



The Southam Gathering

Friday 24th August to Monday 27th August 2018

Callers: Andrew Shaw, Frances Oates, Hilary Herbert, Ivan Aitken, Rosemary Hunt and Victoria Yeomans

Musicians: Chris & Julie, Folkus Pocus, Keeping Thyme, Knotted Chord, Paul & John and Mollie & friends

The Grange Hall (CV47 1QA) will open from 5pm on Friday for collection of tickets, so please don't come earlier. Emergency contact at the weekend is 07543 363411 but this is not monitored at other times.

Volunteering As ever we do hope you will take a full part in the festival and volunteer for making tea, stewarding a session etc. Sheets will be available at the Grange Hall on Friday for you to sign up. It is by helping out in this way that allows us to continue running – it works out at about one duty each, so if one person shirks, someone else has to do two or more. Stewards should turn up in good time - about half an hour before your session starts (if it's at the beginning) or as close to the end of the previous session if it's during the course of the day. Nobody can enter halls until stewards are in place. Stewards do not have to sit out once the dancing starts and after the first few dances you may join in if you wish but please check badges of latecomers and that numbers do not exceed the limit.

If you think your stewarding or refreshments duties will make you late for your next session, please alert the venue manager in advance so a space can be reserved for you.

Badges Please wear your badges visibly at all times. If you don't see someone's name badge please challenge them so that we can keep premises secure at all times and as well as allowing everyone to learn names.

The venues As usual, there will be three dancing venues: The Grange Hall (CV47 1QA), Graham Adams Centre (CV47 0LY), and The Southam Primary School (CV47 0QB). There is limited parking at Graham Adams Centre but decent parking at the Grange and on the School playground which is accessed from Welsh Road West before you get to the School car park in St James Road. The venues are all within a 5 - 10 minute walk.

Venue capacities We have given instructions to stewards regarding hall capacities. If your first choice is full, please accept the steward's decision as final and go to another venue.

Information This year the programme includes descriptions of the workshops and dances rather than including them with these notes. We hope you will find this more convenient. There will be reference copies of the programme at each venue, but if you want your own copy, please bring it with you, printed or electronic. Each venue will have a reference map showing the local area, but if you need more details, please bring it. Newcomers may want to refer to their invitations as it includes further information which we haven't repeated here.

Recording Please note that no recordings (sound or video) may be made.

Alcohol Please do not bring alcohol into any of the premises; it is prohibited by our conditions of hire.

Refreshments Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided at each venue between workshops and in the break during the evening dances. Cold water and squash are available in each hall.

Lunch/sandwiches If you have ordered sandwiches you will receive vouchers for them with your weekend badges. Please remember to bring the relevant ones on the right day. You should collect your sandwiches from The Grange Hall between 12.15pm and 1.30pm or they may be reallocated and eaten by someone else! The Grange Hall is open for drinks throughout lunchtimes and is a sociable place to eat your lunch, either in the Hall or in the gardens. Last drinks are served at 1.45pm when venues start getting ready for the next session. The School and Graham Adams Centre are not available at lunchtime and all venues are closed after the afternoon workshops until the stewards arrive for the evening dances as we all need to eat sometime!

Recycling We are trying to be more environmentally friendly. Unfortunately there are no recycling facilities at any of our venues so please take items home to recycle them. Please bring a refillable bottle or beaker for cold drinks so that we can reduce the amount of disposable plastic we use.

Travelling to and from Southam If your journey involves the A5 near Towcester please check the Highways Agency's website for information about major roadworks in the area.

Dancing etiquette

We are all experienced dancers and ask you to give special thought to the following points for the increased enjoyment of all dancers.

Please respect "House Full" notices. Venue limits are set for everyone's benefit. Please do not embarrass the stewards by trying to argue your way into a full event.

Please stop talking when the caller starts their teaching (whether you are on the floor, or sitting out) – there are always people at the bottom of the room who are struggling to hear (and you may well miss vital instructions yourself!)

Even if you are not someone who normally changes partner, please consider doing so occasionally, especially if you see someone who may have wanted to get into the last dance if only there was someone to dance with....

Please make up longways sets as soon as you are ready to dance. Where possible we shall be asking callers to adopt the technique of taking hands 6, 8 etc. from the top to make up 3 couple or 4 couple sets. We feel this is quicker way of making up these types of sets.

Staff changes Sadly Weston Country Dance Band is unable to be with us as Mary has had recent and unexpected surgery. She is recovering well but is now on a course of radiotherapy and not really up to playing for a weekend yet. We are delighted Mollie Koenisburger has stepped in and will play with Ali Ellacott and Thomas Bending on Saturday and Dave Yeomans on Sunday and Monday. Many thanks to them all.

The committee We are very pleased that Andrea and Terry Stodell have joined the committee

Thank you all for volunteering, it is really important to keep The Southam Gathering running. I hope that you will enjoy the programme that we have put together for your week-end and look forward to seeing you on the dance floor. Do give us feedback afterwards.

Jenny & Pete Smith, Corinna Tabor & Hugh Stewart, Andrea & Terry Stodell