

Southam Heritage Collection

(formerly The Cardall Collection)

NEWSLETTER

No 24: Autumn / Winter 2019



Chairman's Update

Well it's a very gloomy November day as I'm writing this but gloomy is certainly not the theme of this update. In fact, the months that have passed since our last newsletter have been every bit as busy and rewarding as usual. Things have certainly shifted up a gear since we moved into Tithe Place.

The Summer 'Playtimes Past' exhibition was very well received – you wouldn't believe the number of people reminiscing over "Bill and Ben, the Flower Pot Men" and then "Oohing and Ahhing" over the large number of toys, books and other items we had on display, many of them loaned by members. In fact we probably had the largest contribution from members to any exhibition yet.



Jeremy Wright MP, popped in for a second time this year when he was visiting the Police and the Mayor for an update on the town. He congratulated Rowan Parker on his Warwickshire volunteering award, and couldn't resist having a go at the bagatelle game on display – definitely not his strength, even with Rowan's advice!

The local Cub Scouts group and their leaders visited us, and there's nothing like 20 young children running around a room filled with toys to make you think a little hearing loss is no bad thing!



Having changed our display to the Christmas Calendar Exhibition featuring the stories behind our 2020 calendar photographs, we are now extremely busy working on the first exhibition for 2020. This will feature the Police in Southam. We are getting some fantastic help from the Warwickshire Constabulary History Society in the form of Richard Woodcock and Terence Gardner. This exhibition gives WCHS a welcome opportunity to showcase some of their items as they have no display facilities of their own. It also gives us the opportunity to tap into their records – a win-win situation and I'm sure you'll enjoy the result. Furthermore, we hope to use the skills of a professional graphics designer, Richard Marshall-Hardy, who has volunteered to help us with the design of the exhibition – it opens in January.

Sales of our Christmas Hamper Raffle tickets are going well – but if you haven't got yours yet, you still have time. The draw takes place on 21st December.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continuing support. The increasing number of volunteers and the skills they are providing are indispensable. If you have any friends who might be interested in getting involved, please point them in our direction. Our website includes a long list of areas where we would appreciate help or they can pop in and have a chat with us.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a very successful and healthy New Year.

The 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. Southam Heritage Collection is a Registered Charity No: 1173033

Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM was held at the Congregational Church on October 29th. The format was the usual one with a presentation from the Chairman on the year's activities including some fascinating statistics relating to our first year at Tithe Place.

The Treasurer then gave a positive report on our current finances, but with a reminder that fundraising to pay the rent on the Tithe Place rooms remains a top priority.

We ended the meeting with a rolling display of some old Southam photographs and an opportunity to chat over a glass of wine and some nibbles. Our 2020 calendar and new Christmas cards were also on sale. For those who were not able to make the meeting there is a copy of the Chairman's report and the accounts on our web site under the Past Events menu item.



Alma Brunt and Sylvia Barrett looking after the cake stall at the Tom Hauley Coffee Morning.

Events & Fundraisers

It's been another busy few months attending and organising events. At each event we aim not only to raise awareness of the Collection, but also to raise funds for our premises costs.

In September we were represented again at the Leamington History Fair, and made some useful and interesting contacts.

On October 20th we had a stall selling our publications, cards and calendars at Southam Book Festival at the Graham Adams Centre. In its second year, this event was well supported, and was busiest when people came to hear a talk by the 'star guest', renowned author and screen adaptor Andrew Davies.

We attended the annual John Turner Festival of Arts and Crafts on Saturday 3rd November at Southam College. Several volunteers helped to 'man' our display and sales stall.

We held a coffee morning at the Tom Hauley Room, Harbury on Saturday 9th November. This was very well supported by local people, and eleven volunteers were on duty – helping to run the sales stalls, raffle and refreshments. Thanks to many more volunteers, we had plenty of delicious homemade cakes to sell, and prizes to raffle. We raised over £250 at this event.

On Tuesday 3rd December, we have a promotional and sales stall at Southam's Tuesday Market. This is a new venture for us, so we will be interested to see how many people stop for a chat, and a chance to buy some of our merchandise.

