

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, THE GRANGE, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 9TH MAY 2013 at 6:45pm

Present: Councillors: M Gaffney (Chair), J Ward, A Forster, J Soni, L Smith, M Willoughby, C Pratt, C Worsh, E Thornley & V Shepherd

Members of the public present were:

Cllr J Ellard, Cllr John Appleton, Mayoress Mrs Gwenda Gaffney, Mrs Michelle Ward, Mrs Rachel Willoughby, E Jamieson, A Cragg, D Hudson, T Sadler, P Scandrett, I Wilson, R Lane, P Adams, B Cadogan, V Steele, J Frith, P Brailsford & A Denham

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Cllr J Smith, Cllr Les Hewer, Cllr L Tasker, Cllr B Thomas, Mrs A Dunkley 3rd Southam Brownies, Mrs S E Gascoyne Southam Bridge Club, Mr M Harvey Southam RUFC, Mrs F Perry WABS, M Kaur Evans The Graham Adams Centre, Mrs M Gale VASA, Mrs C Roberts MBE VASA, Mr Garlick Royal British Legion, Mrs M A Hardy Inner Wheel Club of Southam, A Vickers Southam Baha'is, Mrs H Wankling St James C E Primary School, Mr William Pease Southam Twinning Association, Mrs S Houghton Southam Neighbourhood Watch & Mr J Gwillam The Grange Hall

**2. MINUTES
RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 10th May 2012 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 2012/2013 was presented to the meeting and is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

5. REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS Appendix B

The meeting received written reports from the following:

Southam & District Childrens Centre
VASA
The Friendship Group
Southam Darby & Joan Club
St James C of E Primary School
Southam Twinning Association
Southam Neighbourhood Watch
The Friends of the Cardall Collection
The Grange Hall
Southam Gymnastics

The Graham Adams Centre
St James Primary School
Rotary Club of Southam 2000
Girlguiding Southam District

Verbal Reports

Jenny Frith - Southam Civic Ideas Forum
Tessa Sadler – Southam in Bloom
Emily Jamieson – Melody Makers
David Hudson – Southam Congregational Church
Phyllis Scandrett – Southam Darts & Domino League
Iain Wilson – Rotary Club of Southam 2000
Roger Lane - Southam Lions Club
Pat Adams – St James Church
Gwenda Gaffney – Rotary Club of Southam
Bernard Cadogan – Cardall Collection
Val Steele – Southam Christmas Lights Association
Charles Hill – Southam United Football Club
Ms Dunkly – Southam Women's Institute

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 7:25pm

Appendix A

Mayors Report 2012/2013

When I was re-elected Mayor twelve months ago I pledged to continue 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 3500 miles throughout the county these two years on Mayoral duties and attending over 200 engagements promoting Southam at every opportunity and meeting many voluntary organisations who have representation in Southam.

All volunteers, including Councillors, give up their personal time for no reward other than the satisfaction of helping others and making Southam a thriving community.

Some events stand out more than others and two I shall remember particularly were the Sing Inspiration concert at the college when so many people of all ages in Southam came together to entertain us all. The second was my Charity Band Concert to raise funds for WNAA in memory of Red Arrow Jon Egging a son of Southam, The colour party provided by our own 2028 Squadron ATC during the Royal Air Force March past was highly commended by all present.

From this concert and other events I was delighted to visit WNAA yesterday and present a cheque for £ 1500 and in memory of Jon Egging Flt Lt Darryl Moreton presented a cheque for £1000. I have also given £ 720 to my other charity The Thare Machi Education foundation based in Leamington Spa which provides DVD material and equipment for healthcare education in underdeveloped countries. The Mayoress also presented £ 900 to WNAA raised during her year as President of Southam Rotary club.

We take for granted our firefighters, our youth leaders, Southam Lions, Round Table and Rotary organising town events for young and elderly

residents, 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 and I had to do it twice.

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.

I particularly draw your attention the forthcoming Battle of Southam re-enactment in August.

I am delighted that the Council I have been privileged to lead in this past year has achieved some successes with the start of the library redevelopment and plans now being made for refurbishment of Market Hill. Both these schemes will be completed by early 2015.

We still have problems to solve such as provision of burial space and I hope a satisfactory solution for all parties at Tollgate Road after many years of discussion.

