

Somersham **4U**

A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY — MARCH 2017



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- *Parish Council Quality Gold Award*
- *Somersham History Society*



Parish Council



Chairman's Report

February/March 2017

I wish you all a heartfelt, if slightly belated Happy New Year. We ended 2016 with another great display of Christmas lights following a very successful Switch-on event, well attended as ever. I would like to thank all the volunteers involved. By the time you read this, the lights will probably have been dismantled and forgotten by most, but over the coming months they will be repaired or replaced and prepared for next Christmas. (Pg. 6) With the recent increase in popularity of drones and a few being received as Christmas presents, we have been contacted by some residents with concerns, for and against. In the last newsletter, we referred to cameras on drones following complaints that they had been seen flying over private gardens. The use of model aircraft has been prohibited on parish council (public) land for around 10 years, due to legal liability and insurance issues. Drones are no different. We must also bear in mind that many of those using our public spaces do not appreciate the presence of airborne craft over which they have no control or defence. To avoid potential conflict and accommodate those wishing to enjoy their hobby, the Millennium Pavilion can be booked to provide exclusive use, away from the public. (Pg. 6) I am proud that Somersham Parish Council has been awarded Gold in a nationwide Local Council Award Scheme. (Pg. 4) We are the first and only Gold Council in Cambridgeshire. The award was presented at the County Parish Conference in November. The conference presentations and workshops demonstrated how the role of local councils is changing rapidly. New ideas and 'good practice' were shared, with Somersham quoted as inspiring others to do more for their communities. One area the council would like to improve upon, is how we engage with our residents in a timely manner. We need to consider all groups and all available means to ensure we can reach as many people as possible in a way that they find easiest. We still have 2 vacancies on the council, so if you feel you have something to offer and would like to be involved, please get in touch. (Pg. 12)

Steve Criswell

Precept 2017-2018

At its meeting on 21st November 2016 Somersham Parish Council set the Precept for 2017 - 2018 at **£168,984**

Tax base for Area (equated number of Band D properties) is 1357. Band D Charge (to cover Local Council Precept) **£124.53**

The higher than expected increase for the next financial year is linked to the compulsory workplace pension scheme costs.

The chart below details the expenditure breakdown. Page 3 gives a full breakdown of the Precept for 2017 - 2018

The 2017 – 2018 Budget can be viewed on Somersham Parish Council's website:

<http://somersham-pc.gov.uk/documents.php?dir=Finance/Budgets&by=date&order=asc>

Further financial analysis of expenditure provided to Huntingdonshire District Council

When local councils ask for more than £140,000 from their council taxpayers they must provide more detail of their spending plans in the format below:

	2016/17 EXPENDITURE		2017/18 EXPENDITURE	
	GROSS £	NET £	GROSS £	NET £
Somersham Parish Council				
Cultural, Environmental and Planning	96,954	80,795	111,114	94,969
Highways, Footpaths and Lighting	11,303	9,419	11,300	9,419
Democratic Representation	0	0	0	0
Corporate Management	112,554	108,574	160,160	152,533
	220,811	198,788	282,574	256,921
Contribution from/(to) balances		42,538		87,937
Amount of Precept		156,250		168,984

If you have any queries regarding Somersham Parish Council's budget please call 01487 841359 or email: clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk

Precept 2017/2018

February/March 2017

<u>Routine Expenditure</u>	
Rates	0
Parish Administration	15000
Staff training/conferences	1500
Councillor training	1000
Parish Maintenance	6000
Salaries	90780
Extra hrs for part-time handyman/groundsman	4160
Parish Clerk's Gratuity (pension fund)	1299
Staff workplace pension scheme	16000
Street Lighting	1300
Elections May 2015	0
<u>Additional Expenditure</u>	
Annual rent for Millennium tractor garage	500
Annual rent for Christmas Lights storage	200
Burial land extension - PWLB repayments	10645
Community Library	1500
Contingency	2000
Donations	100
Local Nature Reserve (inc lake)	0
Millennium Sports Field - annual grant	5000
Somersham4uNewsletter	3500
Tractor sinking fund	3000
Tree risk assessment survey	0
Tree work fund	3000
<u>NEW</u>	
Additional bins around the parish	0
BT Kiosk - Refurbishment	500
CCTV Upgrades at all locations	0
Highway Improvement scheme -Footpath to Pidley	0
Highway Improvement Scheme - TRO's - High Street	0
Office computers - 3 year renewal programme	0
Replacement pedestrian tractor	0
Skate ramp - sinking fund for replacement	2000
Village direction sign (The Cross) refurbishment	0
General Reserve - top up	0
TOTAL	<u>168984</u>

Community News

February/March 2017



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL RECEIVES QUALITY GOLD AWARD IN NATIONAL SCHEME

Somersham Parish Council has received a prestigious Gold Award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme.

