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# Southam Newsletter

Dec 2016 - Jan 2017

No 450



It is with great appreciation I write this note in recognition of the 450th edition of this publication. Congratulations to all involved on reaching this significant milestone.

The Parish Council are very proud of the Newsletter which has been the cornerstone of the communication for our village over the past 50 years.

From its outset, the Southam Newsletter has always been a team effort. The contributors, the editing, the production and finally the door to door delivery has always been a voluntary roll. From all of your Parish Councillors I thank you and all of your predecessors for your part in the publication cycle.

The paper copy format provides a valuable space for advertising. Please continue supporting them as their contributions greatly assist in our running costs. Over the past decade the advent of digital copy has begun to take hold and the current copy of the publication can be found on-line through our village website [www.southamtoday.org.uk](http://www.southamtoday.org.uk). In pdf form you can pick up the latest copy wherever you are.

The regular drop of the Newsletter through the door marks another two months passing in village life and the Parish Council remain committed to supporting this publication, keeping it free to all households into the future.

Thank you for the last 450 editions and looking forward to the next 450.

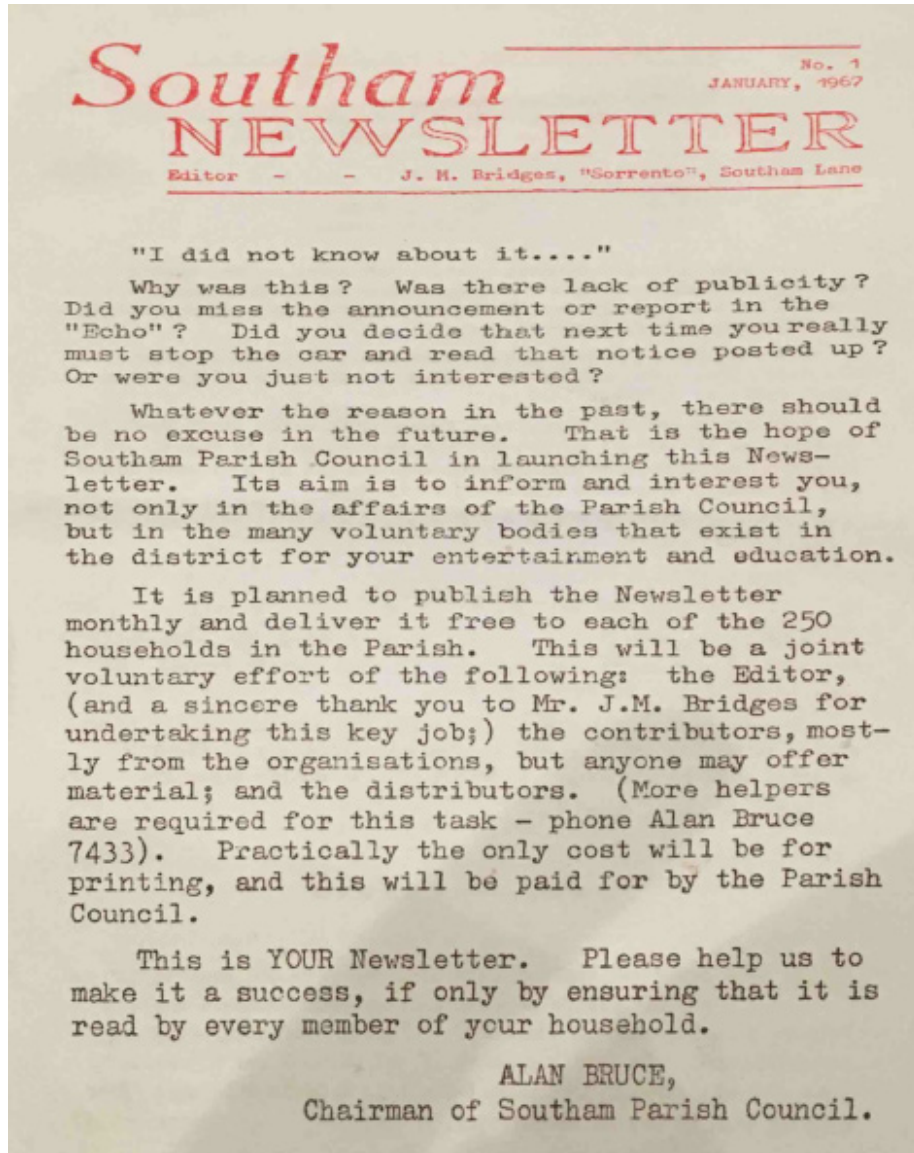
**Kevin Wilcox, Chairman, Southam Parish Council**