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.

I thank my fellow Councillors for your patience and understanding during meetings and helping me to conduct meetings in a business-like and impartial manner over these past two years.

Mike Gaffney - Retiring Mayor 2013

Appendix B

The Graham Adams Centre Annual Report 2012/13

The Graham Adams Centre has continued to provide services for the community. We are pleased that local groups continue to see the GAC as their home and applaud the many dedicated volunteers who lead groups at the GAC. The Lions Club's regular cinema evenings are very well supported and the Gymnastics Club continues to thrive. We were pleased that they Mayor could once again attend a special celebration evening to present certificates to local volunteers who give their time and skills to community activities at the GAC.

The Children's Centre remains busy – families love the messy play sessions and other activities but the centre has more to offer. Because it has links to specialist services such as speech and language, counselling, mental health, and disability group, families can easily access the support they need to remain physically and emotionally healthy. A recently held Ofsted inspection judged the Children's Centre to be good in all areas and the manager and her staff are to be congratulated. However, hot on the heels of the good Ofsted report came the news that Warwickshire County Council would be cutting its funding to Children's Centres by 30 %. This comes on top of a 7.5% reduction to Children's Centre budgets in the current year.

This year has seen a growing number of parents approaching the Children's Centre because lack of money means they are unable to buy food or other essentials. Links have been made with food banks and local voluntary organisations that are able to help in these circumstances.

Led by Nicola Broomhead, our café manager, the Bridge Café has continued to be a welcoming venue for young and old and has also continued to provide a local catering service for family events and local businesses. Early in the year, thanks to the support of the Southam Lions projectionists, we put on a film night with a curry supper. We have had a presence at several community events – the carnival, the lights switch on and a street market.

The café is highly dependent on volunteer help and this year we used tips from appreciative customers to treat the staff and volunteers to a night out at the Spa Centre to see the Hairy Bikers.

The Youth Club is gradually becoming securely established and is now regularly open two evenings each week. We have been grateful for funding from Southam Lions and Southam Town Council which has kept the club

going after our initial grant had ran out. The club also has the backing of Southam's multi agency group dedicated to encouraging youth provision.

The year has not been easy. Because of increased work commitments, Wayne Hawkins, had to resign his position as Chair of our Board of Directors. The harsh economic situation has had an impact at the café and we have had to lose the services of some valued members of staff. At the same time, we have been in negotiation with our landlord about the scale of a rent increase. Thankfully, this now appears to be resolved but we are sure there will be further challenges in the forthcoming year, not least the reduction in funding to the Children's Centre.

We are aware that in the current economic situation, the facilities we provide are meeting a local need. We appreciate all the support the GAC receives from the community and from Southam Town Council.

We would be pleased to hear from you if you would like to join our band of volunteers. Call in at the centre or come and see as at our tea and cake stall at the carnival.

VASA Community Transport –

Volunteer Transport to vital appointments to Hospitals, Drs, Dentists, Opticians are very much our priority and we do our utmost to cover all appointments in the Southam Town and surrounding villages and recruit volunteer drivers in the area, which is always difficult.

We continue to cover the Day centre, referrals through Social Services and Mental Health and have found that we are starting to receive an increase in Mental Health journeys to a variety of Centres.

Please find attached statistics for year ending March 2012.

A yearly Client Satisfactory Questionnaire to 200 clients at random covering towns and villages across the District which we have completed for PCT showed a return, so far, of 171 forms with excellent positive comments showing that our service is very much needed in our rural Community.

Our nine Office Volunteer Team continues to cover Monday to Friday 10.00 to 12.30 pm Monday to Friday arranging daily schedules, recruiting of volunteers and general administration relating to the scheme. They are very self reliant and do a wonderful job.

Short Term Loan Wheel Chair Service - At Southam office we hold wheel chairs for weekly loans over the year. A Satisfaction Survey to clients receiving our service shows our service is very much appreciated for people who are coming out of hospital, had an injury or taking relatives on holidays or shopping.

Fund Raising – We continue to help ourselves by having a Market Stall, Coffee Morning, Tombola, Street Collection with funds and this also gives us an opportunity to raise our profile.

Southam Volunteer Services had a Stand and Representative at the SCAN Forum in October and many people who attended said how they appreciated the volunteer drivers when being taken for health related appointments.

