

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, THE GRANGE, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 10TH MAY 2012 at 6:30pm

Present: Councillors: M Gaffney (Chair), J Ward, A Forster, J Soni, L Smith, M Willoughby, R Barrington, J Smith, C Pratt & L Hewer

Members of the public present were:

Cllr J Ellard , Cllr John Appleton, Mayoress Mrs Gwenda Gaffney, John Gwillam, Hazel Preston, Jackie Graham, Jenny Frith, Bernard Cadogan, Pauline Brailsford, Mr & Mrs W Pease, Adrian Denham, Mary Adnitt, Mr Eddie Thornley, Mrs Tessa Sadler & Mr Barry Parker

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Cllr D Wise, Cllr C Worsh, Cllr L Tasker, Sandra Meacham, The Friendship Group, Katherine Geddes SDC, Ann Vickers Southam Baha'is, Mrs S Haughton, Southam Neighbourhood Watch, Mr J Steele Craven Lane Hall, Mr M Webster Southam Dancing Club, Clarissa Roberts MBE VASA, Mrs M Hardy Inner Wheel Club of Southam, Mrs Glesni Thomas Southam Church & Community Project Ltd, Southam Safer Neighbourhood Team, Rev John Armstrong St James Church, Mrs Rowlatt WAB Southam Branch.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 12th May 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record of the proceedings.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR

The Report of the Town Mayor for the year 2011/2012 was presented to the meeting and is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

5. REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS Appendix B

The meeting received reports from the following:

Southam Christmas Lights Association
Southam Safer Neighbourhood Team
The Friendship Group
Southam Church & Community Project
The Grange Hall
Rotary Club
Twinning Association
VASA
WAB Southam Branch
Friends of the Cardall Collection

Verbal Reports

Jenny Frith - Southam Civic Ideas Forum

Tessa Sadler – Southam in Bloom

Mary Adnitt - Southam & District Girl Guiding

Jacky Graham - Southam Darby & Joan Club

Bill Pease – Rotary Club of Southam

Hazel Preston – Southam WI

Bernard Cadogan – Cardall Collection

Bill Pease – Southam Christmas Lights

The Town Mayor thanked all those attending and submitting reports to the meeting. Those reports submitted in writing are attached to these minutes as Appendix B

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY ELECTORS**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:00pm

Appendix A

Mayors Report 2011/2012

When I was elected Mayor twelve months ago I pledged to work for the townspeople and particularly its voluntary organisations which play such an important part in our everyday life.

I do not believe this annual report should be a list of events and visits as a sort of league table but rather a resume of a year when I have been delighted and honoured to represent the residents of Southam and the Town Council at events at home and away.

Gwenda and I have travelled over 2000 miles throughout the county this year on Mayoral duties promoting Southam at every opportunity and meeting many voluntary organisations who have representation in Southam. Some events stand out more than others and two I shall remember particularly were the reception given by Southam College and the ATC Southam Squadron to the RAF Charity ride supported by the Red Arrows pilots. Meeting Red Arrows pilot Jon Eggins widow and his mother was a very sad time but uplifting because they appreciated so much the support given by Southam to the event. I was particularly proud to be the Mayor on that occasion. The second event was the Young Carers annual awards at Leamington Spa when these young people with so much responsibility at a young age and giving up their childhood still found time to lead projects for others and gave enjoyment to us with their singing and performing.

All volunteers give up their personal time for no reward other than the satisfaction of helping others.

We take for granted our firefighters who keep us safe, our youth leaders who train our young people, Scouts, Guides and ATC. Southam Lions, Round Table and Rotary organising town events for young and elderly residents, Southam First, a new organisation of local business people and volunteers organising new events such as the Retro Day and many more in this Jubilee and Olympics year, Southam Christmas Lights who struggle for funding in these difficult financial times but brighten up the town during the Christmas period and Southam in Bloom whose organisation brightens up the town each summer. The many indoor and outdoor sports clubs in the town and I must mention the darts clubs and league. I have never seen so many trophies in one place as it was at their presentation night.