**Contributions for the Feb/Mar Newsletter by 15th January 2017**

**Contact**  
 ednajsmith@btinternet.com  
 Telephone 01242 520137  
 Letters - 37 Ratcliff Lawns

*We are always pleased to receive and publish letters.  
 When writing please provide a name, address and  
 telephone number. On request, the name and address of  
 correspondents will be withheld.*

Here is a trip down memory lane to the front page our very first Parish Magazine...



Finally, from everyone on the Parish Council and the Producers and Contributors of the Southam Newsletter, we would like to wish all the readers and members of our wonderful Community...



## National Trust Lectures



On Thursday 19th January 2017 at 7.30pm the Cheltenham & Gloucestershire National Trust Centre will be hosting a talk on the Galapagos at Southam Village Hall.

The speaker, Ged Cassell summarises his talk as follows: "Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection is one of humanities' greatest scientific achievements. In this talk, we will follow Darwin to the Galapagos Islands, 800 miles off the coast of Ecuador and see how the birds, mammals, reptiles and plants of the islands have evolved over time enabling them to survive in this harsh and challenging natural environment."

Entry - £3.00 for Centre Members and £4.00 for Visitors

Julph Miers

### Gloucestershire Village & Community Agents

My name is Oliver Lamb and I am the Village Agent for Bishops Cleeve, Woodmancote, Southam and Prestbury.

I may have already met some of you or you may have read about me in a local publication. My job is to provide older or disadvantaged people with easier access to information and services. My service is free.

If you are over 50 years of age or you know someone who is, I may be able to help with issues. Below I have listed just a few:

- Are you receiving all of the pensions and benefits that you are entitled to
- Would you like a free home security or fire safety check
- Do you need any adaptations to your home which may help you to cope better with a disability
- Are you feeling lonely and would like to meet other people
- Would you like any help to keep your home warm

If you would like any information about any of these issues or any other matters, please contact me on 07701 281906. I am happy to visit you at home or talk with you on the telephone.

I would also be happy to come along to your local groups to meet with you and give you more information about what the Village Agent service can offer you.

Alternatively you can contact the Gloucestershire County Council help desk on telephone 01452 426868

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### Southam Art Group Member – Sue Duckworth

I don't know how many of you know of someone that suffers from Parkinson. Every hour someone in the UK is told they have the disease – a brain condition that can turn lives upside down leaving a future full of uncertainty.

Recently an exhibition called the 'Mervyn Peake Awards 2016' was held at gallery@oxo on London's South Bank. The awards cover 5 categories including Art, Photography, Poetry, Books and Multimedia and hopes to encourage sufferers to explore creativity as a way helping with the condition.

Unfortunately a member of our group i.e. the Southam Art Group, Sue Duckworth, suffers from this particular illness. She joined our group a few years ago feeling very unsure and with little art experience behind her. She regularly attends only missing due to other commitments, and when her illness prevents and slowly seems to have gained confidence in herself as well as in her ability to draw sensitive work.

She recently told me that she had submitted one of her pieces to this exhibition in London and I am pleased to say it was accepted.

Many congratulations Sue.

Having seen Sue's determination I am proud to think that our little group may have helped in some small way.

Our group is now 24 strong and come together because they like to draw or paint but it is good to think we help in all sort of ways.

