

# Southam Heritage Collection

(formerly Friends of the Cardall Collection)

## NEWSLETTER

### No 20: Spring / Summer 2017



#### Chairman's Update

If there's one question I've been asked more often than "can you read me another bedtime story please?" it's "Any news on Tithe Place?" Unfortunately, the answer is still "no, not at the moment".



We have had some discussions with Stratford District Council this year but I believe they, and Orbit, are currently grappling with the issue of "out of hours" access to all the Community Rooms in Tithe Place. This, probably aggravated by some issues of vandalism in the public spaces at Tithe Place, seems to be taking some considerable time to resolve.

The separation and security of the Café & kitchen areas and the Community Rooms does not appear to have been comprehensively thought through at the design stage. At present access to the community rooms depends on the café or Library being open, and anyone leasing these rooms would therefore be unable to access their premises outside these times.

Obviously this is not acceptable and until this issue is resolved, Stratford DC cannot let the rooms. Our volunteers certainly need "out of hours" access to enable us to work on, and with, the Collection in the evenings and at weekends. We also need to be able to offer group visits to our exhibitions at appropriate times, and this may be when the café or library are closed.

Our Summer exhibition (see article later in this Newsletter) will therefore open in the basement of Vivian House rather than in Tithe Place as expected. However, despite this setback, we have not been idle and one major area we have

been addressing is that of obtaining formal recognition of our group by The Charity Commission. This will give us unchallenged legal status as a Charity and enables us to more easily apply for a wider range of grants and assistance. Equally it will provide more appropriate financial protection for our Trustees and allow us to be treated as a legally incorporated body. Becoming a Registered Charity should make things like the signing of property leases much easier and relieve the Trustees of potential personal liability.

Alongside the process of applying to become a registered Charity we decided to formally change the name of the group from "Friends of the Cardall Collection" to "Southam Heritage Collection". There are many reasons for this, mainly to do with the expansion of the Collection over the past eleven years, with major additions from Alan Griffin and a large number of other items from numerous individuals. We also wanted the Collection to be more positively identified with the town of Southam, especially for those seeking information via the Internet.

We will of course continue to refer to, and give credit to, Jack and Rene Cardall for their pioneering work in setting up, developing and looking after the Collection during its first 60 years or so of existence.

Following two Emergency General Meetings of members to alter the Constitution so that it conforms to the Charity Commission guidelines, I am pleased to report that the process of applying for charitable status is now virtually complete.

I am also very pleased to report that, (assuming the lease of the Tithe Place room eventually goes ahead,) Southam Town Council has generously awarded a grant of £2,900 to help pay for the legal fees of setting up the lease, and for furnishing the room.



We are very grateful for the continuing support of our Town Councillors.

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*Southam Heritage Collection (incorporating the Cardall Collection and Alan Griffin photographic archive) 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 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.*

## History Fayre & Valuation Day Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May

As a brand new venture this year we are hosting a Local History Fayre and Valuation Day in St James' Church on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm. Entry to the exhibition is **free**, and refreshments are being provided by volunteers from St James church.

Local history groups from Marton, Harbury, Birdingbury, Long Itchington, Warmington, Lillington and Leamington Spa, along with Warwick Local History will be joining us and displaying artefacts, photographs and articles about their respective villages. There will also be family history experts on hand, a display of Home Guard artefacts, and a book signing.

Alongside the displays, Locke & England will be providing a 'Valuation Day'. Visitors are invited to bring up to 3 items for valuation at £1 per item. So if you have any antique or vintage items and would like to know what they are worth – do bring them along.



**Southam**  
Heritage Collection


**Southam**  
Local History Fayre  
and Valuation Day

At  
**Southam**  
Church

**Saturday**  
May 20<sup>th</sup>

**10 am**  
-- 4 pm

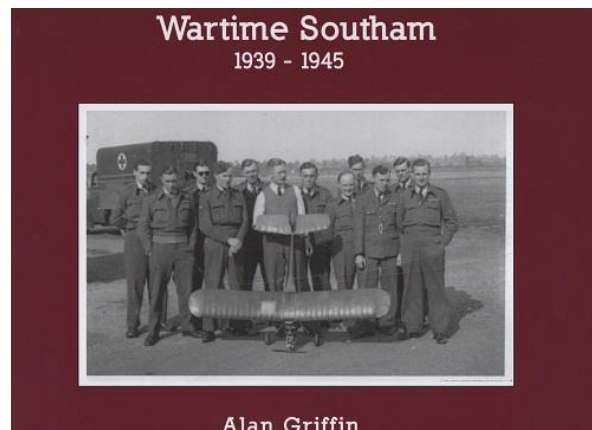
**Free entry**  
**Valuation £1 item**



Several of the local history groups, along with us, are looking for information on soldiers associated with the Great War and will be pleased to see any family memorabilia you may have. Then focusing on WW2, there will be a large display of artefacts relating to the Warwickshire Home Guard.

