

DROP IN

At the Drop In on the 8th of July two lovely singers (Gillie Sings) entertained the 'Drop In' attendees. Hot Dogs and Beefburgers were provided followed up with strawberries and ice cream. We can see the smiles in the photograph. New chairs, being tried out at the village hall were tested by Eric, who thought them comfortable and easier to get out off due to the arm rests.



Wednesday 12th August 26

Wednesday 26th August 26

Wednesday 9th September 26

Wednesday 23rd September 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

**Contributions for the October/November Newsletter by
15th September 2026**

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 record the deaths of two ladies who, in their younger years, were stalwarts of this Southam community.

Alice Brettell died on the 9th June, aged 101. Before her illness Alice lived in New Road. She was responsible for starting our still successful, Drop In and also introduced the Gold Cup Cafe during horse racing week in March. That too is still very popular with race goers. She was also a keen and forceful member of Southam W.I., Southam Church and the Parish Council. When Alice left Southam to live near her daughter in Harbury, Warwickshire she was truly missed.

Elma Detheridge died very suddenly and unexpectedly on the 25th May aged 89 years. A great shock to her son Rupert, family and members of the W.I. and Drop In. Like Alice, Elma too was a forceful member of both organisations but her contributions were meaningful and important. Elma once served on the Parish Council. She sold her home in Sunset Lane and moved to Prestbury.

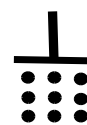
To the families of Alice and Elma we send our very Sincere Condolences. Their names will long be remembered in Southam.

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.



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The Church of the Ascension, Southam



Services

2 nd August 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
9 th August 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
16 th August 2026	No Service	--	--
23 rd August 2026	Breakfast Church	Southam Village Hall	9:30am
30 th August 2026	No Service	--	--
6 th Sept 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30am
13 th Sept 2026	Holy Communion	Southam Church	9:30pm
20 th Sept 2026	No Service	--	--
27 th Sept 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 meeting in June, we welcomed Angela Rendell and her daughter Kate Peake both historical costume enthusiasts, who presented one of their history of fashion talks 'Dressing the Georgians.' During the talk, Kate was dressed in full Georgian attire including secret pockets to be used for carrying various items.

The talk for our July meeting was part 2 of last year's talk on 'Major Heists in the UK' by Barry Faulkner. This time he covered two organised crime bosses, David Hunt and Terence Adams who both currently operate running London's crime scene. As before, it was a very interesting talk.

Our meeting in August is usually an annual outing but this year we are staying local with lunch at the Italian in Cleeve followed by a craft workshop in the village hall. Looking further ahead, our talks are 'The Work of a Literary Translator' in September and 'Coleshill-UK Defence Centre' in October. The October meeting is another of our **open meetings** on Tuesday 6th October at 19:30 in the village hall. As usual **everyone** is welcome so do feel free to come along.

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 June we held our annual coffee morning and plant sale. Another successful morning was had with delicious cakes and a range of plants to buy. More importantly, it was an opportunity to meet with friends and catch up over tea and coffee.

The June Gardening club meeting was an interesting talk given by Duncan Coombs on ponds, lakes and bog gardens. He gave useful information on what plants to grow in water and showed some wonderful photographs of what can be achieved with small water features up to large ponds, and how bog gardens give wonderful life to newts, frogs, insects etc.

Our July meeting was an outing to Snowhill Lavendar Farm where we wandered through fields of different varieties of lavender and had an interesting talk on the cultivation and uses of it over the centuries and how the oils are produced. We also learned how the farm has evolved since its inception in 1999. We then enjoyed a cream tea with lavender scones which were delicious. A large selection of products were available to buy in the shop as well as lavender plants.

Future meetings include:

August – no meeting

Thursday 17th September – AGM and Tool Sharpening by Will Scott

Thursday 15th October – Salvias by Robert Champion

Thursday 19th November – Water Gardens by Marion Stainton

Continued on the next page

GardenClub continued

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

Village Flower boxes

Thanks to Mike Prince for the planting and watering to give us a bit of colour in the frazzled village greenery, as seen on the right.



Thanks to Joyce Calam and Karen Fish for planting and keeping the box on the left in good shape giving a splash of colour as you enter Prestbury.

