

This Newsletter also available for download in colour at
<https://www.southamtoday.org.uk/newsletter>



Christmas Services at Southam

Sunday 8 December

5pm Family Carols in the Tithe Barn, Southam

Sunday 22 December

6pm Carols in Church of the Ascension, Southam

Christmas Eve: Tuesday 24 December

2pm Nativity Service at St Michael's Church

4pm Nativity Service at St Michael's Church

11pm Midnight Mass at St Michael's Church

Christmas Day: Wednesday 25 December

9.30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day
at Church of the Ascension, Southam

**Contributions for the February/March Newsletter by
15th January 2025**

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Contact

ednajsmith@btinternet.com
Telephone – 01242 520 137
Letters – 37 Ratcliff Lawns

*We are always pleased to receive and publish your letters.
When writing, please provide a name, address and telephone
number. On request, the name and address of correspondents
will be withheld.*

Edna's Epistle...

Sadly Southam lost a well loved resident when Hilary Vallance passed away on the 20th October 2024. Hilary was very active in Southam joining in and helping in the many activities of the village. A regular member of the Church, the WI, Drop In and the Gardening Club and enjoyed a few glasses of wine on Pub Night!!

Her true love was playing the cello in Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra and was one of their founder members .She also played her cello in Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra.

Hilary together with her late husband Charles and children Katherine and James lived in Southam for 34 years. To all the family and especially her grandson Henry we send our heartfelt condolences.

Remembrance Sunday was celebrated on the 10th November around Southam War Memorial led by our recently appointed team vicar Rev. Ben Williams.

An excellent young lady helped our singing by playing the bugle. Tea and cake were served afterwards in the village hall by our W.I. ladies. A time when we meet and renew many friendships. The British Legion was delighted with the collection of £78.51p

Edna Smith

Phone: 01242 520137

email: ednajsmith@btinternet.com

Southam Gardening Club

In September we held our AGM which was combined with a talk by Fiona Warin entitled 'Dig for Victory'. Fiona is a very entertaining speaker and gave an excellent talk about the campaign which helped to keep the country fed during the second world war. Our October meeting was a hands-on demonstration of the propagation of shrubs by Andy Pedrick. We all got to try our hand at taking cuttings from the large variety of material he brought with him. Watch this space to see how many take root! Then in November, Julie Ritchie from Hoo House Nursery returned to talk about 'A Perennial Year'. She gave us plenty of inspiration with ideas of what to plant to keep colour and interest in our gardens throughout the year.

Future meetings include:

Saturday 7th December – Wreath Making

Thursday 12th December – Christmas Social and Quiz by Philip Aubrey

Meetings are generally held on third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome, no gardening experience necessary, you don't even need to have a garden!

For more information contact gardens@southamtoday.org.uk or phone 07980 699036. If you wish to be added to the email distribution list, please email gardens@southamtoday.org.uk

DROP IN

Wednesday 11th December 24

Wednesday 8th January 25

Wednesday 22nd January 24

Wednesday 12th February 24

All at 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm



DROP-IN to the Village Hall for a cup of tea and slice of cake and join the increasing numbers dropping in twice every month

The Church of the Ascension, Southam



The Open Afternoon celebrated on the 20th October was a great success with 33 visitors signing the Visitor's Book. Many were interested in the history of the church. One family met neighbours from several years ago. The church floor was of concern so people gave voluntary contributions of £184.59 towards restoring the floor. Several dogs arrived and behaved accordingly but a little disappointment that there were no children from the village. One family walked across the fields from Bishop's Cleeve with their three children who kindly removed their wellingtons at the door!

Perhaps we can tempt our village children to come to our Family Carols on the 8th December in the Tithe Barn, as this service, led by Natalie, is planned for children and the family.

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Breakfast Church Harvest Festival

The annual Harvest Festival was held at Breakfast Church in the Village Hall in October. It was well attended, and the donations of non-perishable food items were taken to the North Cotswold Foodbank.

