Somershapt A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

April / May 2024



Parish Council



Chairman's Report

Hello Somersham. Unfortunately, the Carnival has to be cancelled this year – no doubt more information will become available shortly. This will be a big miss for Somersham residents, both past and present.

The Connections Youth bus is back at Millennium Pavilion from Monday 4th March. For more details please see the posters in the notice boards, our Facebook page, Word press and page 5.

Work has started on the multi sports area at the Norwood Playing Field, which has now been cleaned, repaired and relined with replacement flood lighting to follow.

BEFORE...



AFTER ...



A BIG BIG shout out to young writers...

It would be nice to see young aspiring writers use this publication to have their articles published. The article can be about anything that complies within the protocols of this magazine, including an article about historical events, a poem or something you have written for school or college. This is your chance to get something published!

If anyone would like to have a commemorative plaque fixed to one of the new benches sited around the village, please contact the parish office. We are offering this opportunity in exchange for any gratefully received donations towards the cost of bench.

The extension to the Norwood car park and the installation of two electric vehicle charging points are ongoing and it is hoped that they will be completed soon.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be coming up on the 20th May at the Millennium Pavilion at 7:30pm. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Last but not least, we still have Parish Councillor vacancies – want to be part of the solution????

Daryl Potter, Somersham Parish Council Chairman



FREE SPORTS SESSIONS

For 5-11 years olds during the school holidays in 2024. The sessions are delivered by One Leisure qualified Sports Activity Officers and Leaders and involve multi-sport activities. They operate with a range of equipment, and focus on providing fun games and sporting activities to allow the children to socialise and keep active in the holidays.

The first session is on Thursday 30th May at the Norwood Playing field, see poster on page 5 for full details.

Somersham

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor?

Facilities For Hire!

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.

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 $01487\ 841359$

Play Squash?

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



For enquiries and information on any of the above

Call: 01487 841359 or Email: admin@somersham-pc.gov.uk

STALLS AT THE CROSS

1st Dec 23
Christmas Lights raffle
£345.02
and donations £383.11

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

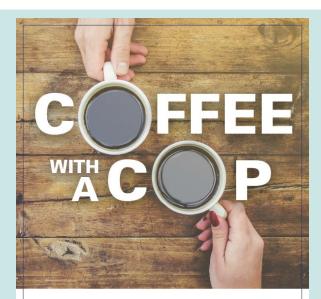
Monday 8th April 2024 Monday 13th May 2024 (AM) Monday 20th May (APM) Monday 10th June 2024

SOMERSHAM4U

Community News

| PRECEPT | 2024/2025 |
|---|-------------|
| | |
| Routine Expenditure | |
| Rates - Norwood Building | £0.00 |
| Parish Administration | £30,000.00 |
| Staff training/conferences | £8,000.00 |
| Councillor training | £1500.00 |
| Parish Maintenance | £6,000.00 |
| Salaries | £137,800.00 |
| Staff pension scheme | £20,000.00 |
| Street Lighting | £1,600.00 |
| Elections May 2026 | £0.00 |
| Additional Expenditure | |
| Burial land extension - PWLB repayments | £10,812.00 |
| Community Library | £2,500.00 |
| Contingency | £3,000.00 |
| Donations | £0.00 |
| Local Nature Reserve (inc lake) | £1,500.00 |
| Millennium Sports Field | £0.00 |
| Somersham4uNewsletter | £3,000.00 |
| Tractor sinking fund | £0.00 |
| Tree risk assessment survey | £0.00 |
| Tree work fund | £2,000.00 |
| Changing Lives project | £2,000.00 |
| Youth Club - Connections Youth Bus | £6,000.00 |
| General Reserve - top up | £16,000.00 |
| Legal fees - Roger Taylor | £3,000.00 |
| <u>NEW</u> | |
| Office computers - 3 year renewal programme | £1,000.00 |
| S137 | £1000 |
| Christmas Lights | £2,000.00 |
| Sea container - Lake area + transport (£500 approx per container) | £0.00 |
| LHI Bid 2024/2025 | £5,000.00 |
| Summer sports programme /HDC | £500.00 |
| Replacement Bins - amenity areas | £500.00 |
| LED replacement internal lighting - Norwood Building | £0.00 |
| LED replacement internal lighting - Millennium Pavilion | £0.00 |
| Solar panels - Millennium Pavilion | £0.00 |
| | |
| TOTAL | £264,712.00 |





