



The Southam Gathering

Friday 23rd August to Monday 26th August 2019

Callers:

Colin Hume, Colin Wallace, Hilary Herbert, Ian Jones, Lynne Render, Robert Moir and Trevor Monson

Bands:

Double Dichotomy, Keeping Thyme, Kendal Green, Meg 'n' Mor, Peregrine Road (Karen Axelrod & Rachel Bell, USA), and Stradivarious

The Grange Hall (CV47 1QA) will open from 5pm on Friday for collection of tickets, so please don't come earlier. The other halls open half an hour before the evening dances. Emergency contact over 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. Sign up on the sheets at the Grange Hall on Friday and at all venues on Saturday. It is by helping out in this way that allows us to continue running – it works out at one or two duties each, so each person that shirks makes someone else do extra.

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.

Venues As usual, there will be three dancing venues: The Grange Hall (CV47 1QA), Graham Adams Centre (CV47 0LY) in Southam within a 10 minute walk. There is limited parking at Graham Adams Centre but decent parking at the Grange Hall, although campervans must park near the entrance.

We are also using **Long Itchington Community Centre**, Stockton Road, Long Itchington (CV47 9QP) which has ample parking, a large modern hall and a separate room for tea and coffee where we shall have an exhibition of programmes and information of all 25 years of dancing in Southam. Make sure you have a look. There is pavement along the A423 from Southam but it is a long walk so try to get a lift if you do not have transport. It's a very busy road so cycling is not recommended. Head for the entrance to the Long Itchington Church of England Academy which shares the building. Note that the final dance at Long Itchington starts earlier at 2pm and finishes at 3.30pm to allow everyone time to clear up and get back to the Grange Hall.

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 The programme includes descriptions of the workshops and dances. 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 including Long Itchington, 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 is available in each hall; please bring a refillable bottle.

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! If you are dancing at Long Itchington during the second session of the morning we can arrange for your sandwiches to be collected if you are not going back to the Grange Hall over lunchtime. Long Itchington Community Centre and the Grange Hall are open for tea and coffee throughout lunchtimes and are sociable places to eat your lunch, either inside or in the gardens. Last drinks are served at 1.45pm when venues start getting ready for the next session. 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 single use plastic.

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. This is quicker way of making up sets.

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

The Southam Gathering Committee

P.S. Next year's Gathering is 28th – 31st August 2020 when Jenny and Pete can look forward to carefree dancing having retired from the committee. We are all so grateful for their 11 years of hard work and dedication; they have been a central part of the organisation. Their efficiency and organisational skills will be much missed and difficult to replicate!

Please sign the 'Thank You' card which will be at Long Itchington on Saturday and Monday and Graham Adams on Sunday. Corinna & Hugh at Long Itchington and Andrea & Terry at Graham Adams will have envelopes if you'd like to make a small donation for Jenny & Pete.