Before submitting this I asked Sue if she wanted to add anything and she asked me to include the following -

*'When I joined Southam Art Group I was very new to painting and I did not have much confidence.*

*Pauline and other members were very welcoming and my confidence grew week by week. It has now become the high light of my week.'*

**Pauline Owen**

### Bishops Cleeve Library's Open + system - NOW LIVE

"The state of the art technology, called open+, allows registered customers to use the library on a self-serve basis outside of staffed hours. This will mean that library opening hours will be extended, with no reduction in staffed hours, offering greater flexibility to customers. The plans also include Bishop's Cleeve library becoming a public service customer contact point. New and improved technology and staff from a range of partner organisations, including Tewkesbury Borough Council, will mean customers will be able to access many of the public services they need in one place. The new technology is likely to be launched in November 2016 and trialled for a six month period.

Customers have to register to use open+ services. This means that everyone using the library out of hours will be a member. There will also be CCTV fitted and an emergency contact if there are issues. Open+ technology is successfully used in many other libraries across the country, including Peterborough and Devon, as well as in many Scandinavian countries.

Bishops Cleeve library is the fourth busiest library in the county and accounts for 5.6% of all visits to libraries. This is partly because of its convenient location near a range of local amenities. This is why Bishops Cleeve is a great location to trial these changes".

For more information contact...

**Tom Graham — Library Assistant** on 01242 672217

# **SOUTHAM ART GROUP 2017 EXHIBITION & COFFEE MORNING**

**AT SOUTHAM VILLAGE HALL ON FEB 18<sup>th</sup>  
10.30AM – 12.30PM**



**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT  
TO DO ON A SATURDAY MORNING?**

**THEN WHY NOT COME TO OUR ART EXHIBITION  
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## **Pride in Your Parish**

The November meeting of the parish council was joined by a representative from Cheltenham Rugby Club based at Newlands. The club took over the premises in 2007 and are planning a programme of improvements up to 2020. The club operates a sports and social hub with football, rugby, skittles as the main focus. Funding is obtained through its commercial ventures such as the carwash facility, which is now applying for planning permission.

The parish council have offered the village hall committee a grant towards a hearing loop. Costs are still to be investigated. Another grant application has been received from the Cleeve Common Board of Conservators who wish to restore the sheep dip and washpool at a cost of £10,000. If you are able to help with donations please contact [conservators@cleevecommon.org.uk](mailto:conservators@cleevecommon.org.uk)

The closure of New Road for replacement of a water main will hopefully end on 9th December. The subsidence in the road has been reported to Amey for their attention.

Councillor Dean attended the November meeting to warn residents that Twigworth and part of Ashchurch have been dropped from JCS and planners will be looking for replacement land. It has to be hoped this will not mean further expansion of Bishops Cleeve/Woodmancote as it appears New Road and Southam Lane are now under strain from traffic volumes. Please keep an eye on the consultation process and make your feelings known to your borough councillors.

The parish council will be planting tulip bulbs in various locations, please contact the Chairman if you are able to help with planting.

The council meets again on the 2nd Tuesday of December but would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Gill Jennings  
Clerk, Southam Parish Council

### **Dog Fouling !!!**

A very pleasant lady in Southam Lane one late afternoon went to collect her empty dustbin from her front gate only to find splattered at the bottom was a burst dog bag. This had to be cleaned out by the lady together with the odour. Who was this person in Southam who did it? Please, every dog walker not only collect your dog's poo but dispense them in your dustbin or the red bins provided.  
( There is one near the phone box )

**Editor.**



## **SOUTHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT**

**October/November 2016**

After a few moments silence during which we fondly remembered Alma Atkinson, a long-time member of the group, we were all treated to two very interesting meetings again, both with slides, but very different in content.

Firstly, we looked at art and architecture in Spain visiting Madrid, Toledo with its strong Arabic influence and Segovia, a World Heritage Site. Its rich history and culture made for a fascinating evening.

November marked a return visit from Arthur Ball who was looking at the birds of Botswana. It was a dazzling array of rare birds with really colourful plumage, but with plenty of 'safari' animals for good measure, some wandering around the tent at night, not to mention the warning of a Black Mamba in the toilet to add to the excitement!

