

District Advertiser

Southam Edition

May 2026



**The Ultimate Directory of Local Services for
Southam & Surrounding Villages | Est. 1994**

District Directory

Accounting/Bookkeeping/Tax Returns

Grineaux Accountants01926 814578

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Galanos House -RBL.....01926 812185

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Cloudy2Clear.....0800 61 21 118

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Steaming Sam01926 889691

Tithecrest Upholstery.....01926 813865

Wright Flooring Installations.....01926 810340

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Age UK Warwickshire01926 458100

Safer Neighbourhood Team01926 684984

Southam Police.....01926 812366

Stratford District Council.....01789 267575

Southam Community Minibus.....01926 812767

Southam Town Council.....01926 814004

Southam Food Bank.....07745 244493

Southam Community Minibus Association.....

Royal British Legion07850 431127

Warwickshire C C.....01926 410410

Warwickshire Vision Support.....01926 411331

Chimney Sweeps/ Logs/Fuel

GM Bostock & Sons.....01926 812319

Sootbusters01926 887195

The Shires Sweep.....07816 337962

Churches

Our Lady & Saint Wulstan.....01926 812351

St James Church.....01926 812413

Southam Community Church.....01926 811144

Congregational Church.....01926 812695

Dentist

Cedarlea Dental Care.....01926 817264

Southam Dental.....01926 814527

Drives and Drop Kerbs

CJ & ND Wright01926 814541

Electricians

Intolec01926 768080

Food & Drink/Catering

Community Hub & Café.....01926 812185

D & E Trice (Harbury Milk Shed).....07733 158680

Phillipas Farm Shops.....07903 398533

Puddleduck Café & Gallery.....01926 919315

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ESL Midlands Ltd.....07792 192664

Gullivers Tree Solutions Ltd.....07894 789667

Iains Gardening Services.....07799 107867

Jack Cooper / Turf.....01926 613134

S & M Fencing and Landscaping07703 397568

S Taylor Services.....07494 369630

Scullion Tree Care07776 694373

Shire Forestry.....07584 132926

Tom Rodgers - Tree Services.....01926 710383

Warwick Buildings.....01926815757

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Farnborough Garden Centre.....01295 690479

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Heavenly Feet07427 470871

Jewel of Southam01926 717172

Patt Stock/Bowen.....01926 811140

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Oxford/John Radcliffe Hospital0300 304 7777

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Pest Force Warwickshire.....07852 878007

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Bright Horizons01926 811551

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Harbury Primary.....01926 612656

Harbury Pre-School.....07907 598461

Harbury School Kids Club.....01926 613740

Leam.Hastings CE Academy01926 632359

L/Itchington CE Academy.....01926 814819

L/Itchington Pre-School01926 811400

Priors School01327 260527

Southam Primary School01926 812520

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Stockton Stepping Stones.....01926 813789

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The Kingsley School.....01926 425127

The Priors School01327 260527

The Reading Doctor07921 160258

Warks College0800 7836767

Windmills Nursery School.....01926 614564

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Brindley, Twist, Tafft & James01926 217555

Lions General Enquiries01926 814294

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Southam Christmas Lights01926 817744

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Chesterton Windmill, Warwickshire

Standing proudly on a hilltop between Leamington Spa and Stratford-upon-Avon, Chesterton Windmill is one of Warwickshire's most striking landmarks. Visible for miles across the surrounding countryside, its unusual shape and elevated position make it instantly recognisable. For generations, it has captured the imagination of walkers, photographers, historians and local residents alike.

Built around 1632–1633, the windmill is believed to have been commissioned by Sir Edward Peyto, lord of the nearby manor. Its design is often linked with Inigo Jones or his circle, giving the structure an elegance that sets it apart from many other English windmills. Raised on six stone arches, the circular tower appears almost temple-like, combining practical engineering with architectural ambition.

Chesterton Windmill is far more than a picturesque rural feature. It is both Grade I listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, reflecting its national importance. Warwickshire County Council describes it as one of the county's best-known heritage sites, and recent conservation work has helped preserve it for future generations. In April 2025, the county announced the completion of a major sails restoration project, helping to maintain the windmill's familiar silhouette on the skyline.

The windmill worked commercially for centuries, serving the surrounding farming community before eventually falling out of use. Even after milling stopped, the building remained a powerful symbol of Warwickshire's agricultural past. Its hilltop setting, wide views and distinctive arches give it a romantic character that feels timeless, connecting today's visitors with the county's rural history.

Today, Chesterton Windmill remains a favourite destination for local outings. Visitors are drawn not only by the building itself, but also by the panoramic views across the Warwickshire landscape. In every season it offers something different: bright summer fields, dramatic autumn skies, crisp winter horizons and spring light across the hills. It is easy to see why so many people regard it as one of the county's most photogenic and memorable places.

More than just an old mill, Chesterton Windmill is a reminder of Warwickshire's rich heritage and enduring beauty. It stands as a monument to craftsmanship, local history and the character of the English countryside — a proud landmark that continues to watch over the fields below, just as it has for nearly four centuries.



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As we move into the brighter, busier days of late spring and early summer, we're pleased to bring you another uplifting issue of the District Advertisers, filled with local inspiration, trusted services, and community spirit.

This month, our Spring Gardening feature is in full swing—whether you're planting colourful borders, growing your own vegetables, or simply refreshing your outdoor space, now is the perfect time to enjoy the rewards of the season. Pair that with our ever-popular Monthly Horoscopes, offering a light and engaging look at what lies ahead.

We continue to celebrate the character of our area through our Village Focus, shining a spotlight on the people, places, and stories that make our communities across Southam, Kineton, Wellesbourne, and surrounding villages so unique. Supporting local remains at the heart of what we do, and our pages are filled with trusted local tradespeople ready to help with everything from home improvements to everyday services.

With the days getting longer, it's the ideal time to explore the outdoors. Our feature on Warwickshire Green Spaces highlights some of the best local spots for walking, picnics, and family days out—perfect for making the most of the fresh air and countryside right on your doorstep. You'll also find a variety of community events taking place across the region, bringing people together and supporting local causes.

Your wellbeing remains important to us, and our Health & Wellbeing section provides practical advice to help you stay active, positive, and healthy as we head into the summer months.

We are also currently looking to expand our delivery network and would love to hear from anyone interested in joining our team. If you have 1–2 hours free one weekend a month, we are recruiting delivery people in Southam, Kineton, Wellesbourne, and surrounding villages. It's a great opportunity to earn a little extra, keep active, and play a part in your local community—open to those aged 13 and over.

Finally, we draw your attention to the growing support for GB & NI Day, proposed for 12th July—a day to celebrate unity, shared heritage, and community across Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It's an opportunity to recognise what brings us together, and we encourage readers to find out more and lend their support to this developing national initiative.

As always, thank you for continuing to support your local businesses and community through the District Advertisers. Your support helps keep our towns and villages connected and thriving.

Wishing you a wonderful month ahead.

Warm regards, The District Advertisers Team

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Deadlines for our Next

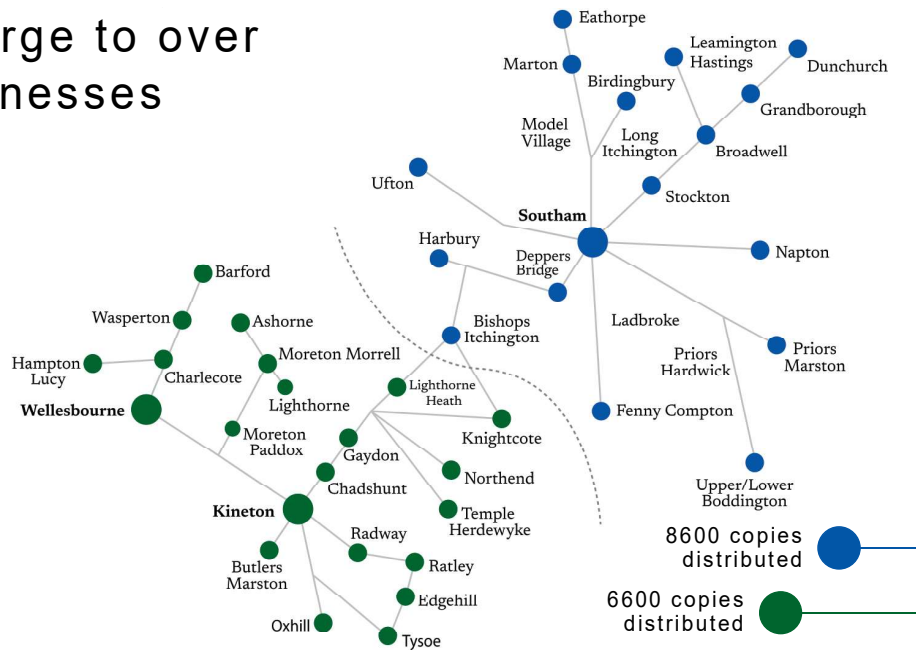
Southam
18th of the previous month

Kineton & Wellesbourne
18th of the previous month

Owner: Peter Crosby

Illustrations: Freepik.com

Cover Photo: Chesterton Windmill



Adverts can be created from basic information provided all within the cost of your advertising. Leaflets and flyers can be distributed with the Advertisers to specific areas.

