

Southam Heritage Collection

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

NEWSLETTER

No 34: Autumn/Winter 2024



Chairman's Update

The equinox has just passed as I start to write this and we're now one month into the Autumn season with Winter coming up fast. Given the weather we've been having of late its difficult to think otherwise and as someone who feels the cold (ask my wife!) I'm in no doubt. So its time to put fingers to the keyboard and give you an update on what we've been doing and our plans for the near future.

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that the Tithe Lodge café had reopened and we were hoping we would see a significant uptick in the number of visitors. Unfortunately that has not happened although we continue to have a regular stream of people coming to take a look at our exhibitions, books and other items, the numbers are not as many as we would like. Its difficult to work out why numbers are still down but it seems there are less people walking round the town, although strangely the Wood Street car park is often much fuller.

Despite the above we are continuing to run three exhibitions each year and we are publicising our efforts, our books, cards and our Calendar on social media which is having some impact as online sales are certainly being maintained. In addition sales of 200 Club tickets are holding up well. Sue Nason has been doing a grand job for us here.

One of the things that any voluntary group needs is a good supply of people who are prepared to give their time and skills to helping the organisation survive. You will almost always see me making some comment about how we need a new person in some area of the Collection but it would be really remiss of me not to make a special effort to say **"THANK YOU"** to all those people who do help week in and week out.

We have a great group of people – at least 10 in number, who come in each week or, fortnight sometimes, to work in one or more areas and help keep the show on the road. Often these people start in one area, perhaps the display room, and then find they can also make a contribution elsewhere and increase their involvement.

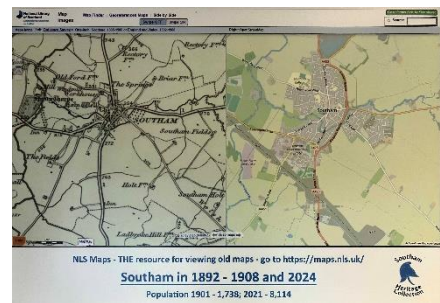
Over the years we must have had 30 or 40 people who have made an extremely valuable contribution and we wouldn't be where we are today without their help. So thank you to everyone for your invaluable contribution to helping



preserve and promote the history of this 1,000 year old market town. Your contribution does not go unnoticed.

Summer/Autumn Exhibition

As we mentioned in the last Newsletter our Summer Exhibition (open until the middle of October) is focussed on Roads and Transport in Southam. We have a variety of maps on display which not only show the roads in and around the town over the years, but they also show the area



occupied by the town and how it has changed over the decades.

In addition to the maps, we have a prize selection of model Land Rovers, which the little boys (and some of the men!) will be very interested to see.

Plus, we also have on display quite a few transport related items from the collection. These include things like the pointing device that was used instead of today's 'winker' to indicate that a vehicle was about to make a turn (sometimes it would get caught by a lamp post or another vehicle and got snapped off!) – no idea what this is? Maybe you should come in and have a look or bring a learner-driver along to see.

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.

Christmas Exhibition

As we get into the Christmas season, we will change our exhibition to one that focusses on our 2025 Calendar and our unique supply of Southam oriented Christmas Cards, together with our increasing number of local history books that might make interesting presents for family members who have moved away from Southam or even other friends who might like to learn more about the town where you live.



This year our Calendar front page features a lovely picture of the Bowling Green Inn – one of the older buildings in the town but which is beautifully maintained and provides a great eating place for the whole family. The price of the Calendar is still only £6.

If you would like to take a look at the books we have for sale you can call in or do this online and order through this web site - <https://shc.sumupstore.com/>

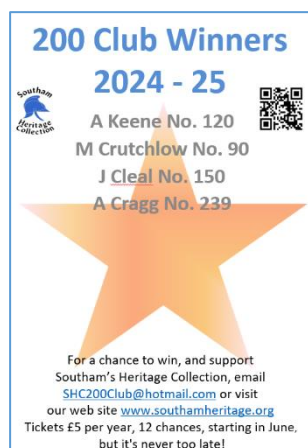
200 Club Update

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. We have sold roughly the same number of tickets this year as previously but we could always sell more.

Although the year for the 200 Club starts in June you can buy a £5 ticket, which covers up to 12 monthly draws, at any time in the year. If you would like to buy one please contact Sue Nason at SHC200Club@hotmail.com.

The first £50 prize draw for the 2024/5 year will take place shortly at the end of November. 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 new



members could set up a standing order to pay 200 Club and membership subscriptions automatically each year, since it minimises her workload and also ensures 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 our web site.

