

# Southam Heritage Collection

(formerly The Cardall Collection)

# NEWSLETTER

## No 26: Autumn / Winter 2020



### Chairman's Update

In our Spring Newsletter we reported that we had just been hit by the COVID virus restrictions and like everyone else, had to close with no idea of what was in store. Six months later and we've been unable to do virtually anything that we had planned for 2020.

Our professionally produced 'Southam Bobbies' exhibition opened in January, but had to be curtailed. This was very disappointing after the fantastic support we had received from the Warwickshire Constabulary Local History group.

Our planned Summer exhibition on "Southam after WW2" had to be abandoned, and we were unable to present any talks about local history, or organise any outreach activities. One by one, all the town's normal events were cancelled, which meant no opportunities to attend them and raise funds.

However, we have been slowly adapting to the new environment in various ways. One thing we have done is develop our skills in 'virtual' communication. We have continued to hold Management and Trustee meetings using 'Zoom' which presented some challenges, but nothing insurmountable. Secondly, we have started to produce more videos that can be posted online on YouTube.



We also participated in both the online Leamington Local History day and the virtual Southam Book Festival, by making existing and new videos available. The new Book Festival video was well received and involved 5 volunteers talking about the various books that we have on sale. We are now working on a new video about the naming of Tithe Lodge and Tithe Place and the discoveries made during its construction – all these videos will be available to view via our web site.

Although we had to suspend volunteer activities within Tithe Place, we have carried on working from home on various projects. We were pleased that our regular volunteers were keen to get back to work, and we've had enquiries from new people including one lady, who is interested in helping us to acquire official museum accreditation status.

Following an appeal by our Treasurer, Stratford District Council has been very understanding in waiving the rent on our Tithe Place rooms whilst the café and Library were closed and we could not comply with Government guidelines on making our rooms Covid-secure. We are hoping that they will continue to support us until we can be fully operational again.

The Library started to provide a limited service in September, and the café re-opened in early October. In order to generate some income, (and after carrying out the necessary risk assessment and purchasing various anti-viral supplies,) we have now resumed some activities at Tithe Place.

Footfall remains low, however, and the closure of the Tuesday market was a huge blow for the town. It used to draw large numbers of people in which was a great benefit to us.

At this time of year we normally hope to raise a substantial amount by selling our Heritage Calendar, Christmas cards, Raffle tickets and books.

**So the good news is, we are now open again, (for sales only,) on Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10am until 12 noon.**

**We look forward to seeing you!**



*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 is housed at Tithe Place in the centre of Southam, where it can be displayed, used and appreciated by the general public, local history societies, schools, reminiscence groups and researchers.*

## Membership Subs Are Due

### Annual membership subscriptions became due on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

As usual, our new membership year started on 1<sup>st</sup> October. If you have already paid your subs – well done for remembering, and thank you! We have sent out reminders by email, but are aware that not all of you receive emails. Also, many of you would normally take the opportunity to renew your membership at our AGM, and of course that is not possible this year.

Here is the information you need to renew your membership: Subscriptions are £15 for an individual, £20 for a couple and £5 each for the over 70s. You can pay by internet banking, cheque or cash. Cheques should be made payable to Southam Heritage Collection. Internet payments should be made to:

Southam Heritage Collection  
Sort Code 30 99 13  
Account No 31344868  
Reference Subs

Cheques or cash can be sent or delivered to our Treasurer Pam McConnell at 19 Tattle Bank, Southam, CV47 1NU.

If you are having difficulty renewing your membership, please contact us. Similarly, if your circumstances have changed (moved house, new email address, Gift Aid eligibility), then please complete the application / renewal form on the back page of this Newsletter and send it to the Treasurer by post or email.

Once again, many many thanks for your continuing support, which is appreciated more than ever in these difficult times.

## Annual General Meeting

This year our Annual General Meeting will take place 'virtually' via Zoom on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. If you wish to take part, please email us on [southamheritage@hotmail.com](mailto:southamheritage@hotmail.com) and we will send you the Zoom link at the appropriate time.

It will be a low key affair compared to our normal gathering with no opportunity to have a social drink and chat afterwards!

All of the Committee and three Officers have agreed to stand again for another year, and the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August have been audited, showing a slight increase in our

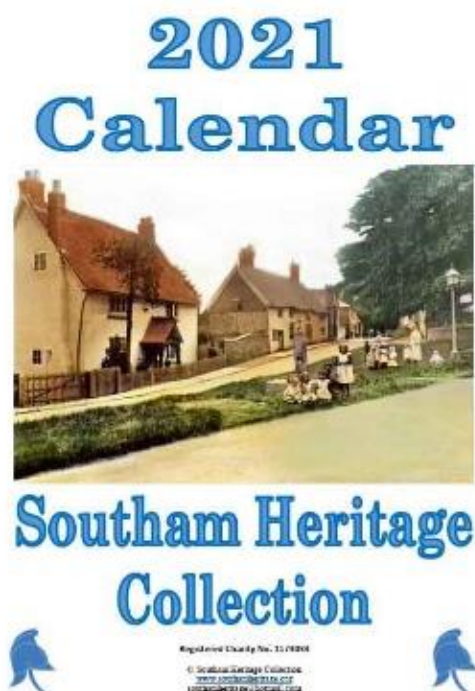
overall income, particularly from business sponsorship.