We are delighted to have Alan Griffin with us signing his latest book, "Wartime Southam 1939 - 1945", which is a scrapbook of the war years in

and around Southam during WW2. Alan says, "I am more than willing to respond to enquiries about any aspect of Southam in Wartime and would welcome sight of any photographs or ephemera of the period."



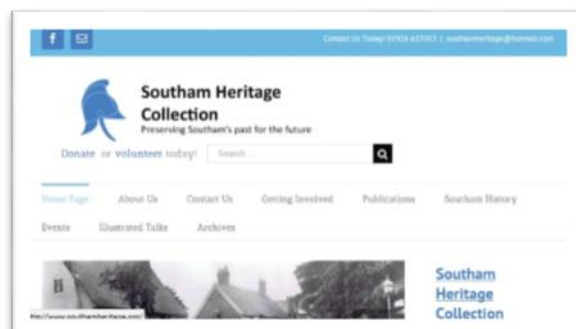
Following the History Fayre, Alan's book will be available from the Southam Heritage Collection for £6.99. However at the History Fayre you will not only have the opportunity to meet the author, but can purchase a signed copy at a discounted price of just £5 a copy.

If you are interested in Family History, Ian Brodie will be at the Fayre with his family history research. There will also be a professional genealogist "Genealogy Genie", on hand who is an archival researcher, speaker on family history and a representative on the National Archives User Advisory Group and Q & A panellist for Your Family History magazine. This expert can assist anyone researching their own family history and especially those who have 'missing persons' in their family tree.

So do take time to come to the Fayre, have a cuppa, and chat with our local historians

**Website update:**  
[www.southamheritage.org](http://www.southamheritage.org)

The Collection website has grown significantly during early 2017 and is now more than double its previous size. This is largely because we have added a new main menu item "Southam History". Under this heading there are currently two sub-headings - one, "Southam Articles" contains a



series of short articles relating to aspects of Southam's History, including the "Cardall's Corner" articles published monthly in the "Southam District Advertiser", and two, a section devoted to the history of the Southam WW1 Red Cross Hospital at The Grange – this includes a page and photos of each of the nurses that we have currently been able to identify.

We are keen to continue developing the Southam History section of the website, and if anyone reading this feels they have material to contribute, and which could be added to the website, please get in touch.

## 200 Club

Each year we need to raise a significant sum of money to pay our general 'living' expenses and keep the work of the group going forward. One way we do this is through our "200 Club".

This monthly lottery draw provides us with about 10% of the money we need and costs just £5 per year to join (for 12 draws) with a chance of winning a £10 prize in each of 10 months and a substantially larger one (up to £50 depending on the number of tickets sold) every 6 months.

The new 200 Club year starts in June and renewal notices have gone out to our existing 200 Club members which we hope will be returned as soon as possible. We are always looking for additional members, so if you could recruit your friends and next door neighbours we would be very grateful! Forms are available under the "Getting Involved" menu item on our web site.

## Summer Exhibition: "A Pint of Ale"

Our summer exhibition is based on the stories of Southam's many public houses. Public Houses were where Southam's trade, as well as its social life, was based. Our research has turned up stories of murder, suicide, mayhem, theft and mystery throughout the years, associated with markets, mop-fairs, steeplechases and hunts, as well as pubs being where lawyers, auctioneers, dentists, veterinarians and all manners of trades took place.

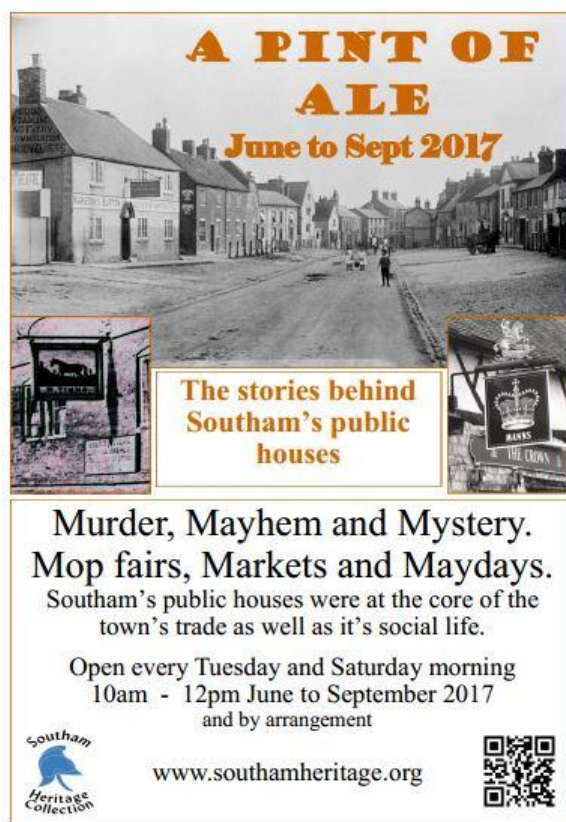
We have traced nearly 30 public house premises in Southam, of which sadly only four remain in business today. We have produced a heritage pub trail leaflet to take you around the town so that you can see the many former pub buildings that still exist.