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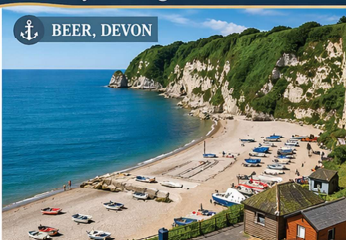
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CARDALL'S CORNER

Transported for their Crimes (part2)

By Dr Roland Raffell

May 2026

Between 1787 and 1868 it is estimated that 160,000 convicts were transported to Australia, their average age being twenty-six. Most were charged with theft, often of small items. A typical example was the case of James Clifford, aged twenty-three, a labourer who stole a lump of cheese worth 4s 2d. At the trial in December 1852, the plaintiff's deposition reflected the strange nature of the case:

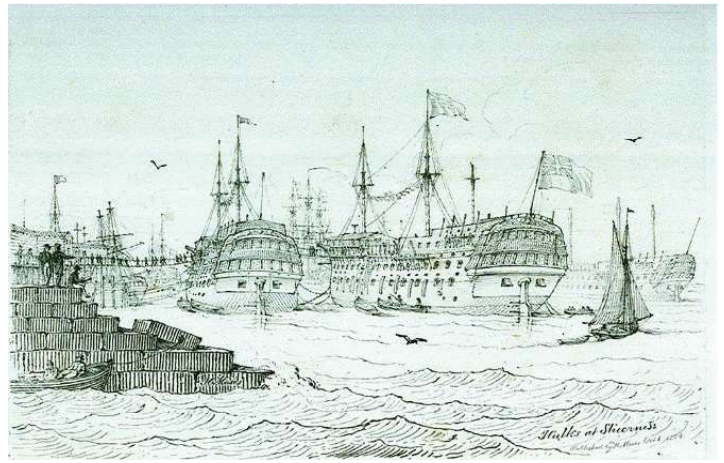
'...about three o'clock...I was in my shop and received information that a boy had stolen a cheese...I ran out and at the corner of the Black Dog stable gate I came up with the prisoner...Clifford who was eating cheese. I said, "What are you doing with my cheese?" He said he took it because he was hungry...I took him to the lock-up...Inspector Smallbones charged him with theft...the prisoner repeating, "I was hungry."

James Clifford was sentenced to seven years transportation.

In the previous year Thomas Adams, (47), and his two daughters, Elizabeth (18) and Ann (15) were committed to trial charged with receiving, whereby they:

'...in Southam feloniously received from Thomas Stanton and James Parrot a £10 Bank of England note, the property of Thomas Sutton, well knowing it to have been feloniously stolen...Elizabeth and Ann acquitted...Thomas Adams sentenced to ten years transportation...'

It was not many years after this, following criticism and attempts at reform, that transportation was replaced by the sentence of 'penal servitude' after Parliamentary Acts of 1853 and 1857.



Although the law changed earlier, transportation finally ended in 1868, for many reasons: the conditions of the prisoners were viewed as inhumane; ratepayers objected to the fact that they had to support the families of the convicts; and the Australian authorities objected to the frequency with which convicts were entering their country.

In one of the final cases from Southam, John Bishop (24), a labourer, was indicted in June 1850 for stealing two 'alpaca' coats belonging to two drapers. A butcher from Dunchurch, John Barford, witnessed one of the crimes:

'...I was sitting in the door of Mrs Bloxham's house...I saw the prisoner take a coat which was hanging outside the front of Mr Graves' shop...the prisoner put the coat on under the one he was wearing...'

Bishop admitted his guilt while being searched by Inspector Smallbones. Unbuttoning his trousers, he revealed:

'...Here you may as well take the other, for I know you will find it...'

He was sentenced to seven years transportation.



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The final case occurred on January 25, 1853, when two men, John Gallochan (24) and Thomas White (26), were indicted for the theft of forty pounds of lead and a copper vessel from the locked yard of Fredrick Welchman. The case rested on the evidence of William Presidge, a dealer in old metal, who testified:

'...the prisoners ...produced some lead and copper out of a bag asking what I would give for them...I told him 6d for the lead and 3 1/2d for the copper vessel...'

Despite the suspects' denials, the metals were identified as the stolen items and the prisoners, having no credible defence, were transported for seven years.

So ended the story of transportation of criminals from Southam.

(Hulks at Sheerness by Henry Moses: Royal Museum Greenwich: Picryl image, public domain).

Southam Heritage Collection is located in the atrium of Tithe Place opposite the Library entrance. Opening times Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. To find out more about Southam's history, visit our website www.southamheritage.org telephone 07710 012052 or email: - southamheritage@hotmail.com You can also follow us on Facebook.

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MONTHLY HOROSCOPE

May 2026 brings steady growth and fresh momentum. Taurus season encourages stability, focus, and building strong foundations, while Gemini energy later in the month sparks communication, curiosity, and new ideas. It's a time to ground your plans, then let them flourish with confidence.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

This is your moment, Taurus! The Sun in your sign strengthens your confidence and helps you take control of personal and financial matters. Mid month brings a rewarding opportunity—trust your instincts and act with certainty. Stability you've worked for begins to show real results.

Love: Loyalty deepens into lasting commitment.

Career: Financial growth and recognition arrive.

Lucky Days/Nos: 3, 9, 18

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

As the Sun moves into your sign, your energy lifts and ideas flow freely. May ends with excitement, social connections, and fresh opportunities. Early reflection gives way to action—be ready to move quickly when doors open.

Love: Flirtation turns into something meaningful.

Career: Communication brings success.

Lucky Days/Nos: 21, 27, 31

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

May encourages emotional clarity and stronger boundaries. A decision around home or family creates a sense of security. Trust your instincts—they won't lead you wrong.

Love: Honest conversations strengthen bonds.

Career: Quiet progress builds momentum.

Lucky Days/Nos: 5, 14, 22

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

Your social circle expands this month, Leo. Opportunities come through others, so stay open and engaged. A long-term goal begins to feel within reach.

Love: Friendship turns romantic.

Career: Networking delivers results.

Lucky Days/Nos: 7, 16, 28

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

Career focus sharpens. You're recognised for your reliability and attention to detail. Mid-month brings clarity on a decision you've been overthinking.

Love: Stability and reassurance take centre stage.

Career: Recognition or advancement is likely.

Lucky Days/Nos: 4, 12, 25

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Expansion is key this month. Whether through travel, learning, or a new perspective, May broadens your horizons. Embrace change—it leads to growth.

Love: A fresh connection excites you.

Career: New opportunities emerge.

Lucky Days/Nos: 6, 15, 29

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Transformation continues, Scorpio. Financial or emotional changes push you forward. Let go of control and trust the process—it's working in your favour.

Love: Deep connections intensify.

Career: Strategic moves bring rewards.

Lucky Days/Nos: 8, 17, 30

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Partnerships are highlighted. Working closely with others brings success, but compromise is key. A shared goal moves forward mid-month.

Love: Commitment strengthens relationships.

Career: Collaboration pays off.

