

Somersham4U

A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Sept/Oct/Nov 2024



Parish Council



Chairman's Report

Hello Somersham.

Following the Parish Councils tree survey, two trees were identified as "needing to be felled" after being subject to a resistograph survey. This will take place as and when the rules allow.

At the lake the new teaching platform has been built and the duck feeding platform has been repaired. Both make a lovely addition to the lake area.

The extension to the Norwood car park has hit a roadblock but the re-lining of the car park and the installation of the EV charging points are ongoing. Hopefully by the time you receive this Newsletter both should be completed.

The damaged bench at West End will be replaced and the bench at Parkhall Road will have new timber fitted.

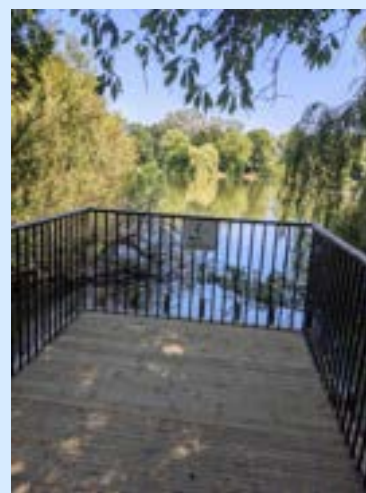
There has also been a new defibrillator installed on the Millennium Field gates.
This can be used on children.

The Neighbourhood plan is gradually taking shape under the guidance of our Executive officer. Watch this space.

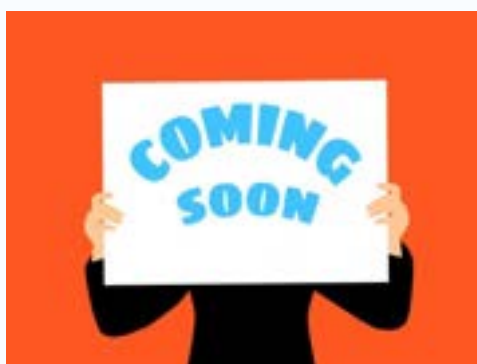
Unfortunately, the Connections Youth bus is again having mechanical problems and as such will not be back with us until 2025. We will keep you posted through this Newsletter, village notice boards, our Facebook page and Word press.

On a different note the Recorder Club at Hunstanton is looking for new members – apparently some have been caught on the fiddle.

And last but not least we still have parish councillor vacancies – want to be part of the solution????



Daryl Potter, Somersham Parish Council Chairman



An informal Community Environmental Drop-in session attended by the Cambridge Carbon Footprint Team

This organisation was established to alleviate peoples anxiety re climate change and to support the reduction in carbon emissions in local communities. The date for this meeting will be advertised on Somersham Parish Council Facebook, WordPress, Parish noticeboards and our next S4U Newsletter.

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.



Somersham Parish Council

Just to offer you all a reminder that the Somersham WordPress site is located at somersham4u.wordpress.com which informs residents of many local updates for the community.

Also, the Somersham Parish Council website

somersham-pc.gov.uk has lots of useful information regarding Parish Council information.



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 Multisports Area

FREE all weather area

*No booking required unless tennis court nets needed.
If so please advise the office at Somersham Parish Council
on
01487 841359*

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

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 9th September 2024

Monday 7th October 2024

Monday 25th November 2024

Community News



Lake Fun Day

Springfield entrance to the Lake of Somersham Nature Reserve

Saturday 7th September 2024

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!



On sale from midday - 3pm:

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)



Community News



Are you a new or existing care micro provider? Join our Network today!

Would you like to run your own Local Care Business?

- Personal Care
- Holistic Homecare – shopping, cleaning, companionship, gardening, food prep, pet care, admin, light DIY, transport, socialisation and much more
- Carer Respite – breaks for informal (unpaid) carers

OR

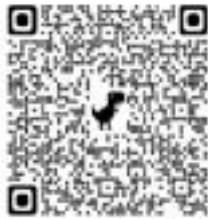
Do you require Care or Support at home?

Please get in touch with us for more information

Scan the QR code to visit our website and Directory or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cm

Email our friendly team on: cmdevelopment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
...or phone us on

01223 706100



Somersham Community Library (FOSL)



COFFEE MORNING

Kindly hosted by

The Rose & Crown

10.30am-12.00pm

Wednesday 20th
November



CAKES RAFFLE BOOKS FANCY GOODS

Come and join us!

Charity No. 1149100.

FOSL is supported by Somersham PC and Cambs CC.

The Friendship Club

Somersham Friendship Club for the over 60's continues to thrive and is still very much enjoyed by its 40 members. A chance to chat to friends over coffee and biscuits, a fun activity or visiting speaker each week followed by a home cooked 2 course meal.

