

Somersham ^{4U}

A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Mar/Apr/May 2025



Parish Council



Chairman's Report

Hello Somersham

I hope you all had a nice Christmas and are enjoying a Happy New Year. Once again, our thanks go out to the "Christmas Lights" working party for their efforts in lighting up the village, and of course to all those who made an effort in their own homes and gardens.

I am sad to report that we are now down to nine councillors – to be able to hold a Parish Council meeting and get business done we require a minimum of 5 councillors present. So, if you want to see what goes on and have a say in making important decisions, please contact the executive officer at the parish office for further information.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of VE day (Victory in Europe) on the 8th May 2025, which is a Thursday. Unfortunately, there is currently no national holiday or funding available for parties etc. However, the Somersham Town Band will be playing war time songs at The Cross from 6pm to 7pm on the evening so come along and hear them play !

Work is progressing with the 'Repair Café' at the Millennium Pavilion, with the foundations now laid. This has been a long ongoing project, but we have stuck with it and jumped through all the hoops as required. All credit must go to Parish Council staff for hanging in there and knocking down obstacles as they cropped up. There are a lot of changes happening in the next 2/3 years regarding the County and District Councils and the way in which they are run. As more definite details become available we will let you know. (Who remembers the sort out in 1972?)

Just as a note, I've seen on the news that four pharmacies are closing every week across the country. It is very important to support our local pharmacy in Somersham to ensure we don't lose vital services.



Daryl Potter, Somersham Parish Council Chairman



We are delighted to advise Somersham Carnival will be back this year and events run from 22nd to 28th June 2025

FREE - "The Gingerbread Man" - an educational and fun show for children aged 2 - 7 years on Sunday 23rd March (please see page 13 for details)

FREE - Somersham Youth Sport sessions are resuming this year during the school holidays. The first session is on Wednesday 16th April (please see page 6 for details)

Why become a councillor?

If you've never been to a parish council meeting before, you may be forgiven for thinking that parish councillors are a group of people who meet now and then in a draughty village hall. If however you live in a community where something 'big' has happened, you'll know that when people in the community need support and guidance, it is sometimes the parish council that they turn to.

Why don't you make a difference !?

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

- Be a UK or commonwealth citizen, or;
- Be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or;
- Be at least 18 years old

To be eligible to stand for an election for a particular parish, you must:

- Be an elector of the parish, or;
- For the whole 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- During the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- For the whole previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary

Be the difference !

For more information contact:

executiveofficer@somersham-pc.gov.uk

Community News

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bill Bruce | bill.bruce@somersham-pc.gov.uk |
| Andrew Chapman | andrew.chapman@somersham-pc.gov.uk |
| Nicola David | nicola.david@somersham-pc.gov.uk |
| Christine Dolby | christine.dolby@somersham-pc.gov.uk |
| Daryl Potter | daryl.potter@somersham-pc.gov.uk |
| Tony Sansom | tony.sansom@somersham-pc.gov.uk |
| Dianna Skeggs | dianna.skeggs@somersham-pc.gov.uk |
| Dick Sutton | dick.sutton@somersham-pc.gov.uk |
| Ray Woolway | ray.woolway@somersham-pc.gov.uk |

Somersham Parish Council Irene Healiss, Executive Officer,
Tel: 01487 841359 Email: executiveofficer@somersham-pc.gov.uk

The Norwood Building, Parkhall Road,
Somersham PE28 3HE

County Councillor & District Councillor Steve Criswell
Tel: 01487 740745 Email : steve.criswell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

23 The Bank, Somersham, PE28 3DJ

Local MP (North West Cambridgeshire) Mr Sam Carling
Email: sam.carling.mp@parliament.uk

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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 10th March 2025