If you would like to receive copies of the AGM reports and accounts, do please get in touch by emailing [southamheritage@hotmail.com](mailto:southamheritage@hotmail.com) or telephone Secretary Linda on 01926 814214.

## 2021 Calendar - Available Now

Once again, despite this year's difficult trading conditions, we have received fantastic support from the local business community and Southam Lions. The page sponsorship has covered the cost of printing our 2021 calendar, so that all proceeds from its sales go directly towards supporting the museum. We thank them all sincerely and hope that you will continue to support our wonderful local businesses.

In addition, Southam Post Office has again agreed to sell the calendars on our behalf, and pass on all the sales proceeds to us.



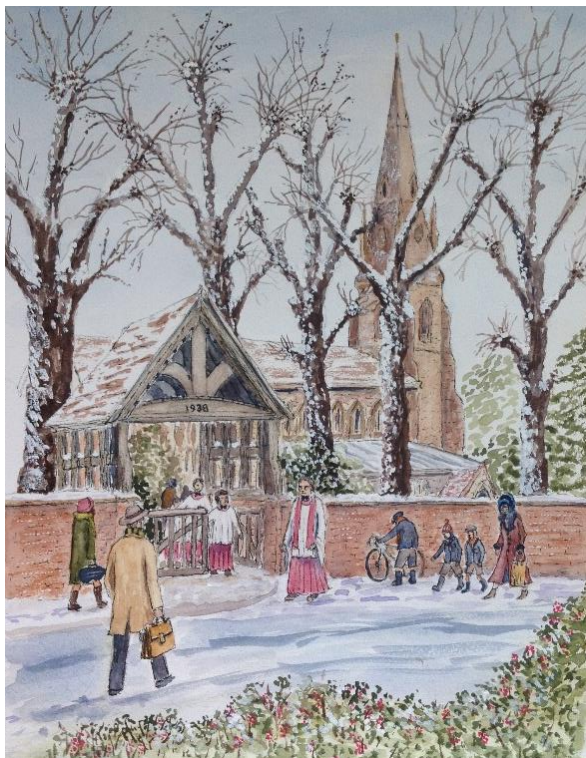
The Calendar contains 13 heritage photographs, is A4 size, and is on sale now for just £5 per copy. It can also be bought at Tithe Place during our opening hours. If you cannot get into town, you can order a copy, which we can post to you (+£1.50 postage) or deliver free locally, by contacting any Committee member or by emailing us at [southamheritage@hotmail.com](mailto:southamheritage@hotmail.com)

One of our first sales this year was to a person living in Canada, so our calendar has international appeal!

## Our 2020 Christmas Card

For the fourth year running, our Treasurer Pam has painted a wintery scene of an iconic Southam building to be used as our exclusive Christmas card. This year it features St James Parish Church, its lychgate, and the original avenue of lime trees.

The design was inspired by Alan Griffin's article 'A Chorister Looks Back', written in 2016. The article is available to read on the Southam History / Cardall's Corner tab of our website.



In his article, Alan describes how Southam St James had a thriving church choir from the 1940s to 1960s. The era depicted on the card is the 1950s, with choir boys and musicians hurrying to Church for practice. The avenue of limes was planted to celebrate the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

The cards are unique to us, A5 size and are available to buy at just £1.50 each. Cards from previous years (featuring The Craven Arms, The Tithe Barn and The Olde Mint) are also still available to buy.

## Christmas Hamper Raffle

Whilst on the subject of Christmas – we are once again running our Christmas Hamper Raffle with lots of fabulous prizes to be won.

Tickets are on sale now at £1 each, and are available from Tithe Place at opening times, which are currently Thursday and Saturday mornings

from 10am until 12 noon. The draw will take place during the week before Christmas.

Once again, if you have any difficulty obtaining your raffle tickets this year, do please email us at [southamheritage@hotmail.com](mailto:southamheritage@hotmail.com) or contact any Committee member.

## 200 Club

The monthly 200 Club draws re-commenced in June, and at the end of November it will be the first 'bonus' draw when the prize increases from £10 to £50. We wish all ticket holders the best of luck!

We started promoting the 200 Club back in May, and were extremely pleased with the response to our requests to renew tickets. We quickly surpassed our target of selling 200 tickets, for the second year running.

The 200 Club is a vitally important source of income for us and we are very grateful to those of you who bought tickets this year.

## Exhibition Displays

At present our exhibitions have to be limited to displays in our two main windows. To be Covid-secure, the Exhibition Room will only be open for sales, until virus restrictions are eased.

In the atrium of Tithe Place we have plenty of window space to exhibit material on various topics, and the current Craven Lane Hall display is attracting significant attention. We have recently added a video display to this window, featuring images from our 2021 Calendar.