Lucky Days/Nos: 2, 11, 23

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Routine and discipline lead to progress. May is about refining your systems and focusing on long-term gains. Small steps now lead to big rewards later.

Love: Consistency builds trust.

Career: Organisation boosts efficiency.

Lucky Days/Nos: 1, 13, 26

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Creativity and joy return. May encourages you to express yourself freely and embrace what makes you happy. A spontaneous opportunity brings excitement.

Love: Playfulness rekindles romance.

Career: Creative ideas gain attention.

Lucky Days/Nos: 9, 18, 27

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Home and emotional wellbeing take focus. May brings comfort, healing, and a sense of belonging. A decision around your living space brings peace.

Love: Emotional security strengthens bonds.

Career: A steady approach pays off.

Lucky Days/Nos: 3, 14, 21

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Momentum continues from last month. Communication is key—what you say now shapes future opportunities. Stay clear, confident, and direct.

Love: Honest expression brings clarity.

Career: A bold idea gains traction.

Lucky Days/Nos: 10, 19, 28



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May Recipe:

Spring Chicken, Asparagus & New Potato Tray Bake

A fresh, seasonal recipe perfect for May, making the most of British asparagus and new potatoes.

Simple, wholesome, and full of flavour—ideal for a midweek meal or relaxed weekend dining.

Ingredients (Serves 4)

- 6–8 chicken thighs (bone-in, skin-on for best flavour)
- 500g new potatoes, halved
- 1 bunch fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 1 lemon (zest and juice)
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp dried thyme (or fresh if available)
- 1 tsp rosemary
- Salt and black pepper
- **Optional:** handful of cherry tomatoes

Top Tip

Swap chicken for salmon fillets in the final 15 minutes for a lighter, seafood twist—perfect for spring dining

Method

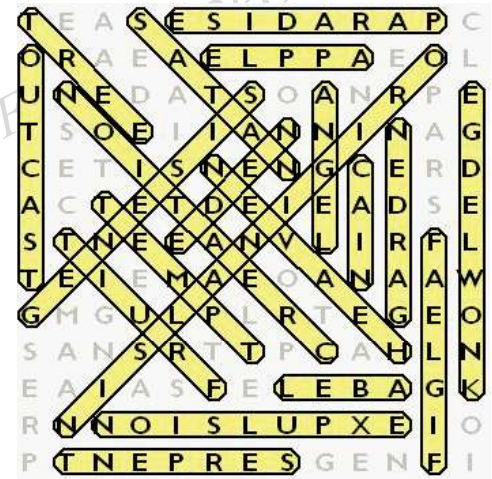
1. Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan).
2. Parboil potatoes for 8–10 minutes until just tender, then drain.
3. In a large roasting tray, combine potatoes, garlic, herbs, lemon zest, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Toss well.
4. Place the chicken thighs on top, skin-side up, and drizzle with a little extra oil.
5. Roast for 25 minutes, then add the asparagus (and tomatoes if using). Return to the oven for another 15–20 minutes, until chicken is golden and cooked through. Finish with a squeeze of fresh lemon juice before serving.

Serving Suggestion

Serve straight from the tray with crusty bread or a light side salad. Perfect for enjoying in the garden on a warm May evening.

May Solutions

8	2	1	5	4	9	3	6	7
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5	7	8	9	1	4	2	3	6
2	3	4	6	5	7	1	8	9
1	9	6	8	3	2	7	4	5



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Down The Garden



Pete's Piece by Farnborough Garden Centre

MAY

The garden is approaching its most exciting period and this time is thought of by many gardeners as one of the best and certainly busiest times in the garden. Planting can begin in earnest but don't rush in with frost tender bedding schemes too early. Also keep an eye on watering during cold dry spells.

Monthly Reminders

Roses - continue regular spraying to control black spot and other diseases. Greenfly will become a problem this month so try one of the combined pesticides to control both insects and diseases.

Alpine and Rockery Plants - these will be showing excellent colour this month and an increased range is on sale at Farnborough.

Herbaceous Perennials - this is an excellent time to plant or add to your herbaceous border. Container grown plants can now be found, on display, including ranges of Herbaceous Geraniums, Hostas and Iris. We also stock a wide range of decorative grasses, bamboos and ferns.

Trees and Shrubs - this month is very colourful where trees and shrubs are concerned and here at Farnborough we stock a massive selection including

some semi-mature specimens.

Fruit Trees - why not consider fruit trees, our range includes dwarf and patio varieties for smaller gardens.

Don't forget that plums and cherries can be pruned later this month and next. This is done in spring and summer because these trees are vulnerable to silver leaf disease that enters through wounds. Cuts heal quicker at this time of year helping to prevent infection.

Vegetables - Most vegetable seed can be sown out of doors this month. Sow in short rows at intervals to ensure spaced cropping. Young vegetable plants are now on sale at the centre and can be planted out. Our range includes cabbage, calabrese, cauliflower, sprouts, lettuce, several onions, celery and many more.

Greenhouse Crops - vegetables can now be planted out, even in unheated greenhouses, providing fleece is used during very cold spells. A full range of Tomatoes, cucumbers, sprouts, peppers, melons, Aubergines and many others are now on sale at Farnborough.

Baskets and Containers - now is the time to plant or replant those baskets and containers. Start selecting your Geraniums, Fuchsias, trailing Petunias, Marguerite, Pansies, Begonias along with trailing and bedding plants from Farnborough where plants are now on sale in a vast range of varieties. Don't forget to protect baskets and containers overnight if frost is expected.

If you are looking for new pots or containers come and visit our newly expanded pottery display area where we have literally thousands of pots for sale.

Ponds - we have recently extended our aquatic plant area and hope you will find this an improvement when selecting new or replacement plants for your pond. We also stock a range of pond plant containers, aquatic soil, barley straw and pond plant fertiliser.

Looking good this month at Farnborough Garden Centre

Flowering Cherries - Our selection of these trees look beautiful in bloom.

Japanese Acers - a wide range of these attractive shrubs of small trees now available and just coming into leaf.

Fuchsias - a new range of these attractive shrubs and small trees now available and just coming into leaf including miniature flowering varieties Encliandra and Triphylla types will be arriving this month.

Clematis - a new range now in stock including some unusual varieties.

Viburnum - Our range of larger specimens is looking good with some attractively scented types.

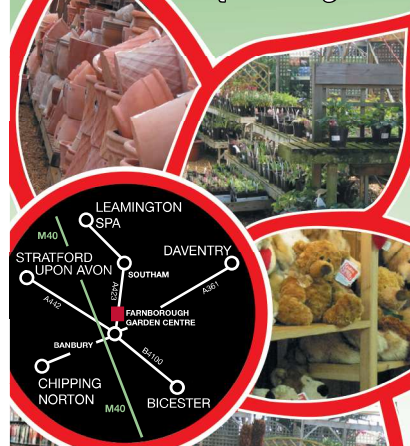
Stoneware items - we have increased our range of stoneware items including a new selection of reconstructed Cotswold stone tubs, ornaments and birdbaths.

May is one of the most important planting month's in the garden so why not pay a visit to Farnborough Garden Centre on the A423 Southam Road, Nr Farnborough, Banbury.

Pete's Top Tips - Prepare for Spring

Spring arrives this month as early flowers, tree blossoms & flowering shrubs burst into life.

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1. Tubs & Planter

If you already planted them, now is the time to clear last years plants & prepare for early Spring displays. Early flowering bedding is now available to add colour to your garden.

2. Summer flower bulbs & tubers

These are still available & most can now be safely planted outdoors. Dahlias are an especially colourful plant for pots or borders.

3. Greenhouses

Changeable weather can cause problems in heated greenhouse so keep an eye on this and don't forget ventilation. Now is the time to start planting tomatoes, peppers & cucumbers etc for fresh salad crops later.

4. Garden Ponds

If the weather is kind then this month is a good time to clean and restock ponds. New plants will be appearing at Farnborough

Garden Centre now.

5. Trimming

Don't be afraid to cut back plants that are becoming too large or trailing too far in baskets etc. Regular trimming coupled with feeding will make big improvements in many cases.



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LET'S Celebrate the British History by Honouring Englands

GB & NI Day / England Day: Why 12th July Should Be a National Public Holiday

Every nation tells its story through a defining day.