This achievement recognises that the council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Moreover, Somersham Parish Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

The Award Scheme report highlighted the council's particular areas of strength, including its vision and leadership. The Local Council Award Scheme is a peer assessed programme that has been designed to both provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting

edge of the sector. It is through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

Somersham Parish Council's Chairman Steve Criswell was quoted as being delighted "As a parish council, we realised several years ago that we had an increasing role to play in the well-being of our residents and the strengthening of our community. I am proud that our commitment has been recognised with this Gold Award. However, I am very aware that challenges lie ahead and to meet them we will need to work more closely with our County and District partners"

In terms of the future, the council is now reviewing ways in which it can keep on improving its offer to the local community and welcomes input from local people and partners on this. Somersham, and other local councils like it, are at the front line of the government's localism agenda and are doing as much as they can to deliver services whilst being efficient and cost-effective. Currently the council provides a range of services including a dedicated website and social media, sports facilities, a community library, Time Bank, Youth Club and designated Nature Reserve and intends to further improve its community engagement through this.

The War Memorial

On 10th November 2016 Heritage England wrote to Somersham Parish Council "Following your application to add the above memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, we have now considered all the representations made and completed our assessment of the memorial. I am delighted to inform you that having considered our recommendation, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add Somersham War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The memorial is now listed at Grade II."

Below is a link to a copy of our advice report, which gives the principal reasons for this decision. The List entry for this building, together with a map, has now been published on the National Heritage List for England, and will be available for public access from tomorrow. This List can be accessed through Historic England website.

<http://services.historicengland.org.uk/webfiles/GetFiles.aspx?av=918B52E7-7C52-4D2C-8F4D-C65EBDF66117&cn=C2F72763-27C2-441A-9059-DD7A77FDC922>



Lucy's Page

February/March 2017

Have you ever wondered what type of person joins the Time Bank? Is it mostly ladies? Is it full of older people? Are the members the type who always get involved in things? The answer is... there isn't a type! Anyone can join!

There are 16% of our members in their 30s as well as 16% in their 60s. We have members aged 5 years and some in their 90s, we have men and women and we value them all equally. Each member brings their unique skills and knowledge to the Time Bank, which is why it works so well. Everyone has something that can be shared with others. The flexible nature of timebanking allows people to get involved when they can, whether you work full time or have just retired the amount of time you give is up to you.

The Time Bank is all about listening to what our members would like to do and not dictating how this community group should be run. All of our activities have evolved from conversations and ideas between members, whether it's gardening, cooking, sewing, regular coffee mornings, walking groups, odd jobs, computer workshops or a massage or two, our members make the Time Bank what it is today. So if you have any great suggestions or would like to learn a new skill, please contact us.

One of our projects last year was knitting Twiddlemuffs for people living with Dementia. It was so successful with 100 Twiddlemuffs being distributed locally to individuals, care homes and day centres. The manager of one of these centres said 'I would like to thank your group for being so kind in knitting some fantastic "Twiddlemuffs" for the adults who access the Day Centre'. We are continuing to knit them, so if you would like to find out more, or would like a copy of the pattern please get in touch.



This knitting craze has now led on to another exciting opportunity. We have worked closely with the Friends of Somersham Nature Reserve over the last few years and are planning a joint venture to create a Knitted Nature Trail for people to visit in the spring/summer.



Woollen woods usually involve lots of small knitted or crocheted items distributed throughout the trees, such as animals, bugs and plants. We are looking for all levels of crafters with ideas. If you have any patterns or would like to help in any way, will be running evening and daytime sessions over the spring so look out for dates.



