the village do let us have them.

Lake working party

Each month a working party is needed to help around the lake area. Can you help?

Everyone is welcome and with out your support the lake will not be such a delightful place to walk around or visit.

The next date for the working party is:- Sunday December 5th.

Ramblers did you know that there is a Footpath Working Party that sadly has fallen a bit by the wayside. They desperately need new helpers to mend stiles and clear paths.

Please contact one of the numbers listed if you can help.

Community News

Somersham Matters Parish Council report

May 6th 1999 saw the election of the new Parish Councillors as your representatives for the next four years. Six new faces joined nine established councillors and the last five months have been busy times for all concerned. Council meetings are held every four weeks on a Monday evening. In addition there are 14 sub-committees on which councillors work covering areas of village life from the Lake to Local charities, from Christmas Lights to the new Playing Field. Mr Ray Woolway has been elected Chairman once again, with Mr David Bonnett as his Vice-Chairman.

The thorny issue of planning is discussed at every meeting. Plans for proposed developments are examined, their implications to the local environment discussed and a decision taken. In spite of the care that the Parish Council give to their considerations it is not always the case that approval or rejection at this stage will be the final decision. The District Council, who formulate the long term plan for Somersham as part of a district wide picture, and who work within given guidelines from Central Government may decide differently.

The New Playing Field development, which is partially funded by a National Lottery Grant has been continuing throughout the summer. Plans are presently in hand for the landscaping of the area as the building nears completion and Voices will look forward to bringing you details of the official opening just as soon as a date is set.

One imminent new addition to the facilities at the Norwood Playing Field is to be a purpose built area for skating, both for skates and boards. The District Council have substantial funds available for these facilities which when added to local sponsorship and fundraising by young skaters from Somersham and a grant from East Waste means that skaters should soon be safely off the roads. In addition the District Council will undertake the ongoing maintenance of this facility.

The Station Land open space, which the Parish Council purchased a few years ago has proved itself to be an asset to the recreational facilities of the village. A plan to set aside a 15m strip along one edge of the field should mean that the dog walkers and horse riders, two groups that enjoy this amenity, will be able to exercise themselves and their animals more safely.

Street Lighting – if you notice a light that is off when it should be on, or on when it should be off, or perhaps not on at all, then please make a note of the

number on the lamp post and telephone the freephone direct line to Eastern Electricity, 0800 253529 for repairs.

As mentioned at the beginning of this round-up of some of the Parish Council matters from the last five months there are many sub-committees which your Parish councillors are part of – but many also rely on members of the public playing their part as well. The lake and footpath working parties are particular cases in point. If we are to be able to enjoy these valuable village amenities at their best then we must 'roll our sleeves up' and 'do our bit'. If you feel you would like to help please phone one of the numbers listed overleaf for more information.

Somersham and the Millennium

The Information Board mounted above "The George" indicates the count down to one of the most exciting days events probably ever witnessed in Somersham, the eve of the Millennium.

There is just no excuse for not having a good time, and with some additional help and support a great time.

We not only seek funds to provide a feast of fun, but in addition, permanent memorials to the year 2000, with a monument to the Zero Meridian that uniquely runs through the village, plus a carved pictorial village sign. Therefore, if you are going to take advantage of our organisation, please make a donation or at least support our fund-raising events.

Consult our information board or ring John Pearce Tel: 840528.

New Years Eve Events.

- 9 am - 12 noon Senior Citizens Tea Party
(with entertainment)
- 2 pm - 5 pm Children's Millennium Theme disco
- 8 pm - 11.15 pm New Years Eve Dance Live Band the "R and B Band" Tickets: £20 per head inc. supper.
B.Y.O.D Followed by a candlelight procession to the on going event below.
- 9 pm - January 1st 2000 Open Air Extravaganza at The Cross. Professional and amateur entertainment
Large screen audio-visual display. Services of Rose and Crown PH. Fireworks

Complement your private party by joining the celebrations at the Cross.

Aims for the Year 2000

- Zero Meridian Memorial
- Village sign
- Year 2000 major celebration event for the children of all ages

!!WATCH THIS SPACE!!

Community News



SOMERSHAM TOWN YOUTH F.C.



Over 10% of the population of Somersham are involved with the club, which means we really are part of the community and proud of it!!!
In the past 2 years we have formed a committee, invested in kit and equipment,
opened a tea bar and formed a solid base to support our 7 teams.

Both the quality of our pitches (thank you to Martin) and welcoming tea bar are praised by visiting supporters and our parents alike.
This close season a majority of our teams decided not to take a break and whilst the Millennium pitches rested in July, the men's team made West End available to allow continuous training. I would never have thought of fitness training for 12 year old's, well done Mark and Stuart.
As a community club we have felt providing a outlet for our children was more important than results, but I now realise it takes a season to build a team! The results so far have been impressive to say the least, The Under 7's and Under 15's are going through a transition, Ryan and Joe are more than capable of seeing this through.