AGM & Committee Changes

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday October 22nd at the Congregational Church in Wood Street starting at 7:30pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend and after the meeting there will be some light refreshments and an opportunity to renew your annual membership plus buy some raffle tickets for the Christmas Hamper Raffle or a 2025 Calendar.



One thing you might like to consider before the AGM is whether you, or someone you know, could take on the role of Treasurer or even Secretary. Despite a number of attempts over the past year we have not been able to find a replacement for Pam McConnell who indicated she wished to stand down prior to the last meeting. Linda Doyle is currently our Secretary and would be happy to take on the role of Treasurer if someone else could take on the Secretary role, so this is another option.

Warwickshire Arts & Crafts Trail 2024

The Arts and Crafts annual trail has been going on for many years in Warwickshire now, but Southam has had very little participation, that is until this Summer. Between our Summer exhibitions we actively engaged with artists and crafts people encouraging them to utilise our Exhibition Room for displaying their work. As a result we had a fantastic number of visitors, many of whom came from faraway places and who had never seen our exhibitions before, or even knew of our existence.

The exhibition covered two weeks and three weekends over a fortnight in the middle of the summer and was without doubt something we will definitely take part in next year. It was a big success.



Town Walks

Whilst we have been offering historic Town Walks for some years now, usually in conjunction with other events like Heritage Open Days, we haven't often been asked to do one for a special occasion. So we were very pleased to be able to cooperate when Cllr Angela John, Southam's Mayor, asked us to do a special walk around the town for other local Mayors and dignitaries.

Everyone, including the High Sheriff of Warwickshire and the Lord Mayor of Coventry, assembled at The Grange Hall for a group photograph and then off Linda and Bernard went



with 10 or so people each. The walk lasted nearly 90 minutes ending up at our Display Room in Tithe Place where the visitors were able to view the Timeline posters and the current exhibition before making a quick dash back up to the Grange Hall for afternoon tea as a downpour started. As it happened this was almost certainly the last event at The Grange Hall before it was put out of action for many weeks due to flooding of the roof and the damage done by the rain that afternoon. We were lucky not to get very wet!

Membership Benefits

We have sometimes heard members comment that we do not offer much in the way of benefits to those who pay our annual membership subscription (these are due for renewal in October) so it may be appropriate to outline what Members can currently receive in return.

We are open in Tithe Place from 10 – 12 noon on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings, to both the public and members. However in addition members are welcome to visit our Project Room (entrance opposite the Public toilets) to look at our paper archives on WW1 soldiers, some Southam census records, local Almanacs and a selection of history books and photographs. We also have a set of publications from the Warwickshire Local History Society going back many years which are available for members to consult.

The Heritage Collection is a corporate member of the Warwickshire Local History Society and so our members are entitled to go along to talks held by the Society free of charge, usually at Aylesford School on Tapping Way, Warwick.. See <https://www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk/> for details of the society and its events programme.

Also, please let us know if members would like to meet together socially in our Tithe Place rooms one regular weekday afternoon each month (perhaps with coffee) to talk about a particular topic. If you have any other suggestions on things we could offer we would be interested to hear any other suggestions – we would like you to feel involved.

Finally, although we do not have a history group in Southam, Long Itchington is on our doorstep and any Heritage Collection members are invited to join them as a visitor to their History Group talks, which are held in the Community Room at the school on the 2nd Wednesday evening each month. Just turn up for 7.30 pm. There is a £3 charge for each meeting. Talk details are posted on our notice board in the Exhibition Room each month.

Progress with the Collection

Earlier on in the Newsletter we mentioned how grateful we are to all our volunteers, past and present, for the tremendous amount of work they have put into preserving Southam's History for future generations and also promoting the town.

However, we haven't often said much about the quantity of work done. Back when the Friends of the Cardall Collection was founded around 2006 we believed, based on some work done by consultants, that we would have around 2,500 items to catalogue. So how are we getting along?

Well, not only have we been working on the items we received from Rene Cardall, we have also had a number of significant collections given to use by other bodies. Today our main catalogue of items has recently passed the 9,000 mark with a further



4,500 photographs (including several thousand duplicates). However, we still have more boxes to address plus we have nearly 3,000 items for which

we have electronic copies but no indexing information, so there is still quite a way to go.

Christmas Presents

Christmas is approaching – do you need a coffee table booklet or a small present? All below are available from our web site of Exhibition Room.

A Prophet in his Own Country £12 - *Dr Robson* - The story of Henry Lilley Smith and his hospital in 19th Century Southam.

Lest We Forget £8 - *Alan Griffin* - WW1 Southam soldiers and their stories.

Southam Through the Centuries £7 - *Brian Townsend (updated from original)* - A short Southam history from Domesday to today.

Chapel Ascote £7 - *Linda Doyle* – The story of a Saxon village deserted in mediaeval times.

