



# The Southam Gathering

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Callers:** **Adam Hughes** (Saturday), **Andrew Shaw, Hilary Herbert, Simone Verheyen, Trevor Monson and Victoria Yeomans**

**Bands:** **Falconers** (Saturday), **John Hymas & Denise Bearon** (Sunday & Monday), **Keeping Thyme, Mollie Koenigsberger & Dave Yeomans, Momentum and Stradivarius**

Sadly, as his wife is very ill, **Geoff Cubitt** withdrew but we are pleased that **Adam Hughes** will now be calling American sessions on Saturday.

**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.

**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. 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.

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 before the refreshment break to get things ready and it's best to pop into the kitchen earlier to check what needs doing. Dancers who are washing up need to be 'at the sink' a few minutes into the break, collect cups and will be finished soon after the end of the break.

**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 as well as allowing everyone to learn names.

**Venues** As usual, there will be three dancing venues: in Southam, The Grange Hall, Coventry Road (CV47 1QA) and Graham Adams Centre, St James Road (CV47 0LY) are within a 10 minute walk.

The Grange Hall is at the back of the site. Go to the left of the white building and the Grange Hall is in front of you. Continue past the front of the Hall for its parking spaces and also go behind it where there is space on gravel and grass. Please do not use the parking spaces near the road as they belong to the white building which has a different owner. There is a one way system with a restricted exit route which goes under the front building so before taking a camper-van round the back you may want to check. We suggest you bring a torch as the grounds are dark for pedestrians. There is limited parking at Graham Adams but street parking is available.

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. Unfortunately Severn Trent Water are having rolling road blocks on Stockton Road during August so we will advise you later on when we have a clearer idea how it will affect access to the Community Centre and car park. 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 deemed 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. 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. Cups are provided as there are no facilities for dancers to wash their own mugs.

**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** Graham Adams is closed but 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 only limited recycling facilities at 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

Our email address is **contact@southamgathering.org.uk** although southamgathering@gmail.com still works for the time being.