Spanish Students Visit

For the past 5 years or more we have been asked to do a brief history walk around the Town for the German exchange students visiting Southam College.

This year was no exception, but in addition there was a party of Spanish students visiting as well, so Linda and Bernard along with a potential volunteer took the small group of Spanish students and their teachers on a guided tour on a rather cold, wet and windy afternoon. It was lovely to do this and we hope the weather did not put them off the delights that Southam has to offer.



Southam Town Mayor Mike Brooks is seen above after welcoming the students

Exhibitions

As mentioned in the Chairman's update, the Summer exhibition 'Playtimes Past' proved to be very popular with all age groups. The exhibition ran from the end of May until 29th October, and during that time we recorded over 1,000 visitors.

Our Christmas Exhibition is now in full swing, featuring the stories behind the photographs in our 2020 Heritage Calendar.

In January we will be presenting a brand new Exhibition all about Policing in the Southam area, titled 'Southam Bobbies'.

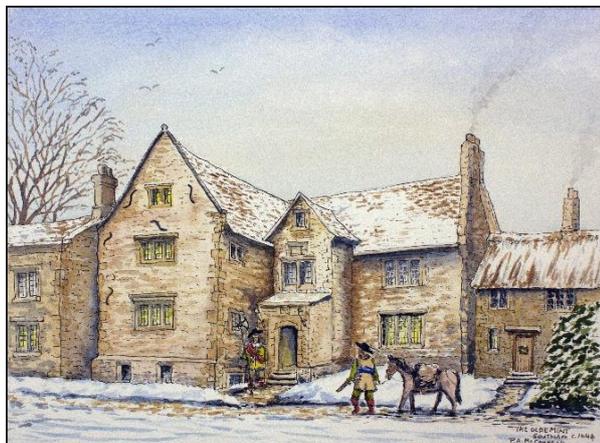
The theme for our Summer exhibition from the end of May is Southam in the Post-War era. This will focus on how Southam changed and developed as a town during the late forties, fifties and sixties. If you have any photographs of Southam relevant to that era, or memorabilia from those decades of great change that you would be prepared to let us exhibit, then do please get in touch.

2020 Calendar and new Christmas Card

Our 2020 Heritage Calendar is now on sale at £5 each. Copies are available direct from the museum in Tithe Place, or from Southam Post Office, Southam Office Supplies and Attica Balloon and Party Shop. The calendar features another selection of fascinating photographs related to Southam's past. Once again we have been extremely fortunate to have each page of the calendar sponsored by a local business. This means that the full cost of printing the calendar is covered, and every calendar sold means £5 more to help us pay the rent on Tithe Place.

If you would like to buy a calendar, but are unable to visit the outlets mentioned, then do please get in touch and we can arrange to post one to you.

This year's Christmas card, (the third in the series) was again printed from a painting by our Treasurer, Pam McConnell. It features the Olde Mint in the Civil War era. The cards are blank inside for your



own message. We now sell a range of different greetings cards, and they cost £1.20 each, or 5 cards for £5. Mounted and framed prints are available of these popular cards.

Christmas Raffle

Last year we presented our first ever Christmas Raffle, which was well supported. This year's raffle has even bigger and better prizes, and we have again received £25 worth of goods from Southam Co-op to include in the Christmas Hamper.

We have plenty of other prizes to be won, and tickets are on sale now at just £1 each. The draw will take place on 21st December, the last Saturday before Christmas.

Cardall's Corner

The Southam District Advertiser magazine continues to support us by allowing us to send them a monthly article on an aspect of Southam & District's history. We know these articles have a wide readership from the feedback we receive.

Next year we are planning to print the first in a series of booklets containing early Cardall's Corner articles. The articles provide fascinating insights into a wide variety of subjects, many being inspired by artefacts, photographs or writings in Southam Heritage Collection. Having them in printed form will enable you to re-visit previous articles or read them for the first time, if you missed them first time around.

If you feel inspired to write an article for consideration as a Cardall's Corner, do please get in touch. We always welcome new authors.

