



A host of golden daffodils, spring is here in Southam, chaotic but refreshing after the rain

The war memorial flowers looking good this spring, many thanks to those who contributed.



## Contact

billm2021@yahoo.com

Telephone – 07989 894 337

Letters – White Oaks, Southam  
Lane, Southam.

*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.*

## Village News

Sadly we bid a fond farewell to Roy Bedford who peacefully passed away on the 17th February 2026.

Roy and Jennie were very much part of the congregation of Southam village church especially when Roy was church warden for 7 years. We still saw Roy regularly at breakfast church together with Jennie, when Roy would lead us in prayers. Our condolences go to Jennie and family.

Edna Smith

Phone: 01242 520137

email: ednajsmith@btinternet.com

**This Newsletter will be available for download on the Southam Parish Website, at <https://southam-pc.gov.uk/>. Click on the Menu at the top right of the screen and select 'Village Groups and Village Hall' from the list which appears. This brings up a list of items including the Newsletter, currently fifth in the list. Click on the Newsletter item and this will take you to a page which has the Newsletters displayed as icons with a name including the date of publication, select the appropriate icon and a PDF file will be displayed.**

## **DROP IN**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 26

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 26

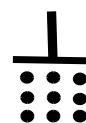
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 26

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 26

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



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## The Church of the Ascension, Southam



This year Mothering Sunday was combined with Breakfast Church in Southam Village Hall. It was a very happy occasion with a good breakfast (thank you lady caterers), a thought provoking short sermon from Rev. Ben and popular hymns sung with Penny playing the piano. Each lady left the hall proudly carrying their pot of daffodils as a token of appreciation.

### Services

5 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Holy Communion, Easter Sunday	Southam Church	9:30am
12 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
19 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	No Service	--	--
26 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Breakfast Church	Southam Village Hall	9:30am
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30pm
17 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	No Service	--	--
24 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Breakfast Church	Southam Village Hall	9:30am
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	No Service	--	--

*Edna Smith – 01242 520 137*

## Advertise your business here!

Please contact Bill Motion for more details

[billmn2021@yahoo.com](mailto:billmn2021@yahoo.com)

Telephone – 07989 894 337

# **SOUTHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT**

**WI contribution for April 2026 -  
May 2026 Southam Newsletter**



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 who can come to 3 **free** meetings before deciding on whether to join, so why not give us a try? For more details of what we do, please contact one of the Secretaries (details below).

To give a flavour of our events, at our meeting in February, we all enjoyed a fascinating talk by Paul Murphy on the real life Von Trapp family. Their grandchildren are still the Trapp Family Singers and can be found on YouTube.

March was our birthday meeting – 66 years old! We were joined by guests from our neighbouring WI's and were entertained with a variety of songs from 'Out of the Box' with Gillie Bower.

Looking ahead, our April meeting will be a talk on 'Blue Plaques in Gloucestershire' and 'Social Prescribing' is the talk for May. We have an open meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June entitled 'Dressing the Georgians' which is open to everyone, members, non-members regardless of gender, so why not come along?

**Pauline Cook-McAnoy Tel: 01242-520133**

**Isabel Henchy Tel: 01242-221440 – email: [issy@henchy.uk](mailto:issy@henchy.uk)  
Secretaries**

## **Southam Gardening Club**

In February we had an excellent evening practical presentation by Paul Green of Greens Leaves Nurseries in Newent. Paul has been involved in the research and development of improved varieties of plants and also supplies rare and unusual plants. He brought a large selection of plants and talked us through the merits of each one. Have a look at his website <http://greensleavesnursery.com/index.html> and perhaps go and visit; he clearly loves plants and is happy to help you decide what to buy.

