

Southam Heritage Collection

Tithe Place Community Rooms, High Street, Southam CV47 0HB

NEWSLETTER

No 22: Autumn / Winter 2018



Chairman's Update

If you ever attend a marketing course one of the first things you are taught is never to start with an apology, but I do feel the need to apologise for failing to publish a Newsletter earlier this year to keep everyone up to date with our progress. Unfortunately, the first half of this year was a very stressful time. We faced eviction from Vivian House as the building had been sold, and had nowhere to move to because our long-standing attempts to rent rooms in Tithe Place were being stalled by problems and defects in the building.

The good news is that we have now achieved the primary objective set when the Friends of the Cardall Collection (our former name) was established back in 2006: to find a permanent home for the Collection where it could be preserved and used as a resource for the town. In late June this year we were finally able to move into Tithe Place, having secured a seven year lease on two community rooms from Stratford District Council.

The two rooms provide both Exhibition space and storage / working space in a prime location in the centre of town, directly opposite the Library entrance and en route to the café.



Since Tithe Place was first opened three years ago we have wanted to move in to provide easier access to our Exhibitions for the less mobile and to become visible to those who would not normally be aware of our existence. Both these objectives are now being achieved. We are experiencing visitor rates at least 300% higher, together with an increase in sales of our publications - this goes some way towards addressing our significantly

increased costs – the rooms in Tithe Place are not cheap to rent.



In addition to the main exhibition area (see above) we are also able to present smaller displays both in our atrium window facing the Library and in the large project room window facing the High Street. These displays are proving to be very popular. So far we have featured the old Pubs of Southam and the 60th anniversary of Southam College in the atrium, and now have a new display on Harbury Station. We have been displaying four large WW1 banners (sponsored by DSI) in the project room window as part of the World War 1 Centenary commemorations. These banners were also used at Remembrance weekend events in the town, and formed the backdrop to the Poppy Launch event on Saturday 27th October.



2018 has been a very significant year in the development of the Collection. **Having reached this milestone, we now need to capitalise on our new facilities and opportunities.** Please read on to see what you can do to help.

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. It is an important record of the life and times of our historic market town. It is displayed, used and appreciated by the general public, local history societies, schools, reminiscence groups and researchers.

How Can You Help?

Since we moved to Tithe Place three new volunteers have joined us to help with stewarding exhibitions. This has allowed us to open three mornings per week (instead of two). We would like to increase the number of days we are open and for this we need more people willing to give a minimum of two hours per week. Volunteering to steward an exhibition provides an opportunity to engage with visitors as well as to assist with fundraising by promoting books, cards and other merchandise for sale. Here are some other tasks you might like to help with:

- Research – choose an area of interest and use the Collection catalogues to pull together a story for developing into a display or article.
- Take Minutes at Committee Meetings: 3-4 hours per month, note-taking, typing, drawing up agendas.
- Contribute monthly 'Cardall's Corner' articles.
- Help put together displays.
- Scan documents from the Collection.
- Maintain our web site and use Facebook.
- Help with stalls at events and street collections.
- Photograph Collection objects.
- Help at fundraising events like coffee mornings.
- Membership Secretary – keeping records of members and issuing subs reminders.
- 200 Club Administrator – promoting the 200 Club, keeping records and organising the monthly draw.

The above are just some of the tasks we would appreciate help with – in most cases times can be arranged to suit you. Why not come and have a chat with us one morning and maybe put your name down on a volunteers list so we can let you know when we have tasks or events coming up that we need some help with?

Forthcoming Exhibitions

Since moving into Tithe Place Val Brodie has put together our final WW1 Centenary Exhibition. It incorporates photographs of many of the local men who served in the war, the ladies who staffed the VAD Hospital, a complete record of all the research done about over 300 people who contributed directly to the war effort, a video presentation about Southam people and the War, and a loan of a superlative display of trench art. The exhibition is open on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday mornings until November 20th, so do please visit it, if you have not already done so.

We have also been developing ideas for future exhibitions, and aim to present at least two major themed exhibitions each year, plus a special Christmas exhibition featuring the heritage photographs that appear in our calendar.