The Annual Meeting followed with reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Officers and Committee remain the same apart from the welcome return of Susan Cooper, now able to spend more time in Cheltenham.

Southam is responsible for looking after the Cleeve Hill Group of WIs and warmly welcomed five other groups for Soup and Dessert. It was a well-attended and popular event with several members providing willing hands to ensure the smooth running of proceedings, under the guidance of Southam's President.

Several members assisted with the Royal British Legion Coffee Morning and with the Village Autumn Fair, all of which was gratefully received.

The Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December takes on a festive air with a Folk Group playing Christmas Music. As the season gets under way, some of our number will be attending the Christmas Concert in the Town Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> December, when Laura Wright will be the guest artiste (probably well known to some for her entrée to rugby matches!) Just to set the seal on the year, many of us are looking forward to gathering at the Lilleybrook Golf Club for a Christmas Luncheon; a welcome break before proceeding with our own preparations.

And so on to a New Year and 3<sup>rd</sup> January afternoon tea meeting at 2.30 p m, when a lady from Eastwood Prison, near Bristol will be telling us about soaps made by some of the women prisoners.

Visitors are always welcome, so perhaps a New Year Resolution to come and see what is on offer on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 p m in the Village Hall might be in order! There is no obligation to join for three meetings, so do come along and get the year off to a good start.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful 2017.

**Jenny Cooper** Secretary

Tel 01242 525559

Email: [Jennifer.Cooper1@tesco.net](mailto:Jennifer.Cooper1@tesco.net)

## **SouthAM DRAMatic Group**

**PRESENTS**



**Saturday 7th January 2017 at 5 p.m.**

**Sunday 8th January 2017 at 4 p.m.**

**AT**

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### **Village Hall Car Parking - Polite Notice to all hall users:**

Please consider our neighbours when parking your vehicles and use the car park provided. If car park is full please ensure you don't block access for residents properties. Many Thanks for your consideration.

### **Conker Championship**

The Southam Conker Competition was a knock-out! Village residents and their friends battled it out to be crowned the conker champion, and we had a very unexpected winner! Bonnie McDougall from Utah, USA delightedly claimed the Trophy. Before coming to England to stay with the Welsh family for the week, Bonnie had never even heard of the game! Learning as she went, she smashed all her opponents - the game has now gone international! Lets wait and see who wins next years championship!

**1st place:** Bonnie McDougall — **2nd Place:** Joseph Welsh — **3rd place:** Jessica Wilcox

Eleanor Welsh



## DROP – IN to the Village Hall

Drop in for a piece of cake and cup of tea and so add to the increasing numbers dropping in once a fortnight

December	January
14th	11th
	25th
at 2.30 pm till 4.00 pm	

### Southam Village Hall Committee



#### Autumn Fair

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Autumn Fair especially Waghorne's Butchers for providing the bacon for the rolls, Ellenborough Park, The Royal Oak and Battledown Brewery for their raffle prizes. Also all the stallholders for their fantastic stalls and raffle prizes. We raised the grand sum of £450, which will go towards the purchase of a hearing loop system for the Village Hall.

#### Pub Night

Pub Nights remain popular and we will be running more in the New Year. It is an ideal opportunity to pop in and have a drink in a relaxed environment. Please keep an eye on the notice boards for forthcoming events... We hope to see you soon.

#### Upcoming Events...

Christmas Lights	Southam Church Breakfast	New Year's Eve Pub Night
Switch on  Outside the Village Hall Sunday 4 December 2016 at 5pm  Everyone Welcome	Sunday 11 December 2016 9.30-10.30am Southam Village Hall  Everyone Welcome	Saturday 31 December 2016 Doors open 8pm till late Bar available until late Suggested bring & share supper Come and welcome the New Year at Southam Village Hal



#### **"Festive Frolics"**

A fun filled evening with live music provided by  
**"The Blue Diamonds"**

Saturday 10 December – Doors open at 7pm  
£7.50 to include Ploughman's Supper Cash Bar

Tickets available from Steve Wood (525966) , Sal Nurden (522382), Ruth Moore (07742093830) and Anita Wilcox (07800993508) or email southamevents@btinternet.com



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Fortunately, Southam appears to have been spared any criminal activity over recent months. We did have an information that travellers were on the lookout for a site in the local area but they seem to have been unsuccessful.