We are indeed very fortunate in Southam to have such a wealth of talent available to us and I ask you to continue to support all their events at every opportunity.

The Cardall Collection shows what a few dedicated people can achieve and provides an insight into our local history envied by other similar towns in Warwickshire. It deserves protection and a permanent safe home so I urge you to make your support known at every opportunity.

I am delighted that the Council I have been privileged to lead in this past year has achieved some successes with the completion of the Kineton Road roundabout, bus shelters on Warwick Road, Mayfield Play area shortly under construction, a speed aware and safety campaign in May on four major roads into the town, a flood warning system now in place and further town improvements under consideration. I am disappointed that the redevelopment of the Library area is proceeding so slowly with little evident progress. Over the next few months we hope to see more rapid progress.

Thank you to our Southam District and County Councillors and in partnership with the County and District Councils we will continue to ensure this is a pleasant town to live in and be proud to say we come from Southam.

Thanks to my fellow Councillors for your patience and understanding during meetings and helping me to conduct meetings in a business-like manner.

Mike Gaffney - Retiring Mayor 2012

Appendix B

Southam Christmas Lights Association

Southam Christmas Lights Association started 2011 with just over £100 in the bank but determined efforts by the committee, boosted by three new members at the

AGM, and in particular by our Secretary, Val Steele, and a generous grant from Southam Town Council meant that we ended the year with a much healthier balance. Local traders, organisations and residents all got behind us and new fund raising ideas joined the old ones. The switch-on was one of the best ever and we had many compliments about the lights themselves. Unfortunately there were some problems with the timers and breakers which we have now resolved to replace. Unfortunately the cost will be high which means we will have to redouble our fund raising efforts once again. We would like to thank the Town Council for the grant they have already made towards the 2012 lights and will let them know in September how our efforts are progressing. Thank you to everyone in the town for their support and encouragement. If you would like to get involved please come along to our AGM which will be held here on Monday 21st May.

10th May 2012

SOUTHAM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

The team have had a busy year since May 9th 2011; we have seen many changes with staffing.

Currently the team consists of:

PC Jim BUTLER,

PCSO Claire MURRAY

PCSO Matt HODGETTS

PCSO Katrina TAYLOR currently on maternity and due to return later in the year.

We are still based at Southam Police station, and Warwickshire Direct in the Library has proven effective as a replacement from Front Office.

Although some members of the public still do not know that front office is closed or assume the station is completely closed.

We have the 101 non-emergency number for members of the public to use. This is the primary way of contacting Warwickshire Police and the local team for members of the public.

The number system pin point's your location and directs you to your nearest force, but does give you the option to go through to another force if required?

For example of residents in Farnborough and Priors Marston may find themselves directed to Thames Valley or Northants Police but Warwickshire is the force that covers them.

We cannot take crime details from members of the public as a team, and this is where 101 has come into place, it is simply a replacement for the 01926 switchboard number which does still exist. But 101 is easier for people to remember. But we still have the issue of individuals even after they have been told of leaving voicemails on the team answer phone, which we cannot do anything with at the station. This is due to no longer having Front Office that had access to the systems.

Crime wise, we saw a sharp increase after the new year in the HARBURY area, and arrests have since been made and the crime pattern return to its normal pattern of very low. The Southam area still remains a low crime area, and more boosting public confidence that is our main challenge.

The community surgeries, in which the team run in specific areas, are currently under review due to poor lack of attendance from members of the public even after more publicising.

We have also been doing a lot of multi-agency work with the Town Council, NHW's, Farming Community, Southam First, Southam Lions, Southam College and the Youth Services on numerous projects hoping to run over the Summer months for a wide variety of people within the local community.

But the team look forward to a bright summer and future in the Southam area.

THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON 10TH MAY, 2012

The Friendship Group is now in its 38th year and meets on Wednesday evenings in the Congregational Church Lounge, Wood Street. Meetings are from 8-9.30pm and are open to all ladies. We regularly have an attendance of 35 to 45 ladies. Our meetings are varied and offer something to suit all tastes. In the last twelve months we have enjoyed several slide show and presentation evenings and heard talks on many subjects in addition to visits to the theatre, a meal, a visit to the Lord Leycester Hospital and a Christmas Dinner. We also have great fun organising our own entertainment evenings. The Annual Guy Fawkes Supper and Carols and Faith Supper at Christmas are always popular. We hold a Coffee Morning once a year as a Social/Fund Raising event. Donations are given to charities chosen by our speakers. We have continued to support Oxfam and Teddies for Tragedies by knitting teddies, jumpers, blankets, knitted slippers, baby bonnets and pom-pom hats. There is a growing demand for warm blankets and clothing and a teddy can bring untold comfort to a child who has nothing.

The members of The Friendship Group are always pleased to offer Friendship and a warm welcome to all ladies.

Sandra Meacham
Secretary.

SOUTHAM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROJECT LTD

The Graham Adams Centre, St James Road,
Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 0LY
Telephone: 01926 811519
Email: scacp@hotmail.co.uk



The Graham Adams Centre Southam Church and Community Project Ltd

The GAC still remains a popular venue for many of Southam's voluntary groups including the Congregational Church's own Parent and Toddler Group that meets each Thursday morning during term time. The Parent and Toddler Group team are part of a larger band of volunteers who give their time and skills to the centre for the benefit of all in the community. Cinema sessions organised by Southam Lions are now well established and the Board agreed to the Lions installing a cinema screen in the hall.

As well as the dedicated volunteers, the GAC has a team of part time staff and this year we welcomed Michelle Pike as our new Administrator following the resignation of Gemma Proctor.

We have noted that the GAC is proving to be a place where people can find experience in volunteering or part time employment which gives them confidence to seek and gain more challenging work. Not counting the Beehive day Nursery, the GAC employs about twenty-three people and at the last count there were over forty volunteers helping at the centre. Last summer we organised our first ever event to celebrate the contribution of volunteers and Southam Mayor attended to present certificates to all the volunteers.

The Children's Centre is very well attended – especially for Messy Play sessions when about 70 families attend. As well as sessions in the GAC, staff hold sessions at centres in the surrounding villages. The full programme of activities is available and the manager reports regularly to the Board of Directors

The Bridge Café is busy – but would like to be even busier. The manager leads a team of five part time staff and nine volunteers in providing a menu of snacks and three course meals served in a friendly setting. In addition the team have provided catering for family celebrations, civic events and funerals. We fed the HS2 exhibition staff, served tea and cakes at the carnival and hot chocolate to volunteers planting trees at Merestone Park. In February we provided afternoon tea for Southam's Mayoress and her guests. The Bridge Café is open to everyone, young and old – so do join us to sample a delicious two or three course lunch, a healthy snack or coffee and cake. The Bridge Café will soon be holding after school cookery classes for children.

The South Warwickshire Credit Union bank has a collection point at the GAC on Friday mornings and a growing number of people are saving with the bank.

Last summer Directors learned that Warwickshire County Council was withdrawing funding from most of its Youth Centres, including ours, based at the GAC. The County Council accepted our proposal to provide co-ordination of voluntary provision for young people at the

Registered Office: Summit House, 170 Finchley Road, London NW3 6BP
Company No: 05360492. VAT Registration No: 881 4821 08. Charity Number: 1125448

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The Graham Adams Centre, St James Road,
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Telephone: 01926 811519
Email: scacp@hotmail.co.uk



Graham Adams Centre. Several things came together during the latter part of 2011 to make this plan become a reality.

First, a member of our Board was an experienced voluntary youth worker, already working with other volunteers to provide activities for young people in the town.