Southam Town Council – Southam Travel -

Meetings have taken place with Debbi Carro and Cllr. Linda Tasker with regard to proposed new scheme commencing February 2013 with regard to Southam Town Boundary residents with a genuine need for health appointments. Southam Town Council to reimburse drivers the 45p through VASA Volunteer Service, for clients who hold a Bus Pass.

VASA AGM in November - we presented 15 volunteer office staff and drivers with long service awards of 20 yrs and 25 years respectively of which one volunteer driver came from the Southam area with 25 yrs service.

VASA continue to recruit new volunteers for WAB, Age UK, Friendship Project, Craven Lane Hall and have supported the Lions with recycled furniture in the Southam area.

VASA regularly have a Representative at the Southam Community Forum.

VASA organised a Voluntary Sector Forum and invited Organisations from Southam in October

Our Christmas Get Together to say 'thank you' for volunteers drivers and volunteers on the 8th December was very successful and much enjoyed.

THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON 9TH MAY, 2013

The Friendship Group meets on Wednesday evenings in the Congregational Church Lounge, Wood Street and is now in its 39th year. Meetings are from 8-9.30pm and are open to all ladies. There is a regular attendance of 35 to 45 ladies. In the last twelve months we have enjoyed several slide show and presentation evenings and heard talks on a wide range of subjects from The Crown Jewels, the Drugs Squad and the work of a renowned sculptor. In addition there were visits to the theatre, a meal, a visit to Hill Close Gardens and a Christmas Dinner. As last year was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we celebrated with a typical Street Party evening. 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 and 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, pom-pom hats and scarves. Next year will be the 40th Anniversary of The Friendship Group, so we shall soon be deciding how we shall celebrate this milestone.

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

Sandra Meacham
Secretary.

Southam Darby @ Joan Club Report

We have had another successful year with interesting Speakers lunches, Strawberry Teas, Concerts and the ever popular Bingo. Sadly several of our Members have passed away in the last year but we still have some lively ones who are in their 90s and take an active part in everything. We are always happy to welcome new Members from 60 to 100 plus who would like an afternoon of fun and friendship>



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St James CE Primary School

Report for Annual Town Meeting, May 2013

The last year has been very busy for the school in all respects. Since our last annual report we have welcomed Ofsted inspectors into our school. We were very pleased that our hard work to improve all aspect of the children's education was recognised and the school has been graded as a 'good school' where 'pupils are excited by their learning'.

Our Learning Improvement Plan this year has helped us to focus on developing the writing skills of our pupils and the subject leadership skills of our staff. We have been supported in this by being part of an exciting project led by Edison Learning and the Diocese of Coventry. We are confident that we have a firm framework for future development.

We are pleased to report success in sporting activities. One of our Year 6 boys is the Primary Boys' County Cross Country Champion, while the school's netball team won the tournament for local schools within the Southam cluster of schools.

Other highlights of the year include being county winners of the Road Safety Quiz for Year 6 pupils, with one of the children being awarded the highest marks possible.

The school is proud to have taken part in community events and enjoyed singing at the Christmas Tree Festival and at the I-Gospel concert. Visiting Coventry Cathedral and meeting with Rev. Welby, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, was another memorable event.

As ever, the leadership of the school are committed to providing the best primary school experience possible for our pupils and we look forward to building on the achievements of the last year.

Reported by Hilary Wankling
Headteacher

**SOUTHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION
SOUTHAM AND MAROLLES-EN-HUREPOIX
FORMED 1992**

In 2012 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of signing the charter twinning Southam with Marolles-e-Hurepoix. Our twin town is situated south east of Paris and is about 400 miles from Southam. It is a little smaller in size and population, and a large percentage of people travel by train to Paris to work. Over these twenty years we have made many good friends and many of us spend time visiting our French families in addition to our official twinning trips. Last year was our turn to host the French visitors and there were 35, which somewhat stretched our resources! However it was a very successful visit; we took them to the Glass Museum at Stourbridge and had our celebration meal at Dunchurch Park. We are completely self-financing, and raise the money to fund these visits with quizzes and other social events.

Our active membership is fairly small, and we are always looking for new recruits to swell our numbers; any new members will be very welcome.