Join your local officer at Millennium Pavilion for a coffee & a chat

Date: Friday 26th April

Time: 11.00am-1.00pm



Your Community SPEED WATCH



NEEDS YOU



Clust for up to an hour once a month to do something to address speeding

Speeding is the #1 concern of most rural residents

In an attempt to moderate serious and persistent speeding along some residential roads in your village – including yours - the Parish Council, with the support of the Constabulary, is seeking to facilitate the formation of a Police-managed, trained and supported

Community Speedwatch (CSW) Team

To passively educate speeding drivers using Speed Indicating Devices and Advisory Letters

A CSW Team has to comprise at least 3 people kerbside to manage the workload at hotspots during sessions up to an hour long. For sessions to be regular we need 5/6 volunteers with one acting as the XL (.csv) Coordinator. Sessions will be at your convenience and always in daylight hours. Full training is provided by the appointed Force CSW Officer. Can you manage something like that once a month (say), near your house or even elsewhere in your village — everywhere needs help?

Are you willing to help make your village a safer place for all?

If so, please register your interest by emailing deputy.clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk



SOMERSHAM SPORTS SESSION

Norwood Playing Field,

- Somersham, PE28 3HE
- 2pm 4pm
 - Thursday 30th May 2024

Join us for some FREE fun & active sessions for 5-11 year olds, with a range of sports on offer.

Pre-booking is essential

To book please email
deputy.clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk

- · 2 qualified coaches
- Equipment cleaned before session
- A chance to try new sports











OPEN YOUR GARDEN

Would you like to display your Dahlias, parade your Pansies, or flaunt your Phlox?

Then you should open your garden as part of the Garden Club's *Open Gardens Weekend* on 8th and 9th June.

Your garden doesn't have to be especially large, or fancy, or even 'finished' (because gardens are never finished!), and it's not so daunting as it might first seem – the club does the organising, it's enjoyable and rewarding, free to take part, and helps to raise money for local causes.

If you'd like to join in this year's *Open Gardens*Weekend or you would like more information, contact Mary
(tel: 209426) or email SomershamGardenClub@gmail.com.





In January 2024, the national WI launched a new era in learning and personal development whereby members are invited to join in with the next steps of our educational journey via the WI LEARNING HUB. This Learning Hub recognises the continual changes that we all face and brings together a world of opportunities; taking users on a learning journey that is accessible, flexible and inclusive to all women and girls.

The WI Learning Hub will provide WI members with access to a range of online courses and the majority of them will be FREE! A small number of sponsored courses delivered by external providers will require a small fee, but these will be kept as low as possible. Courses will be delivered in a range of formats: daily, live courses but also prerecorded ones so that members can enjoy them at their leisure. There is a wide range of courses from crafts to cookery and wellbeing, plus quizzes and competitions.

We welcome visitors to our meetings which are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Millennium Pavilion at 7.15 for a 7.30 p.m. start. There is a small fee of £4 for visitors. Please do come and visit us! For further information, please contact either

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



SOMERSHAM TOWN BOWLS CLUB

BOWLS - A GAME FOR EVERYONE

We believe everybody should realise the joy and benefit of playing a sport and there are so many reasons why bowls is ideally placed to unlock these fantastic advantages. Here are four reasons to give bowls a try.



- **1. Playing bowls is very do-able.** Whatever your physique, bowls is a sport for everybody and it will help improve your fitness levels and mental wellbeing.
- 2. Bowls is not expensive. To get going you don't need lots of new kit and we put on taster sessions for free.
- **3.** Compared to most sports, age and gender differences have less of an effect on a game of bowls, so it's a perfect sport to spend time and enjoy a bit of friendly competition with friends and family.
- **4. Bowls clubs are sociable places full of people looking to have fun**, so bowls is a great way to relax, make new friends and feel part of your local community.

Bowls is a game for people of all ages, our youngest player is just twelve and our most senior eighty-eight. We are always looking to promote our game and can supply everything required for you to try it for yourself.

Our season runs from April to September and we offer free taster session at any time including our Big Bowls Open Day on Sunday 26th May from 1-5pm. There will be activities for both adults and Children and the clubhouse will be serving refreshments.