Monday 7th April 2025

AM Monday 12th May 2025

APM Monday 19th May 2025

ALL ARE WELCOME

STALLS AT THE CROSS

OCT/NOV/DEC 24

**Sun 1st Dec Somersham Christmas
Lights:**

Raffle£1016.12

Donations£432.88

**21st and 24th Dec Somersham Town
Band Collections.... £327.33**

Precept 2025-2026

| PRECEPT | 2025/2026 |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>Routine Expenditure</u> | |
| Parish Administration | £28,605.00 |
| Staff training/conferences | £8,000.00 |
| Councillor and volunteer training | £3,600.00 |
| Parish Maintenance | £6,300.00 |
| Salaries (Including tax and NI) | £158,400.00 |
| Staff pension scheme | £18,000.00 |
| Street Lighting | £2,100.00 |
| Elections May 2026 | £300.00 |
| <u>Additional Expenditure</u> | |
| Burial land extension - PWLB repayments | £10,812.00 |
| Community Library | £2,922.00 |
| Contingency | £60.00 |
| Local Nature Reserve (inc lake) | £190.00 |
| Somersham 4U Newsletter | £3,300.00 |
| Tractor sinking fund | £500.00 |
| Tree work fund | £2,000.00 |
| Changing Lives project | £4,000.00 |
| Youth Club - Connections Youth Bus | £12,600.00 |
| Legal fees | £3,000.00 |
| <u>NEW</u> | |
| Office computers - 3-year renewal programme | £500.00 |
| MAGPAS - donation, Community Road Watch - donation etc | £400.00 |
| Somersham Poor's Money annual donation | £1,000 |
| Christmas Lights | £700.00 |
| Multi sports area - tarmac surface replacement/line marking | £100.00 |
| Men's shed project/ LED carpark lighting/CCTV - Millennium | £1,000.00 |
| Summer sports programme /HDC | £600.00 |
| Replacement Bins - amenity areas | £100.00 |
| LED replacement internal lighting - Millennium Pavilion | £2,000.00 |
| TOTAL | £271,089.00 |

Community News

Somersham Neighbourhood Plan

Get Involved – Consultation 1st March to 31st March 2025



<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Somersham/>

Now is your opportunity to voice your opinion on how Somersham should develop over the next 15 years.

You may have seen in the Somersham 4U before Christmas that we are developing a Neighbourhood Plan. This will become a key planning document owned by everyone, and once adopted will influence the future type, scale and location of any new development in the parish. It will also help us to protect important green spaces and direct environmental improvements within the parish. The Neighbourhood Plan will contain planning policies, such as the mix of housing needed, design principles for new development, and priorities for infrastructure improvements. It will be used by Huntingdon District Council to help decide on all future planning applications in the parish.

There will be plenty of opportunities to input into the plan's development and this is the first stage. We are running a consultation throughout March, which includes a survey that asks you about a range of topics important to residents, including how you think we need to influence future planning applications.

You can access the survey here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Somersham/> or pick up a printed copy from the Norwood Building, Somersham Library, The Rose and Crown, or by contacting Irene Healiss, the Parish Council Executive Officer at executiveofficer@somersham-pc.gov.uk and we will arrange for a survey to be passed onto you. Completed surveys can be returned to the Norwood building, through the letterbox.

Further information about the Somersham Neighbourhood Plan is on the Parish Council website: <https://www.somersham-pc.gov.uk>

Do get involved and have your say on the future of the parish,

Somersham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Somersham Nature Reserve

Winter sees the reserve go into hibernation but as the days get longer so the signs of spring can start to be seen. The first bumblebee searching for nectar from early flowers; frogs, newts and toads starting their migrations back to their breeding ponds and the first returning summer migrant birds. Walking the same path every day really allows you to see the gradual changes in the seasons.

Following a successful 2024 we have another exciting programme of events on and around the Nature Reserve starting with two guide walks in May.

Sunday 4 May: Dawn Chorus Walk. Meet at Station Approach at 4.30am

Saturday 24 May: Bat Walk. Meet at Station Approach at 9pm

Later in the season both the popular Lake Fun Day and Apple Day will be returning. Look out for Facebook posts and posters around the reserve for details of these and more events.