Our Christmas Exhibition normally features posters with background information about each of the photos used in our calendar. This year is no exception, but instead of this appearing in our Exhibition Room, the posters are displayed in our external High Street window at the front of Tithe Place. We hope you will take time to view these displays next time you are in the town centre

## Heritage Open Days

Supported by the National Trust and People's Postcode Lottery, annually during September, Heritage Open Days (HODs) are England's largest festival of history and culture. Venues across the country open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history for free, and SHC have joined in during recent years by doing town history walks.

This year, despite Covid-19 problems, we again took part. On September 18th, 19th and 20th, we organised a full weekend of walks around the town centre exploring the town's history. Visitors came from as far away as Coventry and Northampton joining our local history enthusiasts.

After an introductory walk with Linda as a guide, they were given a selection of local history leaflets to use for a longer self-guided walk, either then or later, or to read over coffee in town.

Next year's HODs is from 10th to 19th September and (all being well) we will once again present guided town history walks. If you are a newcomer to Southam, or would simply like to find out more about your town, please make a note of the date if you would like to join us.

## Cardall's Corner

The District Advertiser Magazine kindly features an article on a heritage theme for us each month, and started production again in October after a six-month break. However from April to September we continued to produce our monthly Cardall's Corners, and all of them are available to read on our website. These are the articles you may have missed:

- VE Day Victory Bells
- 1918 Spanish Flu
- The Blacksmith and Farrier
- Southam High Street
- Southam's Infant and Junior Schools
- From Mayflower to False Teeth

If you do not have internet access and would like a printed copy of these latest articles, please do let us know and we will get a copy to you.

Production of our series of booklets comprising past Cardall's Corner articles has unfortunately been delayed, but the first volume should be available by the end of this year – watch this space.

If you would like to contribute an article related to Southam's history that might be of interest to the general public, please do get in touch. New authors are always welcome!

## Interest from Overseas

One of the things we try to monitor is just how many people are following Southam Heritage activities. We regularly monitor website visitor numbers and Facebook statistics, and numbers are holding up well. It is very pleasing when we receive contact

from people near and far who have discovered our website.

Over the past six months we have had many email conversations with a person from Florida who has been re researching his family history. He is providing us with quite a lot of additional information. We also had a US University researcher contact us asking for permission to use some of our material in their writings. In addition we have had contacts from Germany and Spain on family history matters.

Our popular Cardall's Corner articles, solicit a number of comments directly to the web pages by people following up on their own web-based research. We try to help these enquirers whenever we can, although in many cases we have to point them at other sources such as the Warwick Records Office.

## Bob Stevens

We were all extremely saddened to learn of the death of another long term supporter a few months ago. Bob Stevens, who lived just outside Stockton, had been a local Councillor at both District and County level for quite a few years and we had extensive support from him right from the very beginning of our efforts to establish the Collection as a public body.

Bob used his contacts to bring ideas and actual support to the Collection and was always keen to be involved, not least because of his enthusiasm for local history, and through his extensive British Legion and Rotary work. We extend our good wishes to his family following his very sudden and unexpected demise.

## Mark Grineaux

We were also very sad to learn of the sudden death of our Accountant, Mark Grineaux in August.

Mark was another of our long-standing supporters, having audited our annual accounts for no charge since the group was formed, and providing free advice on Charitable status and other accountancy matters.

He also helped to promote our books in the Grineaux Accountants office reception area, and sponsored a page in every calendar we have produced. We send our sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.



## **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 is open to anyone with an interest in the history of Southam and the surrounding area. If you would like to talk about 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](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.)

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

Our exhibition room is in the main atrium of Tithe Place, High Street opposite the Library entrance. During the coronavirus pandemic lockdown, we have been closed. However, from October to December we will be opening for sales only on Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. We are not able to present large scale exhibitions at present, but we do have two large exterior windows with heritage displays that are regularly updated.

## **Volunteering, Membership, Donations:**

If you would like to become a member of the group please contact us and we will send you an application form. Once a member, you could then let us know if you are able to volunteer any time or skills, but please note, volunteering is not compulsory. The application form includes a Gift Aid Declaration that taxpayers are asked to sign to enable us to reclaim the tax 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. Please also nominate SHC as your chosen charity when buying online through Smile Amazon, and we will receive a small donation from Amazon (at no cost to you) every time you shop.

## **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. Normally 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 donation will be requested, 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:**

Our 200 Club lottery runs from June to May each year. Tickets cost just £5 per annum and you can join at any time. Your numbers are entered into a monthly draw. The cash 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 our Treasurer, 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, relatives and colleagues.***



# Southam Heritage Collection

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

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / DONATION FORM / GIFT AID DECLARATION

Full Name: .....  
(please print)

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

I would like to become a member of the Southam Heritage 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 Southam Heritage 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: Southam Heritage Collection. Payments by internet banking or standing order to: **Lloyds Account Sort Code: 30 99 13 Account No: 31344868 Ref: (your name).**

Membership is renewable on 1<sup>st</sup> October each year. Many thanks for your support.

Please tick this box if you require a receipt:

## GIFT AID DECLARATION



giftaid it

If you pay Income Tax, the Southam Heritage 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 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.