

# Post WW2 Southam

September 3rd 1939

Britain and France declare war on Germany and start World War II  
Victory in Europe - **VE Day** - celebrates the end of World War II on

**May 8th 1945**

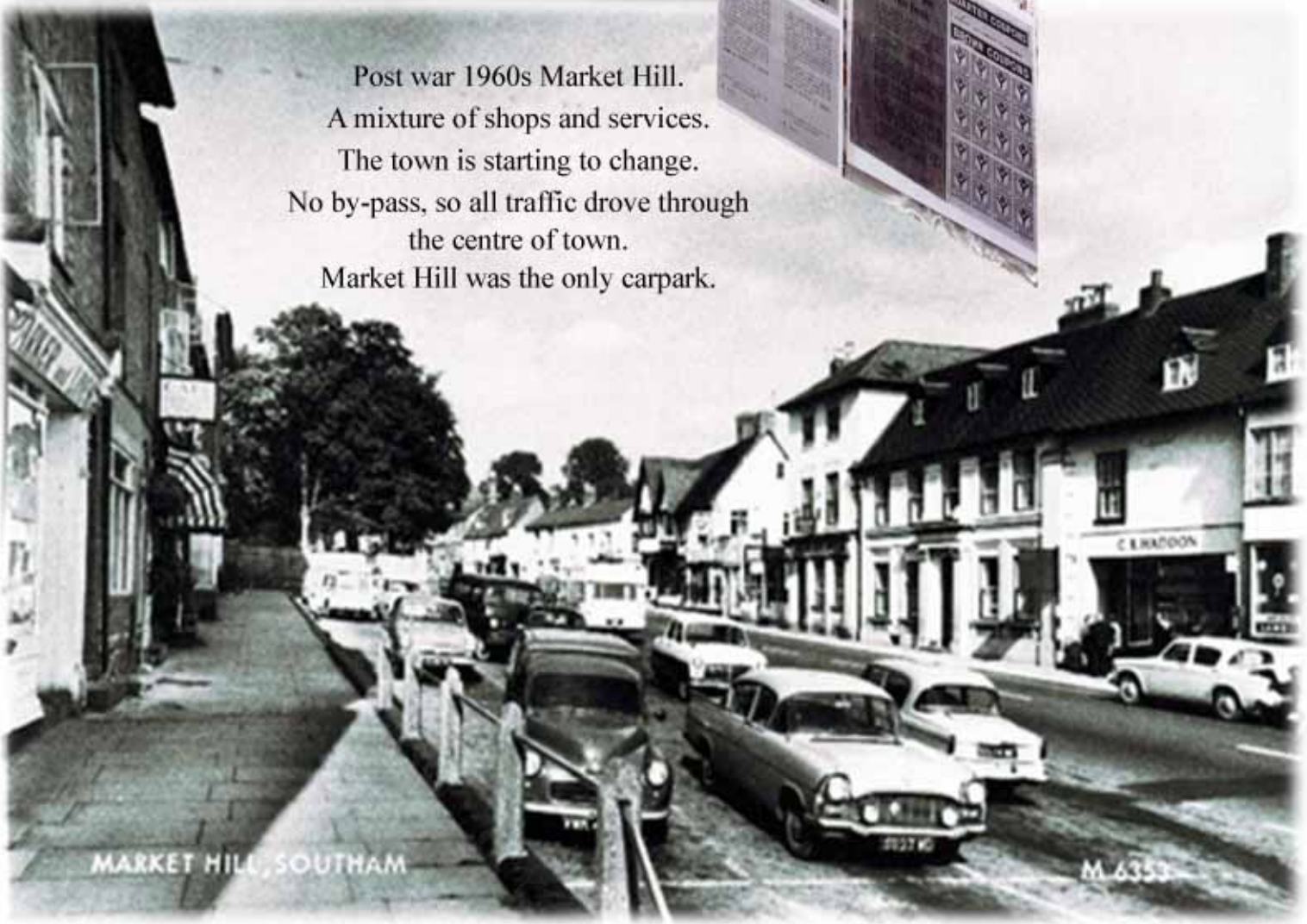
*Do you know anyone who was at Southam's VE Day children's street party on Market Hill?*



During the war basic foods were rationed and everyone had a ration book. **Fourteen years of rationing ended at midnight on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1954. Meat was the last food to have restrictions lifted.**



Post war 1960s Market Hill.  
A mixture of shops and services.  
The town is starting to change.  
No by-pass, so all traffic drove through  
the centre of town.  
Market Hill was the only carpark.