Community News



SOMERSHAM WOMENS INSTITITUE

Our WI ladies are ready to start the New Year with an exciting programme of talks and events, and we are always happy to welcome visitors and especially new members. In addition to our local programme, our **WI Learning Hub** offers a wide range of live courses on the internet covering CREATIVE ARTS, TALKS & INTERESTS, EXERCISE & WELLBEING, BUSINESS & TRAINING, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

This educational platform provides an opportunity to learn new skills & hobbies, meet new people, and interact virtually with these daily live courses. The courses are offered at no cost to our members. Come and join us!

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

The WI 'Poppy Bombing Team' November 2024

Remember the WI 'Poppy Bomb' of the Church for the Remembrance Service when we commemorated the 80th anniversary of D-Day? This WI Team created the most beautiful, creative displays all around the Church. The font was particularly striking and the whole display using over 1000 poppies was a real triumph!



Somersham Primary School

Happy New Year from all at Somersham Primary School!

The autumn term was a busy one for our children and staff, with lots of exciting learning taking place and enrichment opportunities to be enjoyed. We currently have 303 children on roll and so there is always something happening!

Reception

We welcomed 50 new Reception children in September and they have settled brilliantly to the routines and systems of school life. The progress they are making is fantastic: they have already mastered a huge range of sounds and are applying this to their reading and writing. They attend Forest School sessions every Wednesday, and have completed a 'Balance ability' programme which involves them developing their balance skills on specially adapted bikes. The children enjoyed a visit from 'Little City', a roleplay experience which enables the children to dress up and interact as different members of the community, and have been on a walk round the village to identify key features. It certainly seems like they have been at school a lot longer than six months!

Key Stage One

Children in Key Stage One wowed the school at the end of last term with a wonderful nativity performance: 'The Fleece Force'. They rehearsed with dedication and put on a show with great confidence and engagement. They looked fantastic in their costumes! They managed to balance the demands of putting together a production with keeping up with their curriculum, learning lots about life around the UK in geography and changes in living memory in history.

Key Stage Two

The older children in school have also had a productive term. Learning topics linked to World War II, biomes, Roman Britain and North America have all been explored in great detail, with children producing some excellent responses in a variety of ways. Children in Year 5 and 6 experienced life as a World War II evacuee in a trip to Stibington and really learnt a great deal from this important area of learning. Lots of children have represented the school positively in a variety of sporting events, and later this term we look forward to our choir singing at Young Voices in Birmingham and a group of Year 6 children participating in the final of the county's English Challenge.

If you have moved into the village and are interested in your child attending the school, please don't hesitate to contact the office on 01487 840412. You can also find us on our Facebook page : www.facebook.com/somershamprimaryschool

Jonathan Clarke
Headteacher

Community News



WorkWell: supporting work and health

WorkWell is a free program that helps people who maybe struggling to find or retain a job due to a health need. A Work and Health coach will talk to you about what you need and help you find the right support. They can connect you with different services, like health professionals and local groups. WorkWell wants to make sure everyone feels better and has a good chance at getting a job, so you can do both—work and feel healthy!

You are eligible for WorkWell if:

- ⊕ You are 16 years or older.
- ⊕ You have the right to work in the UK.
- ⊕ You live in, or are registered with a GP or JobCentre Plus in Huntingdonshire.
- ⊕ You have a health-related barrier to work.

You do not need to be claiming any Government benefits to access the service.



How to Access WorkWell

Scan the QR code to arrange a call back From the WorkWell Hub.

Or call 07731 021280 to speak to a member of the WorkWell Team

<https://tinyurl.com/WorkWell-Huntingdonshire>



Get started today and access free, personalised support for your work and health needs!



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTS

FREE

SOMERSHAM SPORTS SESSION

Norwood Playing Field, Somersham, PE28 3HE

2pm - 4pm

16th April 2025

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

- Qualified coaches
- A chance to try new sports



HOPE ACTIVE

Are you over 60 years?
A resident of South
Cambridgeshire or Huntingdon?
Want to stay active and fit ?
Want to chat and have a Cuppa?



All events are free,
for more details:

email:
active@hopeagainstst.org
Phone: 07474 725 477

Pop into one of our sessions for
gentle activities, games, field trips
to our farm whilst socially engaging
with your local community for FREE.

