

Southam Heritage Collection

Tithe Place, High St, Southam 01926 613503 Registered Charity No 1173033



NEWSLETTER

No 33: Spring / Summer 2024

Chairman's Update

We are nearly half way through 2024 so it's time to update members on some of the things that have been happening this year and also our plans for the second half. Each year brings new challenges and new opportunities and 2024 has been no different.

One of the saddest things to happen recently has been the death of one of our founder members, Rowan Parker. Rowan had been involved in the original discussions on taking the Cardall Collection into public ownership back in the mid 2000's. He was a volunteer ever since, together with being a member of the Management Committee and a Trustee. We will miss Rowan's contribution very much and we send our sincerest condolences to his family.



Another major change in 2024 is the Tithe Lodge café reopening. This has been long awaited (over 12 months with one abortive attempt) and we are hoping this time it will be successfully launched and draw in an increasing number of visitors to Tithe Place who in turn will stop by and take a look at our exhibitions and the items we have for sale.

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that Val Brown has joined us as a new volunteer focussing on translating some of our increasingly large number of legal documents relating to buildings and land in Southam. Val is diligently going through these documents deciphering the writing and struggling to make sense of the many abbreviations and legal terminology. If you have any experience of working with old legal texts and could perhaps help, Val would be very interested to hear from you, even if you can only help on an occasional basis.

Having had to discontinue his involvement last year due to health problems Peter Rollins condition has now stabilised and he has agreed to rejoin the Heriatge Collection in a slightly less onerous role

as a Trustee. This means we are now have three Trustees – viz Bernard Cadogan, Linda Doyle, and Peter. However we would still welcome some additional Trustees – we hold Trustee meetings no more than twice per year. If you would like to join us please drop a line to southamheritage@hotmail.com or stop by one day when we are open.

We also have a new Magagement Committee member, Roland Raffell. Roland has been a volunteer in our display room for a few years now and has also contributed quite a number of Cardall's Corner articles as well as writing and publishing a Heritage Collection book on Southam Workhouse.

Civic Award

Each year at the Annual Mayor Making Ceremony the Southam Town Mayor makes an Award of Merit to an individual and a group for their contribution to the Town. We were absolutely delighted when Cllr Angela John named Southam Heritage Collection to receive the group Award for 2024 and we will be displaying the glass plaque in our Display Room on a special stand as soon as we can get one ordered. Thank you to all our volunteers who have contributed to our work over the years.



Spring Exhibition

Throughout the years Southam has always had a thriving set of clubs and associations, some for purely recreational purposes, others to provide services for the people of the town. Today there are at least 40 such groups in place. A large number of

Southam Heritage Collection (incorporating the Cardall Collection and Alan Griffin photographic archive) is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (Number 1173033) comprising artefacts, documents, photographs and memorabilia associated with Southam and its surrounding villages. The Collection is housed at Tithe Place in the centre of Southam, where it can be displayed, used and appreciated by residents, visitors, local history societies, schools, reminiscence groups and researchers.

these organisations have recently added an entry to the new web based Community Groups Directory – see www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk/southam-community-groups-alliance-directory-view for the complete list and details about each one.

Given the above we thought it appropriate to reflect on what our predecessors from relatively recent times and longer ago have been doing and so we reopened the Exhibition Room in the middle of January with an exhibition focussing on old and new clubs and associations in and around Southam.

With assistance from some of our volunteers and members, we put together an exhibition and TV display with details and photographs from sports clubs, social associations



and children's clubs. The posters are backed up with a large range of photographs from Southam

Ramblers and short articles, with the display cabinets filled with items from the Twinning Association, sports trophies (e.g. the Donkey Derby) and a large and pretty selection of ladies' powder compacts collected by member Chris Holding. The exhibition will run until June 21st.

Roads and Transport in Southam

Our current thinking for the second half of 2024 is for an exhibition focussing on Roads and Transport in Southam. We have a range of maps, photographs, letters and research focussing on this area, which will make an interesting exhibition. However, if you have any items which you think could be useful, we would love to see them.

200 Club Update

Our 200 Club is a key source of revenue for the Collection and while providing us with a significant proportion of the funds we need to keep the Collection going, it also provides participants with an opportunity to win double the price of their ticket each month and £50 every 6 months.

Sue Nason is very kindly continuing to handle the administration of the 200 Club SHC200Club@hotmail.com. She will be contacting existing members in the next few weeks as their annual renewals will be coming up.



The second £50 prize draw for the 2023/4 year will take place shortly at the end of May.

Some of our supporters have bought tickets as a small present for their grandchildren either as a reward for some special achievement or as a birthday gift.

Sue would very much appreciate it if current and new members could set up a standing order to pay 200 Club and membership subscriptions automatically each year, since it would minimise her workload and also ensure you do not miss out on your opportunity to win.

If you have any questions, you can contact Sue at the email address above or via the application form also available from the web site address above.

200 Club Winners
2023 - 24

I Bennett No. 196
E Wilson No. 173
G Burford No. 238
C Evans No. 212
G Barratt No. 137
L Doyle No. 58
R Clarke No. 89
S Wain No. 127
M Gale No. 75
P Munday No. 29
J Ballinger No. 206

For a chance to win, and support Southam's Heritage Collection, email SHC200Club@hotmail.com or visit our web site www.southamheritage.org
Tickets £5 per year, 12 chances, starting in June, but it's never too late!

AGM & Committee Changes

The Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday October 3rd in the Congregational Church Room on Wood Street.