Southam Village Hall



Pub Night

Friday 28 August 2026

Bar open 6.00pm onwards

Quiz Night and Fish and Chips

Friday 25 September 2026

7pm Doors Open

Teams of up to 6

Tickets available from Anita Wilcox 07800 993508 and

Julie Spicer 07932 767992

Defibrillator Refresher Session

Monday 28 September 2026

10.00-11.30 am

All Welcome

June-July 2026 Report

Southam Parish Council have informed the hall they have CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds. After a survey they have asked the Village Hall for any projects that would benefit residents. The committee have provided the following list:

- Solar Energy
- Air to Air Heat Pumps
- External Storage
- Projector
- Electric Screen
- 8 Radio microphones system
- Recycled Plastic Park Bench

Anita Wilcox



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HATS@SHELLEYMADETHIS.COM

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



Picnics only on Cleeve Common please



On the 1st July a fire was lit deliberately on Cleeve Common. Fortunately, due to it being witnessed the Fire service were called immediately, and Jamie the green keeper was close by and able to respond with our water bowser the fire was put out quickly, though not before it had started to spread.

Though arson is thankfully a rare occurrence it did serve as a stark reminder as how fast fire can spread. This, along with the damage fires cause to soil, plants and mycorrhizal structures, is why we have a NO FIRES or BARBEQUES rule on Cleeve Common. We understand enjoying food together or having a snack to keep you going are important, but please just keep it to picnics. Thank you.

If you have any information about the deliberate fire. Please contact the police or email info@cleevecommon.org.uk

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 17th July, 10:30pm & Friday 11th September 1pm. **Creative Connections Wellbeing Walk.** A fun, relaxing walk to boost your mood and connect with others in nature. Free

Friday 24th July, 10:30am. **Family Fun Friday – Kites and Crafts.** Join us for a morning of making a kite that actually flies(!) and other seasonal crafts. £4.50 per child

Friday 31st July, 10am. **Cleeve Common Archaeology, Geology & Habitat Walk** with Gloucestershire Archaeology & the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens. Free - donations welcome

Friday 7th August, 12:30pm. **Family Fun Friday – Stream Dipping and Mini Raft Racing.** A fun summer classic – exploring the washpool area. £3.96 per child

Wednesday 16th September, 5:30pm. **Foraging Walk.** Jon Cotswold Forager Rob Gould for an evening stroll around Wardens' Wood. £35 per person



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

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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

Newsletter

The Newsletter is now being circulated in the main by SPC Update email, but a team of volunteers are still delivering several hard copies, if specifically requested by residents.

Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 11th August at 7.30PM. There will be no SPC monthly meeting in September.

County & Borough Councillor Updates

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

Local Government Reorganisation Update – Single unitary council

National Government has now announced its decision on the future structure of local government in Gloucestershire. The decision is to create a single unitary authority, which will replace existing county, city, district and borough councils on 1 April 2028. More details will be shared with residents when we receive them.

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. Speed-watch data from Cleeve Hill, New Road, Old Road and Southam Lane is collected regularly by Bill Motion and John Dovovan and shared with the Police. GCC are upgrading signage and road markings, as they advise this is the most effective way to reduce speed.

Neighbourhood Watch

SPC 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 (CIL) funds - Parish Survey

In June we met to review results of our recent survey and to summarise options for expenditure of CIL funds. Currently, we have £24,649.46 CIL funds to allocate.

Examples of projects being considered include improvements to the Village Hall, footpath works, improvement of Noverton balancing pond and a defibrillator within Noverton. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to help as part of our survey, and we will contact you soon with proposed projects.

Continued on the next page

Noverton Balancing Pond Adoption

Work continues to improve the area around the Noverton balancing pond, following its adoption by TBC in the early part of 2026. We are now in detailed discussions with TBC and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to determine how this area can be further improved for the benefit of residents and to enhance the biodiversity of the area.

War Memorial

We have received quotations for essential repairs to the Southam War Memorial and we expect that work will commence in the coming months.

