

# Southam Heritage Collection

Tithe Place, High St, Southam 07710 012052 Registered Charity No 1173033



# NEWSLETTER

## No 36: Autumn/Winter 2025

### Chairman's Update

2025 has been as busy a year as any in the past and certainly for myself as Chairman following Linda's sad demise at the very end of last year. Responsibility for virtually everything now seems to rest on my shoulders although we have been very lucky with a number of volunteers stepping up to fill roles that have become vacant. Also we have probably seen more new volunteers join than for quite some time. Hopefully this will result in some new thinking regarding what we do and how we do it, particularly when everyone gets up to speed.

One thing that has become apparent to me is that the Collection is now a much more complex organisation than I had realised. I need to spend quite a bit of time over the next 12 months making sure that volunteers are much more knowledgeable about all the documents and items we have in the Collection and how to access them.

Hopefully that will encourage our volunteers to step forward and take over some of Linda's roles once they understand better what is involved.

### Volunteers

Linda Doyle filled many roles in the Collection, especially in regard to the Display Room. She managed this room on a day-by-day basis and also did all the forward planning for Exhibitions and interfacing with other people and groups who wanted to engage with us.

Word spread rapidly and a number of people came forward to offer their services. By the end of January, we had four new people on board – two of them for the Display Room and one for the Exhibition Room. We now have two people available for each morning the Display Room is open, apart from one morning every two weeks.

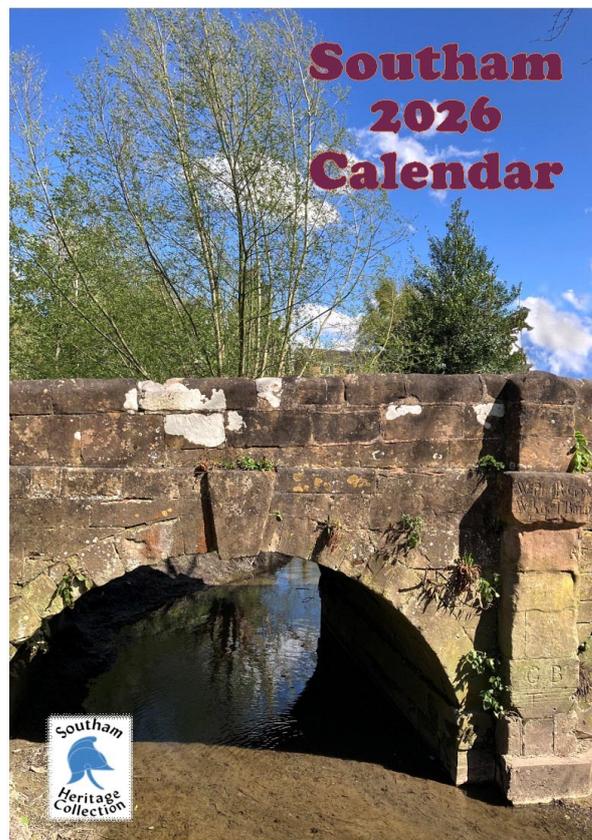
We have also started cataloguing the 3,300+ local newspaper cuttings (some containing multiple articles) which we have had for the best part of ten years now without any real knowledge about the subjects they covered.

In addition, we have another new volunteer to look at how we use social media, and Facebook in particular. As a result of her work we have seen a staggering increase in the number of views of our Facebook page – some 28 day periods have seen over 40,000 views of our posts.

New volunteer Andy Duckett has recently agreed to co-ordinate changes to the layout and content of the Exhibition Room, and others have increased the scope of their role but we are still looking for one or more people to take on management tasks.

### 2026 Calendar

As the New year looms many of you will be thinking about replacing your wall calendars. Once again we have a new calendar for 2026 featuring photos of old Southam.



The Calendar is available from the Post Office, Tithe Place and online – price £6.

*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.*

## 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

### 200 Club Winners

2025 - 26



J Dyer No. 11

A Critchlow No. 200

P Ireland-Brown No. 146

C Barney No. 221

J Evans No. 64

S Forgan No. 182



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

contact Sue Nason at [SHC200Club@hotmail.com](mailto:SHC200Club@hotmail.com).

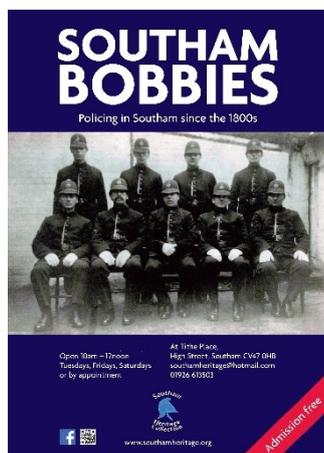
Quite a few of our supporters have bought tickets as a small present for their grandchildren either as a reward for some special achievement or as a birthday gift – would you like to do the same?

Sue would very much appreciate 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.

## Autumn Exhibition

For our Autumn Exhibition we decided to rerun the Police Exhibition which we had planned for 2020.



