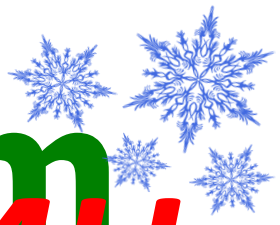




Somersham **4U**



A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

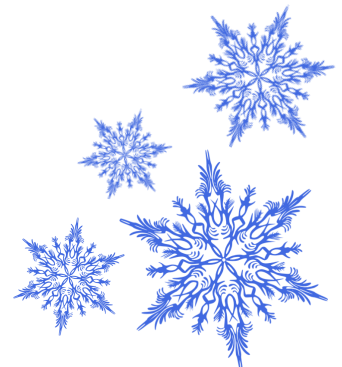
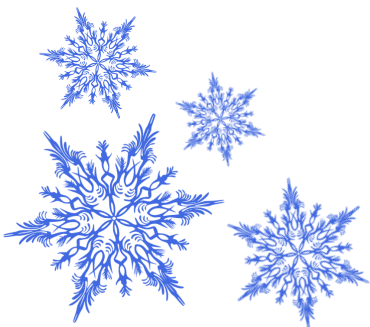
DECEMBER 2016 - JANUARY 2017



Winter Arriving - Somersham Lake in the Somersham Nature Reserve
(C) copyright Somersham Parish Council

Coming Events

- *Friday Films*
- *Community Gritting Scheme*
- *Find the unique QR code in this issue!*



Parish Council

Chairman's Report

December 2016/January 2017



I am proud and pleased to be congratulating Somersham Time Bank on its fifth anniversary! Many will remember our first coordinator Emma who worked hard to get things started before having to move away. Lucy took over and with her enthusiasm and commitment the

Time Bank has gone from strength to strength and now encompasses Pidley.

I was proud to present a birthday cake at the recent celebration party. The Time Bank is supported and largely funded by the Parish Council. It successfully brings together a wide range of people and village groups who are happy to help each other. We are particularly keen to include those who need a little help because of age, ill-health, isolation or just keen to be part of the community. If this is you, or anyone you know, please consider joining. It's free and you can be involved as much or as little as you choose. Following our lead, Time Banks are springing up in other villages across Cambridgeshire.

I am sorry to report that Guy Wakelin has stood down from the parish council due to personal commitments. I'd like to thank him for his contribution over the last three years. We now have two vacancies, so please contact the Clerk if you'd like to join us.

Each year we have the opportunity to bid for funding to help deliver a local highway project that helps solve an issue of concern to residents. Last year we were successful and the construction of speed reduction measures is imminent on Chatteris Rd. This year we are considering a scheme to improve safety at White Post Junction and are working with Highway engineers to consider the best solution. Accident reports show that 'driver error' is usually the cause of the frequent accidents, but anything we can do to reduce those must surely be worthwhile.

You may have noticed our Christmas Lights working party beavering away over the last few weeks. Yes, it's that time of year again ! I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Switch-on event on the 1st December and offer my best wishes for the festive season.
Steve Criswell.

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

There is a Parish Councillor vacancy on the above Council.

If you are interested in applying for the vacancy please contact:-

Parish Clerk: Mrs P Bryant
clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01487 841359

Candidates will be provided with an application form and associated papers to complete and return to the Parish Clerk prior to the closing date below.

A proportional vote for the co-option of the new Councillor will take place at the Parish Council meeting on 16th January 2017.

CLOSING DATE
FRIDAY 13th January 2017

Parish office 01487 841359 Open 9:00AM-3:00PM
Monday-Thursday

www.somersham-pc.gov.uk
www.somersham4u.org.uk
@SomershamParish

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2017

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

16th January	3rd July
13th February	31st July
13th March	4th September
10th April	25th September
8th May (Annual)	23rd October
15th May (Electors)	20th November
5th June	18th December

Lucy's Page

We had a really lovely evening in October celebrating our 5th birthday. Members helped with planning, decorations, quiz writing, photos, and most importantly providing the most amazing selection of puddings to follow our delicious fish and chip supper. Thanks to Steve Criswell for joining us, after supporting the development of the Time Bank 5 years ago, and providing us with the a fantastic birthday cake!



October also brought about our annual Apple Day and Bake Off event down on the Nature Reserve. Thanks to All Undercover Marquees for again providing us with a wonderful 'Bake-Off Tent'. There was lots to do there with clay modelling, Wildplay sessions, apple bobbing, facepainting, freshly made apple juice and toffee apples. Thanks to all of the Friends of the Nature Reserve and Time Bank members who helped to make it a great afternoon.