We have a summer trip planned to Springfields at Spalding and are now planning our Christmas trip. September is a very special month as we will be celebrating our oldest member Ivy's 100th birthday with a party.

We still have a waiting list to join the club so please contact me for a place when one becomes available. None of our volunteers/helpers are trained carers so we ask that members can look after themselves as much as possible.

Cheryl Grant 07731686866 or
email cherylgrant21@hotmail.com



As we look to develop a new Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy (a core way in which we deliver on our Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy) we are looking for people from across Huntingdonshire to join us for a conversation, as we explore answers to the question 'What makes a good life in Huntingdonshire?'

More information is available on HDC website ([Link](#)) and you can register your interest in attending a session via this [link](#)

The timings for the initial session are as follows, we will use the most popular slots, and do not expect to run all of these sessions at this stage.

Saturdays

14th September 10-1pm

Evenings

9th September 6.30-9pm

12th September 6.30-9pm

Community News

SOMERSHAM WOMENS INSTITUTE

We are enjoying a varied programme this year with Speakers on such topics as forensic science, burlesque dancing, local authors, hedgehogs and sugar craft. And we participated in local events, such as the Primary School Fayre, the Community event at the Victory Hall and our display at the Church Flower Festival. Our outstanding floral display was inspired by the 'Suffragettes and having the right to exercise a vote in a democracy' which was very timely as the General Election was held just 2 days previously

- Keep an eye out for our contribution to Remembrance Day in the Parish Church in November and our WI Christmas Tree in the Christmas Tree Festival at the end of November
- Nationally we are supporting the WI Resolution lobbying for more dentists, and we sent a representative to the Royal Albert Hall for the national WI AGM
- SO, if you want to meet interesting people, make new friends, be involved with our Somersham community, then come and join us on the third Tuesday of the month in the Millennium Pavilion at 7.30 p.m. Enjoy the talk followed by refreshments and chat!
- We welcome visitors to our meetings and there is a small fee of £5 for visitors

For further information, please contact either
 Claire Callan, President 01354 693546 OR
 Mary Slevin, Secretary 01487 209426



Talk Club for Men



Somersham and Pidley Timebank would like to introduce 'Talk Club' as part of our Skills Exchanges Programme for mental health from the Health Inequalities project funding.

Talk Club is about MALE mental fitness.

Many men seem to think that mental health and mental illness are the same thing.

Mental health is just like physical health, but for the brain.

That's why we say that Talk Club is like a gym session, where you can become stronger from just talking about your worries.

Talk Club is where regular blokes talk about their stresses and worries. It is also taking time to think about what we are grateful for and sharing how we are going to look after ourselves.

It's a positive safe space to be open and be listened to.
 Get mentally fit - Be mentally strong!

Sessions are held at the Millennium Sports Pavilion facility just off the Trundle in Somersham, 7pm to 9pm on the below Wednesdays:

- September 14th & 18th
- October 2nd, 16th & 30th
- November 20th
- December 11th
- January 8th 2025



We will be looking to continue these sessions on a bi-weekly bases and so, further dates will be added as we go along. Access to this service is free and open to all male residents from in and around the local areas of Somersham and Pidley (and beyond). You do not need to be a Timebank member to attend.

You are warmly invited
 To a **SERVICE OF WELCOME
 & COMMISSIONING**

For our new Pastor Joshua Ross



At **SOMERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

On Saturday 14th September at 3pm.

A light buffet tea will be provided afterwards

RSVP to Ruth Lodge
 secretary@SomershamBaptist.Church

Community News

On This Day.....

15 Oct 1666 Samuel Pepys recorded in his diary that Charles II had started wearing the first known waistcoat. The King was so overweight that he left the bottom button undone, a fashion custom followed to this day,

7 Sep 1838 Grace Darling and her father rescued the crew of the Forfarshire, a steamer wrecked off the Northumberland coast, close to the Longstone Lighthouse. She became a national heroine.

3 Oct 1906 SOS became the international distress signal, replacing the call sign CDQ, sometimes explained as 'Come Damn Quick!'

8 Oct 1908 The Wind In The Willows, Kenneth Grahame's classic children's book, was published. It has never been out of print in its entire history.



23 Nov 1963 The BBC broadcast the first ever episode of Doctor Who, starring William Hartnell as the Doctor, and Ann Ford as his first female companion. It is the world's longest running science fiction drama. The producer, Sydney Newman, thought the Daleks, designed by Ray Cusick, were 'bug-eyed monsters' and totally wrong for the series.

6 Nov 1975 UK punk rock group, the Sex Pistols, gave their first public performance at London's St Martin's College of Art. College authorities cut the concert short after a mere 10 minutes.