Another car was stolen in Bishops Cleeve following a break in to a home in Ashley Meadow at the beginning of October resulting in the car keys being found and the vehicle taken from the driveway. Please review your car keys, and indeed all your key security arrangements.

There have been some telephone scams in Cheltenham this time claiming that money was owed to the HM Revenue and Customs. Please be aware that HMRC will not contact you out of the blue like this regarding any tax arrears. Do not give out any private information, reply to text messages, download attachments or click on any links in emails if you are not sure they are genuine.

Officers at Tewkesbury police station are offering free crime prevention surveys to homeowners. If you would like one, please email PCSO Karl Simpson

at [Karl.Simpson@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Karl.Simpson@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk) or call 101 and leave a message for Karl.

Please remember to keep your property secure over the Christmas period.

Have a very safe, secure and Happy Christmas.

David Byrne

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

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Care Direct - benefits, appliances and care enquiries for older people	0800 444000
Village Agent - Lorraine Demir	07810 630077
Southam Footpaths co-ordinator - Antonia Winstanley	01242 239818
Southam Webmaster - David Jones	01242 516187

SOUTHAM PARISH COUNCIL			TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS		
Chairman	<b>Mr Wilcox</b>	262130	Mrs Holloway		663709
Clerk	<b>Mrs Jennings</b>	675141	Mr M Dean		07973 138 043
Members	<b>Mr McAnoy</b>	520133	<b>GLOS COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>		
	<b>Mrs Holloway</b>	663709	Mr Roger Wilson		603874
	<b>Mr Nurden</b>	522382	<b>NEWSLETTER TEAM</b>		
	<b>Mr Grinnell</b>	233113	Editor	Edna Smith	520137
	<b>Mr Winstanley</b>	239818	Production	Jamie Walsh	243 851
	<b>Mrs Wood</b>	525966			

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

Parish Council	chairman@southamtoday.org.uk
	clerk@southamtoday.org.uk
Southam website	webmaster@southamtoday.org.uk
Footpaths co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:antonia.winstanley@icloud.com">antonia.winstanley@icloud.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	ednajsmith@btinternet.com
Newsletter Production	chaoswalsh@gmail.com

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## WHAT'S ON in Southam Village Hall



**SOUTHAM WI**  
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Village Hall  
Visitors welcome



### KEEP FIT

Wednesdays 9.30 am



**Southam Art Group**  
Every Thursday morning  
10.15 am - 12.15 pm  
Village Hall



**BRIDGE CLUB**  
Wednesday  
7:00pm - 10:30 pm

### YOGA CLASSES

Commencing on Wednesday 12th October Yoga for 50+. Time 10.30-11.30am. Classes will be taught in terms and cost will be £8/class. To book ring Tina on 07704 187569.

### SOUTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETS AT 7:30 PM 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
SOUTHAM VILLAGE HALL

### VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Southam Village Hall Reservation procedures:  
Visit the [southamvillagehall.org.uk](http://southamvillagehall.org.uk) website  
Select the Booking Calendar button on the left hand side.  
Select the WEEK tab at the top of the page to see current bookings' start and stop times.  
Identify suitable vacant dates and times and email these to [southamvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:southamvillagehall@gmail.com) and we will make your reservation.

If you do not have internet please text or call the booking secretary on  
07712 695 207



### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL November 2016

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, and Ann and Peter Wood, the Appeal co-ordinators for the Bishops Cleeve, may we thank all who gave so generously to the Appeal in Southam. The total raised from the Coffee Morning, house-to-house collections and Remembrance Sunday in the Village Hall was **£427.41**. This will add to the Bishops Cleeve District total and was a tremendous effort.