Here are our provisional exhibition themes for the next two years:

Jan – May 2019:	Southam Fire Brigade
May – Oct 2019:	Toys & Games
Nov – Dec 2019:	Calendar images
Jan – May 2020:	The 1960s -Sixty years on
May – Oct 2020:	Police and Airmen
Nov – Dec 2020:	Calendar images
Jan – May 2021:	Coventry Connections

The large-scale exhibitions will run for several months, but the smaller displays we are now able to mount in our external windows will be changed more regularly. These can feature many different aspects of the district's history. Many people stop to view these displays on their way to the Library, Tithe Place café, and Tithe Lodge itself - they are certainly helping to keep us 'in the public eye'. Would you like to suggest or develop a small display on a suitable subject? If so, please contact our secretary, Linda Doyle to discuss your ideas.

Fundraising

To pay for our new premises we need to generate well over £100 per week, so obviously fundraising is now a major preoccupation.

We have had some success applying for grants for specific projects and equipment, and Southam Town Council have been extremely supportive. However, funding to pay rent, electricity, insurance and other regular running costs is more difficult to find. Therefore the sale of merchandise: books, cards and calendars, fund-raising events and activities, the 200 Club, donations, business sponsorship and membership subs play an increasingly important role.

In early October we hosted a very successful **coffee morning, cake sale and raffle** in Harbury (Tom Hauley Room) with all the cakes, prizes and bric-a-brac donated by supporters.



Our coffee morning volunteers (photographed by organiser, Pam) and below, the lovely display of cakes baked and donated by supporters.



This was our first coffee morning, and we raised over £350 to help us pay for the Tithe Place premises, so we will be doing it all again next year.

On Saturday 8th December we are having our first ever **street collection** in Southam, so please give generously if you are in town that day.

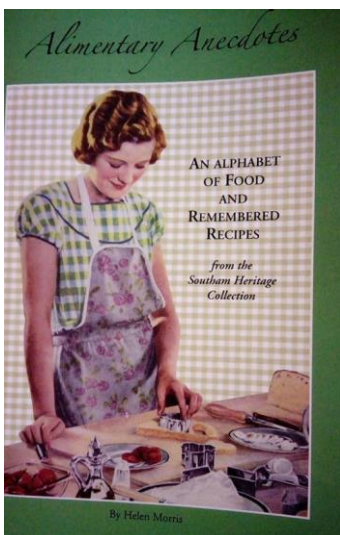
This year we are organising a very special **Christmas Raffle** for the first time – tickets are available now at £1 each. The first prize is a fabulous Christmas Hamper full of festive goodies, and there are lots of other prizes.

Merchandise for sale is an important source of income. We have devoted a section of our exhibition room to items for sale and happily we have seen income from sales increase since we opened in Tithe Place in July.

Our **limited edition cards** are very popular. Some were produced from the paintings by Margaret Sherriff and donated by her sons, and two seasonal cards were painted especially for the Collection by Committee member Pam to depict Southam in times gone by. Last year's card depicting the Craven Arms in the coaching era has been reprinted. This year's card is an impression of the medieval Tithe Barn opposite the Church, the foundations of which were discovered when Tithe Lodge was being built. All cards cost £5 for 5 or £1.20 each. Signed prints are also available.



We are increasing our range of **books for sale**. Alan Griffin's books are always popular, as are



books written by Trustees Linda and Helen. Helen's second A to Z book is now available, (the first one being 'Southam Zoo'). This new book titled 'Alimentary Anecdotes' costs £4.50 per copy and is themed around food – local foodie stories and heritage recipes. It includes some lovely colour photographs and lots of interesting articles.

We also sell a selection of 2nd hand books with a historical theme, for a donation.

Other fund-raising activity centres **on taking part in local events**. These included the French Market (April), the Easter Egg Hunt, the May Day Fete and Carnival, Southam's first ever book fair (September), the John Turner Festival and the Congregational Church's Charity Card sale (November).

The Southam Heritage 200 Club is a major source of income. It started again in June and is now co-ordinated by Pam. We have sold a record number of tickets this year, such that the 'bonus' November and May prizes will be increased to £50.

Here is a list of this year's 200 Club winners so far:

June: Jan Ford (Ticket No 159)
July: Sepp Cragg (Ticket No 122)
August: Pam Miller (Ticket No 113)
Sept: Joy Wallwin (Ticket No 111)
Oct: Robert Cardall (Ticket No 165)

There are still plenty of opportunities to win until this year's lottery ends on 28th May 2019, so if you have not done so already, buy your tickets by contacting Pam on 01926 814923. Tickets are just £5 for the year, and the draw takes place on 28th of the month.