Children will be welcomed at the exhibition, and whilst you look at the artefacts and photographs,

they can play Shove-Halfpenny, Bagatelle or Dominos!

The exhibition opens in Vivian House on Spring Bank Holiday, Monday May 29th (Carnival Day) from 12pm-4pm. Thereafter the exhibition will remain open until the end of September on Tuesday and Saturday mornings 10am-12noon. Other times can be arranged for interested groups, so please do ask.

Following a successful application by our secretary Linda, our new heritage pub trail walk leaflet has been accepted as a local 'good cause' under the Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme. So when you visit Tesco, ask for a charity counter at the checkout and do please put your counter in the Southam Heritage Collection box so that we will receive sponsorship under the Tesco 5p bag scheme for this new town walk leaflet.





**A PINT OF ALE**  
June to Sept 2017

The stories behind Southam's public houses

**Murder, Mayhem and Mystery.**  
**Mop fairs, Markets and Maydays.**  
Southam's public houses were at the core of the town's trade as well as its social life.

Open every Tuesday and Saturday morning  
10am - 12pm June to September 2017  
and by arrangement

 [www.southamheritage.org](http://www.southamheritage.org) 

## Shakespeare in Southam 20<sup>th</sup> July at Tithe Place

In conjunction with the "Pint of Ale" exhibition, Linda will be presenting an illustrated talk at Tithe Place at 10.30am on July 20<sup>th</sup> for both members and non-members.

Last year was a Shakespeare anniversary and whilst researching local theatres and Shakespeare, it was discovered that Southam was entertained by travelling theatre companies and bill posters for such plays as Macbeth

advertised performances in the 'New Theatre' at the 'back of the Craven Arms'. This has given us a new insight into Georgian Southam, so do please come along to the talk if you are interested in your town's Shakespeare connections.

## **The Thornley Kelsey Brewery: A Talk on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Another talk is being planned for October, also associated with our summer exhibition. This talk will be presented by a great-grandson of the Thornley Brewery Company's, Henry Marriott, who owned several of Southam's public houses, including the Bowling Green Inn.

Kindly sponsored by the Bowling Green, this talk will be useful for anyone interested in the local brewing trade and especially the huge brewery that used to stand alongside the canal and opposite Radford Hall in Radford Semele.

The talk will take place at The Bowling Green on Tuesday October 10th. Visitors may get a drink from the bar and join us in the restaurant room for a 7.30pm start. There will be no charge, but exit donations will be very welcome. (If anyone wishes to eat at The Bowling Green beforehand, please make your own arrangements.)

## **Our 2018 Calendar**

Following the 'sell-out' success of our 2017 calendar, production of our 2018 calendar is now under way.

Once again we have been amazed at the generosity of local small business people in helping to cover the printing costs of the calendar. By sponsoring a page, they are making a significant contribution to our fund-raising because it means that every penny made in calendar sales can go directly into our general funds.

In addition to sponsorship, several more local businesses, (Southam Office Supplies, Southam Post Office, Rockinghams and Southam Carpets) agree to sell the calendars on our behalf without charge. We are very grateful to all the local businesses that continue to support us.

## **Summer Social Evening Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

Last year our members enjoyed a special 10<sup>th</sup> birthday garden party at Jackie Graham's house. This Summer marks the return of our Summer

Social Evening which will be held, as usual, at Southam Cricket Club. The event will be open to members and non-members and will follow the usual format of supper followed by an entertaining talk on a heritage theme. Full details and tickets will be available soon.

## **Southam Open Gardens July 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**

As in previous years we will be supporting Southam in Bloom by opening the museum exhibition during their biennial Open Gardens weekend. Visitors come to Southam from far and wide to visit the open gardens, and Southam Heritage is included in the map of the event.

