

Summer arrives early, bringing lots of blossom and some fragrance.

At the time of writing we are experiencing unseasonably warm weather. No doubt that will change in a few days but it will be enjoyed by many while it lasts.



From North Cotswold Foodbank

To Church of the Ascension, Southam

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 generous Lent food donation received recently, weighing in at an excellent 27.32kg.

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 few 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
Foodbank Manager

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

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Anne Collins on the 2nd April 2026 . Although Anne was not resident in Southam she was a valued member of Southam W. I. and a trusted Treasurer of Drop In . She is certainly missed by all the members. To her son and family we send our Condolences.


A very warm welcome to Lauren West and Henry Burkett who, six weeks ago, moved into Southam Lane. They are very busy turning their house into a home.

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 10th June 26
Wednesday 24th June 26
Wednesday 8th July 26
Wednesday 22nd July 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



Ascension Day Service.

The Patronal Festival was held in Southam Church on Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm. It was a very joyous occasion with a full congregation in attendance. Bishop's Cleeve Church choir assisted us with the singing! Rev

Ben led the service with a thoughtful sermon and at the end of the evening we joined together for tea and biscuits and wine and chocolates. Plenty of animated conversation completed the evening. A big thank you to everyone who came and to those kind people who helped to make the event a success.

Services

7 th June 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
14 th June 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
21 st June 2026	Fathers Day	--	--
28 th June 2026	Breakfast Church	Southam Village Hall	9:30am
5 th July 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
12 th July 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30pm
19 th July 2026	No Service	--	--
26 th July 2026	Breakfast Church	Southam Village Hall	9:30am

Edna Smith – 01242 520 137

Advertise your business here!

Please contact Bill Motion for more details

billmn2021@yahoo.com

Telephone – 07989 894 337

SOUTHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

WI contribution for June 2026 -
July 2026 Southam Newsletter



At Our April meeting, we enjoyed a blue plaque tour of Gloucestershire including poets, pioneers and performers by Andrew Mellor. Of the 11 recipients discussed, 10 were born in Gloucestershire and only 2 were women.

Between them they covered 300 years of history. Social prescribing was the talk for our May meeting by Sam Couldrey from Cheltenham Primary Care Network. Social prescribing is part of the NHS 10-year plan & is all about giving people time to take control of their health & welfare & what matters most to them. All surgeries have social prescribers.

We have an **open meeting** on Tuesday 2nd June at 19:30 in the village hall with a talk by Angela Rendell entitled 'Dressing the Georgians', everyone is welcome so why not come along?

Future meetings include Part 2 of last year's talk on Major Heists in the UK by Barry Faulkner in July and our annual outing in August which has yet to be decided.

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).

Pauline Cook-McAnoy Tel: 01242-520133

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

Secretaries

Southam Gardening Club

In March we went to Dymock to see the Wild Daffodils. We were welcomed in the Parish Hall with Coffee and delicious cakes and given suggestions of where the best places were to see the daffodils. Some of us walked and some drove around the area then we all met up again at the hall for a ploughman's lunch and pudding! Once again, we were very lucky with the weather and had a very enjoyable day.

Then in April, Robert Bryant gave us an interesting talk about Woodchester Park, accompanied by some wonderful photographs. Worth a visit!

Future meetings include:

Please note a change of date for our plant sale and coffee morning:

Saturday 6th June 10.00-12.00 Plant sale and coffee morning

Thursday 18th June – Ponds, Marginals and Bog Gardens by Duncan Coombs

Thursday 9th July – Outing to Snowhill Lavender

August – no meeting

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 or phone 07980 699036

If you wish to be added to the email distribution list, please email

gill.donovan1961@gmail.com

Southam Village Hall



Forthcoming Village Hall Events

Pub Night

Friday 12 June 2026
Bar open 7.00pm onwards

BBQ and Pub Night

Friday 24 July 2026
“Braai what you bring” with communal BBQ
Bar open 5.30pm

April-May 2026 Report

Quiz and Film Nights

We had another successful quiz night with Fish and Chip supper supplied by Simpsons. We had 9 teams who filled the hall with a buzz of excitement for Julie and John’s quiz. Hopefully we will repeat this later in the year.

Our last film night this season was “The Choral”, we will start again in October so please let us know any films you have missed and would like to see on the big screen AGM.

The Chair Kevin Wilcox reported on another successful year thanking the committee and all the volunteers who help keep the hall running. He thanked Amy Turfrey and Susanna Tyrell who stepped down from the committee for their work as committee members. He also thanked the newsletter team and Art Group for their generous support.