Somersham: Every First Tuesday of the Month from
12pm-2pm at the Community Library on Church St.



FREE COMMUNITY EXERCISE

Supporting those over
65 to remain independent

BOOK TODAY

01487 208150

community@fitnessrush.co.uk

MOBILE
FACILITY
PROFESSIONAL
TRAINERS

MONDAYS
FROM FEB 3RD 2025

10:00 Somersham
Victory Hall

11:00 Earith
The Crown Pub

12:00 Bluntisham
Village Hall

13:00 Needingworth
Village Hall

CARE TOGETHER
ALL ABILITIES

EXERCISE

The first 8 weeks of your fitness journey will consist of 45 minute tailored exercise sessions in our state-of-the-art mobile facility.

ALTERNATIVES

Weeks 9-12 will give you the opportunity to discover safe walking routes in your surrounding area, leading you on nicely towards a sustainable future.

SUSTAINED WELLBEING

Not only will we help everyone begin, enjoy and benefit from fitness but our ongoing support allows our participants to continue their journey after the initiative has finished.

www.fitnessrush.co.uk/care-together

12 WEEK INITIATIVE

Community News

St John the Baptist Church

Goodbye...

For those who haven't yet heard I will be saying my goodbyes to Somersham and going back 'home' i.e Yorkshire where I will be closer to my family. I will be Vicar of Boroughbridge near Ripon and Harrogate. But I have really loved being here and thank you for your friendship and support. You are truly an amazing community. Don't worry - I will be replaced! But probably a slightly different, model.. (not that I'm a model as such!). Last Service Sunday 4th May but I hope a goodbye party in the Victory Hall - I will confirm the date!

What's On...

Tuesday's 9-11 'Little Acorns' - Baby and Toddler group.

Wednesday's 9.30 - 10am A short service of communion followed by coffee.

Sunday Services are at 10.30 followed by refreshments.

Messy Church - 2nd Sunday of the month. 4-5.30pm.

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.

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

Friday 4th April - Film Night for Children

Easter/ Holy Week.

Good Friday 18th April. - '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 20th April.

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 01487 840676

Rector.somersham@gmail.com For events and services look us up on www.achurchnearyou.com



SOMERSHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY

As you may already know the library is run solely by volunteers, and greatly depends on raising funds to keep us operational. Everyone will agree that the library is an excellent village resource, and without your support we wouldn't be able to continue.

Throughout the year the fundraising team work hard to put on innovative and seasonal events and we are grateful for the support we receive.

We greatly appreciate and send thanks to all of you; be you a library volunteer ; a donator of prizes to raffle ; those that buy the raffle tickets ; and the talented entertainers keeping us all in good spirits.

Many thanks to all who attended our annual pre-Christmas Coffee Morning in the Rose & Crown in November '24, and our last Saturday before Christmas '24 Coffee and Mince Pie event, in the library. It is always pleasing to see these events well attended, not only on a personal level but also from the funds they raise.

Our first Fundraising event of 2025 was a Quiz in February, held in the Victory Hall, in association with the Church. We hope you had a great evening and exercised the little grey cells, and even won a raffle prize, or were part of the overall team winners - many congratulations if you did.

Our next event will be at Easter. We will be manning a stall at the Cross on Saturday 19th April, selling a delicious array of homemade cakes, plus raffle tickets for Super Breakfast Hampers. In conjunction with the stall we will be holding a coffee morning with hot cross buns, hopefully with local entertainers, and drawing the raffle in the library. Tickets are generally on sale a couple weeks before Easter. You've got to be in it - to win it !!!! Why not come and join us, the more the merrier.

On June 28th you will find us taking part in the Somersham Carnival. Our Fundraising Team really pull out all the stops to make it a very special and fun day for everyone. We do our best in an amateur way to decorate our stall, and ourselves -we're definitely out there to make you smile, and remember the library, and to support the hard work the Carnival Committee do.

