SOUTHAM NEWSLETTER



SOUTHAM COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP - STILL HERE

The Southam Community Support Group was formed to provide assistance to residents of Southam who needed to self-isolate because of symptoms of Covid 19 or were otherwise vulnerable because of age, underlying health conditions, disability or frailty. Requests for assistance have been falling steadily up to the point this article is being written (mid-September). However, also in mid-September there are signs that infection rates across the country are rising and the Government introduced new restrictions on gatherings which came in force on 14 September. With the approach also of the flu season (don't forget to book a vaccination), the Support Group has decided to continue in operation for at least the winter period.

Here if You need Us

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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 ...

A warm welcome to Roger and Julie Chambers who have moved into Ratcliff Lawns (Upper). They have two grown up children, daughter Charlotte and son and daughter -in-law, Luke and Jade with their eight-month-old son Freddie. We wish Roger and Julie much happiness in their new home.

RESIDENTS' EMAIL LIST

The webmaster maintains a list of email addresses of residents so that important information can be circulated quickly. The list is particularly useful when used to inform residents of last minute changes to information contained in the Southam Newsletter or when used in an emergency such as the 2007 flood and water shortage which affected us severely or, more recently, the Covid 19 emergency. If you are not on the list and would like to be added, please send a request by email to webmaster@southamtoday.org.uk – your address is held on the Parish Council secure server and will not be used for other purposes nor will it appear on any emails that are circulated. If you are already on the list, please take this opportunity to advise friends and neighbours of its availability.

David Jones



Southam Remembers



A call for help.

Age UK Gloucestershire has been working on a magazine including news & information and activities for older people in our communities who are still self-isolating, or are just isolated because they have no support around them.

We need people to help deliver these in their communities and if anyone can help it would be much appreciated. This winter and further restrictions is going to be a tough time especially for those people and we want to try and reach them with a little support if we can. We can drop off a box to anyone who can help.

Please contact:

Chris Walker – Community Engagement Manager Direct Line – 07511 225 435 Switchboard – 01452 422 660

Church of the Ascension

The Tithe Barn





SOUTHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

August & September 2020

Our August meeting would have seen us enjoying a trip to Slimbridge, but

the restrictions of our present circumstances during the pandemic meant that this is postponed until next year. Instead we had a "tea party" in the grounds of the village hall. The weather smiled on us and fifteen members of our WI sat down to a socially distanced bring your own chair, refreshment and food picnic. Because of the restrictions we sat in groups of 5. Gosh, it was so good to see and chat with people again. As well as chit chat, we had a very entertaining guiz thanks to Susan, our president. It came down to a tie break between 2 of the groups and the winning team went home with a bar of chocolate each, yum! (Unfortunately, the team Pauline and I were in lost the tie break – so no prize for us.)

We narrowly missed having a September meeting and were within striking distance of holding a meeting in the village hall in October; the Village Hall committee have been working hard to re-open it under Covid secure guidelines. Unfortunately, Boris decided to announce the "rule of six" so that put paid to us resuming our meetings as these aren't deemed to be an "exception". What a shame. Consequently, we don't know when our next meeting will be held.

We are hoping to compile a Southam WI Covid 19 scrapbook. Instead of "What I did on my holidays", it'll be "How I kept myself amused/Things I did during the pandemic". We would love it if our members would contribute something towards this; it can be anything – poems, prose, photos, new skills learnt, old skills rekindled, etc.

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Parish Council News

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020





Co-option of new councillor

Councillors welcomed Carli Burke onto the council at the September meeting. Carli lives on the Noverton Estate and, having lived previously in Bishops Cleeve, she has detailed knowledge of the parish and a keen interest in the local area.

Meetings

Legislation continues to change and, whilst parish councils are exempt from the latest regulations which ban gatherings of more than 6 people, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) advises that meetings should continue to be held virtually wherever possible. We have now held 5 meetings using the Zoom video conferencing platform and meetings continue to be attended by local residents. The meeting link is now published on the agenda. However, if there are any residents who do not have access to the internet or are not able to attend the virtual meetings for any other reason but would like items raised in the public forum, please do feel free to telephone the Clerk in advance of the meetings which continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Website

Following the introduction of new regulations, the Southam Today website has been reviewed and updated to make it more accessible. It is hoped that all content will now be more accessible to those who, for example, navigate the website using just a keyboard or listen to content using a screen reader. An accessibility statement available at the bottom of each page of the website gives full details of the measures put in place.