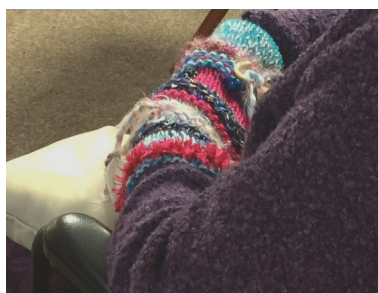
In November we were at King's College Cambridge with the Cambridgeshire Timebanking Partnership raising money to support timebanking around the county. With over 250 canvases completed it made a dazzling display of talent. Thanks to the Millennium Pavilion for allowing us to organise the paintings in the week leading up to the exhibition. So much hard work went into the event from colleagues at



Cambridgeshire County Council and CHS Group to make it all happen and a huge success.

We are supporting the Pidley Mountain Rescue Team with a drop-in Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 3rd December at Pidley Village Hall. There will be sausage and bacon rolls, cake and refreshments. We'll be there from 10am-2pm so come down and take a break from your shopping or get some sustenance on your way!

We are still busy making Twiddlemuffs for people who live with Dementia. Over 80 have been distributed around the local area and are still in high demand, so if you are a keen knitter, or would like to learn about this project please contact me. One care home in Huntingdon said they have been using these decorated hand muffs in the period leading up to bedtime as they can calm restless hands and minds.



Our regular coffee mornings are on the third Thursday of the month at the Millennium Pavilion, which has great parking facilities at 10.30am. We also have regular walking groups and social evenings.

Follow us on Facebook or contact

Lucy at lucy.bird@somersham-pc.gov.uk or on 01487 840359.

Community News

December 2016/January 2017

SOMERSHAM CARNIVAL 2017



B, O, A, R, D, G, A, M, E, S

Carnival Committee Needs New Members

From iPads back to Board Games - Celebrating 40 years of Somersham Carnival 1977 – 2017 is going to take a bit of planning!

Can you help? Our Carnival Committee has shrunk as key members like Viv, Geoff, Jon and Andy have moved on so new faces and ideas are essential to make it the success we've all enjoyed over the years.

Could you help organise your favourite event? Could you help book venues and entertainment, talk to the Press, deliver the programmes, order the tiaras & rosettes, sell raffle tickets or offer to help in any way? We're a friendly, supportive group who meet monthly in the pub! Give us a call on 07775585713, info@somershamcarnival.org.uk or find us on Facebook "Somersham Carnival".

If not You then Who?

Carnival Day Saturday 24th June 2017



Somersham Nature Reserve



Winter is now upon us and the nature reserve is fairly quiet. So what better time to look back on the year, we had a good calendar of events including the dawn chorus walk, star gazing, bat walk, butterfly walk, a bugs life picnic, moth night, apple day and culminating in the fungi foray which due to the unseasonably dry weather was unfortunately fairly void of fungi. Thank you to all those who attended these events and continue to support the nature reserve. Next year promises to be just as eventful so keep an eye out for upcoming events on posters around the village, on the reserve or via our Facebook and Twitter pages.

During the winter months when the trees are bare and the greenery has died back it is easier to spot some of our overwintering birds, Blue and Great Tits are numerous and little flocks of Long Tailed Tits can be seen and heard flittering from tree to tree. If you are lucky you may spot something more elusive like a beautiful Bullfinch or a tiny Gold crest our smallest bird. Larger flocks of Redwings and Fieldfare are also to be seen on the reserve stripping any remaining berries from the trees. When the winter weather turns cold and icy don't forget to put food and fresh water out for your garden birds to help them survive.

Working parties continue over the winter months, it's the best time of year for clearing scrub and cutting back undergrowth while birds are not nesting. Clearing these areas allows native wildflowers to establish and spread which in turn encourages more wildlife onto the reserve from insects, such as butterflies, to birds and bats. Some of the larger stands of Willow along the old railway line will also be coppiced this winter for safety reasons and to allow more light onto the ground below. If you would like to help with the work parties we are always looking for volunteers, we meet on the first Sunday of each month at 9.30 am by the container at the Springfield entrance.

So wrap up warm put your wellies on and continue to enjoy the jewel of Somersham that is our nature reserve.

For more information, please contact: Phil Clark on 01223 715686 or email philp.clark@cambridgeshire.gov.uk You can also find us on: Twitter @SomershamNatu1 Facebook Somersham4u



Community

December 2016/January 2017

First Friday Films



SOMERSHAM VICTORY HALL Friday 6th January

New Year treat for the family on the last day of the school holidays. For details see the front of the Victory Hall!