Unfortunately in 2020 this coincided with the start of covid shutdowns and so we had to close it within 2 weeks of starting. We still had all the posters, which had taken a significant amount of work to put together, and we were able to contact Richard Woodcock who runs the Warwickshire Constabulary History Group and who had previously provided us with a significant number of items to display in our cabinets. In addition he and Terrence Gardner were also able to provide us with

male and female helmets plus a hi-vis jacket which children could put on and have their photos taken by their parents. Needless to say this went down very well.

The exhibition also coincided with the launch of two books by Roland Raffel on "Southam: Law, Order and Policing" which cover policing in Southam from the earliest times through to the inception of a regular Police force in 1841 based in Oxford Street and on up to the second world war. Both books are available in Tithe Place or online via our web site.

The actual exhibition posters contained much detailed information as well as numerous photos of policemen (they were all men, although there was at least one female parish constable prior to 1841). In addition the display cabinets contained some fascinating items from the Police collection.

We were particularly pleased to welcome Peter Joslin, who had been Chief Constable for Warwickshire for fifteen years. Peter now resides at Galanos House and he visited the Exhibition along with Richard Woodcock, ex-police officer and chair of the Warwickshire Constabulary Local History Society, and Peter's carer.



## Christmas Raffle

Once again we have put together a series of prizes for our annual Christmas Raffle including a big hamper as the first prize and 12 other prizes. We have been lucky to get sponsorship from the local **Tesco** store plus **Southam Co-Op** and **Jacqueline the Florist**, for which we are very grateful. Tickets are now on sale in the Display Room - £1 each – **hurry along and get yours**. The draw will take place at 11:00 am on Saturday Dec 20<sup>th</sup> in our Display Room and will be performed by the Town Mayor, Cllr Lee Ellard.

## Walks and Talks

We have not been able to do as many this year due to a shortage of time and resources but we have responded to requests wherever it has been possible.

Two groups we regularly get requests for talks from are the Southam WI and the Mens Breakfast Club, which formerly met at Ufton but now meets at Harbury.

We did a talk for the latter on the changes that have occurred in Southam since WW2 and we repeated a version of this talk at the request of the Mayor, Cllr Lee Ellard for two groups of senior citizens at Tithe Place and Galanos House, and we're hoping to do a third talk at Galanos House again in the New Year. Subsequently we were asked by Revd. Vikki Bisiker to do an abridged version for the new Bishop of Coventry when she made her first visit to St James Church.



Each year the Southam Mayor invites a group of their peers (Mayors, Council Leaders and others) to come and visit Southam and we have been honoured to be asked to take them on a walk down

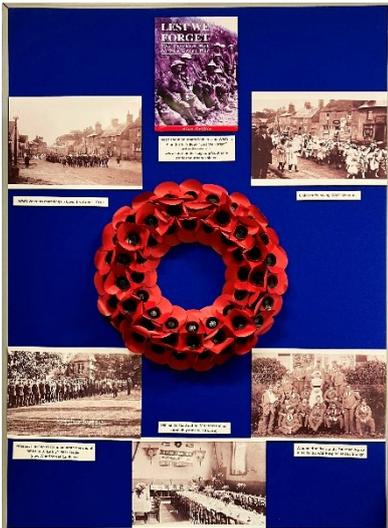


the main street of the town and highlight some of the more important buildings and briefly relate the history of the town. This year "rain stopped play" and instead of a walk we met in

Tithe Place so that the local dignitaries could view our Police Exhibition and then we moved quickly across the road to St James Church where we gave them a presentation instead of the scheduled walk. The photo above shows some of this year's visitors in our Exhibition Room prior to the talk.

## Remembrance Day

This year one of our new volunteers, Andy Duckett, came up with a great idea on how we could help commemorate Remembrance Day. Andy normally purchases a wreath for the Bascote War memorial each year and he suggested that in the lead up to Remembrance Sunday we could do a display in our atrium window of this wreath plus some of the photos we have of Southam men who served



during WW1. The picture above shows that display. The wreath has now been taken to Bascote Heath War Memorial and will remain there for the next twelve months.

## Congregational Church Christmas Card Sale

In November each year the Congregational Church runs a Christmas Card sale on a Saturday morning in addition to their coffee morning. The Heritage Collection has been invited to participate for a number of years now and we were there again this year along with



other charities like the RNLI and Blood Cancer which you can see in this photo. It proved to be quite a

successful morning if not for our Christmas Cards but certainly for our newest book "Southam: The Timeline of a Warwickshire Market Town" of which you can read more later in this newsletter.

## Arts Trail

For the second year we have been supporting Southam First's participation in the annual Warwickshire Open Studios event by providing one of the venues in Southam where local artists can display and sell their exhibits.

Each year the Trail is open for 15 days covering three weekends which means we have our Exhibition Room also open for extended periods on the three Saturdays and Sundays when the event is running.