As I write this, the under 12's and under 13's are top of or in the running in their respective leagues, a big well done to Lewis/Kevin/Mark and Stuart! League tables are not published for U8, u9 or u10, but given the results of all 3 it is likely they will be moved up a league at the end of this quarter. Well done Neil/Stuart/Tomasz/Jake and Simon.

A special mention to our under 10's, last season as U9's the parents and players kept going even though they did not win one game! This season they have won 3 of the last 4, which shows it takes time to build a team, a big thank you to the parents, players and coaches with keeping the faith.

THANK YOU for the continued support of the village, we will have a stall at the school fayre on the 6th December, hopefully see you there!

Please come along and support our youth Saturday weekly 10am at the Millennium Sports Field, The Trundle and enjoy a bacon roll with cup of tea.



Somersham Town Band

Engagements 2024 -25

October	
Sat 19 th 19.00	Oktobefest, The Centurion Club, High St, Somersham
November	
Sun 10 th 10.45	The Cross, then 11.00 Remembrance Day Service St John the Baptist, Church St, Somersham
December	
Sun 1 st 18.30	Lights Switch on at The Cross Somersham
Fri 6 th 8.30-9.30	Radio Cambridgeshire Breakfast Show - live carols
Sun 8 th 14.00	Godmanchester Christmas Concert St Mary the Virgin, Chadley Lane, Godmanchester
Fri 13 th 19.00	Christmas by Candlelight, St John the Baptist, Church St, Somersham
Sat 14 th 19.00	Tinsel and Brass Concert, St Thomas A Becket Church, Abbey Green, Ramsey
Sat 21 st 10.00-12.00	Carols at the Cross, Somersham
Tue 24 th 10.00-12.00	Carols at the Cross, Somersham
May	
Sun 18 th Time TBC	Somersham VE 80 th Anniversary Concert, Centurion Club, High St, Somersham
June	
Sat 14 th 19.30-21.30	Buckden Towers VE 80 th Anniversary Prom Concert, Buckden Towers Garden, High St, Buckden

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

BRASSED OFF?

..Give your brain a smile once a week.

SOMERSHAM TOWN BAND

*Not a screen to be seen
Training included
Loan instruments
Easy going, fun
Beginner or pro
Lovely concerts
..Lovely music
Ages 7-97*



Drop us a line: Somershamtownband@gmail.com
www.somershamtownband.com

Community News



Somersham Nature Reserve



Autumn has been a busy time on the Nature Reserve with two of our biggest events of the year – Lake Fun Day and Apple Day. Neither of these events would have happened if it wasn't for a dedicated group of people including Tim from the Angling Club, Paula from Timebank and Adam from the Nature Reserve.

Lake Fun Day in September saw over 80 children have a chance to experience angling first hand thanks to volunteer angling coaches. The Environment Agency bought their mobile aquarium which gave people a chance to see some of the fishy residents of the lake close up. Somersham Scouts were in charge of the BBQ and raised over £600 towards the rebuilding of their new hut.

October saw the focus move from the lake to the Community Orchard for the annual Apple Day and the Great Somersham Bake Off with over 200 people coming to celebrate all things apple.

Now the main events are over, our focus on the nature reserve turns towards winter management. Our monthly work parties have re-started on the 1st Sunday of the month starting at 9.30am at the containers at the Springfield entrance to the reserve.



Somersham Angling Club

Earlier this year a new picnic bench was installed at the lake by the new teaching platform.

The bench was funded through a grant awarded by the Environmental Agency and makes a lovely addition to this part of the lake.



Community News

On This Day.....

23 Feb 1874 Major Walter Clopton Wingfield patented an outdoor game he called 'Sphairistike', later known as lawn tennis. Eventually it was adopted by the All England Croquet Club which sponsored the first Wimbledon championships in 1877.

17 Jan 1912 Captain Robert Falcon Scott reached the South Pole, only to find that the Norwegian Roald Amundsen had beaten him by one month.

2 Feb 1914 The very first Cub Scout pack was formed in England, the first pack being in Robertsbridge, Sussex, although the Cub Scout movement was not formally founded until 1916. By the end of that year there were 6,000 Cub Scouts and 20 years later the number stood at more than 150,000.

13 Jan 1964 Capital Records grudgingly released the first Beatles record, 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand', in the US to, as they said 'see how it goes'. It became their fastest selling single ever. Within only three weeks, a million copies had been sold.