Our **2019 Heritage Calendar** is now on sale. The costs of producing it were again met by our generous local business sponsors, and we are extremely grateful for their support.

Do you ever shop online using Amazon? If so you can now support us through the **Smile Amazon** scheme. We will receive 0.5% of your purchase prices as a donation direct from Amazon – at no cost to you. All you have to do is remember to log into your Amazon account via the Smile Amazon website www.smile.amazon.co.uk and make sure you select Southam Heritage Collection as your chosen charity.

We do need to find other sources of financial support, year on year. If anyone has experience of charity fund-raising and can lend a hand, then please get in touch with our Treasurer.

Other Activities

Our Tuesday volunteer group attended the Leamington Spa History Day on September 22nd and the Friday volunteers attended the Warwick Words History Day at Warwick Court House on October 6th. Both different days with different visitors and interests, but both opportunities to sell publications and spread the word about Southam history.

Southam does not stand alone in history, and as it's been the end of the World War 1 centenary period, we have found ourselves working alongside many other villages this year. These included Ladbroke that had a WW1 exhibition in All Saints Church during the Heritage Weekend of 14-16th September, Harbury and Long Itchington with their own WW1 events and even further afield at St Mary's Church in Rugby.

A Unicorn in Southam?

This year's Spring Bank Holiday Monday once again heralded the Southam Carnival and the launch of our final Exhibition in Vivian House.

Our member, Jennie Daniels, was free this year to be part of the Carnival Procession on our behalf and so set about dressing up for the part with her horse. The theme was magic and fantasy, so what better than to turn her horse, Tilly, into a unicorn and for her to ride side-saddle in the procession as a fairy queen.

The most delightful part of the afternoon was when the Brownies waiting for the parade to start suddenly realised there was a unicorn amongst them and a scream of 'a unicorn' was heard across Wood Street Car Park as a rush of little children came over to say hello to the 'unicorn' and its fairy rider, much to the enjoyment of Tilly who just loves a fuss!

Linda and Grace accompanied Jennie, and everywhere they went there were gasps of 'unicorn', so I think the Heritage Collection really hit the right note this year. (I'm sure a few believed we really had a unicorn, because Tilly looked and played her part so well.)

WW1 Centenary Exhibition

As mentioned above, our current exhibition will be our last one featuring WW1 and will close on November 20th. This exhibition is the culmination of the work done over the past 5 years by Val Brodie and others to track down as many of the local residents as possible who served their country during the WW1 conflict. This has not been an easy task as there is no definitive list, even of all the men who joined the Army, Navy and Air Force, let alone of the womenfolk who volunteered to look after and care for the wounded who came home.

Much of Val's work is available on the Collection's web site and will remain available after this exhibition has closed. However, the current display also includes many items on loan to the Collection and these will be returned once the exhibition has closed. These include a fearsome rifle bayonet and a cigarette case damaged by a shell fragment but which saved the soldiers life.



Trench Art display in the Exhibition Room

In addition to the above we also have a display case filled with 'trench art' – these items are shell cases in a wide variety of sizes (some positively enormous) which have been decorated to become ornamental objects. The items on display have been kindly loaned by James Gordon-Cumming who is a collector and has many more in his collection.

This exhibition (our first in Tithe Place) is larger than we have been able to mount in the past and is also readily accessible by people with limited mobility because there are no steps to climb.

Ramblers History Walk

Linda, along with Nigel Chapman, guided a group of Ramblers and Heritage Collection members round Long Itchington for a very pleasant mid-week ramble on June 27th.

Starting from the Long Itchington pond, we walked above the village to Collingham Lane, a relic of the 13th C period, before returning to walk behind the large Tudor house fronting the pond to end up in 'The Square' near the church. Here we stopped for refreshments at the house of one of the Ramblers that was once the blacksmith's house and smithy. We then continued on our way past the church, over the river and onto the old railway embankment footpath, following the railway that opened in 1895 and was closed in the early 1970s. The walk was completed on returning to the village via Whitehall Farm House, thought to be the original manor house of Edward Odingsells of Long Itchington.

Next year we aim to walk around Radway and Edgehill with the Southam Ramblers.

Southam College

It's hard to believe that it is 60 years since the High School was opened in Southam, but the school, now renamed Southam College, celebrated its 60th Birthday this year. We assisted them with research and preparing additional information about the

school as part of their birthday celebrations. The school opened in 1958 with 340 students and had cost £132,650. Among the local dignitaries at the official opening was Southam Rural District Council chairman Mr S J Way. Sir Donald Finnemore in his opening speech suggested that parents should first consider buying a selection of good reading books for their children instead of buying a TV!