We applied for and received a grant from the Big Society Fund to appoint a Volunteer Co-ordinator – part of whose role will be to support the volunteer youth workers. We were fortunate to be able to appoint someone with a great deal of experience in working with young people and he will be able to train and guide the volunteers.

Early in 2012 we installed double glazed windows at the back of the building including in the youth club room, making the space more welcoming and secure for users and ready to welcome back Southam's young people. We are grateful to Southam Town Council for a grant to support the development of a Youth Activities.

The Graham Adams Centre - St James Rd, Southam, CV47 0LY
tel 01926 811519 Email scacp@hotmail.co.uk
Children's Centre tel 01926 814953

Administrator: Michelle Pike - office hours Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30am –3pm
Caretaker: Kath Hancox

Children's Centre Manager: Manjit Kaur Evans
Bridge Café Manager: Nicola Broomhead
Volunteer Co-ordinator: John Gately

Board of Directors

Wayne Hawkins – Chair
Nicola Broomhead
Val Giles
Terry Grey
Caroline Johnson
Brian McLoughlin
Sue Simpson
Jane Soni
Glesni Thomas
Debbie Wilson
Adam Woriker

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Thursday 10 May 2012

REPORT FROM GRANGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

John Gwillam – Chairman

Overall, this last year has been an average one for the Grange Hall, in spite of it continuing to be very well used, with bookings already into 2013. We also have three weddings booked this year, and many bookings becoming an annual event. The hall continues to be well used by regular hirers.

We have continued to run a wide variety of concerts, but with a very much reduced quantity; this being due to a number of factors including the high cost of quality performances, time and effort to prepare and run the events, but above all, poor audience support. This is very demoralising for the Committee who put a lot of effort into the organisation. We are looking at how we can improve audience attendances. Live quality entertainment, at a reasonable price, on the doorstep – what could be better? The Coventry Savoy Opera Company's performance last April was poorly attended compared with previous years; was it a change of style of performance, or different time of year? Time will tell as this year they have moved back to a traditional G & S performance (the "Mikado") this month, so we are hoping for improved audiences this time. Tribute bands appear to be popular, but it is difficult to find quality acts at suitable prices. The Katch 22's Pantomime continues to be well attended with over 500 children enjoying their Christmas outing, as well as a well-attended public matinee. Another successful concert was John Kirkpatrick of Victorian Farm fame, whose performance of "Carolling and Crumpets" was well received before Christmas. We are currently undecided as to whether we present a Christmas Concert this year and, if so, what to present if we do. We are always receptive to comments and suggestions from any members of the public regarding present and future events. We also welcome any new members who have a little time to spare and who are interested in helping the hall move forwards.

The hall finances are always a worry, but so far this year, continued vigilance has meant that we are just about breaking even. A building of this age is high maintenance, both with energy costs and maintenance. Current income at present just covers our day-to-day running costs, leaving no surplus for investment in the hall on decoration, replacement furniture, etc. The bar profits are important to us to provide some additional income, and it is a little disappointing that, generally, bar takings have been down, probably reflecting the continued economic climate. Although the Management Committee decided some time ago to try to apply for charitable status, primarily due to the perceived advantages, there still seems to be a number of problems, but this is still being looked into. The current Southam Town Council have been very supportive to the Hall, and have recently enabled the Foyer to be re-decorated. We are very grateful to them for this assistance. We are also grateful to Southam Town Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council for their continued capital investment in the hall. We are hopeful that funds may become available in this coming year to refurbish the hall floor.

I should like to thank Mrs Louise Neal (our Caretaker), Mrs Carole Gwillam (our Administrator) and the Management Committee members for their continued support, and I particularly appreciated the assistance given to me personally during a very difficult year.