Planning Matters

We continue to get a regular flow of planning applications. Please refer to our website and SPC meeting agendas/minutes for planning applications, decisions and updates, being 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 received updates from TBC regarding the legal challenge made by the applicants at Land East of Kayte Lane, against the Planning Inspectorate's decision to dismiss their appeal. TBC have advised us that the High Court has refused permission for the challenge to proceed within the High Court. Subsequently, the applicants sought permission to appeal this decision to the Court of Appeal. TBC have since confirmed that the Court of Appeal has refused the Appellants' application for permission to appeal against the High Court's earlier decision, meaning that the Appellants have now exhausted all ordinary appeal routes available to them.

We continue to press TBC for updates on initiatives to provide additional traveller pitches in other appropriate locations, to mitigate the current unmet need.

Event License Applications

Wychwood 2026 28th to 31st May and the Nationwide Festival 10th to 12th July –

During these festivals, we liaised with TBC and CBC Environmental Health teams, the event organisers, our County/Borough Councillor Cheryl Agg and residents from Prestbury. Subsequent to the festivals, we have been pressing for a debrief to discuss complaints received and to improve matters for future festivals.

We have been made aware of further planned events locally, at Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club, Newlands (Cheltenham 7s on 31st July and 1st August and Good Vibes on 29th and 30th August) and the Racecourse.

Details of license applications can be found on CBC and TBC's licensing portals.

Residents can comment on any license application by visiting the 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).

Continued on the next page

Starting Salary National Association of Local Councils pay scale SCP16 (£15.82 per hour) subject to experience.

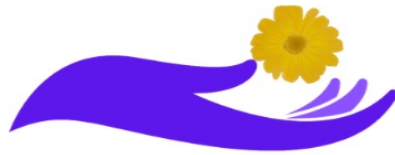
To apply, please send a CV and covering letter with the names of 2 referees to the clerk@southam-pc-gov.uk

Good Neighbours

Please can we ask you to 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.gov.uk

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Traffic Statistics Summary for May 2026 and June 2026.

Southam Lane (30 mph limit)

The May/June traffic levels indicate a return to something closer to the pre closure levels but we are still seeing the 200 vehicles per day year on year increase. The sensor is outside Manor Court.

Southam Lane	May 26	June 26
Average Vehicles per day (AADT)	2519	2478
Average Speed (mph)	29.9	29.8
85% of vehicles going less than (mph)	35.1	35.0

During May we recorded 2 vehicles at 70 mph, 4 at 65 mph, 15 at 60 mph, 60 at 55 mph and 356 at 50 mph coming into the village.

During June we saw 3 vehicles at 70 mph, 9 at 60 mph, 45 at 55 mph, and 370 at 50 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.

Old Road	May 26	June 26
Average Vehicles per day (AADT)	815	887
Average Speed (mph)	23.8	24.1
85% of vehicles going less than (mph)	28.5	28.6

During May we had 5 vehicles recorded travelling at 45 mph and 62 at 40 mph.

During June we had 1 vehicle recorded travelling at 50 mph, 8 at 45 mph and 89 at 40 mph.

New Road (30 mph limit)

New Road was fully open during this period. It looks like some new issues have popped up on New Road with reduction to one lane and traffic lights. The New Road traffic levels are very close to the levels before the recent road closures.

New Road	May 26	June 26
Average Vehicles per day (AADT)	1874	2006
Average Speed (mph)	29.7	29.6
85% of vehicles going less than (mph)	34.8	34.8

During May we had 1 vehicle coming into the village at 65 mph, 3 vehicles at 60 mph, 22 at 55 mph and 128 at 50 mph.

During June we recorded 1 vehicle travelling at 65 mph, 4 at 60 mph, 17 at 55 mph, 179 at 50 mph coming into the village.

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	Mr S Lennon	07973 335 427	cllr.s.lennon@southam-pc.gov.uk
Deputy Chair	Mrs R Prince	07941 789 996	cllr.r.prince@southam-pc.gov.uk
Clerk	--	--	clerk@southam-pc.gov.uk
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-	Pam Sissons.	07786 854 912	cllr.p.sissons@southam-pc.gov.uk
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Editor	---	---
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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 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
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Contact Jeff 07970 303 694

Martial Arts Classes for 7–16-year-olds
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£25pm First two classes free!

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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.



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

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Craft and Chatter Group

Tuesday 18th Aug – 14:00 – 16:00

Repeats every month on the
third Tuesday

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

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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