Wartime Southam 1939-1945 (WW2) £7 - *Alan Griffin* - Southam during WW2.

Southam Memories of WW2 £7 - *Various* - Memories recorded in their own words of living in Southam during WW2.

Southam Workhouse £7 - *Roland Raffell* - Why workhouses were built, with research from workhouse records about Southam's workhouse.

Battle of Southam £6 - *Linda Doyle* – Southam saw the first English Civil War skirmish and battle in 1642.

Leamington Lives Remembered £6 - *Alan Griffin* – 20 past residents from Leamington Spa.

Fetch the Engine £5 - *Alan Griffin* – Southam Fire Brigade story from early 1800 to 1950.

Southam Zoo £5 - *Helen Morris* – Stories from Southam's own Zoo. Also great for introducing children to local history to read for themselves.

Alimentary Anecdotes £5 - *Helen Morris* – Food associations throughout Southam from local people. Lots of stories and not a recipe book.

Looking Back at the Sisters' School £5 - *Mary Rock* – Story of the arrival of the Convent with German Nuns and St Mary's School in Southam from the late 1800s.

The Winkless Letter Mystery £5 - *Helen Morris* - The story of a local man's travels from Napton to St Louis (USA) following the Mormon's to Salt Lake City, through letters sent home in the mid-1800s.

Southam Stories £5 - *Various* – The book which links up the stories featured on the sculpture outside Southam Library in the middle of town.

Lock Down Lyrics £5 – *Millholme Poets* - The Covid pandemic featured through poetry by local Southam poets.

Ladbroke Treasure Trail £5 - *Ladbroke* - A historical trail around the village. A great walk with children, or simply adults which finishes at the Bell Inn.

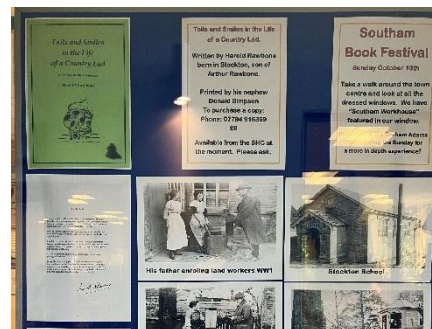
And of course, we also have our 2025 Calendar plus a good selection of Southam based Christmas Cards featuring paintings of Southam done by local artists. There is also a good

selection of second-hand history books plus some small knick-knack items which could make good stocking fillers.

Co-operation with other groups

One of the prime objectives of the Heritage Collection is to promote the town of Southam and to help spread knowledge of the thousand-year history of what was an important market town.

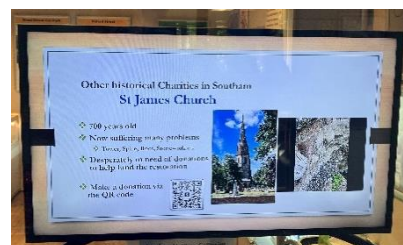
We try to do this in as many ways as possible. Sometimes we work directly with groups and either participate in their events on-site by using one or more of our large free-standing banners which now cover many aspects of the Town's past, or we promote their



activities via displays in our Atrium window, our external window (which is viewable all day, every day, or on our television

which is switched on 9 – 5 on days when we are open. We can also display event notices

on either side of our Display Room doors to promote local events. We don't use any of these facilities to promote commercial activities but we are very happy to engage with other local voluntary groups.



Year End

Christmas and New Year are fast approaching with shops already selling Christmas merchandise so let us wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a fantastic 2025. Also don't forget to pop into our Display Room and buy your raffle tickets for the Christmas Hamper draw (and 9 other prizes), a Calendar for 2025 and some Christmas cards for friends who have moved away to remind them of their happy days here in Southam.



Thank you all for your great support over the years, from everyone at the Heritage Collection.



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 07710 012052 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.



Southam Heritage Collection

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

www.southamheritage.org

Email: southamheritage@hotmail.com

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 Subs are: £10 per person per annum, payable on 1st October each year)

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:

Southam Heritage Collection, Tithe Place, High Street, Southam, Warks, CV47 0HB.

- Payments by internet banking or standing order to:
Lloyds Account Sort Code: 30 99 13 Account No: 31344868 Ref: (your name).
- Cheques payable to: Southam Heritage Collection.

Membership is renewable on 1st October each year. Many thanks for your support.

Please tick this box if you require a receipt: ☐

GIFT AID DECLARATION



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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.

Signed: Date:

Please notify the charity 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.

The information you give on this form is stored securely and is not shared with third parties; it is only used for the purposes of your membership of Southam Heritage Collection. Our Privacy Policy can be viewed in full on www.southamheritage.org