

PRESS RELEASE

From: Southam Heritage Collection
Release Date: Immediate (September 2025)

SUBJECT: Book Launch
BOOK TITLE: “Southam - The Timeline of a Warwickshire Market Town”

Contacts: Pam McConnell 07507 238457 (Book Promoter)
Bernard Cadogan 07710 012052 (Chairman)

Email: southamheritage@hotmail.com

Website: www.southamheritage.org

Facebook: Southam Heritage Collection

IMPORTANT NEW BOOK ABOUT THE TOWN OF SOUTHAM

Southam Heritage Collection is excited and proud to announce the publication of a fascinating new book.

“*Southam – The Timeline of a Warwickshire Market Town*” is an enjoyable and very readable ramble through the most notable dates, events and eras in the town’s long history, from Roman times to the 21st Century.

Three years in the making, and presented in chronological order, this Timeline book has been researched and written by volunteers Richard Clarke and Dr Roland Raffell, and edited and compiled by other volunteers at Southam’s museum. It is almost 200 pages long, has a specially commissioned cover design, and contains nearly 80 illustrations and photographs, many in colour.

“The Timeline book draws together the threads of Southam’s long history into one attractive and readable volume,” said Pam McConnell, who edited the book and designed the cover. *“It should appeal to anyone interested in English social history, but in particular those who have a connection with the town. We also hope it will become a popular and useful reference work for everyone involved in managing the future of the town.”*

Further Detail:

Through its long history, Southam has experienced war, fire, poverty, prosperity, decline and rapid expansion. The book introduces you to characters and events involved in shaping the town, and also explains its local and national

significance as a centre for transport and trade, and social, medical, educational and industrial innovation.

It highlights the town's important buildings, many of which are still visible today. There are chapters on the Holy Well, the Manor House, the Tithe Barn, The Grange, the Schools, the Inns and the Churches, with explanations of their roles in the town's development. It also describes Southam's significant wartime involvement in both the 17th and the 20th Centuries. It contains intriguing stories and legends to surprise and fascinate both those who are new to the town, and those who are long-term residents.

Its publication coincides with the upcoming 20th Anniversary of this popular heritage group, and the book is being launched officially at Southam's Book Festival on Sunday 12th October, (see: [2025 Exhibitors | Southambookfest](#))

It is available to buy NOW online at www.southamheritage.org or by contacting or visiting the museum. The price is just £8 per copy (plus P&P if required).

Southam Heritage Collection

Registered Charity No: 1173033

Tithe Place, High Street, Southam CV47 0HB

Open to the public on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings

Southam Heritage Collection is based in the centre of the town, and contains thousands of artefacts, documents and photographs relating to the history of town and surrounding area. It is a Registered Charity, run entirely by volunteers. It presents regular exhibitions at its premises in Tithe Place, works in partnership with other voluntary groups, and takes part in many of the town's calendar events. It has published several books about different aspects of the town's history and can offer guided walks and talks.