On the 17th May sixteen of us will travel to Marolles-en-Hurepoix for our bi-annual visit.

Debbie Carro, Town Clerk
Southam Town Council
The Grange Hall
Coventry Road
Southam
CV47 1QA

18, Welsh Road West
Southam
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV47 0JN

29th April 2013

Dear Mrs. Carro,

Re: Southam Neighbourhood Watch.

Thank you for your letter regarding this year's Mayor Making and Civil Reception on 9th May during which local organisations are invited to give their annual reports. I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide a report for Southam Neighbourhood Watch this year. Our branch, though still in contact as a group of residents, has not held meetings for some months now, though we hope that these might continue in due course.

Our Treasurer, Sarah Threlfall, has moved to Rugby and is therefore unable to remain in Southam's NHW and at the moment there appears to be no-one able to take over this position. After discussion between us we thought the safest thing therefore was to close the Neighbourhood Watch bank account for the time being.

The NHW funds amount to £70.92. Previously, monies were largely spent on the hire of meeting venues, originally at the Graham Adams Centre, then at the Grange Hall; the most recent meetings at the police station have been free. The last grant from Southam Town Council to Southam NHW was for £100 in October 2004. As this money has not been spent, we are enclosing a cheque for £70.92 as the remainder of this grant.

As a group of residents we still maintain contact when necessary and anticipate future Neighbourhood Watch meetings; meanwhile we would like to thank Southam Town Council for its generosity in having given these previous grants to us at Southam's Neighbourhood Watch.

Yours sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'S. Haughton' and the signature on the right is 'S. Threlfall'.

Mrs. S. Haughton, Secretary
Mrs. S. Threlfall, Treasurer

Southam's Cardall Collection

Town Meeting – Annual Report

2012/13 has been yet another successful and eventful year for the Cardall Collection. Our membership is now up to 73 fully paid up members and I believe 75 followers on Facebook. I strongly suspect there is not a lot of commonality between the two, which in many respects is good. An active Facebook following indicates we are reaching out successfully to younger folks and this has to be good news.

The major news of the year has to be the progress on finding a permanent home for the Collection – here the news is very good with the Town Centre development plans having been given planning permission and the Town Council agreeing that the Collection should have space in the new development. However this will not be before mid-2015 and this unfortunately may give rise to a small crisis since the landlord of the Old Labour Exchange, Terry Mills, sadly passed away a short while ago and current plans are that his house and land will probably be put up for sale once all the formalities have been completed. This may mean the Collection has a problem in the medium term since our lease expires in January 2014. However we remain optimistic that we will be able to cope and in the meantime we are very grateful to Major Mills for his very kind and substantial support for the Collection – without this we could have not achieved what we have.

During the past year we have supported many events and groups in the Town and we plan to continue with these activities as much as resources will allow in the future. In addition we have completed the digitising of the glass negative collection and we are proceeding slowly to try and gather information on these pictures to provide more context. We have also finished digitising 2,500 photographic negatives donated by Alan Griffin together with their indexing information and we have used some of this material in a number of events including a weekend display held together with Hill Close Gardens in Warwick. Most people find these photographic displays fascinating and will watch them for long periods of time. In addition we have been extending the knowledge of the Collection by giving more illustrated talks to interested groups both within and outside of the town.

These have been well received. Several new active helpers have joined the group and we welcome them and hope they will long continue with their support. In addition we are getting more and more queries from outside the town about items in the Collection and requests for help with material for other projects – we are very happy to accommodate these request wherever possible and help put Southam even further on the map.

In the near future we will be meeting with Anne Solomon who is the Business, Enterprise and Tourism Officer at Stratford to explain how role in the town and then how to work with her to help develop plans for the town. In August this year we also hope to play a role in the Battle of Southam re-enactment which is being organised in conjunction with the Sealed Knot.

This year our funds have been placed under more stress by the removal of the discretionary Business Rate relief and we have to find a further £350 so we have just launched a 200 Club in the hope that this will help us find these additional funds.

Bernard Cadogan
Chairman

Report Southam Civic Ideas Forum 2012-13

Our numbers have remained static at 11 members of the Public with various Council attendees from time to time maintaining our direct and most beneficial contacts with the Town, District and County Councils.

