

# SOUTHAM NEWSLETTER

December 2019 – January 2020  
Issue No. 468

Festival  
OF LIGHT



## Southam Festival of Light

This year we thought it would be fun to brighten our community during the Christmas period with a Southam spectacular festival of light. Select any outdoor plant/shrub/object (or even a Christmas tree!) in your front garden and using your creativity, decorate the plant with Christmas lights. Let's transform the village into the 7th wonder of the Cotswolds!

Please email [a.wood@southamtoday.org.uk](mailto:a.wood@southamtoday.org.uk) to confirm your entry and judging will take place Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and winner will be announced at the Christmas Carol Service in Southam Church on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 .  
Small prize for the winner.



Contributions for the February/March Newsletter by 15th January 2020

## 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 ...

It is with great sadness that we record the demise of four much loved and respected residents of Southam.

**Honor Hobbs**, from The Close, died on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the wonderful age of 95 years. With Honor's passing goes the history of Southam as she moved into Southam Lane as a two-year-old toddler. A full tribute to Honor will be published in the next edition of the Newsletter.

**Peggy Simister**, from lower Ratcliff Lawns, died on the 19<sup>th</sup> October also at the wonderful age of 95 years. She was one of the few remaining residents who had moved into a newly built Ratcliff Lawns in about 1967. Peggy's early working years were with Rolls Royce in Blackpool. Then after marrying Ray she was employed by Gloucestershire County Council and became secretary at Pate's Grammar School. Her retirement was spent helping in Charity shops and becoming an active member of Southam WI. In 2014, Peggy's health started to fail and towards the end of her life she had 24-hour care.

**Bill Porter** from Ratcliff Lawns died suddenly on 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the age of 93 years. A great shock to Southam residents as Bill was so well known for his regular daily walks around the village with his little black dog Pippa. His lovely smile, kind nature and support for all the activities organised in the village and beyond will be his lasting legacy. He will be sadly missed by so many people. A tribute to Bill can be found later in this edition.

**Linda Ankcorn**, again from Lower Ratcliff Lawns and opposite to Peggy, died on 4<sup>th</sup> November at the younger age of 74 years. Linda was born in Kings Norton, Birmingham and retired to Southam after a career in banking. While living in Birmingham Linda ran Rainbow, Guide and Ranger units and over the years clocked up many camps, tours, church parades and opportunities to volunteer at the World Centres in India and Switzerland. When Linda moved, she continued her links with the Girl Guide Organisation and was a member of the Bishops Cleeve Trefoil Guild as Chairman and enjoyed many years with her new guiding friends. Linda received her 50 years in service award to Guiding in 2014 at Westminster Abbey.

As well as Guiding Linda's other love was Southam WI. She was a quiet but most efficient and loyal member who welcomed members on the door at every meeting and played an important role on the committee for many years. She had us all knitting vests and hats for babies and collecting cotton pillow cases which were then sent to Sub-Saharan Africa. We will truly miss her.

To the families and friends of Honor, Peggy, Bill and Linda we send our Sincere Condolences.



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Adult membership for 2019 costs just £22.

## Are Traffic Lights the Solution? – clarification and apology

In Issue 467 of the Southam Newsletter, we published an article relating to the erection of traffic lights in The Close with input from Mr John Russell. During the creation of the Newsletter, the input from Mr Russell was merged in with the thoughts and views of another villager who was not quoted and as such the piece could have been mis-interpreted as the sole views and opinion of Mr Russell which is inaccurate as he was only referencing the use of traffic lights for excavation work in The Close. This was not the intention of the Production Team and for the mistake we sincerely apologise. It is also noted that Mr Russell and his wife have actually resided in Southam for 38.5 years and not the 35 as published in the article.



### Don't get Hooked this Christmas

Identity fraud and phishing attacks increase in the run up to Christmas - make sure you are not caught by fraudsters.

**Identity fraud** is when your personal details are stolen and used to commit fraud. The first you may know you've been a victim of identity fraud is when you receive bills or invoices for things you haven't ordered, or when you receive letters from debt collectors for debts that aren't yours.