You can take up bowls purely as a hobby and play for enjoyment and exercise. However, for those with a more competitive streak the club competes in all local ladies, men's and mixed leagues.

As you leave the village towards Earith our green and clubhouse can be found on the right, approximately 200m before Bridge End Garage, down a shingle lane. Look for the sign attached to the telegraph pole adjacent to the entrance. If you are passing and the gates are open please come and say hello, a warm welcome is guaranteed. Alternatively you can email Joy our club secretary at SomershamTownBowlsClub@gmail.com or call her on 07980 118726.

Somersham Nature Reserve - Nature News February 2024

The winter months are always the busiest on the nature reserve, being the best time for carrying out all our habitat management and maintenance work. This time of year is when nature is dormant and we cause the least amount of disturbance to it. Tasks for the winter have included cutting back unsafe trees including several large willow trees, clearing path side vegetation to make access easier and cutting and raking the wildflower areas to favour the flowering plants loved by butterflies and insects.

Our work parties are held on the first Sunday of the month between September and March. We start at 9.30 and finish at 12.30, meeting at the 'containers' off Springfield'. No experience is needed, and all tools are provided. You don't have to stay for the whole session, even an hour, would be greatly appreciated and would help to make a big difference to the management of our wonderful nature reserve.

This year we are returning to a full events programme. Many of these are joint events with the Timebank and Angling Club and include:

Sunday 12 May: Dawn Chorus Walk. Meet at the Station Approach entrance to the Nature Reserve at 4.30am to experience a feast of sounds to the ears. Followed by a breakfast feast just off the reserve.

Saturday 25 May: Bat Walk. Meet at the Station Approach entrance to the Nature Reserve at 9pm to see and hear some of the nocturnal residents of the nature reserve.

Saturday 20 July: Butterfly and Insect Walk. Meet at the Springfields entrance to the Nature Reserve at 10am for a walk to meet some of the smaller, 6 legged creatures that make the reserve their home.

Saturday 10 August: Bat Walk. If you missed the Bat walk earlier in the year, another chance to see and hear them. Meet at the Station Approach entrance to the Nature Reserve at 8.30pm

Saturday 7 September: Lake Fun Day. Join the Somersham Nature Reserve Group, Somersham Angling Club and Timebank for a day of fun around the lake and nature reserve. More details in the next issue of Somersham 4 U.

Sunday 13 October: Apple Day at the Orchard. Join Timebank and Somersham Nature Reserve Group for the annual celebration of all matters apple related. More details in the next issue of Somersham 4 U.

For more information and updates please see our Facebook page and future editions of this newsletter.

On This Day

25 Apr 1719 Robinson Crusoe first appeared in paperback. Written by Daniel Defoe it was based partly on the story of Alexander Selkirk who was marooned on a Pacific island for four years.

10 Apr 1912 The British built luxury liner Titanic set sail on its maiden and only voyage, from Berth 44, White Star Line dock, Southampton, bound for New York.

16 Apr 1912 American Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly an airplane across the English Channel. She took off from Dover, en route to Calais, France and made the flight in 59 minutes, landing about 25 miles from Calais, on a beach. Although Quimby died at the age of thirty-seven (in an aeroplane accident), she had a major influence upon the role of women in aviation.

3 May 1968 The first heart transplant in Britain was carried out at the National Heart Hospital in Marylebone, London. It was undertaken on an unnamed 45-year-old man.





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 Julia Drury

01487 841359

somersham4u.newsletter@somersham-pc.gov.uk

SOMERSHAM4U

Community News







Many hands make light work!

Somersham Victory Hall is looking for new local helpers

Would you like to bring your skills and expertise to our charity, meet new people and help our community?

We meet once a month on a Tuesday evening.

Do you have office skills? We need a secretary to take minutes and help with occasional paperwork or events.

To find out more, please phone Lesley on 841837 for a chat.

Charity number 1025367

SOMERSHAM4U

Community News



Somersham Parish Council Christmas Panto with a sprinkle of magic



What a fabulous time was had by all at Somersham Parish Councils Christmas Pantomime and magic show on Sat 16th Dec at the Victory Hall.

A magician started the afternoon with a magic act which involved the children up on stage and lots of audience participation. The grand final involved a live bunny being produced from his hat which the children were able to pet at the end.