First Friday Films is a Victory Hall initiative aimed at bringing recent films a bit closer to home. You can now see some of the latest films in Somersham. We plan to show one film on the **First Friday** of each month at the Victory Hall, Somersham. There is a bar and free popcorn. Ticket prices are £4 for adults and £2 for children (subject to film classification). Tickets are available on the door, or can be bought in advance from Somersham Community library in Church Street or the Rose and Crown.

See posters at the front of the Victory Hall and around the village for more details.

Christmas by Candlelight

'An Evening of Music for the Festive Season'

Featuring

Somersham Town Band

& the Choir of Somersham Primary School

Friday - 16th December - 7 pm

in

**St John the Baptist Church
Somersham**

Tickets available from Strands Hairdressers,
Somersham Library
& Alan (Tel:01487 741531)

£9 Adults £4 Children
Includes a drink in the interval



Police and Drug Matters

People often say to me "What are the police doing about all the drugs around here?"

The sad fact is that drug use is a part of our society and has been for many years. Some people see nothing wrong in smoking cannabis and whilst it is true that occasional cannabis use on its own may never cause the user any long term health problems it is also true that cannabis is a gateway to much harder and more serious drug use. Earlier in my police career I spent several years working with drug treatment agencies and during that time was involved with the treatment of a large number heroin addicts and hard drug users. The depravity and ruined lives that I have seen doesn't bear thinking about. The fact is though that almost all of those addicts started on cannabis. I have interviewed many drug users about their addiction and the overriding theme was that it started as a bit of a laugh, very few ever expected that smoking a bit of weed would ever lead them to an addiction to hard drugs. It is difficult to underestimate the darkness of heroin addiction. Most heroin users need to use the drug just to feel normal; to be able to get through the day. The physical and mental traumas that the users suffer if they can't get their hit are horrific. This then leads to how they fund their addiction. Many will commit shop thefts, burglaries or even rob people on the street, some sell drugs to other drug users to get the money, all of which risk prison sentences when caught. I recall an addict once saying to me "It's alright for you, you can take a day off every now and then. I have to do this every day, if I can't get the money I'll be ill, I have to have the drugs, even on Christmas day". Occasionally drug users are able to hold down a job for a while but it is often the case that the cost of the drugs takes over and many end up losing everything; their car, their home, their family. Some people start using cannabis from a very young age, many whilst still at school; I have often had to deal with parents that are distraught because their child is stealing from them to get money to buy drugs. There is no doubt that a great deal of crime is linked to drug use so as police, we make every effort to do something about drugs. We will target the dealers and users of illegal drugs using whatever tactics are available to us. We also work in conjunction with schools to offer education on the law around the subject. We now have new powers to deal with offences of driving whilst under the influence of drugs.

There are many sources of help for those concerned about drug use; the Frank website is a good place to start www.talktofrank.com, Addaction are also an excellent organisation offering advice and practical help www.addaction.org.uk. I am also happy to anyone to contact me to discuss their concerns.

Keep safe

PS Andrew Street



December 2016/January 2017

Cambridgeshire Child and Adolescent Substance Use Service (CASUS)

provides information, support and specialist treatment in Cambridgeshire around drug and alcohol use to young people and their families.

How this service can help you

CASUS is part of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. The team is staffed by nurses, substance misuse practitioners, social workers as well as a child and adolescent psychiatrist. The team sees young people who have concerns about drugs and alcohol (including legal/chemical highs, volatile substances/gases as well as illegal drugs). CASUS offers specialist treatment, interventions, support and information for all types of substance use.

We provide support for the families and carers of substance misusing young people and, we see young people who are affected by the substance misuse of someone close to them.

CASUS has an interest in reaching those young people that are seen as hard to engage. Our aim is to offer intensive support and treatment to these vulnerable young people whom sometimes have complex needs. In these cases substance misuse can be part of a range of significant difficulties that may include mental health, sexual health, family relationships, housing, education etc, and the team actively engages in multi-agency working to promote the resolution of these difficulties.

The team is one of a growing number in the UK using the innovative Adolescent Mentalization Based Integrative Therapy – AMBIT.

Young people are seen at school, home, community settings as well as at CPFT bases.

CASUS
Newtown Centre
Nursery Road
Huntingdon
PE29 3RJ

www.cpft.nhs.uk/casus

Community Information

December 2016/January 2017

Somersham History Society

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 24 January 2017 7.30pm
in the Baptist Church. Tickets £3 on the door.