**Phishing** is the practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce you to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

To protect yourself from identify fraud and phishing:

- **Don't** throw out anything with your name, address or financial details without shredding it first.
- **Don't** click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails.
- **Never** respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details
- **Check** your statements or online banking carefully and report anything suspicious to the bank or financial service provider concerned.
- **If you're concerned** about the source of a call, wait five minutes and call the company they claim to be from on a number you know is genuine. If you can, use a different telephone.
- **Don't** leave things like bills lying around for others to look at.





# SOUTHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT



## October & November 2019

We were all very sad to hear that three of our members had recently passed away. Honor Hobbs was an active founder member of our WI, Linda Ankcorn had been an active committee member and Peggy Simister who was a member of our WI in the 1990s. Our sincere condolences to all of their families.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October, Nikki, the manager of the Abbeyfield retirement home in Prestbury gave us an informative talk about the home including the various activities and the monthly trips which are offered to the residents.

At our November meeting we welcomed Liz Fallon from the Cotswold Posy Patch who gave us an insight into her flower business in Shurdington. She brought along her photobook which charts her growing seasons in photographs. Liz also demonstrated making a dried flower wreath which she very kindly donated to our raffle.

Our next meeting is our Christmas meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Village Hall. New members and visitors are always welcome to join us.

Please note our meeting on Tuesday 7th January 2020 will be at 2.30pm. The speaker is Alexandra Stanbrook on "The History of Hats". Tea and cake to follow.

Pauline Cook-McAnoy  
01242 520133  
Isabel Henchy  
01242 221440  
Email [issy@henchy.uk](mailto:issy@henchy.uk)



## Southam Children's Christmas Party

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
3.00 – 5.00pm

Reserve your ticket by the 12<sup>th</sup> December by email:

[southamchristmasparty@gmail.com](mailto:southamchristmasparty@gmail.com)

Bring "n" Share Picnic

Christmas Crafts, Games  
and a  
Best Christmas Outfit competition

# Parish Council News

December 2019/January 2020



## Bus Services

The Marchants contract ended on 27th October and Stagecoach will now be providing an hourly service from Winchcombe to Cheltenham (W). This is a commercial service which is not subsidised and in order to provide a service to all the communities (including Southam) previously served by Marchants, Gloucestershire County Council has negotiated a new subsidised route between Chipping Campden and Cheltenham which will be provided by Pulhams (606). This timetable is available on the Southam Today website.

## Primary School Provision in Bishops Cleeve

The Chairs of Governors of local primary schools brought to the attention of parish councillors the Options Appraisal recommendation made by Gloucestershire County Council to build a new primary school on the Cleeve School site. This was debated at our September meeting and a letter was sent to the Director of Education expressing concern at this recommendation, in particular because of the potential for further pressure on the facilities and infrastructure of Bishops Cleeve. In addition, it was considered that siting a school at this location would add to traffic congestion in the area around Cleeve School and this would inevitably impact on Southam Lane and New Road. Any further information received about this proposal will be reported at future Parish Council meetings.

The date of the November meeting was changed due to councillor availability and Parish Council news for November will therefore be reported in the next newsletter.

Councillors would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

**SouthAMDRAma Group presents**

*The Panto*

**Wizard of Gloz**

**At Prestbury Hall Bouncers Lane.**

Friday 24th January 7:30pm  
Saturday 25th January 2:00pm & 7:30pm  
Sunday 26th January 4:30 pm

Doors open 30 mins prior to times above.  
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[www.southamdrama.co.uk](http://www.southamdrama.co.uk)

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**Southam Drama Group** have reluctantly had to move to a different venue from Southam Village Hall to perform our annual panto, to Prestbury Hall, Bouncers Lane. The village hall capacity was reduced by 40, which meant that 160 people from the village and relatives of the group, would not have been able to see the panto who came last year. This we felt was unfair for them.

We shall still have the children's Monday's rehearsals in the village hall as 12 of the 13 children come from this village.