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The Rotary Club of Southam

Report to Town Meeting 2012

I am presenting this report on behalf of Peter Jackson, President of the Rotary Club of Southam. The club, although small in number, has had another successful year. Our main fund raising has again been for the Acorn Children's Hospice through the Tree of Light which this year raised £1,850 bringing the total raised over seven years to £11,500. Many local residents welcome the opportunity to remember loved ones in this way and we shall be continuing this year. We are also able to make small donations to other, mainly local, causes from our own fund-raising activities and sponsor young people for overseas charitable trips. On their return they tell us about their experiences. Together with Rotary 2000 we organise local rounds of national Rotary competitions for young people and were very pleased this year when two pupils from Southam College won the area heat of the Young Chef competition whilst others did well at the district level of the Young Photographer competition and entered Youth Speaks and Young Writer. At the other end of the age scale our members visit Galanos House regularly and support many local activities including Southam in Bloom and Christmas Lights. On an international level we collect tools which are then refurbished by Tools with a Mission in Coventry prior to be shipped overseas.

20th Anniversary this year
30 family members. (Southern & Mayton.)
Visit Mawles alternate years
They will be coming to Southern
25th this month for their bi annual
visit. Expect around 30 visitors
to be hosted by our members.

We will be taking them for a meal
at Dunchick Hall and a visit to
Steebridge.

Some people are concerned about our
funding. I'd like to assure you that
we are completely self funding. We do not
receive any financial aid from any other source.
New members always welcome.

Membership fee is £3 per person ^{with children under 15} £5 for family
paid annually.

Southam Town Council – Report

Community Transport –

There had been a dip in our transport figures during 2010 to 2011. This was due to a number of reasons. It was not easy to recruit volunteer drivers as the mileage was still at the 40p level which had not changed since 2003 and therefore existing volunteer drivers were not always happy to do as much driving as they normally did as the mileage rate was not covering the high fuel prices.

Also journeys to Day Centres through Social Services and Mental Health were decreased due to changes for Day Care.

Adverse weather conditions – two weeks of snow and ice which made it very unsafe for clients plus cancellations at various hospitals and clinics.

However, on a positive note, 2,682 passenger trips in the Southam area were undertaken and over 27,000 passenger trips across the District.

The mileage was increased to 45p in April 2011 and we have been able to recruit more drivers and the workload has started to increase.

The dedicated Volunteer Services Office Team of 9 volunteers at Southam continue to do an exemplary job and cover the office 5 mornings a week with 27 volunteer drivers. Over the District we have 217 volunteer drivers.

VASA held a Southam Networking Lunch at the Graham Adam Centre in July with excellent attendance. This gave us the opportunity to update all the Voluntary Organisations and Community Groups of what we can offer and assist where possible.

Wheel Chair Short Term Loan Service

This continues to be a necessary service and one that is of real help to residents in Southam and surrounding villages. We are fortunate that we have been donated wheel chairs by Inner Wheel, Golf Clubs etc but we do appreciate a donation to maintain this service. One family in Southam has recently had a Wheel Chair for over four months whilst awaiting their new wheel chair from Rehab.

Volunteer Driver Get-Together December 10th 2011

Due to financial restraints we were unable to have the above events in each of the areas of Alcester, Shipston and Southam as normal and had this in Stratford. It was a enjoyable occasion with well over 100 in attendance. The event was sponsored by a volunteer and the enticing mince pies, scones and cakes were made by volunteers. We were very pleased to see volunteers from the Southam area.

Fund Raising has been very necessary this year and we have organised a Market Stall, Tombola at Buzz Cafe, Stratford Town Street Collection, Race Course Collection and collection at Tesco's. We cannot thank the volunteers enough for the support they give us in their volunteer driving, administration and fund raising efforts.

Linda Tasker has been is a Trustee on our Trustee Board for some years and regularly attends meetings and contributes greatly in the interest of the Southam area.

It has been a difficult year and looking to the future we have been busy taking steps to minimise our expenditure to make sure that we are able to maintain and continue our Volunteer Transport Scheme.

We were relieved to have been awarded the Grant from WCC, PCT and Stratford District Council for 2012 – 2013 but are aware for the following year there will possibly be considerable changes and reduction in funding. We are therefore doing all we can to look at ways of being as self sufficient as possible.

