

The Friends of the Cardall Collection

NEWSLETTER

No 17: Autumn / Winter 2015



Chairman's Update

It hardly seems like a few weeks since we started this year and yet the nights are drawing in again already. Maybe it's because things just seem to get busier and busier as the Collection goes from strength to strength. We've certainly had an interesting and very busy year with two more impressive and much visited exhibitions under our belt, many talks given to a wide variety of groups around the County, a new web site up and running and our first visit by a coach party from Yorkshire to mention just some of the things we have been doing.



Vivian House with Tithe Lodge beyond (just visible)

We have also been asked to contribute 50 photos from the Collection to decorate the residents' areas in the new Tithe Lodge apartment complex and we have done yet another town walk for the German Exchange students from Southam College – the largest group so far with over 30 students and teachers.

I could go on and on about all the things we have been engaged with but many of them will be covered elsewhere so let me just mention two items that stick in my mind. The first is the splendid number of people we had attending our AGM this year – around 30 people crowded into the Congregational Church Lounge to hear an overview of what we have been doing. This was tremendous, and given the often poor attendance at AGM meetings in the past, something I was

particularly pleased to see. We must be doing something right to generate such enthusiasm. You can find more details including a copy of my presentation slides on our web site. Equally I was very pleased to see other websites posting copies of our newsletter on their sites, an indication that we are treading the right path in terms of those people who have an interest in local history.

On a more negative note something that still concerns me is the lack of progress about moving into the new community rooms in Tithe Place. As you are all aware there are accessibility issues at Vivian House and for a few years now we have been looking forward to the possibility of moving into the new development in the town centre. Unfortunately we have not been able to do this yet and equally we don't have any idea of when a move may be possible. We have already extended our lease on Vivian House by 6 months and we are reaching the point where we need to extend it again. This is unfortunate because it involves incurring additional costs which we would rather spend on other things.

The latest situation is that Stratford District Council are waiting for outside solicitors to draw up a lease for the community rooms in Tithe Place. So far it has proved impossible to obtain any date by which this legal work will be done. Equally we have no idea of the costs involved and whether we will be able to afford to move to Tithe Place or not. Just to complicate matters further the space available in Tithe Place is much smaller than we have now, and until we know what the costs or conditions are associated with any move we cannot begin to address the space issues. All I can say for now is watch this space – and keep your fingers crossed for a favourable outcome!



The main entrance to Tithe Place in High Street

Southam Heritage Collection (incorporating the Cardall Collection) comprises artefacts, documents, photographs and memorabilia associated with Southam and its surrounding villages. The County Museum Service inspectors agree that it is an important record of the life and times of our historic market town. The Collection urgently needs a permanent home in Southam where it can be displayed, used and appreciated by the general public, local history societies, schools, reminiscence groups and researchers.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting took place on the evening of Tuesday 29th September in the Congregational Church lounge. It was a really good turnout, and we were pleased to see many familiar, and some not so familiar faces there to support us.

The Chairman gave an illustrated account of the year's activities, and the Treasurer summarised the group's finances and provided copies of the audited accounts. You can see the report with accounts on our website:

www.southamheritage.org/events/past-events/2015-agm

Many thanks to those who attended or sent their apologies, and grateful thanks again to Grineaux Accountants of Market Hill, Southam for auditing our accounts free of charge.

Tithe Place Facilities

The Community rooms in Tithe Place are now open for inspection, and the new café 'Tithe Barn' is open daily for drinks and meals from 8.00am to 2.30pm. There is a large cinema room adjacent to the café which is available for public use, and would make an ideal space for giving our heritage talks. The Library is scheduled to re-locate to Tithe Place in the next few weeks. The room that we hope to be allocated for the Collection's new home is in the main entrance atrium, directly opposite the entrance to the new Library.

If you haven't been into Tithe Place yet, pop down and have a look soon. The main doors may not be open yet, but access can be gained via the café entrance in Park Lane.