We hope you will still support the panto and our charity the James Hopkins trust. We shall still have a licensed bar and the lovely ice cream tubs at the interval and will have space for about 25 cars in front and down the side of the hall.

Tickets available from [www.southamdrama.co.uk](http://www.southamdrama.co.uk)

# The Church of the Ascension, Southam

A large congregation attended our Harvest Festival with the church decorated with flowers and an amazing display of food gifts to be delivered to the Food Bank where it was gratefully received. A tasty Harvest breakfast was served in the church afterwards and much enjoyed by the congregation.

Remembrance Sunday was a busy day in Southam with a service of Morning Prayer at 9.30am and a service round the War Memorial in the afternoon organised by Bishops Cleeve British Legion and with a parade from the Air Cadets of Bishops Cleeve. Thank you Southam WI for ending the day with welcome refreshments in the village hall on a cold afternoon.

The list of services for December is printed at the end of this Newsletter. We look forward to celebrating the Holy Feast of Christmas with you all.

A very big thank you to John Donovan for the maintenance and cleaning of the 2 church gates, bench, notice board and door stop. Much appreciated.

Edna Smith  
Church Warden

## In memory of Bill Porter 1926 - 2019

Born in London in 1926 Bill spent his childhood in Hinton Admiral, Lechlade and Oxford. Attending the City of Oxford School, he excelled at cricket, rugby and as a fire warden. His prowess at rugby served him well during his National Service helping him 'skive off drill to play for the regimental team'. Bill studied geography at University College, London where his proudest achievement was to win 'purple' colours for athletics competing alongside Olympic gold medallists.]

Bill followed a career as a schoolmaster, initially teaching at Plymouth College, before moving to Prince Henry's, Evesham where he spent over 30 years rising to the position of Deputy Headmaster. He was heavily involved in coaching rugby and athletics, as well as leading the annual school ski trip.

Bill loved the outdoors as an enthusiastic walker. He met Edna walking in Triglav, Yugoslavia and after their marriage they completed the Cotswold Way and the Welsh 3000. Bill moved to Southam in the late eighties, with Edna, and they quickly immersed themselves in village life. From proudly tending their own garden they quickly took on responsibility for the Village Hall gardens and became active members of the committee.

After Edna passed away Bill continued to support the village, his enthusiasm for parking cars during Race Week is legendary, along with his consumption of cake. He even took up singing at the age of 92 to join the Christmas choir. Bill walking Pippa became a daily fixture in the village - and perhaps his last concern was if there would be anyone to deliver this newsletter.



## **Walking Buddies – looking for new walkers!!!**

“Walking Buddies” now meet **2** times a week for a leisurely walk that lasts for about one hour.

Mondays and Thursdays 9.45am - walk across the fields (by the racecourse)

Meet at the gate off Southam Lane next to 'Meadow Sweet'.

Friendly small group - all welcome - just turn up.

Diana - eMail: [irwinsing@aol.com](mailto:irwinsing@aol.com)

Tel: 07790 208505 and 01242 523661

Hazel – eMail: [hhanson@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:hhanson@mypostoffice.co.uk)

[walkers@southamtoday.org.uk](mailto:walkers@southamtoday.org.uk)

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# Southam Village Hall



## Bill Porter

The Village Hall Committee would like to say a few words in memory of Bill Porter. Bill was a regular supporter of village hall events and a much-loved volunteer for our Gold Cup Café. Bill's work directing the parking during race week was invaluable and he will be much missed, not just by us but also by all the regular racegoers who have known him for many years.

## Tidy the Village

Thank you to everyone who came along to help tidy up around the WI seat at the War Memorial, the steps on Sunset Lane and the Village Planter on Southam Lane. We Look forward to seeing more helpers at similar events.

## Village Hall Report

**September** - At our Film Night we showed "Saving Grace" a British Comedy film. This was well attended and much enjoyed by those who came. Our next presentation will be our Christmas film "Elf".

**October** - Considering the adverse weather we had a good pub night with many new residents able to meet each other in a friendly atmosphere.