The United States has Independence Day. France has Bastille Day. Across the world, countries mark the moment that shaped their national identity. Yet across **Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, there is no single public holiday that reflects a shared historical foundation — and England itself has no official national day marking its creation as a united kingdom.

That gap can be filled with one powerful and historically grounded date: 12th July.

On **12th July 927**, King Æthelstan was recognised as ruler of all England, following agreements made at Eamont Bridge. Historians widely regard this as the moment England first emerged as a single, unified kingdom under one crown. It is, in effect, the closest thing England has to a national “birth date.”

And in **2027**, that moment reaches an extraordinary milestone — the **1,100th anniversary** of the creation of England.

This presents a unique opportunity: to establish an annual public holiday on 12th July, recognised either as **England Day**, or more broadly as **GB & NI Day**, celebrating both the birth of England and the shared history and unity of the nations that now make up the United Kingdom.

A Day of History, Not Division

This proposal is not about separating identities — it is about recognising them.

England's formation in 927 laid the foundations for the political and cultural development of the British Isles. Over time, that history evolved into the United Kingdom we know today, encompassing England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. A national day on 12th July could therefore be inclusive, reflecting both England's historic origins and the wider shared identity of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

It would be a day of celebration, not politics. A day of history, not division.

Why 12th July Matters

Unlike symbolic or religious dates, 12th July is rooted in a specific historic event — the unification of England under a single ruler. That makes it uniquely suited as a civic national day.

While St George's Day remains an important cultural and traditional celebration, it does not mark the creation of England as a nation. 12th July does.

Recognising this date would give the country something it has long lacked: a clear, meaningful national day grounded in history.

A Strong Local Connection — Warwickshire and Mercia

For counties like **Warwickshire**, this story is not distant - it is local.



Before England was unified, much of central England, including Warwickshire, formed part of the powerful Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia. Mercia was one of the dominant forces in early English history, shaping politics, trade and culture across the Midlands.

Warwick itself grew as an important settlement during the Anglo-Saxon period, positioned strategically within Mercia. When England was eventually unified in 927, it was not simply one kingdom expanding — it was the coming together of regions like Mercia into a single national identity.

That means Warwickshire sits at the very heart of England's origin story.

Celebrating **12th July** would therefore resonate strongly at a local level, giving communities across Warwickshire — from Southam and Kington to Wellesbourne and beyond — a direct link to the foundations of the nation.

What England Day / GB & NI Day Could Look Like

A national public holiday on 12th July could bring communities together in meaningful and positive ways:

- Local festivals, fairs and community events
- School projects exploring national and local history
- Heritage open days and historical reenactments
- Civic ceremonies and cultural celebrations

Tourism opportunities across towns, villages and historic sites

Whether recognised as **England Day or GB & NI Day**, the focus would be on shared history, identity and pride.

Why Now?

The **1,100th anniversary in 2027** is a once-in-a-lifetime moment. It offers a natural focal point for establishing a lasting tradition — one that future generations can recognise and celebrate each year.

If action is not taken now, this milestone risks passing without national recognition.

A Practical Path Forward

This is not just an idea - it is something people can act on.

A **UK Parliament petition** can call on the Government to recognise **12th July as England Day or GB & NI Day** and establish it as a public holiday. If enough people support it, the issue can be debated in Parliament and potentially taken forward through legislation.

Change begins with public support.

A Day Worth Celebrating

England deserves a day that marks its birth.

Great Britain and Northern Ireland deserve a day that reflects shared history and unity.

12th July offers both.

- A day grounded in history.
- A day that connects local communities to a national story.
- A day that promotes pride without division.
- A day that brings people together across regions and generations.
- 12th July 927 - the birth of England.
- 12th July 2027 - the moment to recognise it.

The time has come to create a national day worthy of the story it tells.

Looking beyond the UK, there is also an opportunity for wider recognition. Many of the communities that make up modern Britain have roots in the Commonwealth of Nations, reflecting a shared history and enduring connections across continents. As a nation enriched by this diversity, an England Day or GB & NI Day could also be embraced more broadly as a moment of



cultural celebration across Commonwealth countries. It would offer a positive, inclusive way to recognise shared heritage, mutual respect and the contributions of Commonwealth communities to modern Britain.

It would also be a chance to reflect on England's historic role in the development of democratic principles that have influenced governance around the world. From early foundations such as Magna Carta through to the evolution of parliamentary democracy at Parliament of the United Kingdom, these ideas have helped shape legal systems and democratic institutions across many nations, particularly within the Commonwealth. Recognising 12th July would therefore not only mark the birth of England, but also celebrate the wider legacy of governance, law and democracy that continues to influence societies across the globe.

Support the Campaign

As this issue goes to press, a formal UK Parliament petition is being set up to recognise 12th July as England Day — or alternatively GB & NI Day — and establish it as a national public holiday marking the birth of England in 927.

We need your support.

Once the petition is live, we are asking readers to:

- Sign the petition
- Share it with friends, family and colleagues

Help us reach 100,000 signatures so it can be considered for debate in Parliament

This is a rare opportunity to mark the **1,100th anniversary in 2027** with a lasting national legacy. With enough public backing, we can ensure this historic milestone is properly recognised for generations to come.

Keep an eye on our website and social media for the petition link — and be part of making history.

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In the mean time if there is anybody out there who is interested in taking up bowls, or indeed any experienced player then please feel free to contact Ted on 612507, or Heather on 812135 for more information. Alternatively details of the club can be found on our website www.southamunitedbowlingclub.org. The club have a number of friendlies with local clubs and also play in several leagues, both men and women. We normally also hold a series of social events throughout the year.



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Why Some Phone Cables Won't Charge Properly or Transfer Data

At first glance, most phone cables look the same. If the connector fits, many people assume it should charge a phone, connect to a computer and transfer files without any problem. Unfortunately, that is not always true. Your Phone may not be Faulty!

Some cables are built only for basic charging, some are designed for fast charging, and some are fully wired for both charging and data transfer. That is why one cable may work perfectly while another seems almost useless.

Why some cables do not work properly

1. Charge-only cables

Some cheap cables are made only to carry electrical power. They do not include the internal wires needed for data transfer. This means the phone may charge, but when plugged into a laptop or PC it will not appear as a device.

2. Very low-quality cables

Poorly made cables may have thin internal wires, weak shielding or low-grade connectors. These can cause:

- >slow charging
- >intermittent charging
- >no connection at all
- >unreliable data transfer
- >overheating

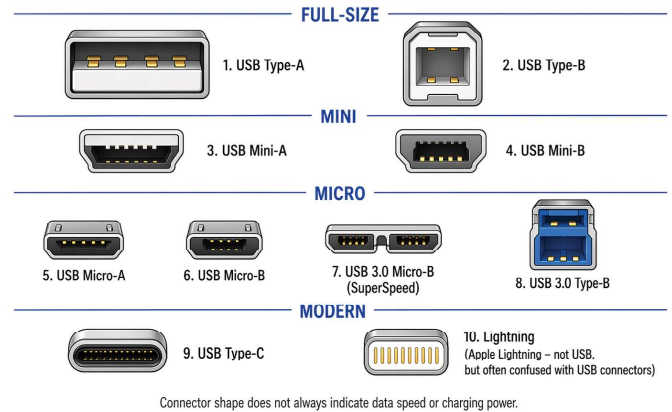
A cable may look fine on the outside but still be badly made inside

3. Wrong power rating

Modern phones often need more power than older cables were designed to handle. If the cable cannot carry enough current, charging may be very slow or may stop altogether.

USB CONNECTOR GUIDE

Common USB connector types and what they look like



4. Damaged cables

Bent connectors, frayed wire, loose plugs or internal breaks can stop both charging and data transfer. Often the cable only works if held at a certain angle, which is a clear sign it needs replacing.

5. USB standards differ

Not all USB cables support the same speed or power. A cable might fit physically but still not support:

- >fast charging
- >high-watt charging
- >file transfer
- >video output

This is especially common with USB-C cables, because the connector shape is the same but the specification can vary a lot.