We run regular coffee mornings on the third Thursday of each month at 10.30am at the Millennium Pavilion and a variety of local walks; Nature Rambles, Baby Rambles and Health and Wellbeing Walks all on



Tuesdays throughout the month. All of our events are free and open to everyone, not just our members, so please come along. To find out more follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or ask to join our mailing list.

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.

 Somersham and Pidley Time Bank  @SomershamTime

Community

February/March 2017

The UK laws - What model aircraft & drone pilots need to know



Where a drone is used for sporting and recreational purposes, including recreational (non-commercial) aerial photography and videography they are considered to be model aircraft, the law makes no specific distinction on types of aircraft, other than weight limits, and all model aircraft operators should read and understand the guidance contained in the CAA publication CAP-658. Before flying a drone or any radio controlled aircraft, you should make sure you've read the latest legal requirements.

Please note the Parish Council prohibits usage on all of their land without prior permission. Somersham Parish Council Drone Policy and Open Spaces Bylaw **The Norwood Playing Field, Somersham Nature Reserve including Station Land (The Dog Walking Field), The Lake, White Post Area, Bridleway 7 (Short drove to the Crafty Fox Chatteris).**

QR to Somersham
Parish Council
Documents



Links to websites regarding drones,
<http://droneaware.org/know-the-law>
<http://droneaware.org/cap-658>
<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/drones/>
<http://www.somersham-pc.gov.uk/documents.php?id=5>

Christmas Lights Switch On

Thursday 1st December saw the Christmas lights around Somersham switched on, to the usual fanfare from the Somersham Town Band, school choir, and singing from the assembled throng.

An estimated 200-300 people attended in fine weather – no rain yet again – to see Isabelle and Oliver from Somersham Primary School, and Tilly and Izzy from Whitehall School, press the button to light up the various decorations around the Cross.

Santa and his elves made an appearance as the lights came on, handing out sweets to the younger children.

Bruce Daniels was again the Master of Ceremonies, and drew the raffle tickets – thanks again to all the individuals and businesses who provided such a wide array of prizes, the funds from which go back to maintaining the lights. And of course, thanks to all the unsung supporters who helped to make a success of the evening, selling raffle tickets, providing mulled wine, mince pies and song sheets, the PA system and Santa's transport. Sincere apologies for any organisation/individual not covered here; there are really so many who do their bit before the switch on and during the evening. During the coming year, the lights will be checked during volunteer work sessions, replacing those which are showing their age, PAT testing them all, and reviewing possible future locations around the village; new volunteers are always welcome to join in!



Community Information



February/March 2017



Your chance to bag up to £5,000 for local community projects

TESCO is inviting local community groups, green space projects and other organisations to apply for their share of a £12MILLION carrier bag charge fund.

The supermarket has teamed up with the charity Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative, which sees the money raised from the 5p bag levy being used to pay for a large number of local projects to improve green spaces in communities.

Tesco customers will decide on a monthly basis which groups get grants of up to £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 in regions up and down the country.

It's expected the new monthly format will see more than 100 projects receive vital funding across Cambridgeshire every year. Funding will be awarded to projects that use and develop outdoor spaces in ways that will benefit their local community. We've already seen local groups, schools and charities benefit and look forward to seeing many more exciting projects come out of this initiative.

Find out more about how to bag your share or nominate a good cause at www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco

Somersham History Society

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 March

7.30pm in the Baptist Church. Tickets £3 on the door.

Hannah Vanbridge will give a talk entitled 'Shopping through the Centuries'

All welcome - Come and hear about

our ancestors pre-Amazon shopping experience.



The Royal British Legion Somersham Branch



Hi everyone Happy New Year from the Royal British Legion.

A very successful coffee morning was held for the poppy appeal and again Tracey's cakes were a treat.

Yet another great senior members Christmas party was held, and enjoyed by everyone thanks to Jan and the Committee, it was said to be the best one yet, but wait there is this year's to come'!

The Christmas party and Games night, was another enjoyable evening for all those that came, I know December is cold and busy time to come out, but these games nights are great fun. Do try and come when we have them you will want to go again so enjoyable.

Thank you Jan and the committee.

Don't forget the bar open at Lunch time on Wednesday 12 till 2 come along for a drink and a chat.