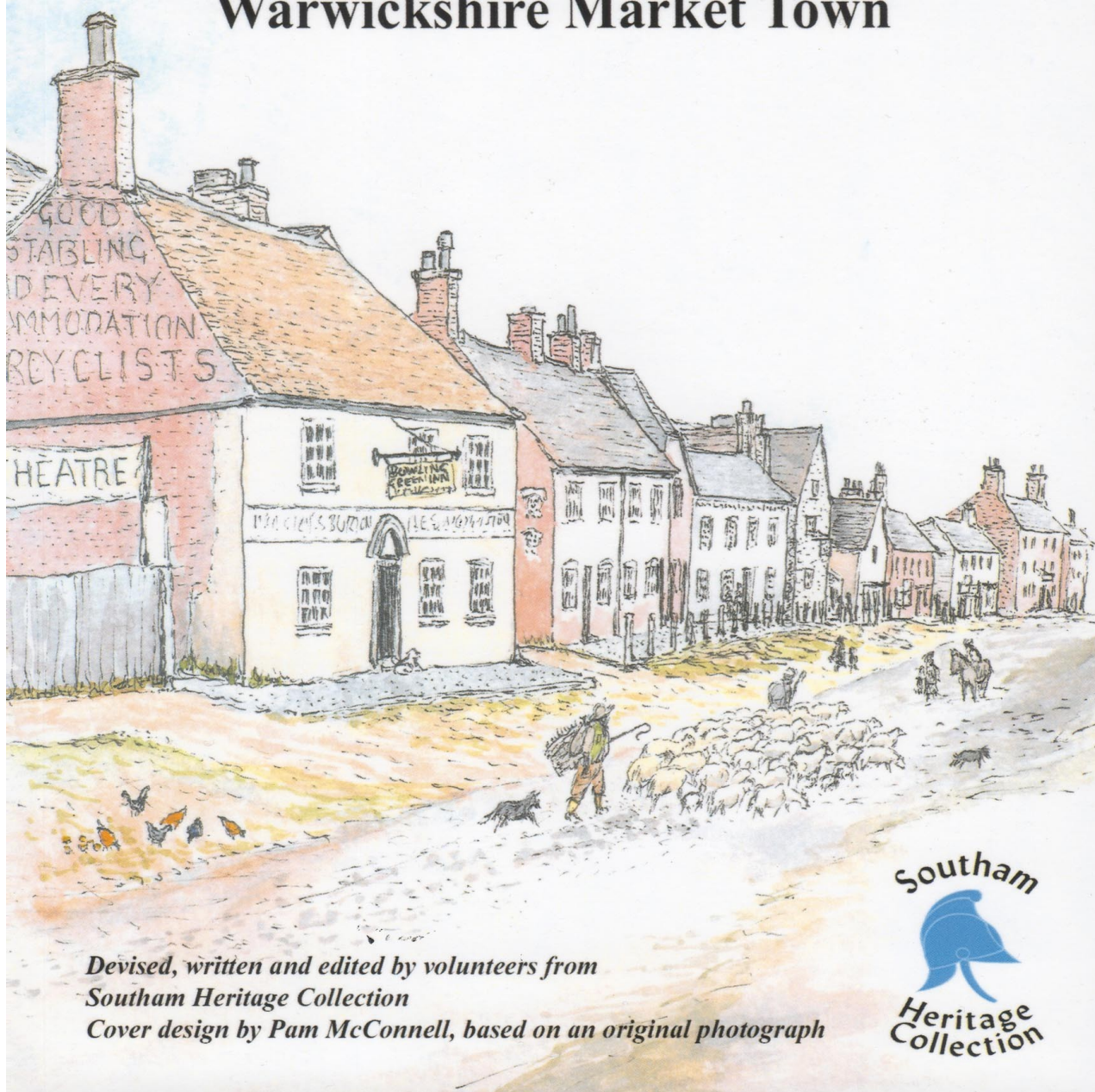
For further information about Southam Heritage Collection, please visit our website www.southamheritage.org, follow us on social media, or contact the Chairman, Bernard Cadogan.

IMAGE FILES ATTACHED TO EMAIL:

BOOK'S FRONT COVER

SOUTHAM

The Timeline of a Warwickshire Market Town



*Devised, written and edited by volunteers from
Southam Heritage Collection*

Cover design by Pam McConnell, based on an original photograph

Southam

Heritage
Collection

BOOK'S BACK COVER

'...a small oasis among the 2,300 acres of wild woods of which the rest of the parish consisted.' Southam-born antiquarian William Lilley Smith's 19th Century description of Southam as it was in 1086

'This is a very malignant town, both minister and people.'
Parliamentary Sergeant Nehemiah Wharton's description of Southam at the start of the English Civil Wars 1642

'Southam fire engine with four horses attached ... came dashing with full speed.' The Courier newspaper reports a fire at Birdingbury Hall in 1859

'At Southam I did leave him with his forces, And do expect him here some two hours hence.' William Shakespeare reveals his awareness of the town in Henry VI part 3, circa 1591

'a stirring meeting at Southam early in April. I addressed upwards of three hundred labourers and their wives on the bowling green there.' Joseph Arch agricultural reform activist 1873

.....

The small market town of Southam is situated almost equidistant between the major towns of Coventry and Banbury, and Warwick and Rugby. It has a fascinating history as a centre for transport, trade and commerce, and also for medical, educational, industrial and agricultural innovation. It has experienced war, fire, poverty, prosperity, decline and rapid expansion.

'Southam, The Timeline of a Warwickshire Market Town' provides a very readable ramble through the notable dates and events in the town's history, from the Roman era to the present day. It will appeal to anyone with an interest in English social history, but in particular to those who have a connection with the town.

www.southamheritage.org

Copyright © Southam Heritage Collection 2025

ISBN 978-1-8380585-1-7