Membership of the Friends

The Committee has agreed that as well as the over 70s having discounted annual membership, people aged under 21 who are still in full time education will also only have to pay £5 per annum for their membership. Corporate memberships for local businesses are also available for a minimum of £20 per annum.

Subscriptions became due on 1st October, and we are reminding everyone who has not yet renewed that their subscription is now overdue, and membership will lapse if still unpaid on 31st December.

Membership costs £15 per annum for a single, £20 for a couple, and £5 for the over 70s and those under 21 in full time education. Details of how to renew are shown on the last page of this Newsletter. Why not consider setting up a

Standing Order for your annual membership? Standing Orders are easy to set up and can be cancelled at any time. They are also a quick and convenient way of keeping your membership up to date, and save us a great deal of administration!

2016 Heritage Calendar

Our 2016 calendar is selling well – so please hurry to buy your copy now before supplies run out! The calendars are available from Vivian House on Tuesday mornings (10am to 12 noon) or from Southam Office Supplies, Rockingham's or Southam Carpets. Please contact Linda on 01926 814214 if you would like to arrange for a copy to be posted to you.

This year we managed to achieve 100% sponsorship for the calendar, which means the sponsorship paid the full cost of printing. So all sale proceeds will go towards preserving the Southam Heritage Collection.

Calendars will also be on sale at The John Turner Festival at Southam College on Saturday November 7th, Southam Christmas Market at the Grange Hall on Sunday November 22nd, and at the Christmas Fair at the Graham Adams Centre on Sunday 29th November.

Spring 2016 Exhibition: "Keep the Home Fires Burning"

Our new exhibition, scheduled to open on 5th January 2016, takes its title from the popular 1914 Ivor Novello song. The exhibition aims to show how the families of soldiers lived and coped with the separation from their loved ones, who were fighting in the battlefields of World War 1.

The exhibition curator, Val Brodie, is seeking additional domestic artefacts, clothes and memorabilia from this era and photographs showing how people lived on the home front as they waited anxiously for news of their menfolk. If you have anything suitable that you would be prepared to loan to us for this exhibition, please do get in touch with Val on 01926 812179, or call in to Vivian House for a chat any Tuesday morning between 10am and 12 noon.

Summer 2016 Exhibition: "Cementing Relations in Southam"

Committee members Helen Morris and Linda Doyle are currently working on the next new exhibition scheduled to open on 30th May 2016 (Carnival Day) which focuses on the Cement industry and its impact on Southam and

surrounding villages. They will be using items from the Collection, and material on loan from Cemex, plus oral history recordings.

If you have any stories about working for the cement works, or any artefacts or photographs relating to the local cement industry that you would be prepared to let us borrow or copy, please do get in touch with Helen on 01327 879884.

"Southam Through The Centuries" by Brian Townsend

Brian Townsend was the Area Librarian at Southam Library for 27 years until 1991 before retiring and eventually moving to Devon. Sadly he passed away suddenly on Sunday 7 December 2014, leaving a wife and daughters Wendy and Gillian.

His book "Southam Through the Centuries" was first printed in 1979 by Warwickshire County Library and sold for 30p. It was so popular that a 2nd edition was printed in 1981, and a 3rd edition in 1991 to mark Brian's retirement. The 1991 reprint was enlarged to include further historical information about the town and sold for £2.95 a copy.

Brian's family are kindly allowing the Southam Heritage Collection to reprint his fascinating book on the history of Southam. With the aid of a Councillor's grant from John Appleton of Warwickshire County Council, we have been able to re-proof the book, and provide some additional material to bring it up to date.



Brian's family have also given permission for the proceeds from sales to go to Southam Heritage Collection.

The book will be available in early 2016. To order an advance copy, please contact Linda on 01926 814214.

Battle of Edgehill Exhibition

Southam has strong links with the English Civil War era, and the Battle of Southam was the first sizeable encounter between Royalist and Parliamentary troops in August 1642. King

Charles I stayed in Southam two days before the Battle of Edgehill and on October 21st 1642 issued



a proclamation from our Manor House (now Southam Pharmacy).