Baptist Blog

February/March 2017

“A priest, a vicar and a rabbi walk into a bar.....”

Could be an interesting start to a story, I wonder what happens, what’s the punchline? Does it annoy you when you only get part of the story? When you’re waiting for what happened next. Or you’re reading a book and suddenly find there are some pages missing. What happened to the characters, how did it end? Missing the end of a series you’ve been watching on TV and not being able to find it on catch up. How did it all turn out?

The thing is Christmas, which we celebrated but a few short weeks ago, can be just like that for us. It’s the start of the story. We heard of Mary and Joseph, we heard of shepherds and angels, we journeyed with travelling wise men and celebrated the birth of Jesus, God’s own Son. We may have enjoyed one of the Christmas services and seen the nativity scene put together. BUT if that’s where we leave the story there we have only flicked through the first few pages. We’ve scratched the surface, we’ve stayed safe and not got involved with what happens next.

There are five chapters in the New Testament gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus. There are 25 that cover the last week of his life from Palm Sunday to the Cross to His resurrection. That’s out of 89 books of the four gospels. The 59 in between tell us of His teaching, the people he healed, the parables he told and of His Father’s Kingdom. The simple ratio is that Christmas is a small portion of the story. The Easter account has 5 times as many chapters devoted to it.

Without hearing that you’re missing the punchline of the story. You’re missing what happens to the characters, you’re missing how it ends. You’re missing what it really means for you and I. Why Jesus actually came, the baby in Bethlehem, growing as a man, obedient to the will of His Father, even to death on the Cross, for us, for the sin we commit. Not one of us is perfect and without finishing the story, we can’t know why Jesus came, why he died and why he rose again three days later. That is the best part of the story, the victory over sin and death, is to be celebrated more than the nativity, for that is what lies at the heart of the Christian faith.

So let me urge you to get the dates of Easter services in your diary now. We say we start planning Christmas early, well I am offering the opportunity to plan Easter early this year and hear the punchline. Don’t miss out and be left with only part of what happened. This year come and hear Christmas’ punchline at Easter. It will be the best gift you have ever received.

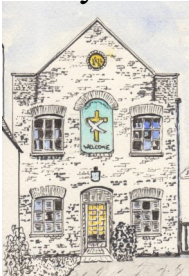
Our Easter Services are:

“**Service of Reflection**” – 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday 13th April.

“**Good Friday Service**” – 10.30am on Friday 14th April.

“**Easter Sunday Celebration service**” – 10.30am on Sunday 16th April.

But you don’t have to wait until Easter to find out more why not come and find out on Sundays at 10.30am. We’re on the High Street at the heart of the community.



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



St John the Baptist Church

February/March 2017

Although I suspect Christmas is now a distant memory, It was lovely to celebrate Christmas as a community. Whether it was the ‘live nativity’ when the children got to dress up (and we swapped the Kings for Queens) or the more traditional carol service when the adults got into character, many had the chance to be a part of the story which was then but is also now.

On Christmas Day I tried to trick a few children into eating chocolate coated sprouts but they were far too clever for me and so I ended up eating one myself (very nice actually!). Chocolate and Spouts are both enjoyed at Christmas but not necessarily together. How about all our Christmas preparations and rituals – how well do they sit beside the story of Jesus and the ‘true meaning of Christmas’?

The birth of Jesus included lots of messy and mixed up things, both holy and worldly. Jesus was born into the messiness of our world and lived among us. After Christmas is over he is still with us if we look for his presence.

As we begin 2017, I hope this is a good year for you, that you find peace and joy and glimpses of God in all things.

A reminder that the Church is open everyday during daylight hours. **Creative Minds** meets the 3rd Thursday of the month 2.30 -4.00 in church for ‘mindful activities’, tea, cake and a chat – all welcome (contact Sue for details).

Sunday Services are 10.30am with Sunday School or Activities for children and 6.30 Evening Prayer 1st Sunday of the month (from February).

Messy Church – Sunday 15th January (4 – 5.30) and 11th February (normally 2nd Sundays) for craft, singing, story and food. All aged children welcome with an adult.

Little Acorns (Pre-school group) Thursdays 9.30-11.am for crafts and singing.