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Why some cables charge but do not transfer data

A proper data cable needs dedicated data lines inside it. If those wires are missing, the phone will only receive power. This is why some cables are sold as charging cables and others as sync and charge cables.

If you want to connect your phone to a computer for photos, backups or file transfer, make sure the cable specifically says it supports data transfer or sync.

Why some cables transfer data but still charge badly

Even if a cable supports data, it may not be rated for higher charging speeds. A cable can be good enough for file transfer but still too weak for modern fast charging. That is why a cable may connect to a PC perfectly but charge very slowly from a power adapter.

What specification to look for

When buying a new phone cable, look for these details on the packaging or product description:

For charging Look for:

- >Fast charging supported
- >USB-C PD or Power Delivery
- >QC or Quick Charge if your device uses it
- >Wattage rating, such as 18W, 30W, 60W or 100W

Higher-powered phones and tablets usually need a cable with a suitable wattage rating. For many modern USB-C devices, a 60W or 100W cable is a safer choice.

For data transfer Look for:

- >Data cable
- >Sync and charge
- >USB 2.0, USB 3.0, USB 3.1 or USB 3.2
- >A USB 2.0 cable can transfer data, but more slowly.
- >A USB 3.x cable offers much faster transfer speeds, useful for large photo and video files.

For iPhones Look for:

Made for iPhone or MFi certified for Lightning cables
For newer USB-C iPhones, check for proper charging wattage and data support

For USB-C cables

This is where it matters most. Look for:

- >Power Delivery (PD) support
- >Data transfer speed
- >Wattage supported
- >Video support, if needed for external displays

Not every USB-C cable does everything.

A simple buying guide

If you only want basic charging:

Choose a reliable branded cable rated for your device.

If you want fast charging:

Choose a cable with a clear wattage rating and PD or fast-charge support.

If you want charging and file transfer:

Choose a cable that clearly states charge and sync or data transfer.

If you want the best all-round option:

Choose a good-quality branded cable with:

- USB-C PD support
- 60W or higher rating
- data transfer support
- USB 3.x if you want faster file copying

Warning signs to avoid

Do not buy cables that:

- give no specification at all
- only say "USB cable" with no details
- are extremely cheap with no brand
- do not state wattage or data support
- feel unusually thin or flimsy

Final thought

A phone cable is no longer just a piece of wire. Some are built for charging only, some for slow charging, and some for fast charging and data transfer. Two cables may look identical but perform very differently.

The safest approach is to buy a cable that clearly states both its power rating and its data capability. If the packaging does not tell you what it supports, that is usually a warning sign in itself.

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A welcoming team especially for girls aged 10-14. Fun, inclusive sessions focused on team spirit and touch rugby skills.

Contact: harburyfc.enquiries@gmail.com

Harbury Tennis Club

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Contact: **Colin on 07850 542799**

Harbury Rugby Club

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Contact: **07706 155358**

Harbury WI

Monthly meetings with talks and activities. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30 for 7.45pm in the Tom Hauley Room.

Contact **Lin Hayes - Tel: 01926 613448.**

J12 Model Radio Racing Club

Meet at Knightcote every Sunday. A great way to enjoy competitive radio-controlled racing in a friendly environment.

Contact: **John Hazelworth on 07786 325000**

Knightcote Model Boat Club

¼ acre water site at New House Farm, Knightcote. New members are always welcome to join and sail.

Contact: **01926 612827**

Ladbroke Photography Club

Meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 7.30pm in the village hall. Open to photographers of all levels for sharing, learning and discussion.

Contact: ladbroke.photoclub@btinternet.com

Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge WI

We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Ladbroke Village Hall. A warm welcome to all ladies.

Contact: **07770 786981 / 07890 965504**

Leamington & Warwick Model Railway Society

Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, New House Farm, Knightcote. Enthusiasts of all gauges welcome.

Contact: **Pete Hutchinson on 07817 398903**

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club

Indoor Short Mat Bowls every Wednesday 2-4pm (Sept-April). Outdoor Lawn Bowls Wednesdays 6pm-dusk (April-Sept). Friendly, inclusive club with free taster sessions.

Contact: **Leamington Hastings Parish Hall**

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Contact: info@lhparishhall.co.uk

Line Dancing - Bishops Itchington

Wednesdays, 10.30-11.45am at The Memorial Hall. Fun and relaxed sessions for all abilities.

Contact: **Join in on the day - all welcome**

Long Itchington Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays 9.30-11am (term time). Crafts, snacks and fun. £3 per adult & child, 50p per extra child. Held at Long Itchington Community Centre.

Contact: **Courtney Adam on 07487 858430**

Long Itchington History Group

Meet every 2nd Wednesday monthly, Sept-May, at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Talks, discussions and local history events.

Contact: www.longitchingtonhistory.org.uk

Long Itchington Netball Club

Thursdays 7.30-9pm at Bishops Itchington court. Play for fitness, fun or league matches. Friendly team atmosphere.

email: longitchingtonnetballclub@gmail.com

Long Itchington Tennis Club

Social tennis Saturdays at 10am. Welcoming club for all standards with low-cost annual membership.

Contact: **Christine Williams - 07766141793**

Long Itchington Wednesday Club

Meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Community Centre. Friendly gathering with varied activities.

Contact: **Marion Constable- 01926 289064**

Long Itchington WI

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

Contact: secretary.liwi@gmail

Marton Local History Group

Last Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the War Memorial Village Hall. Presentations by members and guest speakers.

Contact: www.martonvillage.com for details

Southam Carnival Committee

Volunteers of all ages welcome to help plan and run this popular annual event. Monthly meetings at the Sports & Social Club.

Contact: **Terry Grey on 01926 817744**

Napton Environmental Action Team

Join NEAT to take action on local climate issues and nature restoration in your home, community and workplace.

Contact: **Jonathan on 07910 124324**

Napton Art Group

Meet Thursdays 2-4pm at Napton Village Hall. Demonstrations and paint-as-you-please sessions. All abilities welcome.

Contact: **Jane on 01926 812966**

Napton Tennis Club

Social tennis Saturdays at 2pm, Sundays at 10am. Welcoming members of all abilities. Friendly village club.

Contact: **Linda on 07870 301793**

NCT Southam Bumps & Babies

Fridays 10-11.30am, Graham Adams Centre. Peer support group for parents and babies. Free infant feeding support also available.

Contact: coordinator.southam@nct.org.uk

RNLI Leamington Spa & District

Seeking volunteers to assist with events and fundraising. Help raise vital life-saving funds.

Contact: **Chris Daly on 07932 640582**

Rotary Club of Southam 2000

Supports local and international causes. Meets twice monthly at Fox & Hen, Bascote Heath and via Zoom on alternating weeks.

Contact: president@rotary2000.org.uk

Royal British Legion - Galanos Branch (BR4049)

Become part of a supportive network with regular activities and shared interests. Open to all supporters of the Armed Forces.

Contact: **07850 431127**

Single Boots Walking Club

Friendly Midlands-based walking club for single people. Day walks, evening strolls, weekends away and socials throughout the year.

Contact: www.singleboots.co.uk

Southam & District Friendly Bridge Club

Meet at the residents lounge at Tythe Lodge Mondays at 6.30pm and Wednesdays at 1.30pm (Chicago format). All levels welcome.

Contact: **Hilary on 01926 612789.**

Southam Lions Club

Community group raising funds for local causes. Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 8pm at the Social Club. Furniture sale 2nd Saturday monthly, Co-op car park.

Contact: **Ian de-Lancey on 07733 100481**



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Southam Baking Circle

Monthly meet-up for baking enthusiasts. 2nd Thursday, 7-9pm, Southam Congregational Church. New members welcome.

Contact: 07764 447604

Southam Book Festival

Annual celebration of literature, authors and readers. Planning for 2025 now underway. Get involved or stay informed.

Contact: southambookfest@gmail.com

Southam Business Community CIC

Supports local businesses with free networking and events. Monthly meetups and community engagement.

Contact: Larissa on 07802 228125.

Southam Christmas Lights Assoc

Volunteer group bringing festive cheer to Southam. Help make the magic happen each year.

Contact: Terry on 01926 817744

Southam Cricket Club

Welcomes male and female players from age 8 upwards. Friendly and competitive cricket in a supportive environment.