About 10 miles away from Southam, in the pretty village of Radway, near Edgehill, there is now a permanent exhibition about the Battle of Edgehill, showing the types of weapons used, the clothes worn, and giving insights into the impact of the War and the Battle on the local populace. The display is located in St Peter's Church which is open daily from dawn 'til dusk. For more information visit this website:

www.battleofedgehilllexhibitionradway.org.uk

German Exchange Students visit to Southam

For several years in October we have been asked to introduce German students and teachers to the history of Southam and this year was no exception. Jason Ward, the Town Mayor, started off the session in the Council Chamber by telling the students a little bit about the town and his role and then he handed over to us to fill them in on the history of the town. We only have about one hour so it is impossible to cover everything but at least we can tell them about some of the more significant happenings and buildings in the town as well as the town's German connections.



Because of the numbers (over 30 students and teachers) this year, Rowan Parker and Robert Cardall helped out by each taking 1/3 of the party on a short walk from the Grange Hall down to Market Hill. Fortunately the weather was kind once again and we managed the walk without losing anyone. The picture shows (most of) the party in the Council Chamber before that start of the walk.

Members Evenings

These are held on the last Tuesday evening of the month, currently at Vivian House but hopefully at Tithe Place in the New Year. These evenings are an opportunity for members to get together and chat, meet other members, listen to talks or perhaps do some research. Meetings start at 7.15pm and finish by about 9pm.

November 24th will be a social evening when members will get the chance to pit their wits against each other and complete a quiz on old Southam while you enjoy a coffee and mince pie. There isn't a December meeting, but the last Tuesday in January (26th) we will be giving members the opportunity to come and see the new WW1 exhibition "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and enjoy a glass of wine.

Our new website: www.southamheritage.org

In the previous newsletter we mentioned that we were hoping to have a new web site up and running shortly. Well the website is now live, and the address is www.southamheritage.org. It contains a lot of information about the Collection and the Friends. In particular there is a sidebar on the home page which we update every week or so with the latest snippets of news and at the bottom there is a link to our Facebook page which you can access without needing a Facebook account, to get the very latest information on what the Collection is doing. Below is a snapshot of part of the home page:



Do take a look at the website next time you are on your PC, laptop or tablet – it should display well on most tablets and iPad's although because of

the volume of information, mobile phones may prove a bit more of a challenge.

If you have any comments about any aspect of the website please give us feedback via email to cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk or click on the link on the site – we would love to hear from you.

Southam's Official New Website: www.southam.co.uk

Whilst many local villages have had their own community websites for some time, Southam town did not have an official website – until now!

Two of our Committee members (Pam and Linda) belong to the Southam Town and Area Promotions group (STAP), which is a sub-group of Southam First.

This summer the 'STAP' group has been working hard to provide Southam with its own website, which also encompasses the villages in the immediate area. The aim of the website is to provide an information resource and a platform for local community organisations and businesses to promote themselves to residents and visitors.

The website is now 'live' – www.southam.co.uk. There is a lot of information on there about the town and its history, and the local villages. There is also a link to our own heritage website.

[Southam.co.uk](http://www.southam.co.uk) has a directory of businesses and local groups and the 'What's On' listings will hopefully provide us with a central point of reference for all things Southam.

New Committee Members

Next year we will be celebrating 10 years since the Friends of the Cardall Collection was formed following a series of public meetings. Initially we started with a full committee of ten members but inevitably a number of people have either passed away or moved on to other things, and we now only have the minimum of seven Committee members allowed under our Constitution.

We would welcome new committee members to bring along new ideas and stimulate our thinking as well as perhaps taking on a role in some of the areas we just don't have the resources to address at present. If you are interested please contact us for a no-obligation chat. It's an exciting time for the Collection with all sorts of new possibilities opening up, so just the right time to get involved and make an impact.