15 Feb 1971 The British Government launched a new, decimal currency across the country. The familiar pound (£), shilling (s) and pence (d) coins that had been in existence for more than 1000 years were to be phased out in the space of 18 months in favour of a system with 100 pennies to the pound rather than 240.



28 Jan 2014 Police stopped a learner driver for speeding on the M62 in West Yorkshire. She was accompanied only by her pet parrot. 'Since parrots are not allowed to supervise learner drivers, her vehicle has been seized,' police tweeted.

BE PART OF THE NEXT SOMERSHAM4U

HAVE YOUR SAY !!

Do you have any upcoming events that you wish to let the 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
for content and matters relating to the newsletter

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

Deadline for next issue
30th January 2025

Community News

Heritage Exhibition

It was most gratifying to see so many people attend the Heritage Exhibition that the Friends of the Church held in mid-October. There was a steady stream of people throughout the two days with quite a lot of people coming back on Sunday afternoon having already been on the Saturday. This exhibition, coupled with the slide show of old photographs of the village, which was held earlier this year to



a packed audience in the Church, shows that there is considerable interest in the rich history of Somersham.

The exhibition was a display of much of my research for the last sixteen years or more, much of which is in the seven books that I have published. I have amassed a considerable number of copies of old photographs of the village, over 700 at last count and I am most grateful to all those people who have allowed me to scan and save old photographs that they have. It is always exciting for me when 'new' photographs are discovered. At the exhibition, an elderly gentleman who used to live in Somersham, came along with several old photographs that I have never seen and he gave them to me. The opportunity to see and scan photographs of buildings or

events in the past is invaluable, we need to preserve our heritage for the present and future generations. If you do come across old photographs that you think that I would be interested in I would be most willing to borrow and scan them.

Alan Draper

The Gardens of Windsor Court, Feoffes Road, Somersham.

This prominent building in Feoffes Road was originally built in 1970 and after a major upgrade re-opened in April 1993 to house retired residents over 60 years old. It currently has 19 single persons flats together with a shared lounge, laundry, guest facilities and a large garden. There have been a number of owners over the years and is currently managed by Chorus Homes.

One resident, Ivy Nesbit now aged 85, has been a resident for 13 years, and six years ago decided that she would try and make the entrance gardens a much nicer and attractive area than they were. Ivy embarked on clearing the raised beds of old bushes and debris and purchased plants to brighten the beds, it was hard work. Since then Ivy has continued to make the Windsor Court frontage a delight to see, and visitors often stop to admire the beautiful flowers and chat to Ivy as she goes about her work. The gardens are quite extensive with beds at the front, side and back of the building including a greenhouse which all receive the same care and attention.

Ivy says that although the gardens at Windsor Court are a lot of work, she thoroughly enjoys it, and it helps to keep her fit and healthy. In the past she has been awarded a number of certificates from Luminus and Chorus for her contribution to the neighbourhood, however after recent management changes this recognition has unfortunately ceased. Over the years Ivy has thoughtfully planted a rose bush for each resident she knew that passed away. Ivy continues to look for new projects for the gardens and is currently working towards making more beds at the back of the Court where there is already an extensive lawn for residents to use and enjoy.

Ivy organises a regular Wednesday 'Coffee Morning' for all residents and friends, these take place from 10.00am to 12 noon and they recommenced on Wednesday September 4th. She also likes to arrange birthday parties for residents whenever they have a 'special' birthday to celebrate.

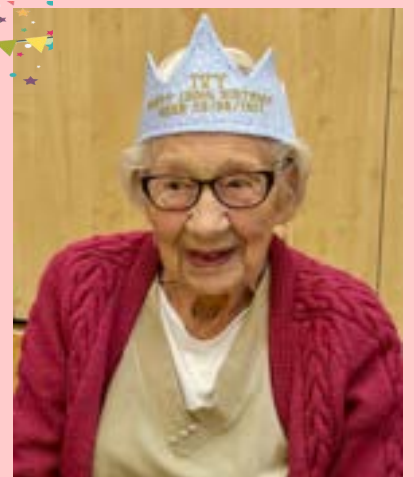
Ivy has a strong community spirit and the gardens she lovingly tends are both admired and appreciated by the residents and many Somersham folk passing by this important part of the village community.

She is truly one of Somersham's 'unsung heroes'.



Somersham Friendship Club hosted a fabulous 100th birthday party for Ivy Kimber on Tuesday 24th September.

Ivy has lived in Somersham all her life and is very well known and loved by many Somersham residents. She was born in the Windmill and ran the Fish and Chip shop for many years. She received over 80 cards and many flowers and gifts including a lovely bouquet from Somersham Parish Council.