Mark Carroll will give an illustrated talk entitled
"A pouch full of letters". An intriguing Victorian
family and the story of a genealogical mystery
tour.

All welcome.

Somersham Youth Club Vacancy

Are you interested in helping out Monday
evenings?

Somersham Youth Club are looking for a
New Youth Club Workers to help every
Monday evening term time.

If you are interested for more information
please contact:

clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk

22: St Ives—Warboys Updated Bus Timetable

Runs Monday to Saturday
Operated by Ron W. Dew & Sons Ltd
Enquiries 01487 840241



To find out the new route for the weekends you can find it on:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking
To find out all information on travel, roads and parking in Cambridgeshire
please use this link.



The new national power cut phone line is now released – **105** –
to help people contact the company that looks after their
electricity network. This would be UK Power Networks for
London, the East and South East of England.



The number, which is available to electricity customers in
England, Scotland and Wales, will enable people to report or get
information about power cuts as well as report damage to electricity power lines and substations that
could put themselves, or someone else, in danger. **105** is funded and delivered by the electricity network
operators, and is a first for the UK's energy industry. As well as calling **105**, people can find more
information on the website: <http://www.powercut105.com/>

Experiencing a power cut? No matter who your provider is, **105** is the new number to
call to get help and advice, free of charge on mobile and landlines.

**POWER CUT?
CALL 105**



UK Power Networks still runs a Priority Services Register for your constituents who
may be more vulnerable in a power cut e.g. older people, those dependent on medical
equipment,
parents of young children etc. To join, they can call 0800 169 9970, email
psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk or apply online at www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority.

Baptist Blog

Have you got a Christmas tradition?

December 2016/January 2017

Is there something that makes Christmas for you?

Is it the timing of your Christmas dinner, the way the sprouts are done, the Queen's speech, what time children are allowed to get up or the people you spend it with? It is an extraordinary time of the year. We spend more, eat more, socialise more and perhaps see more family than we otherwise would. In the busyness of what makes it extraordinary for us we can lose sight of just how extraordinary that first Christmas was. The real reason why we celebrate.

A pregnant virgin, an angel, a stunned fiancé, a 70 mile journey (on foot not donkey), to a different town, no where to stay, giving birth in a stable. Strangers, hot footed from the field the first to greet your son. Strangers from further away bringing odd gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honour your son. An escape from a vengeful monarch, fleeing to another country to start a new life until it's safe to return. There was nothing ordinary about the birth of Jesus, the Son of God.

This Christmas at Somersham Baptist Church we'll be looking at just how extraordinary this story is and how it can transform our ordinary lives not just for Christmas but forever.

At our **Carols by Candlelight** service we'll be looking at the **"Extraordinary Message"** that the Shepherds heard and what it means to us. Christmas Day we'll be unwrapping the **"Extraordinary Gift"** that God gave to us, one that isn't just for Christmas. Why not do something extraordinary this Christmas and come to church to find out more?

Our Christmas Services are:

"Carols by Candlelight" – 7.00pm on Sunday 18th December

"Family Crib Service" – 4.00pm on Saturday 24th December at St John the Baptist, Parish Church

"Christmas Day Celebration" – 10.00am on Sunday 25th December

But you don't have to wait until Christmas to find Jesus, he's available all year. Why not come and find out on Sundays at 10.30am, with activities for all ages. Or drop in for a coffee and chat Monday afternoons 12.00 – 4.00pm and Friday mornings 9.00am – 12.00pm. We're on the High Street at the heart of the community. Merry Christmas



Rev Bruce Daniels
www.somershambaptist.org and
www.facebook.com/SomershamBaptistChurch



St John the Baptist Church



Preparations for Christmas began in October as I queued through various towns and villages while Christmas lights were put up. Then again, I bought my Christmas Cards before my last Harvest Supper as I don't like to leave everything to the last minute. December 2016/January 2017

Ideally I would like to savour the time of Advent (the month before Christmas), as a spiritual rather than commercial preparation for Christmas. Usually it is a mix of the two but I know that it is not what I do but how I do it that will make the difference. Choosing how we use our time, choosing gifts with care and thought, interspersing necessary shopping with prayerful card writing or time to pause and reflect can turn the ordinary or stressful times into the special and spiritual time.

Advent is a time of patient waiting, preparing ourselves for the birth of Christ and if even a tiny part of us wants to see that, we will find it. Here are a few things you will find in your Parish church.