Contact: Visit southam.play-cricket.com

Southam Darby and Joan Club

Meets on the 1st Friday of the month at 2pm, Southam Sports and Social Club. Social afternoons for older residents.

Contact: Ann on 01926 814294

Southam in Bloom

Meets 2nd Tuesday monthly, 7.30pm at Southam Sports & Social Club. Volunteers welcome to help keep Southam looking beautiful.

Contact: 01926 815086 / 01926 817822

Southam Ladies Running Group

Jog, walk, or run together 6.30pm Mondays and 6pm and 7pm Wednesdays. Meet outside Southam Library. All levels welcome.

Contact: Sharon on 07305 936117

Southam Produce Association – Allotments

Plots available at Welsh Road East. Grow your own and be part of a friendly gardening community.

Contact: 07711904984

Southam Produce Show

Annual event showcasing local talents in crafts, baking, horticulture and more. Volunteers welcome to help plan this popular show.

Contact: southamshow@outlook.com

Southam Ramblers

Walks on alternate Wednesdays. Meet 9.20am at Wood Street car park. Friendly walking group exploring local countryside.

Contact: Richard on 07969 960968

Southam Rugby Club

New players and members welcome. Seniors, juniors and minis teams with expert coaching. Training Tues/Thurs, juniors on Sundays.

Contact: Seniors – 07519 890268 / Juniors – 07712 877272

Southam Short Mat Bowls Club

Meet Thursdays, 1.45-4pm at Grange Hall. Friendly, non-league group. All welcome.

Contact: 01926 812149

Southam Twinning Association

Southam is twinned with Marolles-en-Hurepoix in France. Join us for cultural exchanges and international friendship.

Contact: Roger Lane on 01926 813075

Southam United Bowling Club

Based at Lark Road, Southam, CV47 2WF. Friendly and welcoming bowling club for players of all levels.

Contact: Ted Coupe on 01926 612507.

Southam United FC

Open to male and female players from age 5 upwards. Training and matches for all age groups in a supportive environment.

Contact: Amanda Wignall on 07929 589602

Southam Vision Support Centre

For those with any degree of sight loss. 1st Tuesday each month at Wattons Lodge, 2-3.30pm. Socials, support, and equipment demos.

Contact: 01926 411331

Southam Gardening Club

Meets monthly on 3rd Monday at 7.15 for 7.30 at Communal Hall, Tithe Lodge, Little Park, off Park Lane, Southam. All are welcome. Non-members £4.50. Refreshments, from 7.15pm, included.

Contact: 01926 813986 or 815086

Southam Mothers' Union

Parish-based group meeting monthly to support families through prayer, projects and advocacy. Open to all, not just mothers.

Contact: Annie Lane on 01926 813075

Stockton Film Club

Monthly screenings on the last Saturday at Stockton Village Hall. Film at 7pm, optional supper at 6.30pm.

Contact: Steve on 01926 815376.

Stockton Petanque Club

Play petanque (boules) every Saturday afternoon at Stockton Football Club. All ages welcome. Boules and tuition provided.

Contact: John on 01926 814267

Stockton Whist Drive

Held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 7.30pm in Stockton Village Hall. All levels welcome.

Contact: Join on the night – no booking required

Southam WI

Welcoming ladies of all ages. Meet on the 1st Tuesday monthly, 7.30pm at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Wood Street.

Contact: Ann on 01926 814294

Swan Singers

Lively mixed choir singing all genres. Tuesdays at 7.30pm, Kineton. No auditions – just enthusiasm! Great social and health benefits.

Contact: 07791 769102

Chatty Café Table – FREE

Tuesdays, 10-11.30am at the Community Hub Café. Join volunteers at our 'chatty table' by the window for a warm drink and even warmer conversation.

Contact: Just come along – everyone welcome

Dementia Café – FREE

Fridays, 2.30-4pm at the Community Hub Hall. Dementia-friendly café with activities including music, games and reminiscence. Open to those with dementia and their carers.

Contact: No booking required – drop in

Nosh and Natter

1st Wednesday each month, 12-2pm, Community Hub Hall. Enjoy a 2-course homemade meal, quiz and great company. Transport available from Southam Library and St Wulstans Court.

Contact: Booking essential – call 01926 812185 Ext 5365

Table Tennis – Southam

Friendly, non-league table tennis for all abilities. Tuesdays at 7:15pm, Southam Primary School, Welsh Road.

Contact: 01926 814724

The Grange Players – Amateur Dramatics

Tuesdays at The Grange Hall. Ages 7-16 meet 6.30-8pm; Adults from 8-10pm. Local theatre group for all skill levels.

Contact: Lesley Foster on 01926 812183

The Melody Makers Ladies Choir

Rehearses every Thursday 11am at The Graham Adams Centre in Southam. New members are always welcome. No audition required. If you enjoy singing or would like to try us out

Contact: Julie 07713 919010

Tuesday Club – Congregational Church

Meets Tuesdays at 2.15pm in the lounge of the Congregational Church, Wood Street, Southam. Friendly group with varied programme.

Contact: 01926 812695

Tunes & Tales – Harbury Library Songs and stories for children aged 0-5 every Thursday at 9.15am. Biblio's Café open afterwards for parents and carers.

Contact: 01926 258776.

Warwickshire Vision Support – Southam VIP Club

3rd Wednesday each month at Wattons Lodge. Social support for those with sight loss. Tea, cake, and varied activities.

Contact: 01926 411331.

Windmill Singers – Southam

Love to sing? Join us Thursdays 2-3.45pm at Graham Adams Centre. No auditions – all welcome.

Contact: Yvonne on 01926 812481

Yoga – Harbury

Tuesdays 1.30-3.00pm (term time), Tom Hauley Room. Relaxed, welcoming yoga for all levels.

Contact: Dianne on 01926 817904

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Family Events

Southam Family Fun Day – 25 May, Southam Recreation Ground

A straightforward local choice for families and mixed-age groups, with free activities listed including a climbing wall, laser tag, circus skills, stalls and entertainment.

Warwick Food and Drink Festival – 24 May, St Nicholas Park, Warwick

A good day out for families, couples and groups, especially if you want something relaxed with food stalls and park space. Warwick District Council lists it as a free event.

Eurovision Festival – 16 May, Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa

Free outdoor event atmosphere, suited to friends and families wanting a lively day or evening out nearby.

Outdoor places

Chesterton Windmill

One of the most recognisable local landmarks and ideal for a short scenic outing, picnic stop or gentle walk with visitors. Warwickshire Heritage notes its long history and hilltop setting.

Burton Dassett Hills Country Park

Excellent for all ages if you want space, views, walking and a low-cost outdoor day. Warwickshire says parking charges apply, and the park is open during park opening hours.

Draycote Water

Useful for families and groups wanting a longer walk, cycle, café stop or waterside day out. Severn Trent says it is open every day except Christmas Day.

Museums and attractions

British Motor Museum, Gaydon

A very good option for mixed-age family groups, especially if weather is uncertain. The museum is open daily, 10am–5pm, and the Collections Centre is included. There are also special May events, including the UK Slot Car Festival on 9–10 May and a Forza Horizon 6 launch event on 23 May.

Compton Verney

Works well for adults, older children, families and groups who want a mix of art, parkland and café time. It is open Wednesday to Sunday, with Bank Holiday Mondays also open. Their May listings include events during the month as well.

Warwick Castle

A bigger full-day option for families or visiting groups. Warwick Castle says it opens from 10am, with closing times varying by date, so it is worth checking the exact day before going.

Stratford Butterfly Farm

A dependable all-weather outing for younger children, grandparents and family groups. It is open every day except Christmas Day, and they recommend booking ahead in busy periods such as May Bank Holidays and weekends.

Farm and activity days

Hatton Adventure World / Hatton Country World

Strong choice for younger families and larger groups because it combines indoor and outdoor activities. Hatton lists daily opening, generally from 10am, with family attractions across the site.

Villages and local browsing

Wellesbourne Market and village stop Good for a lighter outing if you want a local browse, lunch and a short drive rather than a full attraction day. Wellesbourne continues to run regular market activity in 2026.

