



The Southam Gathering

Friday 26th August to Monday 29th August 2022

Callers: Andrew Shaw, Bernie Culkin, Brian Stanton, Colin Hume, Ivan Aitken and Victoria Yeomans__

Bands: Chris & Julie Dewhurst, Dave Yeomans & Fran Bulpit, Folkus Pocus, Keeping Thyme and Paul Hutchinson & John Hymas

The Grange Hall (CV47 1QA) will open from 5pm on Friday for collection of badges, 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.

Covid precautions We expect all attendees to be up to date with their vaccinations, take a Lateral Flow Test beforehand and not to come if they have reason to think they might be infectious. We will have all doors and windows open for ventilation and have hand sanitiser available. We won't ask for face coverings but you are welcome to wear one if you wish.

Volunteering As ever we do hope you will take a full part in the festival and volunteer for making tea, washing up, 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 who shirks makes someone else do extra. Make sure that your volunteering is recorded as we monitor who is not contributing as well as those who go above and beyond.

Stewards should turn up in good time – about half an hour before your session starts (if it's first thing) or close to the end of the previous session if it's during the course of the day as nobody can enter halls until stewards are in place. Stewards do not have to sit out once the dancing starts and you may join in but please check badges of latecomers and that numbers do not exceed the limit.

Tea makers need to miss the last dance to get things ready and it's best to pop into the kitchen earlier to check what needs doing. Washing up needs no explanation!

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.

In 2019 we also used 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. It worked well and we are using it again this year. Folk Sales will have a stall there too. 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 for the final hurrah followed by tea and cake.

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 as our conditions of hire prohibit it.

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. Mugs are provided as there are no facilities for dancers to wash their own.

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 fetched if you are not going back to the Grange Hall over lunchtime.

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 but 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.

Folk Sales Genni and Darren Grainger will be at Long Itchington in the refreshments room so do have a look. Why not pre-order from their website <https://folksales.com/> to be certain?

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

Even if you are not someone who normally changes partner, please consider doing so occasionally, especially if you see someone who had to sit out the previous dance.

Thank you all for volunteering, it is really important to help keep 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.

Andrea & Terry Stodell, Corinna Tabor & Hugh Stewart

The Southam Gathering Committee

Special thanks to

Rosemary & Steve Hunt, Richard & Sue Lane, Nigel & Celia Close, Jenny & Peter Smith