Christmas Tree Festival 26th – 27th November and also Thursday 1st December evening at the Christmas Light Switch on.

Messy Church Christmas - Christmas Crafts, stories, singing and party food Sunday 11th December 4 – 5.30. All children with an adult welcome. Messy Church returns in January on 15th January.



Creative Minds – 13th December 2.30 – 4pm – A wellbeing group, coffee, chat and creative activity to help relaxation. All Welcome.

Carols by Candlelight Concert with the Somersham Town Band and School Choirs – Friday 16th December.



Children's Christmas Festival – Children (with an adult) welcome for Crafts, Story, Grotto, face painting and Christmas treats. Thursday 22nd December 10-12.

Traditional Carol Service - Sunday 18th December 6.30pm

Churches Together Crib Service - 4pm Christmas Eve – come dressed as an angel, a king, shepherd or an animal (or borrow one of our costumes) for a Live Nativity.

Midnight Communion – 11.30 pm Christmas Eve
Christmas Day Family Service with Communion 10.30am



Sunday Services are 10.30am with Sunday School or Activities
 Little Acorns (Pre-school group) Thursdays 9.30-11.am.

If you would like more information about weddings, funerals or baptisms or are interested in exploring your faith please do get in touch by phone or email.



Many Blessings,
 Rev Sue Simpson
 01487 840676
Rector@somershamparishes.org
www.somershamparishes.org



Community Information on Drones

Drones & how to use them responsibly

December 2016/January 2017

The (ICO) Information Commissioners Office recommends that users of drones – also called unmanned aerial systems (UAS) or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) – with cameras should operate them in a responsible way to respect the privacy of others.

1. Are drones covered by the Data Protection Act (DPA)?

If a drone has a camera, its use has the potential to be covered by the DPA.

2. Is it OK to use drones with cameras?

If you are using a drone with a camera, there could be a privacy risk to other people.

Follow our tips below to help ensure you respect people's privacy when using your drone.



3. How can I use my drone responsibly?

Tips on responsible use of drones:

- **Let people know before you start recording.** In some scenarios this is going to be quite easy because you will know everyone within close view (for example, if you are taking a group photo at a family barbeque). In other scenarios, for example at the beach or the park, this is going to be much more difficult so you'll need to apply some common sense before you start.
- **Consider your surroundings.** If you are recording images beyond your home, a drone may intrude on the privacy of others where they expect their privacy to be respected (such as in their back garden). It is unlikely that you would want a drone to be hovering outside your window so be considerate to others and don't hover outside theirs.
- **Get to know your camera first.** It is a good idea to get to know the capability of your camera in a controlled situation to understand how it works. What is the quality of the image? How powerful is the zoom? Can you control when it starts and stops recording? Drone cameras are capable of taking unusual and creative pictures from original vantage points. Knowing the capabilities of your camera will help you to reduce the risk of privacy intrusion.
- **Plan your flight.** Your drone's battery life is likely to be short. By understanding its capabilities you will be able to make best use of its flight and it will be easier to plan how to avoid invading the privacy of other people. For example, it may be more privacy-friendly to launch from a different location rather than flying close to other people or their property.
- **Keep you and your drone in view.** You won't want to lose it, and if you are clearly visible then it will be easier for members of the public to know that you are the person responsible for the drone.
- **Think before sharing.** Once your drone has landed, think carefully about who's going to be looking at the images, particularly if you're thinking about posting them on social media. Avoid sharing images that could have unfair or harmful consequences. Apply the same common sense approach that you would with images or video recorded by a smartphone or digital camera.
- **Keep the images safe.** The images you have taken may be saved on an SD card or USB drive attached to the drone or the camera. If they are not necessary, then don't keep them. If you do want to keep them, then make sure they are kept in a safe place.
- **Other laws.** Other laws that protect individuals from harassment may apply when using your drone. It is worth checking which laws you need to be aware of before you fly your drone to avoid any unexpected complaints or disputes. The safe use of drones is regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority. For guidance about this, see UAS on the Civil Aviation Authority website.

4. Can I use my drone for work?

As with personal use, if you are using your drone for a more formal, professional purpose, then it is important that you understand your legal obligations as a data controller as the situation will be different.

For more information, read the CCTV code (for organisations), which has a section about drones (referred to as UAS in the code).



Information Commissioners website Accessed 3 November 2016

www.ico.org.uk

Community Gritting

Community Gritting Scheme for 2016-2017

December 2016/January 2017

Cambridgeshire County Council would like bring your attention to their Community Gritting Scheme for 2016-2017.