Future meetings include:

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April – A Year-long Walk in Woodchester Park by Robert Bryant

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 10.00-1200 Plant sale and coffee morning

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Ponds, Marginals and Bog Gardens by Duncan Coombs

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Outing to Snowhill Lavender

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 [gill.donovan1961@gmail.com](mailto:gill.donovan1961@gmail.com) or phone 07980 699036

If you wish to be added to the email distribution list, please email [gill.donovan1961@gmail.com](mailto:gill.donovan1961@gmail.com)

# Southam Village Hall



## Forthcoming Village Hall Events

### **Quiz Night with Fish and Chip Supper**

**Friday 10 April 2026**

7pm Doors Open

£12 per person (to include Fish and Chips and Quiz entry)

Teams of up to 6

Tickets available from Anita Wilcox 07800 993508 and

Julie Spicer 07932 767992

### **Film night**

**Friday 17 April 2026**

Doors open at 7pm film starts at 7.30pm

Licensed bar will be open (see the advert in the hall)

### **Pub night**

**Friday 22 May 2026**

Bar open 7.00pm onwards

## **January-March 2026 Report**

### **Film Nights**

We had 2 successful film nights watching “Downton Abbey” and “The Ballad of Wallis Island”. It was good to see so many people come out on a dark cold night and enjoy an evening together watching a film.

### **Hall Development**

We held an informal meeting on Saturday 28 February 2026 with local user groups. As a committee we would like to improve users experience when hiring the hall. We had very positive suggestions which the committee will discuss and prioritise.

### **Gold Cup Café - 10-13 March 2026**

Thank you to the Village Hall car parking team for all their work in raising funds for the Village Hall. Due to family commitments the Village Hall Committee were unable to run the café, so Southam WI and friends stepped forward and ran the café which was a great success.

### **Committee Members**

If anyone is interested in joining the Committee or become a regular volunteer at events please contact the committee on [chairsouthamvh@gmail.com](mailto:chairsouthamvh@gmail.com) or drop your details in the post box at the village hall.

### **AGM**

Thursday 23 April 2026 at 7.30pm

Anita Wilcox

On behalf of the village hall committee

## **VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS**

Southam Village Hall Reservation procedures:

To book the Village Hall go to the Hire the Hall page on the village website (<https://southam-pc.gov.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.

### **2026 HIRE CHARGES**

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

**“Regular Bookings”** - £14/hour (£12/hr for Southam Residents)



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## News from Cleeve Common Trust

### Tramper Hire

Did you know our Tramper is available to borrow year-round? You can take in on the full Tramper Trail route, or just to one of the viewpoints and back. Bookings are open throughout the spring too.

If you know anyone who might like to use it, please share the details with them.

Details here: [www.cleevecommon.org.uk/tramper-hire](http://www.cleevecommon.org.uk/tramper-hire)

There is also an accompanying audio trail which gives interesting information as well as route directions. To download it scan the QR code in the poster below. Our guide ID is 173



### Adders and Ground Nesting Birds

The 1<sup>st</sup> March saw the start of bird nesting season, so we ask everyone who visits to help us protect our skylarks by keeping to the main tracks and short grass areas. This limits disturbance and gives the birds the best chance of breeding successfully.

Now we have seen a bit of sun, Adders are active again and they love the longer grass and scrub edges to bask in. They are a protected species, and we are proud they make Cleeve Common their home. They only bite if they feel threatened, for example if taken by surprise, so another good reason to stay on main tracks, and to keep dogs close too.

We've also had an increase in complaints about dog poop on the Common, particularly around parking areas. So, this is a polite reminder to pick up after your dogs. Bagged poo needs to be

placed in poo bins across the Common or taken off-site with you, please.

### Cleeve Common Trust Events 2026

Our 2026 Events listings can be found here [www.cleevecommon.org.uk/events-calendar](http://www.cleevecommon.org.uk/events-calendar) or follow us on Eventbrite, Facebook or Instagram. Our first couple of events were fully booked early. So please remember to book on if any of these take your fancy!

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April from 1pm. **Family Fun Friday Spring Trail**. Our popular event is back with treats for everyone who completes the trail!

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 10am. **Bird Life Tour** with Arthur Ball. Guided walk looking at our birds, hopefully including the elusive Ring Ouzel (no promises!)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 10:30am **Nature Journalling** in Wardens' Wood with Amanda Steer. All abilities welcome for this gentle, mindful workshop.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30am. **Family Fun Friday into the Woods**. Join us on a family adventure around Wardens' Wood.



# Cleeve Common Tramper Route Audio Guide



A two-mile-long waymarked route that takes in some of the best viewpoints from Cleeve Common.  
Stone track and grass surfaces.

The audio guide of this route can be accessed through the free Guide.AI app.