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 Frances Smith
Daryl Potter

01487 841359

or

somersham4u.newsletter@somersham-pc.gov.uk

Deadline for next issue
31st October 2024

Community News



SOMERSHAM TOWN YOUTH F.C.

The 7th September kicks off the 2024-25 Hunts Youth League season and Somersham Town Youth FC will have seven teams ranging from the under 7's to under 15's.

Last seasons presentation day was again held at the West End ground, courtesy of the men's team and 95 players, all in matching kits, played some in house football matches and received trophies for their efforts last season.

As previously the BBQ and bar proved extremely popular and provided a boost to club funds.

During the close season a number of teams continued to train and during July while the Millennium pitches were allowed to recover once again the men's team stepped in and allowed us to train at the West End ground.

During the close season the committee have been busy meeting all the FA requirements for the club and ensuring everything is in place for next season.

One major success is that all winter training will take place on Wednesday evenings from October to March, each team training at the same venue every week, either St Ives Town FC-Westwood Road or Ramsey.

Lewis Petriello presented Kevin and Owen Cook a framed shirt signed by both the Cambridge Utd and Portsmouth players following their league match. Kevin was the winning bidder, at auction, raising money for club funds.

Please email styfc.regs@gmail.com if you have a child interested in joining the club, providing their birthday.



NEW DEFIBRILLATOR

Somersham Parish Council are delighted to announce our new defibrillator situated at the entrance gate to the Millennium Sportsfield.

This defibrillator is suitable for child use and is in addition to the existing defibrillator which can be found on the outside wall of the Norwood building.



STALLS AT THE CROSS

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 24

13th April 24 - Women's Institute
£136.60

4th May 24 - Friends of
Somersham Church £148.40

18th May 24 - Somersham Garden
Club £533.00 and

8th & 9th June 24 - £1822.00

Spotlight On Youth

We would love to hear from the youth of Somersham about any fundraising efforts, sporting achievements, exciting projects etc. Please send articles by email to somersham4u.newsletter@somersham-pc.gov.uk



Community News



Somersham Garden Club is an active group of likeminded people living in Somersham and the surrounding villages who share a love of gardens and gardening. We recently celebrated the glorious gardens of Somersham in the 12th Open Gardens Weekend on 8th & 9th June, and happily the weather was relatively kind to us this year! We were delighted to welcome 5 'new gardens' which enabled us to have 14 gardens for visitors to enjoy – we've had such positive feedback; so many people said how much they enjoyed the weekend! It was a great success for us.

This fund raising event helps to raise funds both for our Club and for our annual donations to local groups and to regional and national charities.

At the time of writing, we are busy planning our programme for the next 12 months which will be filled with interesting talks, social events and visits to beautiful gardens. We always welcome visitors to our talks during the months from September to March and we meet at the Millennium Pavilion at 3 pm on a Saturday afternoon. Join us for a talk and refreshments and chat!

For more information about dates of meetings, please email SomershamGardenClub@gmail.com.



Somersham Nature Reserve

Another summer is nearly over and the nature reserve will soon be changing into Autumn colours. After last year's bird flu outbreak we lost nearly all the Common Terns nesting on the lake, we held our breaths to see if any would return to breed this year. Thankfully one pair returned and successfully raised two chicks, hopefully this means the colony will continue to establish itself again in the coming years, fingers crossed.

We had two well attended bat walks on the reserve and a new species for the reserve was detected, a Nathusius's pipistrelle. We had a lovely day for our butterfly and insect walk, although butterfly and insect numbers seem to be down this year, possibly due to the unseasonably wet spring. Now we look forward to the autumn and winter months, with Lake Fun Day, Apple Day and a fungi foray. The autumn is also the start of the work parties that are held on the first Sunday of each month from September to March. See you on the nature reserve.

Upcoming events

Saturday 7th 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 the lake.

Sunday 13th 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 27th 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.

Community News

SOMERSHAM SCOUTS – AN UPDATE



Many of you will have seen that the Scout Hut has now been demolished. Unfortunately, it was no longer structurally sound or safe, and was uneconomical to repair. We were sad to see it go – it has been our home since 1976, and many others in the community have used it too.

We're now into scoping out the kind of building that could replace it, and working out exactly how much that will cost. Alongside that, we're beginning the process of raising the funds to pay for it! We have already been blown away by the generosity of the village in this regard – not just in direct donations, but in offers of fundraising opportunities. We are also hugely grateful to the Parish Council for their ongoing support with the lease of the site, and with temporary storage for all our equipment.



In September, one of our leaders is tackling the Thames Path Challenge in aid of the Hut fund – 100km from Putney Bridge to Henley (details on our JustGiving page, QR code below). We're also planning a car boot sale on Sunday 8th September at Millennium Pavilion, and we're hoping to gather enough adults to come to some of the other Autumn events in the village.