Under this scheme, the parish or town council agrees specific routes in their area which are important to the local community and agrees them with the county council.

Volunteers can then sign up to grit these routes using equipment provided by the county council.

If you would like to volunteer for this year’s scheme in Somersham or would like more information, then please contact:

**Penny Bryant, Parish Clerk,
Somersham Parish Council, The Norwood Building,
Parkhall Road, Somersham PE28 3HE**

For further information on the scheme please click the link to our web pages:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/111/gritting_roads_cycleways_and_paths/2



Looking forward to hearing from you!

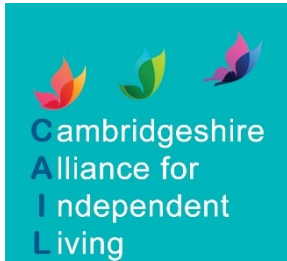


General Gritting Advice

- ◆ Clear snow or ice early in the day, it is easier to clear soft snow than compacted snow. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning any sun that day will help melt the snow or ice underneath. Apply a layer of salt before nightfall to stop the area refreezing.
- ◆ Use salt or sand, **not water** (if you use water it can refreeze to black ice which is invisible and very slippery). To prevent black ice, salt can be spread on the area that has been cleared.
- ◆ Take care in deciding to where you move the snow - making sure that you do not block roads, paths or drains. Clear the middle of the path first so you have a safe surface to walk on.



Community



Do you want to have a say in improving services from Health or Social Care? December 2016/January 2017

Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living is a local independent charity that works to improve services by raising the voice of people living with all disabilities.

One of the ways we do this is by bringing people with all disabilities and carers (called Independent Members), Health and Social Care teams, and voluntary sector organisations (such as Age UK, Voice Ability, Cam Sight and the Carer's Trust) together at 'Partnership Board' meetings.

The Partnership Boards are opportunities for you to have your say about what is good about Health and Social Care services, such as home care and day centres, and what you would like to improve or where you would like to see changes. Recent activities by the Partnership Boards include raising concerns about Home Care, which are now being examined closely by the County Council, involvement in helping to develop a new Carers Strategy and involvement in the process for choosing organisations to run Carers Services. Interested in getting involved? We are looking for new Independent Members to join our boards. We offer full training and support, out of pocket expenses and reimbursement of travel.

If you think this could be you, please contact Leisha O'Brien, Development Officer at Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living by phoning 0300 111 2301 or email leisha@cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk To find out more, take a look at Partnership Board pages on our website www.cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



**in
St John the Baptist Church
Somersham**

**on
Saturday 26th November
10 am - 5pm**

**&
Sunday 27th November
12.30 pm - 5pm**

Come and see the trees, have a look at the twinkling lights, enjoy the atmosphere and have a drink and something to eat whilst chatting to friends.

Admission: Adults £2 Children Free
All children must be accompanied by an adult

Community News

We welcomed Nicky Lisle, a member of Bluntisham & Colne WI, to our September meeting. Nicky is a former prison officer and her talk was about her career in H.M. Prison Service. What a fascinating glimpse we were given into her daily life during that time. She had the daunting honour to be the first female warder in an all male prison. However far from being given a difficult time she was welcomed. It was extremely interesting to be given an informative insight into prison procedures for adults and young offenders, as well as how it affects their daily lives and their health during their stay. We found it absorbing to hear how Nicky learned the best way to interact and deal with difficult situations. Nicky was happy to allow us to ask questions throughout her talk and we were really sorry when it came to an end. A really engaging evening.

December 2016/January 2017

Armchair exercises provided a really fun evening for our October meeting. Pat King had us all sitting in our chairs in a huge circle and proceeded to teach us how to perform exercises whilst sitting. To our delight it was all done to favourite pop songs... Old and new... We weren't sure if we were supposed to sing along but before we knew it we were doing that. Passers by must have surely thought we were having a party and thoroughly enjoying it. We also had some "Fun" brain training exercises as well. Equally as enjoyable as the physical ones. A great evening!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

SOMERSHAM LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE NEWS

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and volunteers a very Happy Christmas and to thank them for their support throughout the year.

To celebrate Christmas, we are holding a raffle in the library for a super Christmas Hamper. The draw will take place on the morning of Saturday 17th December, when we will also be serving coffee and seasonal refreshments and hope to be entertained by the choir of Somersham Primary School (availability of the choir is not confirmed at the time of going to press, but fingers crossed!)