**November** - Our big screen was in use again for the World Cup Final "England v South Africa" congratulations to South Africa for a dominant display in the match. Around 30 people attended and enjoyed a bacon and sausage bap and cups of coffee.

**Quiz Night (Sold Out)** – We have sold 60 tickets in advance for this annual event, so we are looking forward to a busy evening with fish and chips and quiz fun.

This month we had a meeting with the Community Funding Officer from Tewkesbury Borough Council who gave us some advice on grant funding supporting our ongoing development plans for the hall.

## Forthcoming Events at Southam Village Hall

**Sunday 1st December** - Christmas Film – "Elf" (PG) – at 4pm  
Christmas Light Switch on - 6pm onwards – Bar open (Mulled Wine and Mince pies will be available)

**Saturday 25 January** - `Pub Night "Burns Night Theme" 7.30pm onwards (more information to follow – see Southam Today)

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](mailto: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.

**December – 10<sup>th</sup> – a Christmas Special!!! NO meeting on 25<sup>th</sup>**

**January 2020 – 8<sup>th</sup> & 22nd**

**At 2.30pm till 4.00pm**

## USEFUL NUMBERS

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Dental Help Line – info on dental access centers for pain relief	01452 318 858
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

Email Addresses	
Parish Council	<a href="mailto:clerk@southamtoday.org.uk">clerk@southamtoday.org.uk</a>
Southam Website	<a href="mailto:webmaster@southamtoday.org.uk">webmaster@southamtoday.org.uk</a>
Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:ednaismith@btinternet.com">ednaismith@btinternet.com</a>
Newsletter Production	<a href="mailto:chaoswalsh@gmail.com">chaoswalsh@gmail.com</a>
Facebook	Southam Village, The Cotswolds, England

Southam Parish Council		
<b>Chairman</b>	Mrs A Wood	525 966
<b>Clerk</b>	L Dowie	224 562
<b>Members</b>	Mrs A Holloway	663 709
	Karen Licence	07786 911 085
	Mr S Lennon	07973 335 427
	Mr J Workman	07768 693 807
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	

Tewkesbury Borough Council		
Mrs A Holloway	663 709	
Mr M Dean	07973 138 043	
Glos County Council		
Mr Roger Wilson	603 874	
Newsletter Team		
Editor	Edna Smith	520 137
Production	Jamie Walsh	243 851

**Neighborhood Watch** has a number of stickers for attaching to Wheelie Bins to remind drivers of the speed limit. If you are prepared to affix one to your bin(s) please contact John Donovan at - [nhw@southamtoday.org.uk](mailto:nhw@southamtoday.org.uk)



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## Church of the Ascension Services

1st December	Eucharist BCP	9.30am
8th December	<b>Breakfast Church</b> in the Village Hall	9.30am
15th December	Eucharist Order 1 CW	9.30am
22nd December	<b>No Morning Service</b> <b>Carol Service in the evening</b>	6.30pm
25th December	Eucharist Order 1 CW	9.30am
29th December	<b>Eucharist Service</b> <b>at St Michael's</b>	10.30am
5th January	Eucharist BCP	9.30am
12th January	<b>Breakfast Church</b> in the Village Hall	9.30am
19th January	Eucharist Order 1 CW	9.30am
26th January	<b>Joint Eucharist Service with GWO</b> <b>at Oxenton</b>	9.30am

Further details can be obtained from the Church Office  
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# WHAT'S ON in Southam Village Hall



## SOUTHAM WI

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



## KEEP FIT

7.30 – 9.30pm



## SOUTHAM ART GROUP

Every Thursday morning  
10.15am – 12.15pm  
Village Hall



## BRIDGE CLUB

Wednesday  
7.00 – 10.30pm

## SOUTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETS AT 7.30PM, 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
SOUTHAM VILLAGE HALL

## VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Southam Village Hall Reservation procedures:

To book the Village Hall go to the Hire the Hall page on the village website ([www.southamtoday.org.uk/hire-the-hall](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.

## 2019 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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