For details of Lent or Bible Study Groups, 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



Editor's Snippets

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

February/March 2017

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

Deadline for the April/May 2017
 Edition of SOMERSHAM4U
 Tuesday 28th February 2017 (3:00PM)

On This Day Cont.....

5 Mar 1936 - The British fighter plane Spitfire made its first test flight from Eastleigh, Southampton, powered by a Rolls-Royce Merlin engine. It was designed by Reginald Mitchell and was the fighter plane that helped to win the Battle of Britain. Mitchell died in 1937 without ever knowing how successful his aircraft would become. The Spitfire was first put into service with the Royal Air Force in 1938 and they remained in active service (as photo reconnaissance planes) with the Royal Air Force until 1954

17 Mar 1951 - The comic strip character Dennis the Menace appeared for the first time.

On This Day.....

11 Mar 1682 - The Chelsea Hospital, a retirement home and nursing home for British soldiers who were unfit for further duty due to injury or old age, was founded by Charles II.

14 Feb 1852 - London's famous children's hospital in Great Ormond Street accepted its first patient, three year-old Eliza Armstrong. It was the first hospital in the English speaking world providing in-patient beds specifically for children.

17 Feb 1883 - Mr. A. Ashwell of Herne Hill, South London, patented Vacant - Engaged signs for toilet doors.

1 Feb 1884 - The first volume (A to Ant) of the Oxford English Dictionary was published. James Murray was its most famous editor but he had only reached the letter T after working 44 hours per week for 35 years, so hundreds of people sent in their own contributions.

28 Feb 1888 - In a Belfast street, a small boy named Johnny Dunlop was riding his tricycle under the supervision of his father. The two rear wheels of the tricycle were the world's first pneumatic tyres and he was testing them. The test was so successful that his father was granted patent number 10607 on 23rd July.

28 Mar 1913 - The first Morris Oxford car left the converted Military Academy at Cowley, Oxfordshire. It was William Morris's first factory.

5 Feb 1924 - The BBC time signals, ('pips' from Greenwich Observatory) broadcast on the hour, were heard for the first time.

16 Mar 1935 - The first driving test pass slip was presented to Mr. R. Beene of Kensington, a pupil of the British School of Motoring. Tests were introduced on a voluntary basis and became compulsory in June.

STALLS AT THE CROSS

Somersham Town Band on 24th December raised
 £234.50

Somersham Christmas Lights Draw Ticket Sales
 and Switch on Event raised
 £1810

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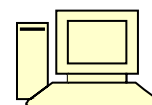
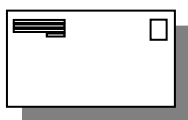
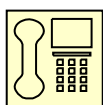
Contact Page

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

February/March 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

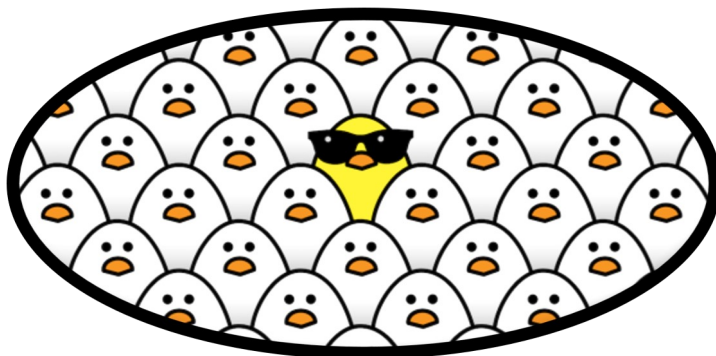
Email: graham.bull@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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

BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR



COULD I BE ONE?

Anyone can be a councillor as long as you are:

- British or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union
- 18 Years or older
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

- To make a difference for the future
- To better represent my community's views
- To guide policies
- To support our community diversity
- To help Somersham get better resources
- To engender an inclusive community
- To broaden my horizons
- To look to the future



HOW CAN I JOIN?

Contact the Parish Clerk at The Norwood Building, Parkhall Road, Somersham PE28 3HE

- Phone the Parish Clerk on 01487 841359
- Or Email : clerk@somersham-pc.gov.uk

**Candidate Application form needs to be submitted to Somersham Parish Council
The Norwood Building,
Parkhall Road, Somersham,
PE28 3HE**