We do know that our clients are extremely appreciative of the service and often say they would not be able to attend their appointments, especially to the outlying Hospitals without our support.

As members of the Warwickshire Volunteer Transport (WVT) across the County we are having regular meetings with regard to the way forward with the new Clinical Commissioning Groups and Adult Health Personalisation re: direct payment to clients.

For the future, VASA are reinstating the Voluntary Sector Forum Meetings commencing on the 25th April 2012 at Tiddington in Stratford upon Avon with First speaker, Bryan Stoten, Chair of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, and Second speaker, Nick Wilson, Coventry and Warwickshire Cooperative Development Agency. Venues in future will be circulated well in advance.

Clarissa Roberts MBE
Volunteer Services
Voluntary Action Stratford on Avon

Southamtowncouncilreportapril12

Warwickshire Association for the Blind — Southam Branch

c/o 28 Barkus Close
Southam
Warwickshire
CV47 1GB

The Club membership including helpers and drivers is now 17.

We have been entertained this year by speakers on a variety of subjects, ranging from the Woodland Trust, Science in the Kitchen, Bees Abroad, the Suffragettes of Warwickshire, and the history of Southam. Flowers arrange meals, motor bikes, and the Isle of Man races, and the Air Ambulance Service plus a meal out, are events to look forward to before we finish for the Summer holidays.

Our finances are in the capable hands of Mrs Fiona Perry.

The chairman wishes to express her thanks to Mrs Perry for her loyalty, friendship, and help during the past year.

The secretary/chairman post is now vacant due to the resignation of Mrs Rowlatt, who with her late husband, has led the club for 13 yrs. At the moment though people have offered their help, no one has come forward to lead the Club. We still meet at Southam Congregational Church, ^{2pm-4pm} in the lounge alternate Wednesdays. We are lucky that the free car park in Wood Street is opposite our venue.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Rowlatt.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Rowlatt, 28 Barkus Close, Southam CV47 1GB Tel. 815020
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Fiona Perry, 42 Beech Close, Southam CV47 1HL Tel. 813073

2012 Town Meeting – Annual Report

Friends of the Cardall Collection

2011/12 has been another very busy year for the Collection with yet more members joining, more visits, more talks, more items included and hopefully more progress on finding a permanent home for the Collection than in previous years.

In addition to new local members joining, the Collection continues to appeal to those from afar with a number of US email enquiries about local history, a possible donation of items from Canada and some fantastic practical help from an Australian couple who lived in the town over the past twelve months. Joan & Gary Hunt virtually demanded to be allowed to give their time, skills and experience to help with documenting the Collection and we are very grateful for their terrific support and the donation of their extensive research work into the history of Oxford St.

We now have nearly 4,000 items documented on a computerised index with pictures or scanned images of 1,000. Work is still progressing at twice weekly sessions to complete the second phase of this task and we expect to end up with possibly 5,000 items. In addition work on digitising Alan Griffin's photographic negative collection continues with over 2,000 images now on the computer, not to mention a further 800 glass negatives which are being digitised with the help of Nick Cronin.

Over the past twelve months we have given more talks and had more visitors than in the previous three years. On the Open Gardens day ninety people stopped by to look at the Collection; three hundred people signed the Collection's petition to Stratford District Council for help in finding a permanent home at the Collection stall during the Southam First Retro Revival day, and Southam Primary School raised £60 for the Collection following workshops run at the school by Collection members on trade in Southam. There are ongoing discussions with Orbit and Stratford District about the provision of a heritage centre incorporating the Collection in the town centre redevelopment. The recent sad death of Mrs Sheila Mills brings this issue into even sharper focus and it is essential residents respond to the current consultation exercise to stress how important it is to use this one-off opportunity to provide a permanent home for the Collection and enable it to fulfil its destiny as a key resource to be used for the benefit of business, tourism, the arts, skills development, hobbies etc and to help put Southam back on the map as a major market town in Warwickshire.