# Oxford Street

In 1967 Arthur Martin moved from his London Road Garage at Toll Bar End, Coventry and opened **Martins of Southam**. He later reconstructed his garage on the Blue Ping Garage site, once a Tudor public house the Blue Boar Inn, which became the Blue Pig. He sold up in the early 1980s and Budgens Supermarket was built, now the Original Factory Shop.



In 1959 an articulated vehicle collided with a stationary butcher's van and crashed into an empty house by the Blue Ping Garage. Both drivers were slightly injured.

Owner of one of Southam's oldest public houses, Riton Wright in 1813 renamed his Blue Boar Inn the Blue Pig Inn. Pre-WW1 Herbert Hopkins sold Hook Norton beer, but it closed in 1916.



1916

At auction, William Cardall bought the Blue Pig Inn with its wattle and daub walls, a cottage and yard, and turned it into the Blue Ping Garage.

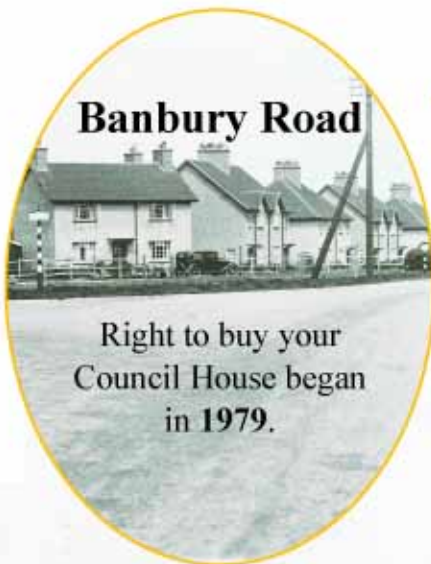


# New Housing

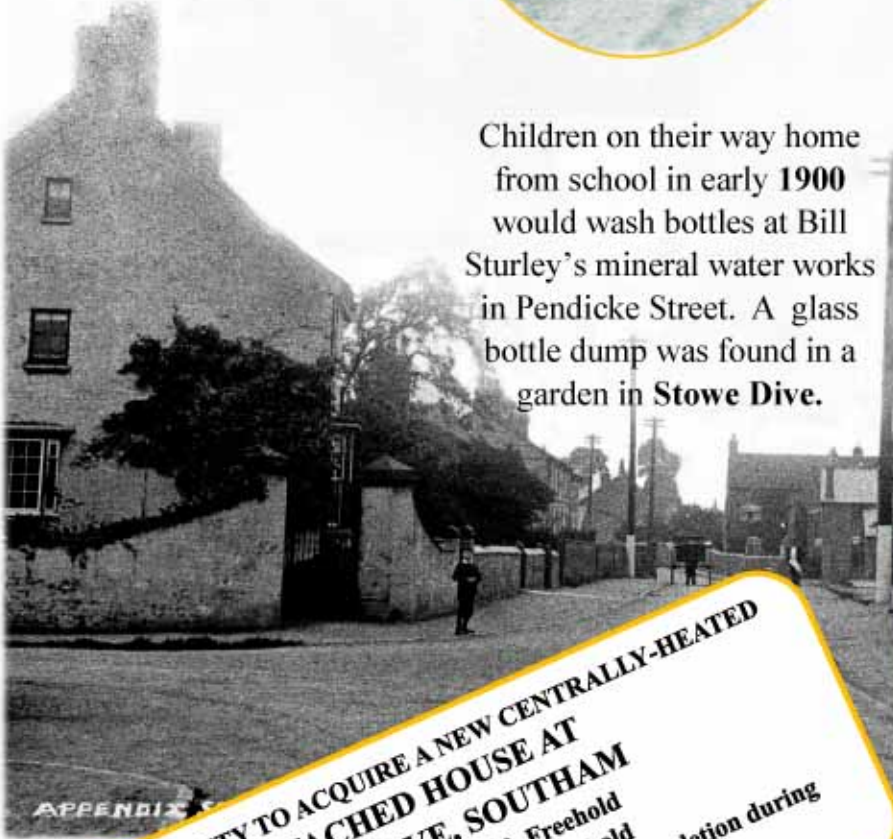
Between 1946-1951, 4 out of 5 houses built were Council Houses. The 1960s was a period of economic optimism and the aspiration to own one's own home. In 1950 over 56% of houses had no bathroom. Many still had outside toilets and used a kettle to heat hot water.