Southam Town Council has recently nominated Cllr Patrick Jenkins to represent the Council on our Committee. Patrick has already worked as a

volunteer at Vivian House and we look forward to working with Patrick in his new role.

Southam Heritage Collection

www.southamheritage.org



General Information & Contacts:

The Collection belongs to the people of Southam. It is managed by Trustees and a Committee of the Friends of the Cardall Collection. Membership of the Friends is open to anyone with an interest in the history of Southam and the surrounding area. If you would like to find out how you can support our work, please telephone either the Chairman, Bernard on 01926 613503 or Secretary Linda on 01926 814214. Alternatively, you can email us on: cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk or message us via our Facebook page "Southam Heritage Collection". (If you are a Facebook user, please 'Like' our page to help spread the word about Southam and its heritage.)

Opening Times at the Basement, Vivian House, Market Hill:

We are open on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. When our exhibitions are on, we also open on Saturday mornings. We can open at other times by arrangement. Please note access to the Vivian House basement is via stairs, so may be difficult for those with mobility problems. If you would like to arrange a private visit, please contact Bernard on 01926 613503.

Volunteering, Membership, Donations:

If you would like to join the Friends or make a donation, please complete and return the attached form, with your payment. The form includes a Gift Aid Declaration that taxpayers are asked to sign to enable us to reclaim the tax you have paid on your subscription or donation. (Membership is renewable on 1st October each year.) You can also donate online at mydonate.bt.com

Southam "Walk and Talk":

A short guided tour of Southam on level footpaths to see some of its most interesting buildings, and hear something about their history, followed by an opportunity for tea and chat at a town centre venue. Available for groups of up to a maximum of 20 people, the Walk and Talk lasts about 2 hours and costs £5 per person. Contact: Linda on 01926 814214.

Presentations, Talks, Exhibitions:

We can attend one of your group meetings or visit your premises and give a presentation and talk about aspects of Southam's history tailored to your interests. Contact Bernard on 01926 613503 or Linda on 01926 814214 to discuss your requirements. (A fee will be charged by agreement.) If you have any artefacts, documents or photographs that you would be prepared to loan for one of our forthcoming exhibitions (see Newsletter for details), we would love to hear from you.

Events & Festivals:

If you would like us to have a stall at your event or festival please contact Jenny on 01926 814643

200 Club: Tickets cost just £5 per annum, and your number is entered into a monthly draw. The prize is £10 each month, increasing to £40 in November and May. All proceeds go towards supporting the work of the Friends. Enquiries to Jenny on 01926 814643

Copies of Photographs: We have a growing archive of photographs of Old Southam and surrounding area. Copies are available to purchase. All enquiries to Bernard on 01926 613503

*Thank you for reading this Newsletter.
Please feel free to pass it on to your friends, relations and colleagues.*

Friends of the Cardall Collection

The Basement, Vivian House, 21 Market Hill, Southam CV47 0HF

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / DONATION FORM / GIFT AID DECLARATION

Full Name:

(please print)

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone: Email:

I would like to become a member of the Friends of the Cardall Collection or renew my annual Membership, and I enclose herewith my subscription.

(Current annual subs are: £15 for individuals, £20 for a couple, £5 each for the over 70s)

I would like to donate the following amount to support the objectives of the Friends of the Cardall Collection.

£

£

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form with your payment to the Treasurer: Pam McConnell, 19 Tattle Bank, Southam CV47

1NU. Cheques should be made payable to: The Friends of the Cardall Collection. Payments by internet banking to: HSBC Account Sort Code: 40 42 15 Account No: 31436848 Ref: (your name).

Membership is renewable on 1st October each year. Many thanks for your support.

Please tick this box if you require a receipt: ☐

GIFT AID DECLARATION



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If you pay Income Tax, the Friends of the Cardall Collection can claim back the tax you have paid on your subscriptions and donations. In order for us to claim this tax back, please complete the following Gift Aid Declaration:

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money

today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future ☐

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply, and sign the Declaration below.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signed: Date:

Please notify the charity or CASC if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Note: If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.