Planning Applications

At the August meeting it was noted that planning notices are not always clearly displayed by Tewkesbury Borough Council. Residents are not always aware that applications have been submitted and may therefore miss the opportunity to comment on applications which directly affect them. The Parish Council, as statutory consultee, is advised of all new planning applications in the parish. These will then be considered at the subsequent parish council meeting as long as this falls before the deadline for submission for comments. In future, details of all new applications will be notified to those on the email circulation list and published on a new website page. Residents may submit their comments direct to Tewkesbury Borough Council via the following link:

https://publicaccess.tewkesbury.gov.uk/online-applications/

Remembrance Sunday

The Parish Council continues to liaise with the Royal British Legion about the Remembrance Sunday Service. At the time of writing it remains unclear if it will be possible to hold a service in the usual way at the war memorial and, if it is held, what form the event might take. Any updates will be communicated to residents nearer the time.

The **Clerk** can be contacted by email on clerk@southamtoday.org.uk and by phone on 01242 224 562.

The Church of the Ascension, Southam

Although the doors to the Church of the Ascension in Southam have remained closed for safety reasons during the Covid 19 crisis, the kindness and support of the **Cartwright** family has meant that services are being held in the Tithe Barn next door.



Although we are socially distancing, the quality of the sound in this huge hall is remarkable and we have particularly enjoyed listening to the recorded music as part of the prayer and reflection time at 10am on alternate Sunday mornings.

We have welcomed about 25 people at each of the two services held so far, and further services led by Richard our vicar, are planned for the 27th September and the 11th October.



The Tithe Barn and the attached shelter shed date from the late 14th and early 15th centuries. Such barns were constructed near to churches to store the one tenth share of produce which farmers had to contribute each year to support the clergy.

Times have certainly changed but, may we ask you to consider making a donation of tinned produce or toiletries for our Harvest

Festival on 11th October. These gifts will be forwarded to the Food Bank in Cheltenham. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute, please contact John (526011), Linda (516187) or Penny (252388).

Rev Richard Reakes can always be contacted by telephone 01242 675 559.



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Southam Village Hall

October-November 2020

AGM report:



For the first time the Village Hall Management Committee AGM was held virtually via ZOOM on Tuesday 25th August 2020. A rearrangement from the originally scheduled 21st April 2020. The meeting was open to registered parishioners.

The Chair thanked the Committee and Volunteers who had helped run the Village Hall over the year. A special thank you to those who helped with the Gold Cup Café and Car Park which is still our biggest fund raiser.

Over the past year the hall had been used for many village events including our regular Pub Nights and Film Nights. We held a summer BBQ, presented a Rugby World Cup Final screening and held a quiz night. Children were entertained by the kids Christmas party and the Christmas light switch on. The hall remained popular with our regular bookers, most of whose activities are open to the local community (Keep Fit, Pilates, U3A Table Tennis, Bridge, WI, Art Group, Church breakfasts and Drop In).

On a financial front our letting income was 20% down on last year. Roughly 4% of this arises from forced closing for the last 2 weeks of the year due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Our one-off letting income was down 38% on the year due mostly to the committee discouraging non-Southam residents parties as these are the source of most of the problems with the community and the hirers.

Management Committee Changes:

We were sorry to report that Sal Nurden had decided to step down as Vice-Chair. Sal was a very valuable member of our Committee looking after the day to day running issues and was the focal point of Gold Cup Café.

The committee for year 2020-2021 comprises: -

Anita Wilcox – Chair and representative of the Church of Ascension Julie Spicer – Vice Chair Steve Wood – Treasurer Karen Lennon – Secretary Marius van Zyl – Booking Secretary Adrienne Wood – Representative of the Parish Council Elma Detheridge / Issy Henchy – Representative of the WI

At a committee meeting immediately following the AGM Kevin Wilcox and Susanna Tyrell were coopted on to the Committee.

Hall Fabric and Maintenance:

The committee have been considering the development of the hall to include enhanced stage facilities with increased changing rooms/storage space and provision of a separate bar. Meeting with Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning officers, it was discovered that in their view previous extensions to the hall had already used all our 'growth' and we were not likely to be able to extend as planned. The committee is now considering alternatives with a smaller footprint change. An outside tap and LED lights to light the bin area have been fitted.

Parishioners Questions and Comments:

A question was raised regarding the potential of the hall donating land for the installation of playground facilities for children in the 3-7 age group within the Village Hall grounds. The current committee are unable to support the proposal.

The concerns are: -

The hall is hired out including use of the grounds. There is a risk of conflict between hall and playground users.

The committee are committed to the good relations with our neighbours. As the Play facility would be outside the committee's control it was felt the possible noise could create problems, we were not able to curtail.

Funding, maintenance and insurance costs could not be afforded by the Hall.

It was pointed out that Southam Parish Council are already responsible for a play area within the parish in the Noverton housing estate which is available for village residents.

A question was raised whether there was a risk we may lose some of our regular hirers? Currently we have more requests to hire the hall than ever due to the lack of open facilities like the Hall. The committee is adhering to strict guidelines issued by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) through ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), in respect of risk assessments and protocols that need to be in place before the hall can be re-opened.