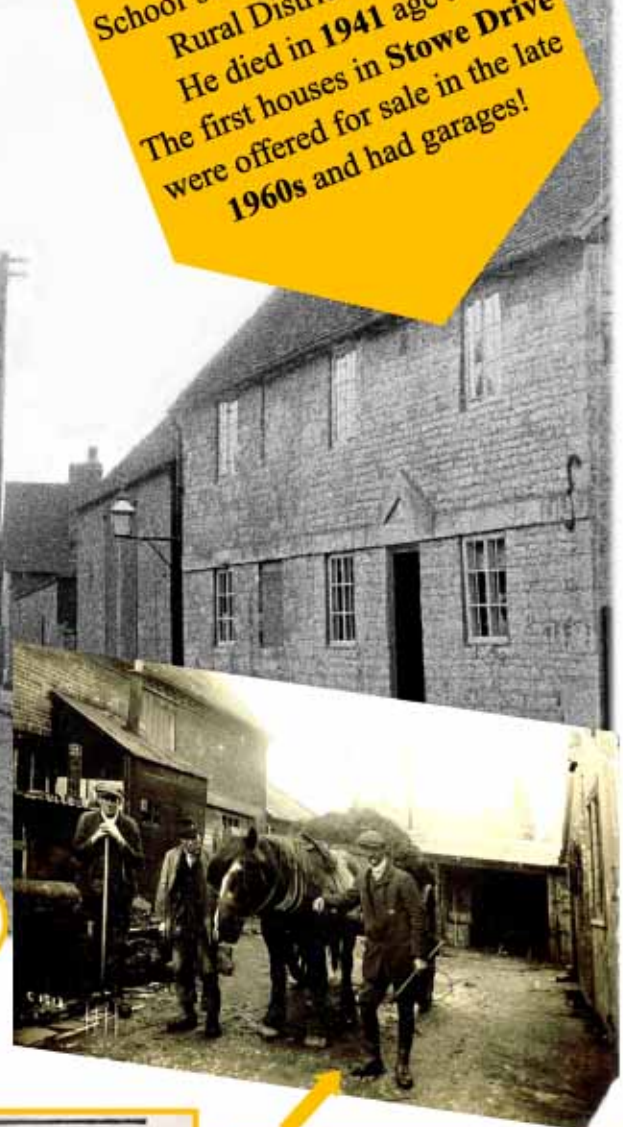
\*Based on share of dwellings rather than households  
Source: Dept for Communities and Local Government



Opposite Craven Lane, John Henry Reynolds' Home Farm was demolished to make way for Stowe Drive. "Harry" started work age 8 as a crow scarer and plough boy for 4 d [1 1/2 p] a day. He was a governor on the School's Board and on Southam Rural District Council. He died in 1941 age 90. The first houses in Stowe Drive were offered for sale in the late 1960s and had garages!



Children on their way home from school in early 1900 would wash bottles at Bill Sturley's mineral water works in Pendicke Street. A glass bottle dump was found in a garden in Stowe Dive.



**AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE A NEW CENTRALLY-HEATED DETACHED HOUSE AT STOWE DRIVE, SOUTHAM**  
 4-bedroomed - £13,750 Freehold  
 3-bedroomed - £11,750 Freehold  
 Only a limited number available with scheduled completion during July, August and September, 1973

**W. B. STURLEY,** (Late ALFRED CLARIDGE)  
**MONUMENTAL & GENERAL MASON,**  
 COMMISSION AGENT, etc.,  
 Broad Street, BANBURY; and SOUTHAM, WARWICKSHIRE.  
 ECCLESIASTICAL AND MEMORIAL BRASS WORK.  
 A Large Stock of Materials in Granite, Marble and Stone always on hand. Special attention paid to every style of Letter Cutting. Designs and Estimates free on application.  
**STEAM MINERAL WATER WORKS, SOUTHAM.**  
 Stone Granger Beer a Speciality.  
 Carting Agent to the Great Western Railway Co.