Our first event for 2017 will be our annual quiz at the Victory Hall. The date is set for Saturday 4th February when we will welcome teams of up to 8 to join us to give those little grey cells a work out. Tickets will be £5, and available in the new year. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Meanwhile the library is continuing to open on every 2nd and 4th Sunday morning from 11.00.am to 1.00.pm. Why not drop in for a coffee and chat as well as taking advantage of the full library service.

The library is run entirely by volunteers, and we would love to have a few more so that we can keep the service running and open. Volunteers are friendly, choose their own hours and enjoy spending time in the peaceful atmosphere of the library. If you would like to know more about joining the team, please call into the library, phone us on 840266 or email

Somersham.Library@hotmail.co.uk We're looking forward to hearing from you.

You can learn more about the library on our website www.somershamlibrary.btck.co.uk and by 'liking' us on Facebook, www.Facebook.com/somershamlibrary

Finally, many thanks to everybody in the community who supports our events and service.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year

St John The Baptist Church - Chancel Roof

We are pleased to report that we have now reached the target for the number of slates that we need sponsored to cover the Chancel Roof – much earlier than we expected. This is thanks to the support we have received from so many people plus a very generous donation. We are now confident that we can fund 50% of the total cost of the work (labour, scaffolding, a temporary roof cover etc) which will be about £28000 + VAT. We now have until next April to raise the rest of this amount. Natural England will not allow the work to be done earlier because of hibernating bats. Over the next few weeks we will be busy writing grant applications to raise another £14000 - £15000. Further donations towards the total cost of the project will, of course, still be welcome. These will be recorded in the donations book that is being compiled. Forms for this purpose are available in the church. Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far. Alan Draper & Eddie Howlett

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Dear Editorial team

As a local shopper (we rarely go further than St Ives for health reasons now) I want to commend our wonderful shops to you. We have so many talented people working in the village and they offer so much to their customers including personal friendly service and good advice when we need it, like the pharmacy for instance. With Christmas now on the horizon we should be trying to source our needs locally if possible to save our carbon footprint. We have really lovely hairdressers and beauty treatment professionals, we have grocers and butchers second to none. A beautiful florist, a pet shop and a pub that does good food. And we are lucky to have two doctors surgeries. All in all most of everyone's needs are catered for.

If you've had a drink and you need anything go locally and don't drive.

Happy Christmas to everyone.

Margaret Carrington, 20 High Street, Somersham

Editor's Snippets

1		7		8				
		6			5		7	
						4		6
	3		4				5	
2								8
	7				6		1	
8		9						
	4		7			1		
				2		3		9

December 2016/January 2017

Contact the Editorial team:
Somersham4u.newsletter@btconnect.com

Deadline for the February/March 2017
 Edition of SOMERSHAM4U
 3PM - Monday 2nd January 2017

STALLS AT THE CROSS

10th September	Friends of Somersham Parish Church	£79.50
1st October	The Oldies Club	£65.35
8th October	Friends of Somersham Parish Church	£110.67
15th October	Somersham First Responders	£52.00
22nd October	Somersham First Responders	£48.00
29th October	Royal British Legion	£188.00
29th October	Somersham Allotment Society	£170.00

On This Day.....

4 Dec 1798 - British Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger announced the introduction of Income Tax to help finance the war against France.
10 Jan 1863 - The first section of the London Underground railway was opened, by Prime Minister Gladstone. It ran from Paddington to Farringdon Street, stopping at seven stations. The trains ran every fifteen minutes.
15 Jan 1880 - The London Telephone Company published the first directory, listing 255 subscribers.
28 Dec 1950 - Derbyshire's Peak District became Britain's first National Park.
31 Dec 1960 - The British coin, the farthing, in use in Britain since the 13th Century, ceased to be legal tender at midnight.

FRANK
 Friendly, confidential drugs advice
 0300 123 6600
www.talktofrank.com

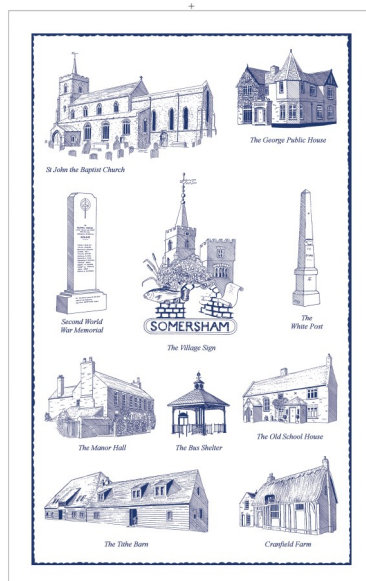


Somersham Tea Towel

A tea towel has been designed as a fundraiser for the Parish Church, it shows landmark buildings and structures in Somersham.