Free drinks, cookies and mince pies were provided during the interval and Mr and Mrs Claus made a surprise visit bringing Christmas gift bags for the children.

This was followed by a performance of Treasure Island and the children shouted, cheered and danced all the way through. Huge thanks go to the volunteers on the day, and to Magic Paul and Chaplin's Mini Panto's. We are delighted to add that the remaining Party bags were donated to the Holly Ward at Hinchingbrook Hospital for the children there to enjoy





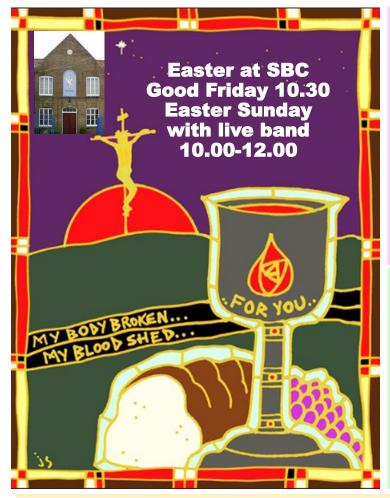












Somersham Flower Festival



St John's Church Save the Date

This year's Flower Festival will be held in St John's Church On Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th July 2024

Let's make this year the best ever.

Village Events Diary 2024

To access the events diary go to the Somersham 4U website: www.somersham4u.wordpress.com

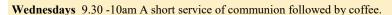
We need to stress that the onus is on organisers to let us know of any additions to the diary and any changes to basic information.

Please email new information to somersham4u.newsletter@somersham-pc.gov.uk

St John the Baptist Church, Somersham

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. Also don't forget to have a look at the second-hand books in the porch for a small donation.

Tuesdays 9-11am 'Little Acorns' - Baby and Toddler group. Enjoy drinks, homemade cake and a chat with friends while the little ones play. Sophie will finish with a story and lots of singing.



Sunday Services are at 10.30 followed by refreshments. The first and third Sundays of the month are communion. The fourth Sunday a family service.

Messy Church – 2nd Sunday of the month. 4-5.30pm. Crafts and Activities followed by a bible story, a couple of songs and prayer. We finish with a party tea. For families and all ages. Informal and unlimited coffee/tea...

Easter/ Holy Week.

Good Friday 29th March. - 'Messy Easter' 10 – 11.30am in the church finishing with hot cross buns. A time of Reflection at Pidley Church from 2-3pm. There will be also be a service in Somersham Church at 7pm with a choir.

Come and enjoy Easter Sunday celebrations at 10.30am 31st March.

Mothers' Union (Mini-Mum) meets 1st Wednesday of the month after communion.

Creative Minds – Coffee and mindful activity/crafts every 3rd Wed 2.30-4.30 in church. Welcome Café and Drop in; for coffee, chat, enquiries. Every 4th Sunday 10.30-11.30am in church.

Bereavement (Remembering Group). 2nd Wednesday in the month 2-3pm The Rectory.

Get in touch if you would like your child Christened, you are interested in getting married in church or would like me to take a funeral service in the church or crematorium.

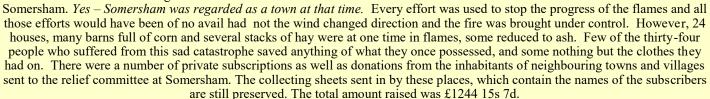
With Blessings, Rev Sue



Fires in Somersham

Many disastrous fires have occurred at different times in Somersham's history.

In 1815 an alarming fire which threatened the destruction of the town broke out in the centre of



On 21st March 1855 there was a fire in which seventeen families were burnt out of their homes and several farm buildings were destroyed. In 1857 a group of four cottages and a public house near the centre of the village were totally destroyed in a fire. The most notorious fire in Somersham occurred on 26th May 1824. It involved a young man named Thomas Savage, who was only 21 years old. Savage and two other men named Woods and Cook, arranged to burn down a barn in order that they might steal something.

On the evening of the fire Cook accompanied Savage to the barn. They were there until one o'clock in the morning when Savage set fire to the thatch of the barn with Cook looking on. The building was soon ablaze and the flames quickly spread to all the buildings between the barn and a house which was entirely destroyed. The men were caught and tried at Huntingdon Assizes. Cook and Woods turned King's evidence against Savage, who pleaded guilty and received a sentence of death.