Harry (John) Reynolds with two of his workmen in Home Farm farmyard



# Wood Street Car Park

Southam Rural District Council bought *Hammerfest* (formerly the *Castle Inn*) in Wood Street for £18,500. It was demolished in **1972** for Wood Street car park.

Originally a Tudor farmhouse. It is thought to have been the 17<sup>th</sup> C *Queen's Arms*. It was reputed to be where Charles I left his horse and servant before the Battle of Edgehill in **1642**, while he slept at the Manor House on the corner of Daventry Street and Market Hill.

*Hammerfest Home of Dr Walter Lattey from 1869 then his son, Dr Walter Charles Lattey and wife Grace, until 1948.*

*Congregational Church*



## Castle Hotel

*Wood Street Southam*

### DOLIPH TAYLOR

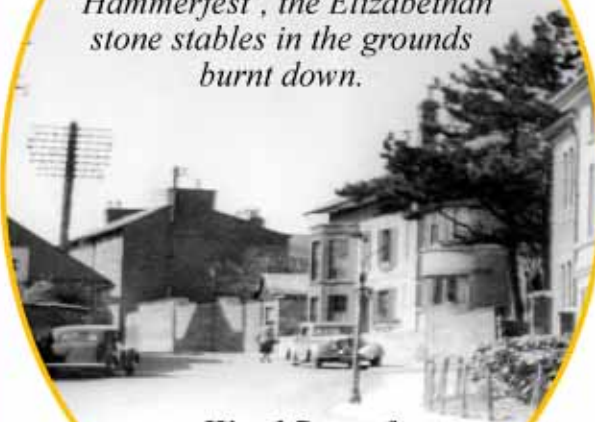
**Begs** leave most respectfully to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public generally, that he has taken and entered upon the late residence of T.Wood Esq, near the Horse Fair and converted the same into an HOTEL; and from his determination to conduct it, with a due regard to the comfort and convenience of those who may favour him with their commands, trust he shall always be found deserving of a continuance of their patronage.

To Farmers and Commercial Gentlemen the Castle Hotel presents many advantages, in addition to those of a well stocked Larder, well-aired beds, good stabling, and a choice of Wines and Spirits, all of which D.Taylor offers to his Friends on the most reasonable Terms.

Sporting Gentlemen and others can also be accommodated, when required, with a Lock-up, Coach-house and Loose Boxes.

*Southam October 6th 1836*

*In 1958, when Stuart Saxton's family lived at 'Hammerfest', the Elizabethan stone stables in the grounds burnt down.*



*Wood Street from Daventry Road*



# Southam Library

**Southam Rectory once stood where the Library now stands.**

In 1903, Southam Rural District Council discussed the possibility of a grant to provide a free library for the town. Mrs Elizabeth Webb, wife of Charles Webb the Clerk to Southam Rural District Council, became the voluntary librarian in 1921 and by 1932 she had up to 400 books available. She retired in 1948.

