

# Southam Town Council Newsletter

## 2021 : MAYORMAKING

[www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](http://www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)

### Mayor's Annual Report 2020-21

Usually, a mayor's report to residents would talk about his or her engagements with community groups and other civic bodies during the previous 12 months. However, this has been a year like no other so instead I will focus on that and then talk a bit about what the Town Council has been up to on your behalf.

Although everyone has been affected by the pandemic, there has been a wide variation in the impact it has had.

Some have lost people close to them, many have not. Some have been sick themselves, others have not. Some have been scarred by lasting disease, others have not. Some have lost their business or livelihoods while others retained an income. Some were confined to their homes for months on end, others could go out. Some had loved ones at home with them, others were alone.

Through it all, volunteers either continued working or started to support those most severely affected. I would like to thank all these people, including the Food Bank, the Community Spirit 2020 group and the many individuals and organisations that worked to make the lockdowns more tolerable. Thanks also to the volunteers who have been assisting with the vaccination programme at the Clinic, some marshalling outside for hours in terrible weather.

5<sup>th</sup> July is planned to be a special day: NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day. This should be a national celebration and thank you to the professionals who have worked to protect us throughout the crisis and continue to do so. I hope as many as possible in Southam will participate in this celebration.

The Town Council has gained some new members and I am extremely impressed by its collective knowledge, experience and wisdom. Things that the Town Council have been working on include: overseeing the new Southam Flying Fields Community Hall, investigating a new Youth Council, bringing the Neighbourhood Plan to consultation, maintaining public rights of way, continuing to hand over all our remaining street lights to the County, responding to planning applications, improvements to the play areas, working to install new CCTV in trouble hotspots, paying grants to community groups, hosting a local HS2 group and working to improve the look of the retail centre.

Members of the Town Council are also well represented in local community and volunteer groups.

Southam has been growing for 25 years but the recent spurt has tipped the balance in favour of getting an extra member of staff in the office. He or she will be the new Deputy Clerk/Communications Officer who will improve all our communication streams. I am sure that our new website will also help.

Surveys have shown that Community Spirit is what Southam's residents value most but we have not been able to get together for a long time, having missed last year's Carnival, Mop and the French and Christmas Lights Markets.

I hope to see many of us together again very soon, looking forward with smiles on our faces to our future together.



**At the virtual Mayormaking held on 4 May 2021, the Council unanimously voted Cllr Graham Foster as Mayor for a second term of office, together with that of his deputy, Cllr Angela John. They are both very much looking forward to a more normal year!**



## **SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN**

Scoping and call for sites Public Consultation: 10 May to 21 June 2021

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are working together to produce a new Local Plan to cover our combined geographic area of South Warwickshire. This is the first stage in a long process and your views are wanted.

Consultation document online at: [www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp](http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp)

Email: [swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk) / Email: [swlp@warwickdec.gov.uk](mailto:swlp@warwickdec.gov.uk)

DEADLINE: 5.00pm, 21 June 2021

## **THE GRANGE HALL**

We are so pleased that our regular hirers have now returned or are due to return shortly. Do you know what goes on here? If you fancy trying a new challenge, give one of our classes a go:

### **Mondays**

Line Dancing 9.30-11.30am (beginners) / Dog Training 7.00-10.00pm  
Bridge 7.00-10.00pm

### **Tuesdays**

Line Dancing 9.30-12.30pm / Barnardos Children Chattermatters 1.30-3.00pm  
Grange Players 6.30-8.00 (Juniors) 8.00-10.00pm

### **Wednesdays**

Badminton 9.00-11.00am / Extend Fitness for the elderly and less able 2.00-4.00pm  
Bridge 1.30-4.30pm / Clubbercise 6.00-6.45pm  
Line Dancing (Advanced) 7.15-9.45pm

### **Thursdays**

Fitsteps 9.15-11.15am / Short Mat Bowls 2.00-4.00pm

### **Fridays**

Little Kickers (under 5s football) 12.30-2.30pm

### **Sundays**

Tang-Soo-Do 10.30-11.30am / Spiritualist Church (monthly) 7.00-10.00pm

### **New classes starting shortly:**

Balletbums / Mondays 5.30-6.15pm

Little Acorns Group (play session for families with children with disabilities ) Fridays 10.00-12.00noon

### **PARTIES & LARGER GATHERINGS**

We are pleased that bookings for parties have started to come in again.

If you are thinking of organising one, please contact [carole@thegrangehall.co.uk](mailto:carole@thegrangehall.co.uk) / 01926 813933  
[www.thegrangehall.co.uk](http://www.thegrangehall.co.uk)

## **HS2 WORKS**

### **ROAD CLOSURE A425**

The Town Council are aware of the on-going discussions between the County and HS2 in order to agree a resolution; they are continuing to monitor the situation; as soon as an update is available, residents will be informed.

Check out the new website.

## **CONGESTION ON WELSH ROAD WEST**

Traffic continues to be extremely heavy along Welsh Road West. If you are taking children to Southam College, please consider dropping them off in the town - it is only a short walk, is quite safe and would lessen the problem enormously.

Consideration should also be given to parking—please think of the residents and their driveways. If everyone did their bit to help, there would not be a problem!

## **SOUTHAM PRODUCE SHOW – IN DANGER!!**

The future of the annual Flower and Produce Show, cancelled in 2020 due to Coronavirus, is in doubt because circumstances have changed and there are now not enough people to help organise it. Volunteers with organisational skills are needed urgently if the show is to happen this year. If you would like to help call Cllr Graham Foster as soon as possible on 01926 812183. Help and guidance will be available.



## SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION** : Read and comment on your Plan : [southamreg14.org](http://southamreg14.org)

OR call 01926 814004 for a paper copy

**Consultation closes at 5pm Tuesday 22nd June 2021**



## Potty Planter Competition

**Southam In Bloom** is holding a competition on **Saturday 3rd July 2021** for the **Pottiest Planter**.

The competition is open to both **adults** and **children** (categories: under 5, 8-11 and 12-16). Your planter could be anything from an old boot to a potty! However, nothing too large, as it must be portable. Your planter can be planted up with your favourite flowers, or even fruit and vegetables

**Please bring your planter to the lawn at Tithe Place between 8.30-10.00am, 3<sup>rd</sup> July for registration.** The planters will be viewed and judged by members of the public between 10.00am and 4.00pm. There will be certificates for runners up and a prize for the **Pottiest Planter** in each age group. Town businesses are invited to join-in with a **Potty Planter** in their window, or outside their premises. Who will win the **Pottiest Planter Business Award**?

Come and see the **Potty Planter Competition** on **Tithe Place Lawn** on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July between 10.00am and 4.00pm and help to judge which planters are the **Pottiest**. There will be a Raffle and Plant Stall in aid of Southam In Bloom. For further information contact Tessa on 01926 825086 or see Southam News & Views Facebook page.

## NHS Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day— July 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

The Town Council are fully supporting this initiative and have purchased the specially designed flag which the Mayor will be raising at 10am on Monday 5th July to formally mark the start of the celebrations; it will remain raised for seven days. We are hoping that local shops will take part in creating window displays and that the people of Southam can celebrate in a variety of ways whilst raising money for NHS Charities Together and the National Care Association. Full details of this initiative can be found [NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day - NHS Frontline Day](#)



The Town Council will be starting the celebrations with a **COFFEE MORNING at The Grange Hall on SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY between 10.00-12.00noon** - Southam WI have kindly offered to help with this event.

Further details will follow on social media!

## VOLUNTEER TRANSPORT SERVICE HAS REOPENED!

The office is manned each weekday morning between 10.00-12.00 noon; Tel: 01926 815817. We could do with a couple of new office staff, either on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis—just whatever suits. We always need new drivers too—if you think you might be interested in either of these posts, please contact Southam Town Council for an informal chat (no obligation).



### DOGS!

Some residents have raised concerns about dogs off leads in our play areas following an item in the last newsletter. The Council are considering this and an update will appear in the next newsletter.

See back page for latest information on how to contact the Town Council



## COUNCIL VACANCY

**The Town Council has one vacancy due to a recent resignation.**

Alongside the Town Council's core responsibilities (representing residents' interests, grass cutting, play area development and considering planning applications, as well as key proposals such as the current one for Aldi) it leads a number of its own initiatives including Community Transport, Town Centre Footfall, HS2 Liaison, Dementia Friendly Community, Neighbourhood Plan, Public Rights of Way, Grange Hall Management—members are also involved in many more external bodies. If you would like to apply for this place (you don't necessarily have to live in the Mill Hill ward where the vacancy is), please email [clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk) with some details about yourself and why you would like to be a Town Councillor.

The Council considers applications at its monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month.

## COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

Please take a look out our new, improved website [southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](http://southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk). It has been completely reorganised to put you, the resident, front and centre. There is lots of information on what the different local councils do and simple ways of reporting issues that are wrong. Easy controls for text size and contrast make it accessible for all, whatever the disability.

Don't worry, we've not forgotten social media, with developments coming there soon.



### BLOOD DONORS:

The next blood donor sessions at The Grange Hall (Coventry Road)

Thursday 10 June  
Thursday 8 & 15 July

## SOUTHAM UNITED CHARITY

If you are in or know of a family living in Southam that is so short of money that there is genuine difficulty affording enough food, some help may be available. Southam United Charity has an ancient charter to help those living under severe hardship within the Southam parish boundary. Assistance is usually in the form of food tokens and, in the summer, the charity accepts application for grants to help those starting further education. More details can be obtained by preferably emailing Mrs Ruth Tresidder ([john.tresidder2@btinternet.com](mailto:john.tresidder2@btinternet.com)), Trustee to Southam United Charity, 3 Kineton Road, Southam, CV47 1HZ



## SOUTHAM HERITAGE COLLECTION

After being closed since the start of the November lockdown, Southam's museum in the atrium of Tithe Place re-opened on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May and it will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning from 10am to 12 noon, in full compliance with Government Covid-secure guidelines.

The Summer exhibition (opening in July) is titled 'After the War' and features articles, maps, photographs and artefacts related to the rapid development of the town after the end of WW2. Alongside interesting displays, there is a wide range of books, greeting cards and other merchandise to buy. You can also support the charity by buying a ticket for their 200 Club monthly draw, which starts again in June. All proceeds help to

pay for the premises costs.

The Southam Heritage Collection team look forward to welcoming everyone back, and if you have any memories, photographs or items relevant to the history of the town that you would like to share, then do please get in touch. Volunteering opportunities are also available. Telephone 01926 613503, visit the website [southamheritage.org](http://southamheritage.org) and the Southam Heritage Facebook page, or email [southamheritage@hotmail.com](mailto:southamheritage@hotmail.com)

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT ON REQUEST**

### SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MAYOR: Councillor Graham Foster**

**TOWN CLERK: Mrs D Carro**

***THE COUNCIL OFFICE IS NOW OPEN TO VISITORS WITH COVID PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE  
PLEASE CONTINUE TO USE EITHER PHONE OR EMAIL TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL IF POSSIBLE. TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HAVE NOW RESUMED FACE TO FACE : NEXT MEETING 24 JUNE 2021***

(Tel: 01926 814004) email: [clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)