Next year's Warwickshire Open Studios is scheduled to take place from June 21<sup>st</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

## Tithe Place

There's rarely a dull moment with our office space in Tithe Place and this Autumn has been no exception. The longest lasting problem has been the smell from the Gents toilets opposite our Project Room which has proved difficult to resolve.

Recently this problem has been compounded by a broken spring on the outer door of the Gents which has not yet been resolved. Hopefully it will soon be addressed along with some new bulbs for the Atrium area lights.

In addition we have had a reoccurrence of water leaks in the Project room. These have been the result of the recent heavy rain (nearly two inches during one day in November). Fortunately the damage seems limited to some marks on the ceiling panels adjacent to the external window. The damage appears to have been caused by leaks from the balcony belonging to the flat above, but this requires further investigation by Orbit.

Luckily the damage in our room is nowhere near as serious as that in the Library where several ceiling panels have been affected with a serious amount of water falling into the Library.

On a positive note we now have our much sought after Internet connection which means we can more easily do research and also hopefully more easily backup our increasing amounts of computer data to a remote location.

## Monthly History Talks

Following several meetings with Orbit and some confusion over dates and rooms Gerry Barrett has been able to re-establish the monthly history talks for Tithe Place residents. These were started by Linda in conjunction with Rowan Parker, and continued by Linda after Rowan's death. Gerry has now held three of the talks, all well received by the residents.

## Southam: The Timeline of a Warwickshire Market Town

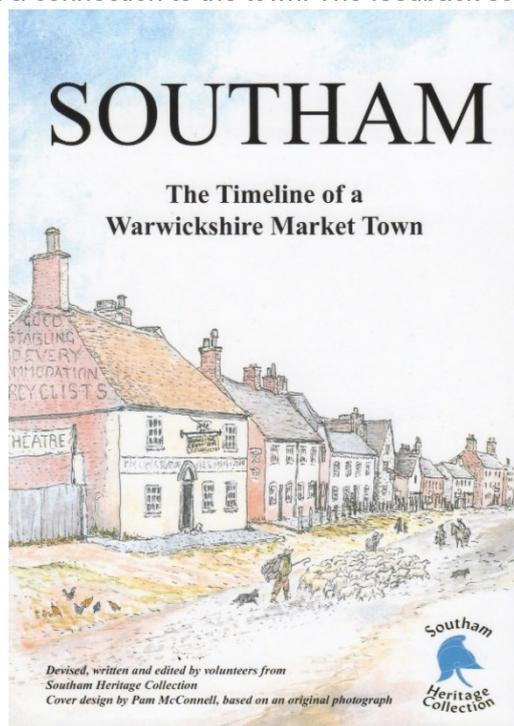
The original concept of a permanent Southam Timeline display was proposed by the late Linda Doyle and Pam McConnell several years ago. Funding for the project was available through a generous donation from the late Trevor Rogers. Working with volunteer Richard Clarke, some of the most significant dates in Southam's history were identified, and display panels produced and installed in late 2022. These have proved to be very popular with visitors to the Exhibition Room.

This year we saw the culmination of the Timeline Project with the publication of our new book, 'Southam: The Timeline of a Warwickshire Market Town'. With its 20 chapters and more than 80 photographs (many in colour), the book expands on the information given on the Timeline panels. Eighteen of the Chapters were researched and written by Richard, with Roland Raffell contributing the two remaining chapters. Pam compiled the chapters into a printable document, paginating, adding introductory pages, afterword, and checking for consistent style, format, and readability throughout. Pam also painted the original artwork for the cover. Bernard then

provided the expertise necessary to stitch the book into one document suitable for uploading, formatted the cover, and researched the best options for online publication.

The book's marketing campaign included posts on social media by Jennifer, a Press Release for both online and printed news outlets, directly emailing contacts, posters, raising awareness with various local groups and individuals, and then the invaluable 'word of mouth'. The book was officially launched at Southam Book Festival on October 12<sup>th</sup>, where twenty-one copies were sold in just a few hours.

We have now sold over 200 copies, and are confident of selling many more, especially as it would make a lovely Christmas present for those with a connection to the town. The feedback so far



has been very positive, and hopefully this attractive and readable book will become the standard reference for anyone interested in the town's history.

Producing the Timeline book was a superb team effort by our volunteers, and its subsequent popularity is a tribute to the hard work of everyone who helped bring the project to fruition. If you would like a copy, it is priced at just £8 and is available via the Southam Heritage website, or by calling into the museum during opening hours.



**Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year to  
everyone**



## **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 the Chairman, Bernard on 07710 012052 or call in to see us when we are open. Alternatively, you can visit our website [www.southamheritage.org](http://www.southamheritage.org) email us on: [southamheritage@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

## **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 from 1 to 2 hours and costs £5 per person. Contact: Bernard on 07710 012052.

## **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 07710 012052 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](mailto: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](http://www.southamheritage.org)

Email: [southamheritage@hotmail.com](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> October each year. Many thanks for your support.

Please tick this box if you require a receipt:

## GIFT AID DECLARATION



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](http://www.southamheritage.org)