COVID Update:

Following our forced closure in March, the committee had planned to open the hall from the end September 2020. Due to the recent update of Government Guidelines on the Rule of 6, the Committee has decided to delay reopening until we have assessed the new guidance from ACRE. Throughout the Pandemic the Committee has continued meeting monthly and regularly pop in to check the hall.

I think everyone will agree the hall grounds are kept tidy by our gardener. Thank you also to our committee members and volunteers for supporting our 'community building' the village hall.

Anita Wilcox

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee

The Committee's aim is to use the Hall as a Community Centre so ideas and suggestions for Village events are always welcome.

Please share your ideas via chairsouthamvh@gmail.com



DROP-IN to the Village Hall for a cup of tea and slice of cake and join the increasing numbers dropping in once a fortnight.

All Drop-In sessions are currently suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 situation.

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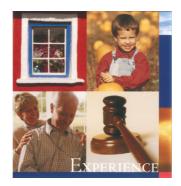


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Care Direct – benefits, appliances and care enquiries	0800 444 000	
Vicar – Rev Richard Reakes	01242 675 559	
Village Agent – Oliver Lamb	07701 281 906	
Southam Footpaths Co-Ordinator – Anita Wilcox	footpaths@southamtoday.org.uk	
Southam Webmaster – David Jones	01242 516 187	
Neighbourhood Watch – John Donovan	01242 526 011	
Southam Village Hall	chairsouthamvh@gmail.com	

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Facebook	Southam Village, The Cotswolds, England		

Southam Parish Council				
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Clerk	L Dowie	224 562		
Members	Mrs A Holloway	663 709		
	Karen Licence	07786 911 085		
	Mr S Lennon	07973 335 427		
	Mr J Workman	07768 693 807		
	Ken Davey	01242 526 232		
	Carli Burke	07506 120 513		

Tewkesbury Borough Council				
Mrs A Holloway	663 709			
Mr M Dean	07973 138 043			
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Newsletter Team				
Editor	Edna Smith	520 137		
Production	Jamie Walsh	243 851		

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A look back to the April 1997 Newsletter...

SOUTHAM LINKS

Last month's Links puzzle invited readers to identify the Southam location linked by: an aviation pioneer; the Grand Annual Steeplechase, and Arthur Yiend. The links were perhaps a little obtuse, and required some lateral thinking to find the connection between flying, horse racing and building. Let's look at each a little more closely.

Aviation This part of Gloucestershire has several links with the early days of aviation. Sir Frederick Handley-Page was born in Cheltenham, as was Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris. Closer to Southam, Stoke Orchard was the home of Amy Johnson in the 1930s. However, perhaps the more famous of aviation pioneers to visit the area regularly was Sir Alan Cobham with his air display or "Flying Circus". But Cobham was not alone in bringing the excitement of the early days of flying to the county. In April 1931 the Berkshire Aviation Company ran Cheltenham Air Week under the direction of Captain FJW Holmes, another well-known pioneer of aviation whose famous flying circus featured wing-walking and inverted flying.

Horse Racing Long before horse racing settled at Prestbury Park, the Parish of Southam had played host to the Sport of Kings. The excellent turf on Cleeve Common made it an obvious venue, and the first races were held in 1818. By the 1820s the course was blessed with a Grandstand and crowds estimated at 50,000 attended the meetings. Thoroughbred Racing on Cleeve Hill declined around the middle of the 19th Century and was replaced in popularity by spring meetings for hunting horses. At one time the Cheltenham Grand Annual Steeplechase was second only to the Liverpool Grand National. The Cheltenham race was run over a variety of courses including Andoversford, Bibury and the lower slopes of Cleeve Hill.

Building Arthur Yiend was a builder active in this area around the turn of the century. He and his brother George rented the rights to most of the quarries on Cleeve Hill, supplying stone for local housing as well as buildings further afield such as Cheltenham Ladies' College, Magdalen College and for repairs to Tewkesbury Abbey.

The Link Arthur Yiend built Gotherington and Bishop's Cleeve railway stations for the railway linking Cheltenham to Winchcombe and beyond. The line of the railway followed the boundary of Kayte Farm, which was also the venue for the running of the Cheltenham Grand Steeplechase in the 1860s, and for Cheltenham Air Week in April 1931.

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Church of the Ascension Services

CHURCH SERVICES SUSPENDED

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have asked that church services are suspended for the time being. Accordingly, services at the Church of the Ascension in Southam will not take place until further notice.

Richard Reakes remains available for anyone who needs to contact him either direct (see beow) or through the Church Office on 01242 673612 or email parishchurchoffice@gmail.com

The Revd. Richard Reakes

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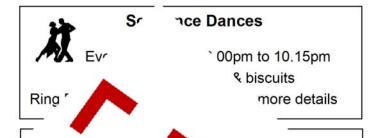
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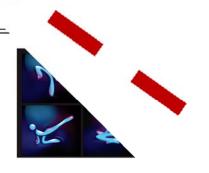
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