We always have a excellent tombola table, and beautiful raffle prizes, and maybe even some books 📖😊

Our volunteers and supporters supply donations, and if you would ever like to contribute that would be fantastic.

We will try to arrange something else for the Autumn, so keep your eyes out for notification.

New Volunteers are always welcome, and there's many ways to support the library. Come along, have a chat with the volunteers on duty, and pick up a registration form.

You can keep abreast of events and all other library activities and information on our website: Somersham Community Library. You can email us at: info@somershamlibrary.org.uk, or telephone 07522 149352.

Thanks again to you all, and we look forward to seeing you soon.
Somersham Community Library Fundraising Team



Community News



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.
Spring service details:

Colossians — Growing with and in Jesus

2nd March Colossians 2:16–23 Worldly deceit

Colossians — Lent — Putting on and Taking off

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 9 th March | Colossians 3:1–4 | Heavenly minded |
| 16 th March | Colossians 3:5–14 | Compassion |
| 23 th March | Colossians 3:5–14 | Kindness |
| 30 th March | Colossians 3:5–14 | Humility |
| 6 th April | Colossians 3:5–14 | Gentleness |
| 13 th April | Colossians 3:5–14 | Patience |

Easter

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 18 th April | Mark 14:43–51, 66–72, 15:20–39 | The End |
| 20 th April | Mark 16:1–8 | The end of life as we know it |

Dynamite (twens youth group)

Every other Friday 6:30pm – 8:30pm in the chapel

March: 14th & 28th

Consoles, table games, tuck, and time to think about God.

Different 'special' activity each time.

Check with dynamite@somershambaptist.church for further information.



Sunday 6th April 2025 – from 10am

Join in the clean for Somersham!

Meet at the gazebo in the car park in front of the Victory Hall, 10am - 2 pm.

If you would like to take part, please let the Timebank know which time slot suits you and your area of preference to litterpick. All are welcome to join in!

You may choose a route from the map to suit your personal, family or groups capabilities. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Pickers, bags and Hi-Vis equipment provided. All we ask that you please bring your own gloves suitable for the task at hand.

We plan to stagger arrival times at 15-minute intervals so we do not have too many arrivals at once, with time to sanitise equipment in between uses.



To book your arrival slot, please contact
Paula Peck, Time Bank Co-ordinator
timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk
01487 841359 / 07599 628 106



FARMERS MARKET OPINION POLL

IF A LOCAL MARKET WAS HELD AT THE MILLENNIUM PAVILION EVERY THREE MONTHS, WOULD YOU COME ALONG ?

IS THIS SOMETHING YOU THINK THE COMMUNITY NEEDS?

WHAT STALLS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED ?

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION SO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR SAY PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO info@somersham-pc.gov.uk OR PLEASE COME ALONG TO A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Community News

On This Day.....

7 Apr 1827 Chemist John Walker of Stockton on Tees sold the world's first box of 'friction matches' that he had invented the previous year. He charged one shilling for a box of 50 matches. Each box was supplied a piece of sandpaper, folded double, through which the match had to be drawn to ignite it.



2 Mar 1882 An unsuccessful attempt was made by Scotsman Roderick Maclean to assassinate Queen Victoria. As she was leaving Windsor railway station he stepped forward from the cheering crowd, lifted a revolver and fired into her carriage. Before a second shot could be fired, he was overpowered by the crowd and arrested by Superintendent Hayes. Remaining calm, the Queen and her companions rode on to Windsor Castle.

21 Apr 1932 American Amelia Earhart landed in Londonderry, Ireland, after taking off from Newfoundland the previous day. It was the world's first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean by a female pilot.

14 Apr 1950 Comic strip hero Dan Dare, the pilot of a space ship, made his first appearance in the first edition of the comic, the Eagle. The comic merged with Lion comic in 1969. All 900,000 copies of the first issue were sold. Its founders were Mancunian Frank Hampson and an Oxford-educated vicar Marcus Morris.