Southam town and countryside loop

A simple local day could combine Southam itself with a stop at Chesterton Windmill or Burton Dassett Hills, then finish with lunch or a café. Southam's own listings confirm local events through late May and June.




Southam & District Lions Club's

Ken Graham
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Ben on 07746 791740
Carolyn on 07990 582435
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Come along and have some fun!

For groups and mixed ages

Charlecote Park

Good for family gatherings, multigenerational groups and visitors. National Trust notes that family visits do not need prebooking, while larger groups of 15+ should book ahead.

Quick shortlist

For a free local day, go with Chesterton Windmill, Burton Dassett Hills, or Southam Family Fun Day.

For a full family day, go with British Motor Museum, Hatton Adventure World, or Warwick Castle.

For a quieter mixed-age outing, go with Compton Verney, Charlecote Park, or Draycote Water.

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Health & Wellbeing

Health & Wellbeing: Spring Into May With Strength and Mobility

Now that May is here, the longer days, warmer weather, and fresh spring air give us the perfect opportunity to focus on our health and wellbeing. As we grow older, looking after our bodies becomes more important than ever. The ageing process is a natural part of life, but there is much we can do to stay active, independent, and positive.

Keeping mobile is one of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves in later life. Good mobility helps us remain confident, reduces the risk of falls, supports heart health, strengthens muscles and joints, and can also improve our mood. The good news is that it is never too late to make small changes that bring real benefits.

May is an ideal month to begin. Gardens are blooming, parks are inviting, and even a gentle daily walk can make a big difference. Movement does not have to mean strenuous exercise. It can be as simple as stretching in the morning, walking to the shops, tending to the garden, or joining a local class. The key is consistency and finding enjoyable ways to keep the body moving.

Ageing well is not only about physical health. It is also about maintaining a sense of purpose, staying connected with others, eating nourishing foods, and taking time to rest and recharge. Looking after your wellbeing means caring for both body and mind.

Top 10 Tips for Ageing Well and Keeping Mobile

1. Walk every day

A short daily walk helps keep joints flexible, muscles active, and the heart healthy. Even ten to twenty minutes each day is a good start.

2. Stretch regularly

Gentle stretching helps improve flexibility, reduces stiffness, and supports better balance. Morning stretches can help loosen the body for the day ahead.

3. Keep strength in your muscles

Simple exercises such as standing from a chair, light leg lifts, or using small hand weights can help maintain muscle tone and support mobility.

4. Look after your balance

Balance exercises are especially important as we age. Standing on one foot while holding a chair, or gentle heel-to-toe walking, can help reduce the risk of falls.



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5. Stay hydrated

Drinking enough water is vital for joints, muscles, digestion, and energy levels. Many older people do not realise they are becoming dehydrated.

6. Eat for strength and energy

A healthy diet with plenty of fruit, vegetables, protein, and calcium-rich foods can support bones, muscles, and overall wellbeing.

7. Wear supportive footwear

Well-fitting shoes with good grip can make a big difference to confidence, comfort, and stability when walking.

8. Keep socially active

Meeting friends, joining a club, or attending local community events can boost mental wellbeing and encourage gentle activity too.

9. Listen to your body

It is good to stay active, but it is also important not to overdo it. Rest when needed and seek advice if pain or discomfort persists.

10. Speak to a professional when needed

If mobility is becoming difficult, a physiotherapist, GP, or other health professional can offer guidance, exercises, and support tailored to your needs.

A Gentle Reminder for May

This month, try to make wellbeing part of your daily routine. Open the window for fresh air, step outside into the sunshine, move a little more, and take pride in every effort you make. Small steps really do add up. Ageing is a journey, but with the right habits, it can be a healthier, more active, and more fulfilling one.

May is a wonderful time to begin.

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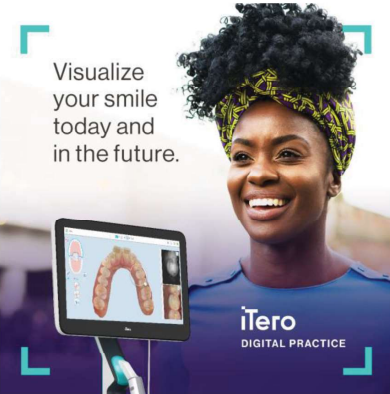
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Stories Set in Stone

by Jane Jones,
Churchwarden



The Secret Life of Stone in St James Churchyard by Jane Jones, Churchwarden

Last month, on a beautiful sunny spring day, three members of the British Lichen Society came along to study the lichens in our churchyard.

Just in case you don't know, apparently much of the white, green, black and yellow patches that you see on trees, old walls and church monuments are lichens - living combinations of algae and fungi. It's amazing what close scrutiny using a simple magnifying glass can reveal. To be honest, I thought quite a few of the blobs the lichen experts were enthusing over were bird droppings, but on closer inspection I could see that this was absolutely not the case!

Of the 2050+ British lichen species, over a third have been found in churchyards and more than 600 have been found growing on churchyard stone in lowland England. Many are scarce and some seldom, if ever, occur in other habitats. Around 60 lichen species were recorded in our churchyard ie 10% of all those found in Lowland England.

Lichens are a quiet but essential part of the ecosystem. They clean the air, build soil by breaking down rock and dead plants, and provide food and shelter for wildlife. According to the Natural History Museum, lichens are considered highly reliable bioindicators of air pollution. Because they lack roots and obtain nutrients directly from the atmosphere, they are exceptionally sensitive to air quality, particularly to sulphur dioxide and nitrogen pollution. So finding so many in our churchyard, and with such a variety of species, is testament to what a healthy and clean place our churchyard is to be.

The walls of the church are made of local stone, mainly Lias limestone and sandstone. Unfortunately, both of these are very soft and subject to damage from erosion by the wind and rain, but that is a story for another day... however, lichens love it. The church walls are richly embellished in yellow and black circular lichens having mesmerising (common) names like 'Rotten Orange' and 'Cigarette Ash'. The older sandstone monuments provide a home for the 'Little Brown Map' lichen. Some of the lichens on the lime trees have fruits like little jam tarts whilst the green 'Shrek's Ears' lichen looks just like its name and is easy to identify. Along the edges of the tarmac paths you can find the 'Chewing Gum' lichen, again easy to spot and easily confused with its namesake.

If you would like to read the full report on the Lichen survey, and get to grips with the official Latin names, please use the QR code or contact St James Church office and we will happily email you a copy or print one that you can collect. The report is full of colour photographs,

many taken with a phone magnifier to show the brightly coloured and interestingly shaped fruiting bodies produced at this time of year.

There's not much not to like about lichens. We may think of them as small and insignificant, but in churchyards they thrive undisturbed, cleaning the air and providing food and shelter for other living creatures.

Sunday May 3rd Morning Worship with Holy Communion - refreshments from 9:45am, service 10:15am

Thursday May 7th Midweek Holy Communion 10am

Thursday May 7th Footprints Stay & Play Group 1-3pm

Sunday May 10th Morning Worship - refreshments from 9:45am, service 10:15am. APCM 11:15am

Sunday May 17th Morning Worship with Holy Communion - refreshments from 9:45am, service 10:15am

Thursday May 21st Footprints Stay & Play Group 1-3pm

Sunday May 24th Morning Worship - refreshments from 9:45am, service 10:15am

Sunday May 31st Breakfast Church - refreshments from 9:45am, shorter style service 10:15am

Thursday June 4th Midweek Holy Communion 10am

Thursday June 4th Footprints Stay & Play Group 1-3pm

Sunday June 7th Morning Worship with Holy Communion - refreshments from 9:45am, service 10:15am