We hope to see you there!

In the meantime, we're going to try to continue a full programme of Scouting activities for kids aged between 4 and 14. Please visit our public Facebook page (Somersham Scouts) to see what we're getting up to.

And if you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you!



For kind donations please scan
QR code to be
directed to our JustGiving
donations page.



YOUTH CLUB BUS

**DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND
OUR CONTROL THE ANTICIPATED
RETURN OF THE YOUTH BUS IN SEPTEMBER
HAS BEEN DELAYED UNTIL 2025.**



The bus has proved to be very popular with the children in the village, but unfortunately at the present time we have been unsuccessful in finding an alternative option. We will continue with our efforts over the next months.

There have been 10 sessions run this term and the number of children attending each week has gradually increased from five to twenty one. The Youth workers submit a termly report to the Parish Council, here are a few from last term:

22 Apr (**7 attending**) Enjoyed good game of football outside then popcorn and tile decorating and game of What the Meme. Conversations about school, teachers, Formula 1, exclusions and football.

29 Apr (**8**) Enjoyed trying out circus equipment and balloon modelling. Also football, tag, FIFA and quiz. Conversations about knives, school, holiday, parents and theme parks.

13 May (**9**) Warm evening enjoying football outside, completing surveys, Uno and listening to music. Conversations about football, mental health, school, PE teacher and careers.

20 May (**12**) More new members made session livelier and fun. Long game of football outside plus some crafts, quiz and chatting inside. Conversations about new bus equipment, school, teachers not caring, half-term plans, bus passes

10 Jun (**21**) More new members. Enjoyed doing quiz, bead making, dancing and singing along to music, frisbee, football and Uno. Conversations about relationships, lost phones (phishing), possibly changing schools, school bus services and social media use.

Community News

Somersham Angling Club

Somersham angling club came into a new management team in 2018, volunteers from the village approached the Parish Council to seek permission to revamp the forgotten club and attempt to move it into a recognisable, successful angling club for the village to enjoy.

Six years on we now have a thriving club envied by many anglers and clubs alike from surrounding areas. Working in partnership with the local nature reserve group we have successfully transformed the lake from a dumping ground into the beautiful asset that all the village can enjoy today whether your an angler or just an outdoor enthusiast.

In the past 6 years we have landed various grants of over 17k to install new family friendly fishing platforms, Bankside planting, bird nesting facilities including a kingfisher nesting box, picnic benches and the aeration system along with many other facilities.

The lake holds a healthy stock of fish including carp, tench, bream, roach, rudd and many more.

We also host events on the lake, many fishing matches are arranged with local clubs along with Junior fishing activities including the annual cubs/beavers evening of litter picking, fishing and BBQ and our biggest success the Lake Funday where anyone can try their hand for the 1st time at catching a fish, last year this event was attended by over 300 people!!

The club and Nature Reserve Group rely on volunteer hours to keep the lake and its surroundings in tip top shape. Got some spare time? Then please make contact with either group to get involved, there's always a cuppa on hand to keep you going!



Watch and report any sightings of Asian hornets this summer

The government is urging [UK beekeepers and the public to be increasingly vigilant to the presence of Asian hornet and report any sightings.](#)

Asian hornets are distinctive and can be identified by their very dark body, wide orange stripe on the fourth abdomen section and yellow leg ends.

If individuals suspect they have seen an Asian hornet, they should report this using the app 'Asian Hornet Watch' or by using this [online report form](#).

Alternatively, they can e-mail alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk and include a photograph if the individual can safely obtain one.



Community News



**SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY
TIMEBANK AND SOMERSHAM
NATURE RESERVE COMMUNITY
ORCHARD 2024 PRESENTS...**

APPLE DAY

AND THE GREAT SOMERSHAM BAKE OFF!

**ENTRIES IN ON THE DAY BY 2:30PM,
JUDGING AT 3PM. PRIZES FOR BEST BAKES
IN BOTH ADULT & CHILD CATEGORIES!**

SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER - 1 PM TO 4 PM

Free Crafts, Wild Play & Games!

***APPLE JUICE PRESSING DEMO. PLUS OLD
FAVOURITE & BRAND NEW APPLE GAMES!***

***BBQ & REFRESHMENTS BY SOMERSHAM
1ST SCOUT GROUP WITH PROCEEDS
GOING TOWARDS THE NEW SCOUT HUT***

LICENSED BAR, FACE PAINTING & MORE!

**FOR MORE INFO.
CONTACT SOMERSHAM
AND PIDLEY TIMEBANK
07599 628 106**