Committee Members for 2026-2027

Chair	Kevin Wilcox
Treasurer	Mike Prince
Booking Secretary	Marius van Zyl
Secretary	Anita Wilcox
WI representative	Diana Irwin Singer
Parish Council representative	Rebecca Prince
Church representative	John Donovan
Committee Member	Karen Lennon
Committee Member	Suzanne Cripps

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



Sheep and lambs now on Cleeve Common



Both ewes and lambs are up, so if visiting please give them space. All dogs must be in short leads around livestock. Sadly, sheep are lost to dog attacks every year. Even if your dog does not catch one, remember the laws have now changed and livestock worrying is a more serious crime. Details can be found here: <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2025/12/18/law-changes-strengthen-protection-for-livestock/>

Adders are Active

We are now getting regular sightings of adders out and about on the Common.

These protected snakes have found Cleeve Common to be the perfect haven for them to thrive. When nationality numbers are declining, they seem to be doing really well here, and we're delighted!

Keep yourselves and dogs safe from their venomous bite by sticking to main paths and away from scrub edges. If you see one just give it some room and quietly move on. They are not aggressive snakes and will prefer to slither away from anything that has disturbed them.



Cleeve Common Trust Events Summer 2026

Our 2026 Events listings can be found here

www.cleevecommon.org.uk/events-calendar or follow us on Eventbrite, Facebook or Instagram. Please remember to book on if any of these take your fancy!

Friday 29th May, 10:30am, Friday 26th June, 1pm & Friday 17th July, 10:30pm.

Creative Connections Wellbeing Walk. A fun, relaxing walk to boost your mood and connect with others in nature. Free

Friday 29th May, 1:30pm. **Family Fun Friday into the Woods.** Join us on a family adventure around Wardens' Wood. £3.96 per child

Saturday 13th June, 1pm. **Introduction to Drawing Trees with Charcoal** with Gemma Hastilow. An immersive sketching workshop. £25 pp

Saturday 5th July, 10:30am. **Wild Medicine Walk** with Flora Scott. Explore medicinal and edible plants on Cleeve Common. £35 pp



Did you know you can support us by playing the Cheltenham Lottery?

And be in the running for a £25k prize!? More details here:

www.cheltenhamlottery.co.uk/support/cleeve-common-trust

Creative Connections



- well being walks on
Cleeve Common -

TAKE NOTICE

Meeting:

17-4-26: 1-3PM
29-5-26: 10.30-12.30
26-6-26: 1-3pm
17-7-26: 10.30-12.30

CONNECT

GIVE

BE ACTIVE



KEEP LEARNING



A series of four FREE well-being walks which will gently explore the Tramper Trail, on Cleeve Common.

All are welcome; we encourage you to attend all four sessions for the full benefit, but this is not essential. We ask for a small deposit-as places are limited-which will be refunded when you attend. Booking Essential.

See Cleeve Common Website for full details:
<https://www.cleevecommon.org.uk/events-calendar>

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Parish Council News

Southam Parish Council Report for April and May 2026



E-Updates

Hopefully everyone who signed up for our emails, are now receiving the regular E-updates. If you would like to receive them, please send your email address to 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

A thank-you to Edna

To celebrate Edna's retirement as Editor of the Newsletter after 23 years' service to the village, we took her to Ellenborough Park Hotel for afternoon tea, where she was joined by some of her Newsletter colleagues.

Neighbourhood Watch.

Annual Parish Meeting/SPC AGM

We held the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 12th May and invited Michael Bates the Clerk of Cleeve Common Trust to provide a presentation to residents. Michael provided a very informative talk, covering the many aspects of the work undertaken by CCT on the Common. The APM was followed by our AGM. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 9th June at 7.30PM.

County & Borough Councillor Updates

SPC has posted onto our website the April and May reports received from Cheryl Agg Gloucestershire County/TBC Borough Councillor and Nigel Adcock Tewkesbury Borough Councillor, together with their Annual Reports.

GCC Highways/Community Speedwatch

We are in regular contact with GCC's Local Highways Manager with a view to improving road safety and reducing speeding in our community where feasible. Speedwatch data from Cleeve Hill, New Road and Southam Lane is collected regularly by Bill Motion and shared with the Police. GCC are upgrading signage and road markings, as they advise this is the most effective way to reduce speed.