All the more poignant, to receive news of Southam's total as one of our daughters was paying her respects at a great-grandfather's grave from the Great War, near Epernay, in France. How fortunate we all are. How sad that so many gave everything.

Thank you.  
Chris & Jenny Cooper

### The Church of the Ascension, Southam

Our Harvest Breakfast was celebrated in fine style this year with some forty present in the Village Hall, and numerous donations were made to the Food Bank, for which grateful thanks have since been received. It is perhaps difficult for us to appreciate how great the need is for such assistance for so many even in this part of the County. Richard expressed well deserved thanks to all those who had provided a delicious assortment of food and particularly to those who helped in the kitchen. This was a suitable prelude to the Conker Championship held later in the afternoon, a full report on which appears separately in this edition of the Newsletter.

Once again those who had given their lives that we may enjoy peace in this part of the troubled world were remembered on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>., first in our service led by Colin Saxelby in the morning and then at the War Memorial at three in the afternoon when quite a large crowd gathered there with Richard. Many then repaired after that ceremony back to the Village Hall, and I must again record thanks to those who provided the welcome tea and refreshments.

As mentioned in the previous issue Richard had decided that on the Fifth Sundays of the month, when for many years we have had no service, a Joint Benefice Service should be held with GWO, and therefore on 30<sup>th</sup>. October the number of our congregation was doubled with the arrival of an equal number of parishioners from GWO. It will be a challenge for us to do the same in visiting GWO on 29<sup>th</sup>. January, 2017.

As also advised in the last issue the Church Committee has decided that we will have more Breakfast Churches in the Village Hall, and the next will be on December 11<sup>th</sup>., and the calendar shows another on 8<sup>th</sup>. January.

Once again we will be holding our Carol Service at 6.30pm. on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup>. December, to be followed with the customary refreshments, and on Christmas Day Richard will be officiating at our usual Communion Service at 9.30am.

Inevitably this edition of the Newsletter carries over into the New Year. On Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. there will be no service in our Church; the clergy have decided that there will be a whole Benefice Service in Oxenton, starting at 11.15, the usual time for services there.. But before going that far into the future may I wish all a Very Happy Christmas, wherever they be spending it, and the best of good fortune in the New Year. Let us all pray that the Peace that the Birth of Christ brought into the world may indeed become a reality in place of the conflicts and afflictions that the world is suffering in the year now ending.

Roy Bedford.  
01242-678121  
rj.bedford41@talktalk.net

### **SOPHIE LANE**

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Email : enquiries@sophielanefhp.co.uk



### **Church of the Ascension Services**

4th December	Eucharist BCP	9.30am
11th December	Breakfast Church in Village Hall	9.30am
18th December	Eucharist Order I CW	9.30am
	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>
25th December <b>Christmas Day</b>	Eucharist Order 1 CW	9.30am
1st January	<b>Joint Benefice Service at OXENTON</b>	<b>11.15am</b>
8th January	Breakfast Church in Village Hall	9.30am
15th January	Eucharist Order 1 CW	9.30am
22nd January	Morning Worship BCP	9.30am
29th January <b>Fifth Sunday</b>	<b>United Service with GWO</b> at either Oxenton or Woolston	<b>11.15am</b>

Further details can be obtained from the Church office or  
e-mail: parishchurchoffice@gmail.com Tel: 673612

### **Southam Social Club Planned Events**

- 02.12.16 Skittles Evening followed by supper (to be confirmed)
- 20.01.17 New Year Tapas Celebration
- 08.02.17 Everyman Theatre Trip to see 'The Play that goes Wrong' (sold out)
- 24.02.17 Cabaret Quiz
- 24.03.17 Gold Cup Race Night
- 21.04.17 AGM followed by Photo Quiz
- 19.05.17 Boat Trip with dinner sailing from Gloucester Docks
- 22.07.17 BBQ and games (to be confirmed)

Further information will be available in future Newsletters and via social media networks.