200 Club Tickets - SOLD OUT!

This year for the first time, we have sold all 200 of the 200 Club tickets. There has been a fantastic response to this fund-raiser, and the level of ticket sales means that the November 2019 and May 2020 bonus prizes will both be £50. After deducting the prize money and Lottery License fee, the scheme will contribute £780 to help pay the rent on our Tithe Place rooms.

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket. The current lottery runs until the end of May, and tickets will be on sale again from 1st June 2020.

Ramblers History Walk

On 2nd October we joined up with Southam Ramblers to present a History Walk as part of their fortnightly 'Wednesday Walks' programme. This year a party of 27 Ramblers and Heritage members walked around the Edge Hill area and visited the

Civil War museum at Radway. A very enjoyable morning, and we are now planning the 2020 walk.

Tesco Bags of Help

We have recently been advised that our application to the Tesco Bags of Help scheme has been put forward to the voting round. The awards will be either £500, £1,000 or £2,000 depending on the votes of the Tesco shoppers.

We applied back in March 2019 and had almost given up hope. However we were very pleased to learn that our application for funding to support our exhibition programme and related activities will be one of three schemes you can vote for from January to March 2020.

So please be sure to pick up your blue tokens at the Tesco tills, and pop them into the Southam Heritage box as you leave.

New Talks Available

It's been a little while since we have had the time to devote to developing new talks. Now we are happily and successfully lodged in Tithe Place we have turned our attention to this again and three new talks are available:

- The Civil War
- The Fire Brigade
- One thing leads to another

The first two probably need no explanation but the third is a bit more enigmatic. Ever since the Collection started people have continued to bring items along to see if we are interested in adding them to the Collection. Sometimes we already have a similar item, or the item is too large or it is just not relevant to Southam. However sometimes we find that a simple object or fact leads us down a fascinating trail. So, this third new talk takes five instances where a new item has been uncovered and we have then discovered a whole series of unknown stories relating to the town. These five stories are revealed in this talk.

Another new talk, still under development, will be ready early in the New Year and is about the Police in Southam. Bookings for all these talks can be made via our normal email address.

Friday Members' Mornings

We open our Exhibition Room to the public every week on Tuesday, Friday and Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon. However, on Friday mornings, members are also welcome to come to our Project Room and look at any of our paper files such as the Minute book, WW1 Soldier's records, Southam Lions' archives and a selection of local history

books. Also, don't forget that Southam Library has free access to Ancestry and FindMyPast and Linda is usually around on Fridays and happy to help anyone with their family or local history projects.

Volunteers

Now that we are firmly established in Tithe Place and our Exhibitions and displays are much more easily visible, we have seen a significant increase in the number of people offering their services as volunteers. This has been in a variety of areas including scanning and photographing collection items, stewarding the Exhibitions, researching specific areas of interest, writing Cardall's Corner articles, graphics design and facilitating walks.

We would like to thank everyone who has come forward to offer their skills but equally we are keen to stress there are many opportunities still available. If you look at our web site under Getting Involved you will see a long list of areas where we would welcome help. If you or one of your friends is interested please get in touch.

Using Amazon for Shopping

If, like most of us, you do quite a bit of your shopping online, please remember that if you use Amazon to buy goods, you can nominate Southam Heritage Collection to receive a small donation from Amazon every time you shop – at absolutely no cost to you.

Simply sign into your Amazon account via www.smile.amazon.co.uk and nominate Southam Heritage Collection as your chosen charity. Don't forget, when you shop online with Amazon – remember to smile!

Membership Subs & Donations

Membership Subscriptions became due on 1st October 2019. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please note the fees are the same as in previous years: £20 for a couple, £15 for a single under 70 and £5 each for the Over 70s.

Payments can be made by cheque payable to Southam Heritage Collection and sent to The Treasurer, Southam Heritage Collection, Tithe Place, High Street, Southam, CV47 0HB.

Alternatively, pay online, or preferably set up an annual Standing Order to our bank account:

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



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:

We are located in Southam Town Centre and our exhibition room is in the main atrium of Tithe Place opposite the Library entrance. We are 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 normal 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.

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 we would love to hear from you.

200 Club:

Tickets cost just £5 per annum and you can join at any time provided we have not reached the 200 Club membership limit. 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.*