The current Committee members agreed to stand again and were returned unopposed, but we have had to let Peter go as he is unable to attend committee meetings.

Last year Pam McConnell stood down as Treasurer but so far we have had no new person volunteer to take on the role, although a number of her tasks are now being done by others, so the role is less onerous. One possibility maybe for someone to take on the role of Secretary and then Linda could move into the Treasurers role.

If anyone wishes to know more, please call into Tithe Place and have a chat with other committee members, or attend our next Management Committee meeting which will be held on Wednesday May 29th at 14:00 in the Project Room in Tithe Place. Please could you let Linda know via our SHC email address if you would like to attend and then she can make sure you are informed if the date and/or time changes.

Warwickshire Arts & Crafts Trail 2024

The annual trail has been going on for many years now, but Southam has had very little participation,

that is until this Summer. It is on from June 22nd until July 7th over 3 weekends and 2 weeks. This falls between our Spring and Summer Exhibitions, so we are going to experiment with joining Southam First's Arts and Crafts Trail, by using our Heritage Collection Exhibition Room as part of the trail, alongside St James Church, the Congregational Church, Galanos House and the Solas Home shop by the Bowling Green. Each venue has a selection of different artists and crafts, of which a Trail Leaflet will be available nearer the time with names of artists, their crafts and when the venue will be open.



Our Exhibition room will feature 2 artists, a jeweller, a glass artist and a book binder, alongside our Timeline Posters and publications. So do call in and take a look at something different. A free brochure (shown above) is available in Tithe Place.

Talks

Linda and Bernard are getting back into the swing of doing PowerPoint history talks for local organisations. Linda has started off with doing several talks on Dr Henry Lilley Smith and on Southam workhouse after the latest books published, and is now preparing one on Saint Wulfstan initially for Long Itchington WI, but it will be available for other groups.

Linda and Gerry are doing some Show & Tell talks for small local groups for a lower talk fee as Southam Lions have kindly covered the cost of being able to do these for small groups who would otherwise not be financially able to cover their costs to include speakers. We did one at Galanos with a wide range of old Southam photos and recently did one for the Vision Support Group where they could handle clothes and items. These small groups are social, and essential for getting elderly and disabled persons out and about, so thanks to the Lions, we have been able to do something for several different small groups on a regular basis now.

Our website page has been updated and a leaflet is available to make it easy to book for such organisations if you know of any.

Long Itchington History Group

We do not have a history group in Southam as it is difficult to find suitable places and time for us to do history talks. However, Long Itchington is on our doorstep and any Heritage Collection members are invited to join them as a visitor to their History Group meetings, which are held in the Community

Room at the school on the 2nd Wednesday evening each month. Just turn up for 7.30 pm. Talk details are posted on our notice board in the Exhibition Room each month with the next one being on Sept 11th after the Summer break.

Students

We have had a lovely young lad from Southam College doing his Duke of Edinburgh Award with us on Saturday mornings. Vinnie has an interest in history and a special interest in hats, of which he has many, including historical ones. So, he organised a children's Easter Bonnet Parade during the Easter holidays and his mother very kindly provided us with some small Easter eggs for visiting children to find as well. He enjoyed himself and so did the visiting children.

We have also had a student from Stratford College doing photography and living in Fenny Compton, use his work experience time to take photographs of Southam from positions they were taken in early 1900, so we have some comparison photographs.

Tombola and Raffles

Thank you to everyone who provided us with items for our tombola and raffles that we frequently do. These are all providing us with items to create excellent tombola in particular - we had a very successful event at the Lions May Fair on Monday May 6th at the Bowling Green and although we did not raise millions of pounds, every little helps.

Thank you also to those who regularly buy and donate second hand history books (documentary or fiction) with us, and donate small antique items for us to sell from the Exhibition Room.

These all help to raise the annual rent/service charge, because we do not get any assistance from the Government or grants and next year we have a rent review.

Heritage Open Days

Once again we will be providing history town walks for HODs. These will be done at 10 am, 11 am and 12 noon on Friday September 6th and September 13th, to coincide with St James Church opening their doors with refreshments those Friday mornings. There is no need to book unless there is a group of you, and if those Fridays don't suit you, Linda can always take a pre-booked group of 5+ at 11 am on Sundays September 8th or 15th.

In addition, in conjunction with the Mayor, Cllr Angela John, we hope to be doing a special Town Walk for local civic leaders in early September.



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 discuss 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 visit our website www.southamheritage.org email us on: southamheritage@hotmail.com or message us via our Facebook page. (If you are a Facebook user, please 'Like' and follow 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. We are open on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. We also 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 will 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.

Southam "Walk and Talk":

We can organise 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 automatically entered into each monthly draw. The cash prize is £10 each month, increasing to a maximum of £50 in November and May depending on the number of tickets sold. All proceeds go to help with our running costs. Enquiries to our 200 Club Organiser, Sue at shc200club@hotmail.com.

Cards, Books, Photographs and Prints:

We have a growing archive of photographs of Old Southam and surrounding area, and copies are available to purchase. We also sell various other items to raise funds, including greetings cards, calendars, a range of local history and second-hand books and other merchandise. You can now purchase some of these items online via our website, and we do take credit / debit cards as well as cash in our Exhibition Room, or you can go to our SumUp online shop at <https://shc.sumup.link> and purchase via credit/debit card.

***Thank you for reading this Newsletter.
Please feel free to pass it on to your friends, relatives and colleagues.
An electronic copy is available on our web site.***