This year, during Open Gardens weekend, we will be launching a beautiful series of cards made from original pictures painted by Margaret Sherriff that have been donated to the collection. The Sherriff family arranged for the printing of these cards at their own expense, and have donated them to us to sell for raising every-day funds. The cards are blank inside, so can be used for many different types of greeting or as notelets. Not only are these cards unique, but they are also sold at a very competitive price of £1.50 each.



## **Southam College: 'A' Level Geography**

The 'A' level curriculum for Geography has changed this year and Southam College recently invited Linda Doyle and Rowan Parker to give a talk to the students about Southam's changing face through history.

Linda moved to Southam some 40 years ago and Rowan was born here nearly 90 years ago. After giving a short talk outlining why the town is the shape it is today, and why it has the types of building styles it has, Linda and Rowan answered questions about how they had seen the town change.

If you would like to know more about "The Shaping of Southam", we can provide an illustrated talk specifically on this subject. In addition the summer exhibition "A Pint of Ale" will supply many of the answers!

## Southam Heritage at Harbury

On Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> Harbury commemorated the completion of a project to remember the men of Harbury who gave their lives in WW1. It was 100 years to the day when Reginald 'Rex' Beardsworth, son of the then Vicar, was killed at Vimy Ridge in France. Harbury has been running a project to research the lives of the village men and to commemorate them with a series of Blue Plaques placed on or near to the houses where they lived. The completion of the project was marked by a service in the Parish Church preceded by a get-together of all those involved at the Village Hall.

Southam Heritage Collection was asked to provide a WW1 display for participants to view over the lunch period and before the service.

As well as the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Mr Timothy Cox, representing the Queen, the event was also attended by Lieutenant Colonel Simon Rushen, Chief of Staff, Canadian Armed Forces in the UK. Lieutenant Colonel Rushen was present because Rex Beardsworth had emigrated to Canada prior to the war and then returned to fight for King and Country, as had several other men. In the picture, Val Brodie can be seen speaking with Lieutenant Colonel Rushen and another guest.



Val asked for Lieutenant Colonel Rushen's assistance in following up her research about the sister of two Southam men who were killed in Flanders, and this request is now being followed up.

This invitation to attend this event was a great reflexion on the sterling work done by Val, Chris Jerome and Chris Holding in putting together and stewarding our WW1 exhibitions.

## Market Hill

Our Secretary Linda Doyle is a member of the Southam Neighbourhood Plan group, and is making sure the planning process has sufficient input of correct historical knowledge: To find out more about the work being done on Southam's Neighbourhood Development Plan, please see:

[www.southam-nspc.co.uk](http://www.southam-nspc.co.uk)

Southam has been a market town for nearly 800 years and recently Market Hill, right outside our Vivian House headquarters, has gone back to being its market place again. It will be interesting to see if the market's relocation has an impact on visitor numbers to Southam Heritage Collection's exhibitions over the year.

The relocation of the market certainly appears to be working well, as the traders themselves have reported increased sales, and some have taken on extra staff. The market, now being organised and promoted by CJ's Events, has also increased in size with new and different stalls being added. So if you have not been into town recently on a market day (Tuesday from 9am until approx 1.30pm), then do come and have a look at both the market and our latest exhibition.

## Paying your Membership Subs by Standing Order? Change Required!

Now that we are officially changing our name to Southam Heritage Collection, we have set up a new bank account in that name.

If you currently pay your annual Subscription in October by Standing Order, you will need to cancel the 'old' Standing Order instruction in favour of Friends of the Cardall Collection, and set up a 'new' standing order as follows:

Account (Lloyds): **Southam Heritage Collection**  
Sort Code: **30 99 13**  
Account Number: **31344868**

Subscriptions become due on 1<sup>st</sup> October and are currently £20 for a joint membership, £15 for an individual, and £5 each for the Over 70s and those in full time education.

Please note: If you don't yet pay your subs by Standing Order, we would really appreciate it if you would consider setting up a Standing Order instruction this year. Standing Order payments reduce our administration considerably!

This new bank account should be used for all payments made to the Collection in future.



## **General Information:**

Southam Heritage Collection belongs to the people of Southam. It is managed by Trustees and a Committee. Membership of the group 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: [southamheritage@hotmail.com](mailto:southamheritage@hotmail.com) or message us via our Facebook page "Southam Heritage Collection". (If you are a Facebook user, please 'Like' our page and share our posts to help spread the word.)

## **Visiting the Collection at 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 restricted mobility. 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 group please contact us and we will send you an application form. 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. Donations are welcome at any time! Cheques should be made payable to 'Southam Heritage Collection'. You can also donate online at [mydonate.bt.com](http://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 in total 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 substantially in November and May depending on the number of tickets sold. All proceeds go to help with our running costs. 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.*