PCSO + Neighbourhood Watch

We invited our PCSO Trevor May to attend our April PC meeting to provide a talk on local policing and security. We look forward to developing a close relationship with Trevor going forward.

SPC also regularly receive updates from John Donovan, our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, and these are uploaded onto the SPC website.

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

We have collated the results of our recent survey and will publish the options being considered soon. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to help, and we will be contacting you soon with proposed projects.

Continued on the next page

Noverton Balancing Pond Adoption

During the early part of 2026, TBC confirmed adoption of the Noverton balancing pond, and we are now in detailed discussions with TBC to determine how this area can be improved for the benefit of residents and to enhance the biodiversity of the area.

Event License Applications

Wychwood 2026 28th to 31st May - We attended a consultation call with the event organisers Proud Events, together with our County/Borough Councillor Chery Agg and residents from Prestbury. We have also been liaising with TBC Environment Health Team, who are working with CBC Environmental Protection Team to monitor noise from the event and to ensure that sound levels remain within the permitted levels.

Further License Applications – We have been made aware of further license applications in relation planned events on the Racecourse. There are three festivals planned for 10th, 11th and 12th July, and also a one-day festival on Saturday 29th August. Further details can be found on Cheltenham Borough Councils licensing portal. Residents can comment on any license application by visiting the CBC planning portal.

Planning Matters

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 comment on any planning application by visiting the TBC planning portal

We have also requested an update from TBC Planning Team regarding the legal challenge made by the applicants at Land East of Kayte Lane, against the Planning Inspectorate's appeal decision. 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.

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-org.uk

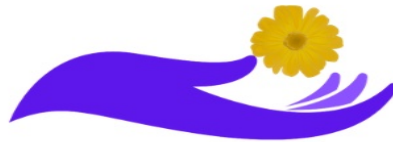
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Good Neighbours

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.

Please follow our news items on our website www.southam-pc.org.uk

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Traffic Statistics Summary for February and March 2026.

With the Evesham Road and New Road now open for traffic I am hopeful that traffic levels will return to normal levels (2400 vehicles/day each way), but we shall see.

Southam Lane (30 mph limit)

The closure of New Road pushed up the traffic levels on Southam Lane during February. However there seemed to be little reduction in March with New Road fully re-opened. Could be the races, but we shall see in April. The sensor is outside Manor Court.

Continued on the next page

Southam Lane	February 26	March 26
Average Vehicles per day (AADT)	3420	3355
Average Speed (mph)	29.2	28.5
85% of vehicles going less than (mph)	34.4	34.4

During March we recorded 2 vehicles at 65 mph and 6 at 60 mph coming into the village.

Old Road (30 mph limit)

The concern 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. The increase in Old Road traffic looks like it was down to race traffic.

Old Road	February 26	March 26
Average Vehicles per day (AADT)	1127	1764
Average Speed (mph)	23.8	23.8
85% of vehicles going less than (mph)	28.4	28.5

During March we had 2 vehicles reported travelling at 50 mph and 8 at 45 mph.

New Road (30 mph limit)

The road was closed during February. The results for February represent the traffic from the site and turnarounds. The March results only contain results from the last week in March due to a battery outage. It looks like New Road levels are back to normal.

New Road	February 26	March 26
Average Vehicles per day (AADT)	35	1843
Average Speed (mph)	20	29.8
85% of vehicles going less than (mph)	28.2	34.8

During March we had 7 vehicles coming into the village at 55 mph and 46 vehicles at 50 mph.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Tewkesbury Borough Council	01684 295 010
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 – Trevor May	101

Southam Parish Council			
Chairman (joint)	Mr S Lennon	07973 335 427	cllr.s.lennon@southam-pc.gov.uk
Chairman (joint)	Mrs R Prince	07941 789 996	cllr.r.prince@southam-pc.gov.uk
Clerk	--	--	clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk
Members	Joyce Calam	07855 673 679	cllr.j.calam@southam-pc.gov.uk
	Marilyn Harris	07854 185 170	cllr.m.harris@southam-pc.gov.uk
-	Pam Sissons.	07786 854 912	cllr.p.sissons@southam-pc.gov.uk
	Rob Torrington	07753 573 762	cllr.r.torrington@southam-pc.gov.uk
	Karen Fish	07786 911 085	cllr.k.fish@southam-pc.gov.uk

Email Addresses+	
Parish Council (e-mail)	clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk
Parish Council (facebook)	www.facebook.com/southamparishcouncil
Southam Website	https://southam-pc.gov.uk/
Newsletter Editor	---
Newsletter Production	billmn2021@yahoo.com
Facebook	www.facebook.com/SouthamVillageCotswolds

Tewkesbury Borough Council		
Cheryl Agg	07356 120340	
Nigel Adcock	07356 120339	
Gloucestershire County Council		
Cllr Cheryl Agg	07356 120340	
Newsletter Team		
Editor	---	---
Production	Bill Motion	07989 894 337

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



SOUTHAM ART GROUP
Every Thursday morning
10.15am to 12.15pm
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

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

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.