We reluctantly said good bye to Katherine Geddes last summer and met with her replacement Anne Solomon in January. Unfortunately Anne's job description will not allow her regular attendance at our meetings although we do keep her up to date via a copy of the minutes.

We met with Roger Poole WCC Policy Engineer in February re Roundabout Policy to see if we could instigate improvements to the other three roundabouts on the by-pass

Patch Byrne of WCC has been kept well informed about Street scene and we have gratefully seen many of our requests carried out. Hopefully Patch will be arranging for the path to the Holy Well to be cleared with help from Community Payback.

The Town Council has passed on our concerns about parking on grass verges via the Town Newsletter and supported the idea of the future pedestrianisation of Wood Street

We have battled long and hard for the replacements of 2 cracked and sticky-taped up windows in the erstwhile RSPCA shop without success and our 'fight' for the new church gateway continues, thanks to herculean efforts by Len Gale.

New willow wips were planted beyond the Holy Well in November by our own manpower team..

One of our successes was the refurbishment of the Seth Bond gravestone. We arranged for an extra plinth to be put under it to raise the old lettered plinths up above grass level and the lettering to be recut and enhanced.

Unfortunately we have recently lost our free use of the Grange Hall committee room. As we have very little/no source of finance we cannot afford to pay the going rate ourselves.. We have arranged to meet, in the Craven Lane Hall each month on the second Friday morning at 9.30 except August and the meetings are open to anyone who likes to attend. We discuss any matters relating to the town, its appearance and state of health and anything else anyone wants to bring up for consideration.

Jenny Frith
Chairman SCIF>

**Annual Report
2012-2013
By Roger Lane (President – Southam Lions Club)**

Despite the ongoing economic climate Southam Lions Club has had yet another busy and successful year with club membership at an impressive 32 with Lady Lions providing invaluable support to organized events while also independently raising funds for their nominated charity.

Southam Lions Club has a number of regularly occurring events some of which not only provide a community service but also raise funds for charitable use. These include:

- **Furniture Sales** - occurring monthly behind the Co-op. Now well established as an event to the benefit of all.
- **Southam Cinema** – A community cinema operated by Southam Lions in the Graham Adams center primarily for the benefit of the community. Offering affordable accessible entertainment for all locals and surrounding villages.

Throughout the year further events, some traditional, some new have been successfully organized. Starting in

- **September 2012** with the Ken Graham Senior Citizens Party. Held at Southam College, invitations were sent to not only Southam residents but to surrounding villages as well. Bringing all together for an afternoon of entertainment and food. Dancing from the Secret Garden Dance School as well as singing, music and a free raffle gave everyone who attended an afternoon to remember with safe transport home afterwards.
- **October 2012 – Swimathon** – A Lions men team(torpedo's) and a Lady Lions team(the dolly mixtures) were entered to raise funds for Myton Hospice and the Leamington branch of Parkinson's UK.
- **October 2012 – MOP – Hog Roast** – In conjunction with the traditional MOP fair a pig was again roasted and served in baps providing much needed sustenance on the night.. The traditional raffle was also run with many prizes being generously donated by local businesses.
- **October 2012 -Southam Lights Quiz** – Support was provided by Southam Lions – raising funds for the Southam Lights committee.
- **November 2012 – John Turner Festival** – Held in Southam College - Support and catering provided by Southam Lions and Lady Lions.
- **November 2012 – Poetry Awards** – Following a Lions run competition requesting poems from young and old – the best poems were selected and a book published.
- **November 2012 – Lions Christmas lights** – erected on library in support of Southam's Christmas lights.
- **November 2012 – Southam Christmas Lights switch on** – Lions provided street fair support, Farther Christmas and sweets for the children.
Christmas Hamper – An impressive Christmas Hamper donated and prepared by Southam Lions Ladies – proceeds to nominated charity – **Epilepsy Action**
- **December 2012 – Christmas Float.** Visiting Southam and surrounding villages throughout December. Proceeds to presidents nominated Charities –

Helen Douglas House (Charity for young adults and children who have life shortening conditions) and **Zoe's Place** – a baby's hospice. A cheque was presented to each charity to the value of £2250.