NCFB sent the following thank-you email:

On behalf of the Trustees and all the Volunteers of the North Cotswold Foodbank, I would like to thank all at Southam Church for the very generous Harvest food donation received recently, weighing in at an excellent 65.4kg. Thanks also for the generous cash donation of £45.

The North Cotswold Foodbank is getting busier each year and we have been able to feed many local families who have found themselves in desperate need. The majority of our clients are low-income, working families and they are all deeply grateful that others would consider them at a very difficult time in their lives.

With rising prices in energy and food, we have seen a marked increase in demand at our local Foodbank over the last three years. Your donation will help to ensure that our Foodbank is well stocked over the coming months so that we can meet any further increase in demand and help those in our community who are struggling.

Without your ongoing regular support and generosity, we would not be able to offer this help, so thank you all for your wonderful support and kindness - it is very much appreciated, and it really does make a difference to so many lives.

Kind regards,

KEVIN CARDEN

Project Manager

North Cotswold Foodbank



Services

1 st December 2024	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
8 th December 2024	Family Carols	Southam Tithe Barn	5:00pm
15 th December 2024	No Service	---	---
22 nd December 2024	Carols and Candles	Southam Church	6:00pm
25 th December 2024	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
5 th January 2025	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
12 th January 2025	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
19 th January 2025	No Service	----	---
26 th January 2025	Breakfast Church	Southam Village Hall	9:30am

Edna Smith – 01242 520 137

News from Cleeve Common Trust



Our Skyline Changes Forever

An iconic landmark, the three masts near at the highest point of the Cotswolds, and on our border was changed forever in November when one of the three Radio Masts was dismantled and removed. So our skyline looks a little different! The good news is, as far as we know, the remaining two are set to remain so people who use them to help navigate will still have those to guide them!



Seasons Wishes

Thank you to everyone who visits, loves and shows an interest in Cleeve Common. We are a small team, and we work hard to keep this special place a haven for people and wildlife.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to more adventures in 2025.

Cleeve Common Trust Events 2025

We have had a brilliant year of events and are busy working on more for 2025. Nature journaling, drawing with ink, foraging walks and Family Fun Fridays are back too. For our full events list visit www.cleevecommon.org.uk/events-calendar or follow us on Facebook, X or Instagram.

Fundraising through PayPal – Accessible Trail Improvements

At the moment we are fundraising for £1000 for new benches to offer rest stops around the new accessible trail. To donate please visit www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3227989. We can even claim Gift Aid too making your donation even more valuable. Thank you for your generosity.

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Southam Village Hall Reservation procedures:

To book the Village Hall go to the Hire the Hall page on the village website (<http://www.southamtoday.org.uk/hire-the-hall>) and follow the instructions. If you do not have internet access please text or call the bookings secretary on

07712 695 207.

2024/2025 HIRE CHARGES

“Occasional Bookings” – for one off bookings - £25/hour
(£20/hr for Southam residents) £100 deposit

“Regular Bookings” - £12/hour (£10/hr for Southam Residents)



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SOUTHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

WI contribution for December 2024 -
January 2025 Southam Newsletter



At our October meeting, we had a talk on the Everyman Theatre by Caro Day. The New Theatre and Opera House, later the Everyman, opened on 1 October 1891, as a result of the growing prosperity of Cheltenham and the spa waters. It is one of the last surviving of the 200 venues designed by Frank Matcham, which included the London Palladium. It was saved from closure in 1959 and re-opened as The Everyman. Steven Berkoff, Harold Pinter and Penelope Keith amongst other well-known names today started their careers there.

Caro also gave us a fascinating glimpse of what goes on backstage of the theatre to create the illusion we see as the audience. We were invited to take part in a 'play' complete with costumes. 5 members bravely volunteered and created a lot of entertainment involving rescuing a Lady in distress, vagabonds and a sword fight! A very entertaining and informative evening much enjoyed by all our members, and appropriately we had the talk on its 133rd anniversary!