To download the app simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera. Alternatively use the web app, which does not require any download, by going to <https://app.guide-ai.com/>.  
This audio guide is free to access through Guide.AI.

Once on the app, select the Cleeve Common Tramper Route (Guide ID 173). The audio will play through your phone's speakers or any connected headphones.



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# Parish Council News

## Southam Parish Council Report for February and March 2026



### **SPC wish a Happy and Healthy Easter to all residents**

#### **E-Updates**

Hopefully everyone who signed up for them is now receiving the regular E-updates. If you would like to receive them, please send your email address to [clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk) so that you can be added to the list. Updates are also available on the Parish Council website. [www.southam-pc.gov.uk](http://www.southam-pc.gov.uk)

#### **Highways/GCC Community Speedwatch**

SPC are continuing to engage with key stakeholders to ensure local needs are addressed. A further meeting has been held with GCC's Community Speedwatch team to review safe routes for pedestrians, particularly crossing roads to bus stops. We are in regular contact with GCC's Local Highways Manager with a view to improving road safety and reducing speeding in our community. Speedwatch data from Cleeve Hill, New Road and Southam Lane is collected regularly and shared with the Police. GCC are upgrading signage and road markings as they advise this is the most effective way to reduce speed and this will continue to be monitored to see if there are any improvements and other options available.

#### **Neighbourhood Watch**

SPC has received various updates from John Donovan, our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

We have received reports of both vehicle crime and burglary in the surrounding areas.

Please be vigilant and take care of yourselves and your property.

For advice on keeping your property safe, you can find plenty of crime prevention advice at <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

#### **Community Infrastructure Levy funds - Parish Survey**

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete and return our Survey. We received a good response. We are collating the results and will publish the details soon. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to help and we will be contacting you soon with proposed projects.

#### **National Planning Policy Framework consultation**

We have reviewed the draft revised NPPF and responses had been submitted to the Planning Policy Consultation Team at the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Govt, prior to the 10th March 2026 deadline. In particular we consider that the draft NPPF proposes to significantly change the nature of our current discretionary system, by creating a much more permissive system and limiting the scope of local decision makers. We also commented on proposals relating to full investigation of suitable brownfield sites and underutilised land, traveller sites, housing need, together with protecting the National Landscape and Green Belt.

#### **Wychwood 2026 new licence application**

Having issued a robust objection, SPC attended the Licensing Hearing at Cheltenham Borough Council, together with Southam residents and Borough/County Councillor Cheryl Agg, who had also submitted objections to the application. We were disappointed that, following a thorough review, the Licensing Committee

*Continued on the next page*

approved the application for a new licence to include:

- 1) An additional day on Thursday, to run for four days from Thursday 28th May to Sunday 31st May 2026;
- 2) Increased permitted noise levels of 60dBA (Target N/L) and 65dBA (absolute N/L) from 55dBA and 60dBA respectively;
- 3) An increase in capacity from currently 9,999 to a maximum of 14,999.

It was agreed that the same level of monitoring as 2025 will be carried out between the event organisers, their acoustic engineers, CBC Environmental Protection Team and TBC Environmental Health Team to ensure that noise levels remain within the permitted levels. Residents are able to volunteer to have monitoring equipment sited in their gardens. Please email [clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk) to do this.

### **Planning Matters**

We have been advised that the applicants at Land East of Kayte Lane have lodged a legal challenge to the Planning Inspectorate's appeal decision, requesting a judicial review and alleging the Inspectorate acted unlawfully in determining the appeal. The Planning Inspectorate has submitted a defence maintaining that the decision was sound and lawful. The High Court has determined that the claim should proceed to an initial hearing to consider whether it should progress to a full hearing. We have not yet been notified of the date of this initial hearing.

We also continue to get a regular flow of planning applications. Please refer to our website for planning notices of applications under discussion by the Parish Council. Please be aware that residents can make comment on any planning application by visiting the TBC planning portal.

### **Parish Clerk Vacancy**

We still have a vacancy for the clerk role. As the Council's Proper Officer, the clerk is required to ensure decisions are transparent, lawful and follow best practice.

Duties include preparing agendas and minutes, managing correspondence, writing newsletter articles, overseeing the work of contractors. The clerk may be required to maintain accounts and prepare budgets and y/e returns, and will be the main contact for members of the public and local organizations.