Community News

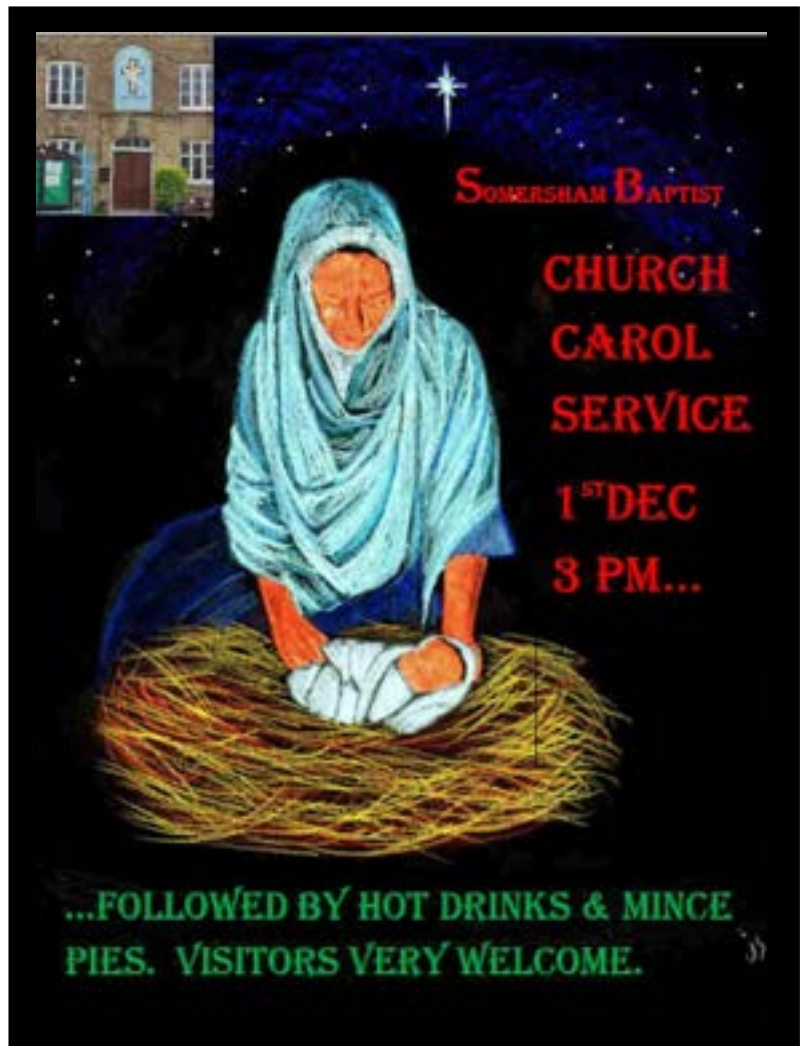


2024 Switch On at The Cross - 7pm, Sunday 1 Dec

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

Raffle tickets will be on sale from 1 Nov every Saturday morning outside Tesco and also at shops and businesses throughout the village. The draw will take place after the lights have been switched on with prizes being donated by individuals and local businesses.

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



St John the Baptist Church



The Church is open every day in daylight hours for you to have a look around, take time out to enjoy the peace or say a prayer. I survived my Sabbatical – walking over 800km in Spain and was lucky with the weather. I also visited our linked Diocese in South India visiting churches, schools and hospitals. It was an amazing experience. It is amazing to think that we are back in Autumn and thinking towards Christmas.

Thankyou so much for all your support for our events last year including the flower festival. Throughout the year we have raised money which will help pay for the upkeep of our historical church building including the maintenance of the wall in the churchyard. We have been able to sponsor a young boy called Francis from Uganda through World Vision and made donations to Water Aid, Romsey Mill (a charity in England for those with mental health challenges), The Children's Society and The National Churches Trust.

Events Coming Up

Christmas Tree Festival in church on Saturday 30th Nov. – Sunday 1st Dec. Come and see the beautifully decorated and unique trees representing our community. Refreshments and Craft stall. Also open after the light switch-on (1st December).

Christingle Service Sunday 8th December at 4pm. Enjoy the beauty of a church full of lit candles as we remember that Jesus is the light of the world.

Candlelight Carol Concert with Somersham Town Band Friday 13th December 7pm

Messy Church 'Christmas' Sunday 15th December 4pm for all things Christmassy..

Brookfield Carols Wednesday 18th December 11am

Candlelight Carol Service – Bible Readings & Carols, Candles, Guest Musicians and Mulled Wine... Monday 16th December 7pm (yes, it is a Monday as we have busy musicians joining us).

Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm – We have lots of shepherds, angel and Kings (at least 3) costumes for you to take part in our child and baby friendly nativity.

Christmas Day – a family communion (and bring a present you've received) 10.30am with refreshments.

Regular events are on the weekly sheet which can be found in the back of the church.