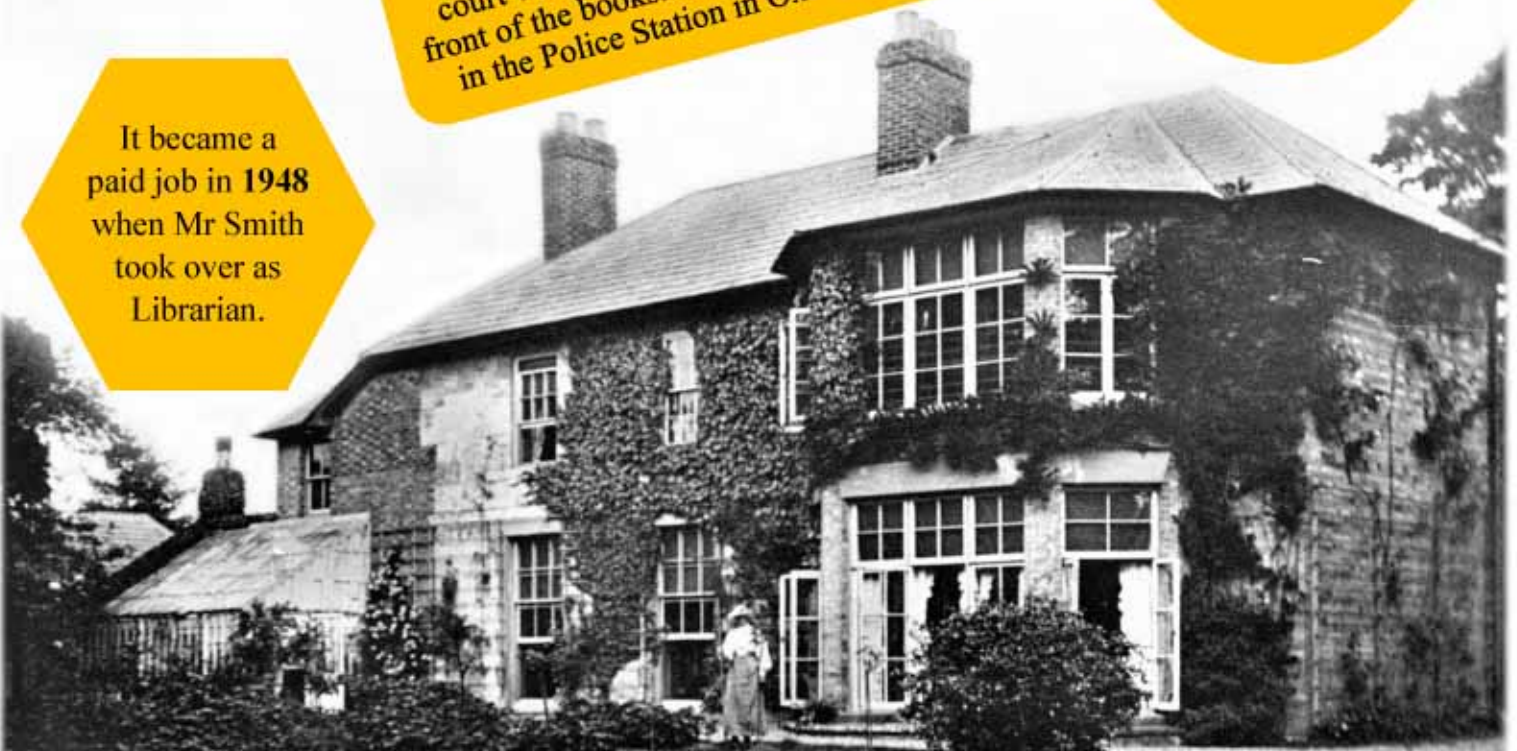
**Presentation to Mrs Webb 1948**

*On behalf of members of the local branch County Library, Mr Clement Smith presented Mrs C W E Webb, who has been hon. librarian for 27 years, with a barometer and a book token at the Boys School on Thurs last week.*

*The library was originally in the old Court House by the Craven Arms. When the court was in use, cages were placed in front of the books. 'Book work' was done in the Police Station in Oxford Street.*

In 1953, Southam became the headquarters for one of eight mobile library vans under the Warwickshire County Library. Parked in Pendicke Street, it carried 3,000 books.

It became a paid job in 1948 when Mr Smith took over as Librarian.



*The Rectory, Southam.*

In 1974, the Library began to open on Saturday mornings

*The Rectory was demolished in 1969 and replaced by a Library, Police Station, Court House, Victor Hodges residential home and a new rectory. In 2014, the new Library within Tithe Place with Tithe Lodge was built.*





# Southam Schools

Southam's first school was built in School Street in **1816**. The raising of the school leaving age in **1944** to 15, better housing and a post war rise in the birth rate, meant that all schools were struggling to cope with the extra pupils.

The new secondary school opened in Welsh Road West in **1957**, with twelve classrooms, library, hall, art and science labs . A gym and five more classrooms were added later. It opened with 340 pupils and room for another 250.

*Sir Donald Finnemore,  
a high court judge,  
opened Southam High  
School in April 1958*



*Headmaster,  
Mr Jenkins with  
Hazel Priest,  
Josephine  
Winch and  
Linda Sheasby*

*Sir Donald urged parents  
"before spending money  
on a television set, buy  
books for your children."*

In **1974**, Warwickshire Schools were given safety checks on the cement beams used in their buildings. From Southam High School, 850 pupils found themselves bused daily to RAF Gaydon as a temporary school while work was done.



*Gaydon*



In **1967** the new infants school opened in St James Road. In **1972-74**, the new junior school was built on the site of the old workhouse in Welsh Road West and Headmaster Mr Billington, moved the last of the 200+ children there.