The role offers home-working, with attendance required at monthly council meetings and occasional networking sessions. The candidate must be IT literate, understand accounting, work independently, and store council equipment and files securely at home.

Previous experience in local government is desirable, especially advising elected members, but full training can be provided – including the opportunity to work towards the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

*Starting Salary National Association of Local Councils pay scale SCP16 (£15.82 per hour)*

*To apply, please send a CV and covering letter with the names of 2 referees to the [clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk)*

### **Good Neighbours**

Please can we ask that you remain vigilant and cut back your hedges and attend to overhanging branches on trees. Please check if there is any vegetation creeping out from your property onto the pavement. Fallen fruit, berries and leaves can cause a hazard on the pavement so please clear them as they drop. Many thanks.

*Continued on the next page*

## County & Borough Councillor Updates

SPC has posted onto our website the March reports received from Cheryl Agg Gloucestershire County/TBC Borough Councillor and Nigel Adcock Tewkesbury Borough Councillor.

## Annual Parish Meeting/SPC AGM

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm followed by an ordinary Parish Council meeting. SPC's AGM will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30.

Please follow our news items on our website [www.southam-pc.org.uk](http://www.southam-pc.org.uk)

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## Traffic Statistics Summary for December 2025 and January 2026.

We had closure of New Road, due to unexpected failure of the water system. Note that the records presented here relate to traffic travelling one way. It is usually the case that a similar number of vehicles will flow in the opposite direction.

### Southam Lane (30 mph limit)

The closure of New Road pushed up the traffic levels on Southam Lane over this period. The sensor is outside Manor Court.

Southam Lane	December 25	January 26
Average Vehicles per day (AADT)	2611	3285
Average Speed (mph)	29.1	28.6
85% of vehicles going less than (mph)	34.2	33.8

### Old Road (30 mph limit)

The issue we are worried about in Old Road is the difficulty crossing so close to the blind corner, specifically when crossing from Sunset Lane to the pavement on the west side of Old Road.

Old Road	December 25	January 26
Average Vehicles per day (AADT)	1198	1345
Average Speed (mph)	22.9	22.9
85% of vehicles going less than (mph)	27.6	27.6

During January we have 8 vehicles reported travelling at 45 mph.

### New Road (30 mph limit)

Closed during most of this period.



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# USEFUL NUMBERS

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Glos CC Roads - Hazards & Repairs	01452 425 000
NHS Direct	111
Dental Help Line – info on dental access centres for pain relief	01452 318 858
Gloucestershire Adult Social Care Helpdesk	01452 426 868
Vicar – Reverend Tim Garrett	01242 673612
Village Agent –	-----
Southam Footpaths Coordinator – Pam Sissons	cllr.p.sissons@southam-pc.gov.uk
Southam Webmaster –	--
Neighbourhood Watch – John Donovan	01242 526 011
Southam Village Hall	chairsouthamvh@gmail.com
PCSO - Farah Devji-Large	101

Southam Parish Council			
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Chairman (joint)	Mrs R Prince	07941 789 996	cllr.r.prince@southam-pc.gov.uk
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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

**Little City**, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February and  
9<sup>th</sup> March, 8:00am 'til 1:00pm.  
Role Play for Kids



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

**SOUTHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
MEETS AT 7.30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH  
MONTH – SOUTHAM VILLAGE HALL

## Zumba Dance and Fitness Class

Every Wednesday starts 7pm  
Email: Michele.darnell@btinternet.com or  
Phone: 07885 082817 to book or for  
information

## SPORTINA

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[facebook@tinashortcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/tinashortcommunity)

## Classic Chinese Exercise Classes

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

## Craft and Chatter Group

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, every  
month, 2-4pm  
Share ideas and techniques in a  
friendly group, cost £4.00  
Contact: Di, Phone: 07790 208505  
Email: [irwinsing@aol.com](mailto:irwinsing@aol.com)

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## U3A Folk

First and Third Wednesday of the Month  
2:00pm to 4:00pm

## 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

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

**U3A Table Tennis**  
First/Third of the month Friday at  
Southam Village Hall 2.00pm to  
4.00pm, Bishops Cleeve U3A



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