

Report 2025/26 | Somersham Annual Parish Meeting | 6 May 2026

Somersham & District Community Association (S&DCA) - Registered Charity No: 1214025

- S&DCA exists with the aim to improve the conditions of life of the persons residing in the area of benefit with facilities and activities that support health and wellbeing.
- Core to this is the maintenance of the playing field and associated activities / facilities.
- We operate as an association of groups and individuals who can be from Somersham, Little Blakenham, Nettlestead and Flowton
- These villages form our area of benefit.
- We are a registered charity with an established purpose to provide recreational facilities, playgrounds, community centres and other amenities of a similar character for the benefit of the community. Fundamental to this is our management of the playing field under a Declaration of Trust between Somersham Parish Council, the owners of the playing field, and ourselves.
- The Somersham & District Community Association was established during 1966. This year we updated the Constitution for the third time since then - and although the organisation has the same name, each Constitution created a new legal entity. Working with the Charity Commission and with input from Community Action Suffolk, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been registered. The Charity Commission re-wrote the Charitable Objects to ensure that we had a contemporary remit that would enable increased options for activities and fundraising opportunities.
- Our projects and activities are devised, funded and delivered in the interests of social welfare, and with the object of advancing education, furthering health, relieving poverty, distress or sickness by improving the conditions of life of the persons residing within the area of benefit.
- We are proud to be able to provide the community with the opportunity to enjoy activities, events, leisure; both casually and in an organised way.
- Currently organised activity includes youth club, tennis, football (both youth and senior) and cycle speedway.
- Future developments include acoustic music, boules, netball, Somersham Book, talks (in collaboration with village organisations) and walking groups.
- We believe the facilities could be used for more organised activity, for example: exercise/running, hockey, cricket (fielding training currently being explored) outdoor gym/ table tennis, and female football.
- We have started to work with Sport England and Mid Suffolk regarding the MSDC Sport Infrastructure Fund to form a local hub for well-being, including schemes for coaching / instruction / training across yet to be specified forms of exercise and sport – as well as equipment and facilities.
- The new play equipment continues to be very well used and we have made good progress with our new project, supported by the Parish Council as part of its CiL strategy. The aim to upgrade our pavilion to address the needs of the Youth Club and local community, and provide facilities that comply with the current regulations of Sport England and the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) for sport, for changing, sanitary, and gender expectations.
- The resulting community building will need to be energy efficient, climate resilient and adaptable for future decades.
- With the funding support of the parish council we have an outline project plan and a design outline for an extension to the existing pavilion. The current stage of the project is to work with our architect and a quantity surveyor to achieve pre-planning advice and also an estimated construction cost. A forthcoming stage will be to consult with the community on this design and also to identify how the use of the facilities can be broadened.
- Tidying up of the field boundary, the tree survey, and the care of the local amenity trees surrounding the playing field (including the high-quality hedging on the north-side of the boundary) continue as priorities this year - and we are being assisted by the parish council.

Somersham Wheelie Fun Day

- Wheelie Fun Day is the main fundraising activity for the S&DCA charity (reg. no: 1214025), to help us afford the costs of managing the community playing field and pavilion, and to underpin operations for our activities.
- The event takes place across the full area of playing field and is planned & organised entirely by volunteers - who support this great day out for Somersham & area villagers, and visitors from further afield to enjoy.

- The 2025 event took place on 5th July. Wheelie 2024 had a terrible storm to contend with - *but* we demonstrated how resilient our format is with not so good weather. Wheelie 2025 demonstrated how WELL we can do on a sunny day! This weather helped of course, but we are also getting better at what we do and are building up a following.
- We managed income of £7,085.87. After expenses, the net profit was £4,795.37. We were pleased with the continued success of our event model – plus our independent funding from our sponsors and the Wheelie Dart Tournament held at the Duke of Marlborough. This uplift is fortuitous considering the substantial increases in our energy costs and insurance.
- The **2026 Wheelie Fun Day event will be held on Saturday 4th July** from 10am to 10pm.
- As well as the Grand Raffle, other fundraising will include sponsorships, the Somersham Open Darts Tournament & Raffle (**Saturday 27th of June**) and the Wheelie S&DCA Charity Quiz (**Thursday 25th of June**) both held at the Duke of Marlborough - darts players and quiz teams need to book ASAP!
- We also thank Somersham Parish Council for their donation towards the cost of this year's event.
- Numerous of those who perform, run stalls and activities, provide food and drink are local people – Wheelie Fun Day is a local platform as well as a local event.
- Planning is well ahead for Wheelie 2026 on the playing field and we should have a good selection of food & drink - including the Street Food Bus, a German swing grill, Mexican street food, soft drinks, local beer, the Duke cocktail & wine bar - market stalls, games, vintage and classic vehicles, cycle speedway, demonstrations - and of course there's live music and entertainment on our stage all day!

Terry Fordham *Chair, S&DCA*
 Emma Lister *Secretary, S&DCA*
 (26 April 2026)