Our November meeting was our AGM and looking ahead, our December meeting will be a talk on "Spooky Magic" Magician and Storyteller by Nick Brunger and January is our afternoon tea meeting, with Pam Holland talking about Tales from a Travel Rep.

Southam WI meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 19:30 in the village hall. We are a friendly group with a varied programme of events and we always welcome new members. New members can come for three free meetings before deciding on whether to join. If you would like to find out more about what we do, please contact one of the Secretaries (details below)

Pauline Cook-McAnoy Tel: 01242-520133

Isabel Henchy Tel: 01242-221440 – email: issy@henchy.uk

Secretaries

**New to the Southam village hall
martial arts for 7-16 year olds**



**New dog grooming
service in Prestbury**

The logo for 'PRESTBURY PAWS' features the words 'PRESTBURY PAWS' in a curved, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the text is a stylized illustration of a dog's face. To the right of the logo is a QR code. Below the QR code, the text 'DOG GROOMING' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are four lines of contact information, each preceded by a small icon: a telephone, a location pin, an envelope, and a globe.

07493827353
what3words zeal.jazzy.manual
ruth@prestburypaws.co.uk
www.prestburypaws.co.uk

The logo for 'SOPHIE LANE' features two large, black, stylized footprints. Below the footprints, the name 'SOPHIE LANE' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the name, there are four lines of contact information: 'Mobile Foot Care', 'Foot Health Practitioner', 'Tel: 07921 821 805', and 'enquiries@sophielanefhp.co.uk'.

SOPHIE LANE
Mobile Foot Care
Foot Health Practitioner
Tel: 07921 821 805
enquiries@sophielanefhp.co.uk

Parish Council News

For December 24 - January 25 Newsletter



Unauthorised Caravan Site – Kayte Lane

A Public Inquiry will be held at Tewkesbury Borough Council offices on 14th January 2025 at 10am. If you submitted an objection, you should receive an invitation to attend.

The Appellant has appealed on ground a) & g) as set out in Section 174(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Those grounds are: b) that, in respect of the breach of planning control which may be constituted by the matters stated in the notice, planning permission ought to be granted. g) that any period specified in the notice in accordance with Section 173(9) falls short of what should be reasonably be allowed.

Cycleway Project

The Parish Council has been consulted on the latest proposal to provide crossing points on the A435. A copy of the relevant plans and statement of reasons may be viewed at The Map Room, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TG, Bishops Cleeve Library, Tobyfield Road Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, GL52 8NN and Cheltenham Borough Council, Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA during their normal opening hours or online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tros.

New Motorway Junction 9a

Gloucestershire County Council is currently running a public engagement exercise until Monday, 2 December 2024 on potential route options for the M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme.

The scheme proposes the development of a new M5 Junction 9a near Tewkesbury and the re-routing of the existing A46 around Ashchurch to Teddington Hands roundabout. The scheme will inevitably cut through fields and changes may be made to the Seven Bends junction.

Hard copies and accessible formats of the public engagement documentation can be requested by emailing M5Junction9@atkinsrealis.com or by calling 01454 667490 and leaving a message.

Southam Matters

We hope you joined in the Remembrance Sunday service and with Halloween and Firework Night left behind us you are looking forward to a restful Christmas.

Website Update

The PC is looking to replace Southam Today with a more accessible and user-friendly website. Please contact the clerk or councillors if you have any ideas or suggestions of what you would like to be included.

Community Matters

The PC would like to thank the 2 volunteers Dave & Chris who emptied the old grit bin to refill the new yellow bin. Thanks to them for also removing the graffiti from the bus shelter.

Following their action the PC is considering writing a Volunteer Policy to ensure that the council complies with legislation and insurance requirements, and protects the volunteers.