The tea towels will cost £4.95 each and it is hoped to have them on sale at the Christmas Tree Festival.

They would make an ideal gift. If you are interested in making a purchase and are not able to get to the Festival enquiries can be made to Alan Draper.



Edge of tea towel

6	4	3	8	2	5	1	9	7
5	8	1	6	9	7	2	4	3
2	9	7	3	4	1	6	5	8
4	1	2	9	3	8	5	7	6
8	3	9	7	5	6	4	1	2
7	5	6	2	1	4	8	3	9
9	6	4	1	7	2	3	8	5
1	7	8	5	9	3	6	2	4
3	2	5	4	8	9	7	6	1

Tel 01487 741531.

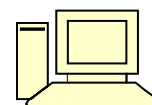
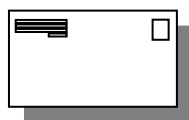
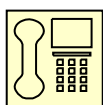
Contact Page

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

December 2016/January 2017

Deb Carr	13, Bank Avenue, Somersham PE28 3DH	07545 601763
Steve Criswell (Chairman)	23, The Bank, Somersham PE28 3DJ	740745
Roy Fabb	14, King Street, Somersham PE28 3EJ	840122
Mervyn Greaves	Merle Cottage Parkhall Road, Somersham PE28 3HF	842255
Michael Hoy	17 Robert Avenue, Somersham PE28 3EX	840523
Tony Hulme	21, Lakeway, Somersham PE28 3JN	840152
Debbie Jones	6 Loftsteads, Somersham PE28 3HX	841406
Paul McCloskey (Vice Chairman)	4 Meridian Close, Somersham PE28 3YB	841641
Lesley Minter	37 Pennway, Somersham PE28 3JJ	841837
Leah Robertson	49 The Paddock, Somersham PE28 9DU	07972 854937
Graham Siggs	1 Library Walk, Somersham PE28 3FN	840083
Dianna Skeggs	111 High Street, Somersham PE28 3EH	07919 890808
Richard Sutton	5 Loftsteads, Somersham PE28 3HX	840150

2 Vacancies



Somersham Parish Council Penny Bryant, Parish Clerk, The Norwood Building, Parkhall Road, Somersham PE28 3HE

Tel: 01487 841359 Email: clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk

County Councillor & District Councillor Steve Criswell 23, The Bank, Somersham, PE28 3DJ

Tel: 01487 740745 Email : steve.criswell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

District Councillor Graham Bull 2, Lancaster Close, Old Hurst , PE28 3BB Tel: 07780 511928

Email: graham.bull@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Local MP (North West Cambridgeshire) Mr Shailesh Vara - House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Email: Shailesh.vara.mp@parliament.uk

Police - non-emergency calls - Dial 101

Household waste and recycling collection arrangements for
Christmas & New Year 2016/17

Normal	Change to
Monday 26 Dec	Wednesday 28 Dec
Tuesday 27 Dec	Thursday 29 Dec
Wednesday 28 Dec	Friday 30 Dec
Thursday 29 Dec	Saturday 31 Dec
Friday 30 Dec	Monday 2 Jan
Monday 2 Jan	Tuesday 3 Jan
Tuesday 3 Jan	Wednesday 4 Jan
Wednesday 4 Jan	Thursday 5 Jan
Thursday 5 Jan	Friday 6 Jan
Friday 6 Jan	Saturday 7 Jan



During February 2017, changes are being made to the refuse and recycling collection rounds. This will mean that your collection day may be changing. Look out for more information which will be delivered to you early 2017.

Find out more at:
www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins
 or call **01480 388640**

Important points to remember when putting your waste out for collection:

- Do not overfill your bins or bags and ensure the bin lid is closed
- Your waste must be out for collection by 6.30am on the day of collections
- Your waste must not be placed out before 6pm on the day before the collection
- Collections take place from your 'edge of premise' unless other arrangements have been made. The council will only collect waste set out for collection in the containers provided by the council



Huntingdonshire
 DISTRICT COUNCIL



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
 FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**
 Working together to improve community safety

IT is the time of year when we're enjoying a tippie with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decking the halls. The fire service has these messages to make sure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke:

- Kitchens are a fire hotspot, so take care while cooking festive fancies. Never leave cooking unattended and turn off appliances when not in use.
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure they conform to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol while smoking or cooking.

Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm which is correctly fitted and works. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!