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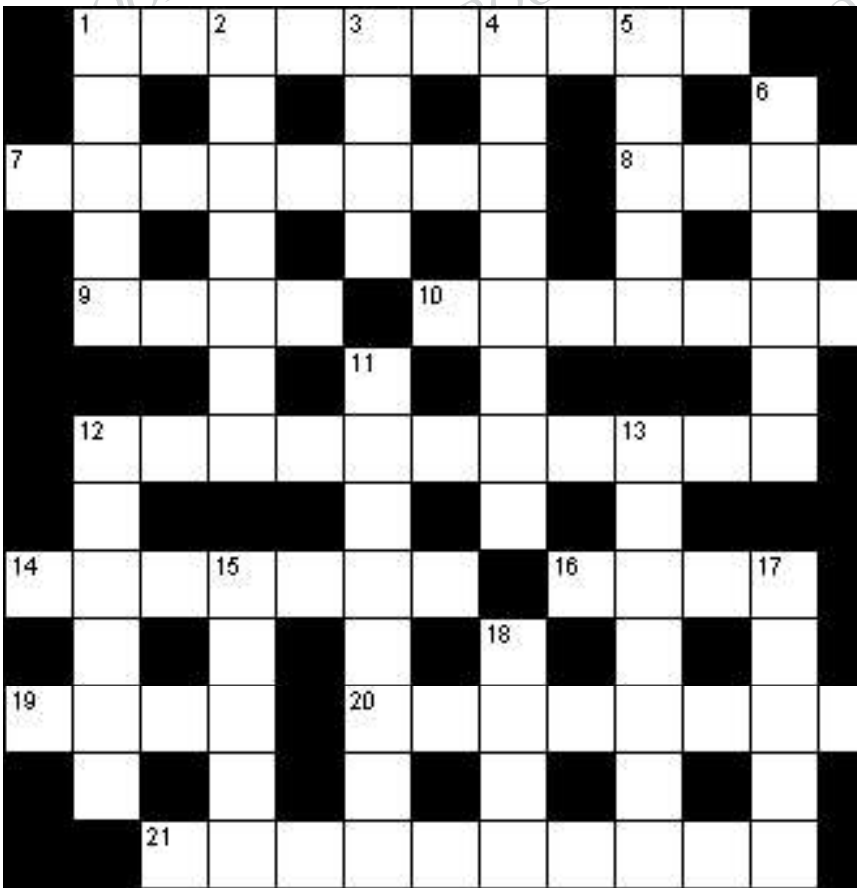
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Across

- 1 Meat-eaters (10)
- 7 Marine mammal (8)
- 8 Melody (4)
- 9 Be acquainted with (4)
- 10 Eight-sided figure (7)
- 12 English county (11)
- 14 Elongate (7)
- 16 Encounter (4)
- 19 Profound (4)
- 20 Friendly (8)
- 21 Great painters of the past (3,7)

Down

- 1 Speak huskily (5)
- 2 Rebuke (7)
- 3 Part of the eye (4)
- 4 Cloudy (8)
- 5 Additional (5)
- 6 Nap (6)
- 11 Announce (8)
- 12 One who attends to horses (6)
- 13 Repeat (7)
- 15 Eject (5)
- 17 Stories (5)
- 18 Cans (4)

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Closing Date:

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Winner Announcement:

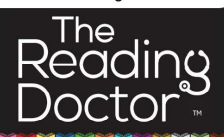
The winning entrant will be contacted directly before the next issue is published.

Good luck—and happy puzzling!

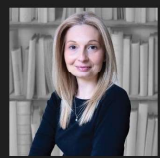
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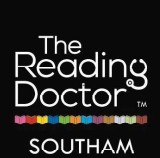


Hello, I am Laura - The Reading Doctor **Southam**.

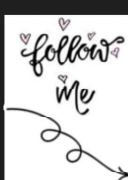


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Random Ramblings

Article By Peter Vale-Humphreys

Although penning this article well before May it is, nevertheless, a reminder of how time and the seasons speed by and we need to take those moments to ‘stand and stare’. In taking in the beauty of our local landscapes, we can find some solace for most our troubles and come to peace with the world as we admire nature’s beauty.

The Walton Mute swans have decided to nest in an original reed area, probably for a change of scene more than anything else. The cob, the male swan, rules the territory with quite a stern look and chases off intruders; even humans can find him waddling towards them in a threatening way. It is nature and he is doing his job as a long time father of many cygnets hereabouts.

The buds on the trees and hedgerows took time to sprout out and give us of their fine greenery or early buds. It is amazing how nature can renew itself to give us the splendour of the colours that bedeck the trees and hedgerows and of course to provide the birds with cover for their nests.

The weather is typically playing us a bit, as we have had all the seasons in a short space of time. Let us hope we get a nice Spring and even better Summer. The birds seemed to nest a couple of weeks earlier this year, probably due to



the confused weather we have experienced. This is why the foliage cover is so important to the birds. The rooks were seen nest building well before February this year.

The daffodils were particularly brilliant this year, strikingly yellow flowers all parading themselves with their adjacent flower. They do not last long, so we have to make the most of them when they do show.

Robins do seem particularly friendly this year, giving such vibrant song and inquisitive enough to parade in front of us and bending their heads in various angles as we walk along the pathways. It is these moments that we can really appreciate nature and obtain its rich reward to make us happier. That is of course, if we have had the time to stand and stare.









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The tit feeders have been providing much needed sustenance to the birds. There does seem to be a pecking order, not only in the same species, but between them, too. The different colours are a wonder to behold. Nature is truly wonderful. Enjoy the outdoors, weather permitting; until next time, take care.

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May: Making the Most of Spring with Your Pets

May is a wonderful month for pet owners. The days are longer, the weather is milder, and gardens, parks and countryside walks are all bursting into life. For our pets, it is a time of fresh air, new sights, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Whether you have a lively dog, a curious cat, rabbits in the garden, or even smaller furry companions indoors, May is the perfect time to focus on their health, happiness and wellbeing.

For dogs, May often means more walks, longer outings and extra exercise. After the colder winter months, many owners find both they and their pets are eager to spend more time outside. It is a good time to check that your dog is fit enough for increased activity, particularly if they are older or carrying a little extra weight. Gradually building up longer walks is often better than suddenly doing too much. Fresh spring grass, woodland trails and open spaces can be exciting, but it is wise to stay aware of hazards such as discarded food, litter, or even livestock when out in the countryside.

Cats also enjoy the change in season. Many become more active in spring, spending extra time exploring gardens and nearby areas. If your cat roams outdoors, May is a good reminder to ensure their flea and worm treatments are up to date. Warmer weather brings an increase in parasites, and prevention is always easier than treatment. It is also worth checking that your cat's microchip details are correct, particularly if you have moved house or changed your phone number.

May is an especially important month to think about garden safety. Many pets love to sit or play outside while their owners enjoy gardening, but not all plants and garden products are pet-friendly. Slug pellets, weedkillers and certain flowers can be harmful if eaten. Even cocoa shell mulch, sometimes used on flower beds, can be dangerous to dogs. Creating a safe garden space for pets can make a real difference, allowing them to enjoy the outdoors without unnecessary risk.

Hydration is another point to remember as temperatures begin to rise. Even in May, a warm afternoon can leave pets feeling uncomfortable if they do not have enough fresh water available. Clean bowls should always be topped up, and if you are out and about with your dog, carrying water for them is a sensible



habit. Small pets such as rabbits and guinea pigs also need careful attention during warmer spells, as hutches and runs can heat up quickly in direct sun.

This is also a lovely time of year to provide pets with a little extra stimulation. Dogs enjoy new walking routes and games, while cats often appreciate climbing, hiding and exploring. Indoor pets can benefit from fresh bedding, clean living spaces and a few new toys or activities to keep them mentally active. Simple things, such as hiding treats, offering puzzle feeders, or setting aside extra playtime, can help prevent boredom and keep pets engaged.

May can also bring seasonal challenges for pets with allergies. Just like people, some animals are sensitive to pollen, grasses or bites from insects. If your pet seems unusually itchy, develops sore skin, shakes their head a lot, or appears uncomfortable, it may be worth seeking advice from a vet. Catching issues early can prevent them becoming more serious.

Above all, May is a time to enjoy companionship. Pets bring comfort, loyalty and joy throughout the year, but spring gives us a chance to reconnect with the outdoors together. A gentle evening walk, a nap in the sunshine, or simply watching your pet enjoy the fresh air can be one of life's simple pleasures.

So as May unfolds, take a little time to make sure your pet is safe, healthy and ready for the season ahead. With a bit of care and attention, spring can be one of the happiest times of the year for both pets and their owners.

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