Once this is in place the PC plan to organise a Parish walk about to investigate where the village appearance and safety could be improved. The PC would also like to thank the WI for tea, coffee and cakes after the Remembrance Service, together with the parishioners that marshalled the road closures, to enable the event to take place.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Council is in receipt of CIL funding £19770 which can be used for infrastructure improvements or maintenance. It is proposed that some of this money will fund verge maintenance in the current year but the Parish Council is seeking proposals for the balance of the fund. Items which may be funded as follows: Street Furniture (seats etc); Play Equipment; Land Purchase; Traffic Calming; Kissing Gates to replace stiles; Maintenance of public infrastructure owned by the Council

It was agreed to investigate an audio system for the Village Hall to be used at PC and other meetings. Allotments, children's play equipment were also raised. If you have any suggestions, please contact the clerk or councillors.

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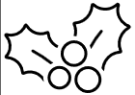
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Southam Village Hall



Village Hall Events

December



Christmas Light Switch on!

Sunday 1st December 6pm

Join us for a mulled wine and mince pie as we light up the village hall ready for Christmas

January

Film Night

Friday 10th 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)

Film: TBC – we would like the residents of Southam to choose!

Please send suggestions to chairsouthamvh@gmail.com

Licensed bar will be open

Pub Night

Friday 24th January 7:30pm

Come and catch up with your neighbours and friends.

We have a dartboard, table football, table tennis and boule pitch and most importantly a licensed bar.



Past Events

At the end of September, the village hall hosted the Bishops Cleeve Players who performed '*Whose crime is it anyway?*'. Thank you to all who came to support the event. It was a very successful evening, and the committee were pleased to be able to offer something a little different for the residents of Southam.

Advertise your business here!

Please contact Edna Smith for more details

ednajsmith@btinternet.com

Telephone – 01242 520 137

USEFUL NUMBERS

Tewkesbury Borough Council	01684 295 010
Glos CC Roads - Hazards & Repairs	01452 425 000
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Vicar – Reverend Tim Garrett	01242 673612
Village Agent –	-----
Southam Footpaths Coordinator – Pam Sissons	footpaths@southamtoday.org.uk
Southam Webmaster – Gill Jennings	07905 836113
Neighbourhood Watch – John Donovan	01242 526 011
Southam Village Hall	chairsouthamvh@gmail.com
PCSO - Farah Devji-Large	101

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WHAT'S ON in Southam Village Hall



SOUTHAM WI
First Tuesday of each month
7.30pm – 9.30pm
Village Hall
Visitors Welcome



KEEP FIT
Over 50's Classes
Every Wednesday --
9.30am to 10.30am



SOUTHAM ART GROUP
Every Thursday morning
10.15am to 12.15pm
Village Hall

SOUTHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MEETS AT 7.30pm, 2nd TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH – SOUTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Zumba Dance and Fitness Class

Every Wednesday starts 7pm
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Phone: 07885 082817 to book or for
information

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Mobile: 07376 051 863
[facebook@tinashortcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/tinashortcommunity)

Classic Chinese Exercise Classes

Every Tuesday
Qi Gong 12.00 - 1.00pm
Contact Jeff 07970 303 694

Martial Arts Classes for 7–16-year-olds

Every Tuesday and Thursday 6pm - 7pm

£25pm First two classes free!
Email:
strikingandgrapplingacademy@gmail.com
Website: www.strikingandgrappling.com

Additional Exercise Class from Tina

Friday 10.35-11.15 Chair Based Exercise

£24 for 4 classes or £8 for one
Email: sportinafitness@gmail.com; Mobile:
07376 051 863

Southam Village Gardening Club

Third Thursday of the month
7.30pm start. Friendly monthly
meetings, with presentations on a
wide range of gardening topics
All are welcome, green fingers
not required.



BRIDGE CLUB

First and Third Monday of the month,
7.00pm – 10.00pm

U3A Table Tennis
Every Friday at Southam
Village Hall 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Bishops Cleeve U3A

Drop In Bi-Monthly
Southam Village Hall
Tea, sandwiches, cakes and chat
2nd and 4th Wednesdays
2.30pm to 4.30pm



ELLENBOROUGH PARK

Festive Afternoon Tea

Our Festive Afternoon Tea is back from Monday 25th November!
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