U3A Folk

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



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
2nd and 4th Wednesdays
2.30pm to 4.30pm

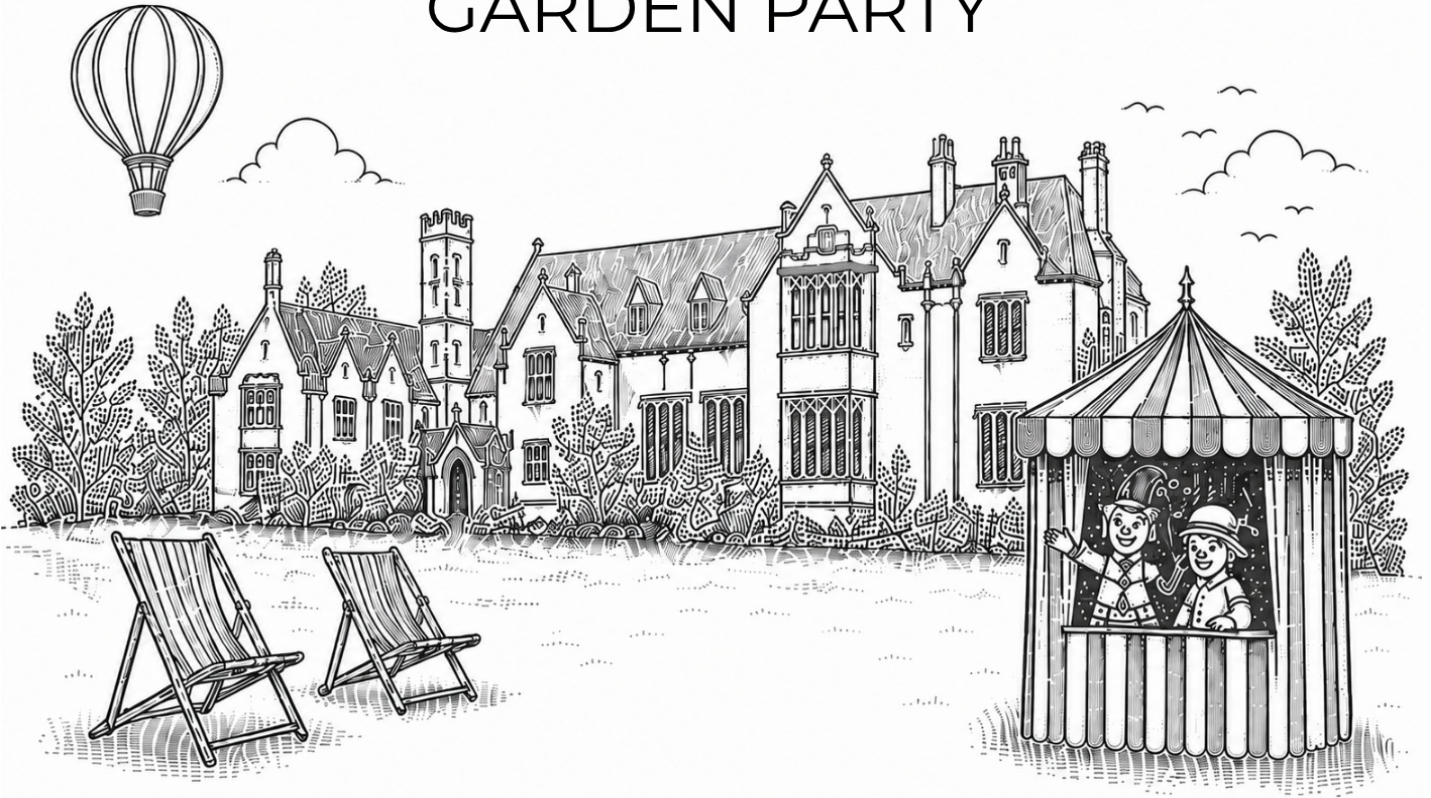
U3A Table Tennis

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



19th July
12 - 4 pm

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