The College had a week of celebrations and special lessons, and afterwards we put a small part of their exhibition up in our Exhibition Room window. It has generated a great deal of interest and comment over the last couple of months.

We have been providing the College with an annual town walk for their visiting German students for the past six years and did so again on October 11th along with Town Mayor, Lee Ellard, starting at Grange Hall.

We've also made available information for the Geography A level students, and this year, we have provided them with a video and information about Southam's part in the Great War for their A level history students.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting this year was on Tuesday 23rd October in our usual venue, the Congregational Church lounge. The meeting was very well supported with 26 people attending and 13 apologies. Bernard gave his Chairman's report on a momentous year, and Pam presented the Accounts and Treasurer's report. The three Officers were re-elected en bloc.

After the formal business we had drinks and nibbles and members were able to renew their annual subscriptions and purchase calendars and cards.

Membership Subs

We are very grateful to our members for their loyalty, and thank them for paying their annual subscriptions which were due on 1st October. If you have not yet renewed your membership subscription, we would be most grateful if you could pay by direct bank transfer to:

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

Alternatively, you can call in to Tithe Place with your cheque, made payable to Southam Heritage Collection, or post it to The Treasurer, Southam Heritage Collection, Tithe Place Community Rooms, High Street, Southam CV47 0HB.

The subscription payable remains the same as in previous years: £15 for an individual, £20 for a couple and £5 each for the over 70s. If you are a tax payer, please complete the Gift Aid declaration included in our Membership renewal form (this form is available from Tithe Place, from our website, or on request).

Management Changes

In June, one of our founder Committee members and Trustees, Mrs Jenny Frith, decided it was time to leave the group. Jenny was involved right at the very start of the formation of the Friends of the Cardall Collection, and was an instigator of the initial discussions with Rene Cardall and Ken Graham about preserving the Collection for the town of Southam. Jenny led our Documentation team, and was also instrumental in getting us our first town centre home in Vivian House.

We wish Jenny all the very best for the future and thank her for her massive and invaluable contribution to the group over the past 12 years.

Our former Town Council representative, Patrick Jenkins has relocated to London, but we are very fortunate to have the Town Mayor, Lee Ellard as our current Council representative. Her support, experience, enthusiasm, advice and wide local knowledge are proving to be extremely useful.

These are our Current Committee Members:

Bernard Cadogan* (Chair)
Linda Doyle* (Secretary)
Pam McConnell (Treasurer)
Rowan Parker*
Robert Cardall* (*also Trustees)

Our 5th Trustee is Helen Morris who lives in Badby, but is still actively involved in several projects. The Constitution allows for up to 10 Committee members and 6 Trustees.

Walks and Talks

Linda and Bernard are still busy doing various talks in and around Southam. Bernard has given his talk on the 'Shaping of Southam' to most of the groups in Southam and surrounding Warwickshire, but still gets bookings for this or a more specific one about the Cardall family and origins of the Collection.

Linda has been concentrating her talks and town walks on the public houses of Southam, based on last year's public house exhibition, but has included other talks on subjects as requested.

With our move to Tithe Place, it is going to be easier to invite visiting groups for town walks. We now have a kitchen too, so are able to offer refreshments afterwards, making it a more social event for groups.



General Information:

Southam Heritage Collection belongs to the people of Southam. It incorporates the Cardall Collection, the Alan Griffin photographic archive and other items donated by local people. 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 or call in to see us when we are

open. Alternatively, you can email us on: 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.)

Exhibition Opening Times at Tithe Place, High Street, Southam:

Our exhibition room is in the main atrium of Tithe Place opposite the Library entrance. We are normally open on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. We can open at other times by arrangement. If you would like to arrange a private or group visit outside these opening times, 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' or paid direct to our Lloyds Account Sort Code: 30 99 13 Account No: 31344868. You can also donate online at mydonate.bt.com If you shop online through Amazon, please login using www.smile.amazon.co.uk and select us as your chosen charity – we will then receive a donation from Amazon every time you shop - at no cost to you.

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. 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 we would love to hear from you.

200 Club:

Tickets cost just £5 per annum and you can join at any time. Your number is allocated randomly and 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 Pam on 01926 814923

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.