A certain amount of historical interest is attached to this fire, as Savage was the last person to be executed for incendiarism (arson) in Huntingdonshire. His remains were buried in Somersham churchyard on the 19th December and this is recorded in the Church Burial Register. The grave is not marked, and it is said that Savage's ghost still haunts his former home which now forms part of the Windmill Public House.

Incidentally the fire engine was, at that time, kept in the lower part of the Church Tower. It would have probably just been a truck carrying firefighting apparatus and water. The fire engine was then removed to a position in an engine-house in Church Street near the north-eastern entrance to the churchyard. This building was known as the 'lock-up' because at the far end of it there was a section where people could be imprisoned for a brief period before being taken to Huntingdon. The "lock-up" was removed in 1950.

Alan Draper

Somersham Community Library

Fundraising News

Our fundraising year for 2023 culminated in a festive coffee and mince pie morning in the library on 23rd December. Entertainment from the Local Vocals added warmth and joy to the occasion, especially when we were asked to join in. The Christmas hampers raffle was drawn, and a jolly time had by all.

Our first event of 2024 is the General Knowledge Quiz which we run jointly with the Parish Church. 13 teams took part, and our new Quiz Master Glenn Pascoe kept our little grey cells well exercised.



On Easter Saturday 30th March we will have a cake and book stall at the Cross, coffee and hot cross buns in the library and entertainment by the BUGS Ukulele group. We will draw the Easter Hamper Raffle at about 11.30.am. Tickets for the raffle will be on sale in the library from 9th March and at the Cross on the day. We are sad to learn that there will not be a carnival this year but hope to hold another event in the summer or early autumn. We also look forward to holding our autumn coffee morning at the Rose and Crown.

We are most grateful for your support of our events as the income we raise is vital in keeping the library open.

The Library is looking for a Volunteer Secretary ... Can you help?

Somersham Community Library is looking for a new Secretary. This is a voluntary position on the board of the 'Friends of Somersham Library' charity and is an opportunity for someone to

contribute and make a difference to this valuable community resource.

The position will suit anyone who is looking to contribute a small amount of time to their local community. There are no age or experience requirements for this position which could be a particularly good fit for anyone who has moved from full-time to part-time work, someone who is winding down from employment to semi or full retirement or even someone who has some spare time now that their children have started school or left home. It could also be of interest to an existing FOSL volunteer who wishes to become further involved and wants to have a greater influence over the running of their charity.

If you are interested and would like to find out more about this position, please contact John Barrott, the FOSL Chair at chair@somershamlibrary.org.uk or call 07880 733309 for a chat.

Many thanks in anticipation!

Timebank







The Handlebards are back in Somersham this year with a showing of Shakespeare's 'The Comedy of Errors' at The Millennium Sports Pavilion on Tuesday 28th May 2024. Doors open at 6pm, with the show starting at 7pm prompt.

Pedalling from venue to venue with all of their set, props and costumes on the back of their bikes, the HandleBards are a four-strong troupe of actors who are spending the summer bringing environmentally sustainable Shakespeare to venues across the UK.

Join the troupe for a bicycle-powered production of Shakespeare's 'The Comedy of Errors' like you've never seen before. When two sets of estranged twins are brought together on the same island, this classic comedy takes hold, with mistaken identity, music and manic costume changes a plenty.

This is an outdoor production, so please bring a chair or blanket to sit on, a picnic to dig into,

and dress for the weather!

★★★★- "Explodes with energy and is a genuine treat from start to finish" - The Stage, on the HandleBards' Twelfth Night performance.

Early Bird Price: £15.00 Standard Adult: £18.00 21 and Under: £11.00

12 and Under: £3.50

Tickets are now on sale for the performance at www.handlebards.com.

Tickets will also be available to purchase on the door at the opening of the production.

However, this is a popular production with limited tickets

available and so booking early via the Handlebards website is strongly advised to avoid disappointment.

A licensed bar will be available to purchase refreshments before the start and during the interval of the production.

As with previous years, the Timebank will need volunteers to help before and throughout the production with setting up, taking ticket sales on the door, manning the bar, other general help and clearing down after.

Please contact Paula on: 07599 628 106 or email: timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk if you can spare some time to help with any of these tasks.

In the meantime, please also contact the Timebank if you require help from our Digital Champions to book your ticket online or may need a lift to and from the production due to mobility issues.