6 Mar 1997 A £650,000 Picasso was stolen from a London art gallery. The thief escaped in a taxi.



4 May 2014 Science students at the University of Leicester concluded that the wooden puppet Pinocchio (who was prone to telling tales and whose nose would double in length for each lie) could only have told a maximum of 13 lies. After 13 lies it was concluded that the nose would be 140 metres long and the force exerted downwards would cause his neck to snap.

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 April 2025

Community News

SOMERSHAM Christmas Lights

The Somersham Christmas Lights team would like to thank the entire village for supporting the annual 'Switch On' event on 1 December. The Christmas Lights have now been taken down and put away until the Spring when maintenance work starts to ensure they will be ready to put up again in the Autumn.

Somersham Christmas Lights wouldn't be possible without the individuals, businesses and community organisations who generously give their time, skills and donations throughout the year to support the effort - and of course the crowds of people who come together to celebrate on the night.

The Somersham Christmas Lights Working Party are always looking for new volunteers to join the team. There are a variety of roles available, not only climbing up ladders and fixing lights but other roles such as organising the raffle and the prizes for switch on day. If you'd like to get involved in any way, big or small, please contact Mervyn & Kathleen Greaves on 07895 312476 or at k.greaves1@talktalk.net



Somersham & Pidley
Timebank Skills Exchange
Programme Presents...



Annual Family Wellbeing Event 2025



**Sunday 27th April, 11am till 3pm
at the Somersham Victory Hall**

Come and meet local hobby and interest groups, plus useful information organisations.

Refreshments, cakes and bacon sandwiches to be provided by Somersham 1st Guides & Rangers.

Free taster sessions & demos of locally based activities (booking ahead will be essential once timetable is announced)

Stay tuned to local Facebook pages for additional details as they progress

If you would like to put your organisation forward for a FREE stall or would like to provide a taster session, contact: timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk

Spaces are limited and booking up fast!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

SOMERSHAM ECO EVENT



Would you like to learn about practical steps you can take in your daily life that will try to help prevent climate change ?

Would you come along to our Eco Event in either The Victory Hall or at The Millennium Pavilion ?

Are you more likely to come along during the day or evening on a weekday ? Or would a weekend suit you better ?

What would you be most interested to see at the event ?

**Please email your comments to:
info@somersham-pc.gov.uk**

Community News

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PRESENTS

THE GINGERBREAD MAN



A FREE show

**for 2 - 7 year olds with
the Aesop's Touring
Theatre Company**

**Sunday 23rd March
Millennium Pavilion, The
Trundle, Somersham**

2pm to 3pm

**Bring your children to enjoy
this fun, educational show
full of music and laughter.
Maximum one adult per
group. Children will be
invited to sit on the floor so
do bring cushions if
required. Please also feel
free to bring your own
drinks and snacks.**

**Booking enquiries to
deputy_derb@somersham-pc.gov.uk
or call 01487 841359**

Somersham Timebank



Looking to Volunteer? Then why not join your local Timebank!



Firstly, what is Timebank?

It's simply a system where you exchange your time and skills to help others.

Somersham & Pidley Timebank, along with its volunteer members have been helping local people since 2011.

In recognition of your help, you receive time credits to your Timeonline account (1 hour = 1-time credit) that you can exchange with another member to get help for yourself, donate to a family member, neighbour or local community group who is also signed up to the Timebank. Alternatively, you can use your credits to access a range of perks with services and activities locally and nationally through another system called Tempo Time Credits and their recognised partners.

Your skills could be anything from gardening, sewing, or putting up shelves to helping with technology, befriending, driving or doing some shopping. The list is endless and limited only by the skills you have to offer.

Who can volunteer?

Everyone is welcome to join, no matter your age. We all have skills and knowledge to share - often more than we realise! A friendly, no obligation chat with your local Co-ordinator will help to establish your personal skillset.

Benefits of volunteering

Volunteering with Timebank has many benefits such as:

- Supporting the vulnerable in our community
- Provides a sense of community and is a great way to meet new people
- Pursue your hobbies whilst making a difference to others
- Volunteering can enhance your CV

Ready to get involved?

With exciting new projects launching this year, alongside our well-established activities and events, there's never been a better time to join! Text or call Paula: 07599 628 106 email: timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk for more info.



Exciting News – New Repair Shed!



Calling all new and current volunteers – we need your help!

As part of the Health Inequalities Project and Somersham & Pidley Timebanks Skills Exchange programme, we are thrilled to share that the Somersham Parish Council has secured funding for a new sea container to house a Repair Shed at the Millennium Pavilion. With the planning stages complete, construction will begin soon, aiming for a spring/summer 2025 launch, so watch this space. 🗓️

We need new and existing skilled volunteers to help us with this new initiative. Are you good at:

- ☒ Furniture repair, stage construction and more?
- ☒ Mechanical and electrical fixes?
- ☒ Clothing repair, haberdashery and tool sharpening?
- ☒ Teaching hobbies or crafts to others, one-on-one or in group workshops.

Does this sound like it could be the project for you? Then let's talk...

We would love to hear from you! Our first project is building bird boxes and wildlife homes.

To learn more about the Skills Exchange and future projects coming up, text or call Paula: 07599 628 106 email: timebank@somersham-pc.gov.uk for a no obligation conversation.

Community News

VE DAY

80th ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 MAY 2025

COME ALONG AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH FROM OUR COMMUNITY, ENSURING THE FREEDOM WE ALL ENJOY TODAY

SOMERSHAM TOWN BAND WILL BE PLAYING 1940'S / 50'S MUSIC AT THE CROSS ON THE 8TH MAY FROM 6PM TO 7PM TO COMMEMORATE THIS SPECIAL DAY



THERE WILL BE FREE HAND HELD FLAGS TO WAVE ALONG TO THE MUSIC



Somersham Town Band

Engagements 2025

- April**
Fri 18th 12.00-13.00 Walk of Witness, Outside Free Church, Market Hill, St Ives
- May**
Thu 8th 18.00- 19.00 Somersham VE 80th Celebrations, The Cross, High St
Sat 10th Time TBC Somersham VE 80th Anniversary Concert, Centurion Club, High St, Somersham
- June**
Sat 14th 19.30-21.30 Buckden Towers VE 80th Anniversary Prom Concert, Buckden Towers Garden, High St, Buckden
Sun 29th Time TBC Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival, Old Rectory, Hemingford Abbots
- July**
Sat 5th 13.00-16.00 Fenstanton Village Fayre, Fenstanton School Playing Fields
Sat 12th 13.45-16.30 Paxfest & Fun Dog Show, QEII Playing Fields, Little Paxton, PE19 6EY
Sun 27th 14.30-16.30 Music on the Green, Abbey Green, Ramsey
- Sept**
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

December events details will be published in next edition
This engagement list will be periodically updated at the notice board at The Cross.



David Chambers BEM

Musical Director & Conductor

We were all delighted to hear that David Chambers, Musical Director & Conductor of Somersham Town Band had been awarded the BEM in the King's New Years Honours. Somersham Town Band was originally formed in 1919 but was disbanded in 1962. In January 1980, a group of young players from Somersham Primary School persuaded David to try to reform the band. A small number of players from the original band also returned and a concert was given in September 1980 in the Parish Church. The band continued to grow from strength to strength. David has changed the lives of several youngsters who he taught from an early age, one example is Joshua Cusworth who David started to teach when he was age 7, Joshua joined the band and since has gained a First degree at the Royal College of Music and is now a professional trumpet player and music teacher. David has given over 45 years of dedicated unpaid leadership to the band. Congratulations to David and many thanks for being such an aspiring and amazing leader, and the band would also like to thank the people of Somersham and surrounding communities for their amazing generosity and continuing support.

Somersham Town Band Committee

Community News



SOMERSHAM CARNIVAL JUNGLE SAFARI
22nd till 28th June 2025

We are back with a **ROAR**

SOMERSHAM CARNIVAL JUNGLE SAFARI
22nd till 28th June 2025

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR REGUAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION!

Kids Disco, Quiz, Darts, Bingo, Country Crafts, Dog show,
and the big day itself, **BE THERE!**