- **February 2013 – Lady Lions Quiz** – Supported by Lions in aid of the ladies nominated charity – **Epilepsy Action**.
- **March 2013 – Great Daffodil Appeal collection** – Collecting for Marie Curie – via a national Lions co coordinated activity with Tesco's.
- **April 2013 – Race Night** – In door horse racing held at the Graham Adams centre – a relatively new event but very successful – providing fun, entertainment and raising funds.
- **May 2013 – May Day Fete** – New venue at the Bowling green but very successful with perfect weather this year. Opened by Mary Rhodes and the Mayor of Southam . Included stalls, Punch and Judy, food, dancing – fun for all.
- **May 2013 – Carnival** – Lions will provide support for traffic control, help set up ,man attractions and provide support on the day.
A float will be entered by Lady Lions – Mary, Mary quite contrary – how does your garden grow.

Many donations have been made by Southam Lions Club throughout the year in support local people, local charities, local organizations and committees and some national charities. The total in monetary terms for these donations is over £11 000 which in any year is a significant achievement.

Lady Lions

As well as providing a great deal of support to Lion Club activities the ladies run their own events to raise funds for their nominated charity – this year **Epilepsy Action**.

Apart from activities mentioned and some additional social events Annie (my wife) plus help from a number of ladies serve at the coffee counter in the welfare hut on a Tuesday once a month. With support from other ladies baking cakes to sell and with some fund matching on other events they hope to raise in excess of £3000 for **Epilepsy Action**.

Report for Southam Christmas Lights Association 2012/ 13

To be given at the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday 9th May 2013

2012 was the 12th year of organising the Southam Christmas Festival, thanks firstly to the total commitment of all the SCL committee members, all volunteers, the support received from all Southam Town Councillors with two grants totalling £4840, this with fantastic support and donations from local businesses from the trading estates and in town shops and offices of £4295, we ourselves organised a Coffee Morning in September, two ½ day Street Collections in October , a Balti Evening at the local Indian Restaurant in November, collection outside Tesco store December and a Quiz Evening raising another £3000 this has been our most successful fund raising year -

with the monies raised we are going to revamp the 31 lamp-post boxes that hold the timers and purchase more new ECO friendly LED coloured bulbs.

The evening of the 2012 'Switch On' was a great success, the weather was kind to us, families came out a bit later than previous years but in doing so still supported all the fairground rides, food stalls and the charity stalls, when at the end I was given their 'takings' from 11 stalls it was a staggering £2615, so well worth everyone turning out on a cold night and as well as enjoying themselves they help worthwhile charities, of course this evening isn't about fund raising its for the children to meet and greet Father Christmas many for the first time, as always this time of the evening is carefully controlled and the children looked after by Southam Lions for which we are always grateful for their help & support throughout the event .

Friday 29th November 2013 - Southam Christmas Festivals please put it in your diaries.

Job well done- Thank you everyone.

Submitted by Mrs Val Steele – Secretary Southam Christmas Lights Association

Report to Southam Town Council, 9th May, 2013

Guiding's aim is to help girls and young women develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.

I am very pleased to report that Guiding is thriving in Southam and the surrounding villages. We have just opened a new Guide Unit in Napton so we now have 4 Rainbow Units, for girls aged 5 - 7 years, 2 in Southam itself. 8 Brownie Units, for girls aged 7 - 10 years, 4 in Southam. 5 Guide Units, for girls aged 10 - 14 years, 2 in Southam and a District Senior Section Unit for girls 14+. This unit is based in Southam. We also have a number of girls aged 14 - 18 years of age who work within the Units, preparing to take their Leadership Qualification when they reach the age of 18 years. We have over 300 girls within these Units lead by 37 trained leaders and many YL and Unit helpers. The District also have a Trefoil Guild Unit which is for people aged 18+ (not as some think for the "Old Retired Guiders") This Unit enables Guiding Supporters to have fun as well as offer valuable support when needed to the units. We have 22 members at the present time and are always looking for new members.

This year we have two Young Leaders/Senior Section girls going to a Camp in Croatia and two who are going to our World Centre in Mexico, Our Cabana, I too will be visiting Our Cabana in October, this has been arranged through the Midlands Region Trefoil Guild and whilst there we will spend some time working in the community either with the elderly or young children as well as exploring the area and the culture of Mexico.

We have had 4 girls achieve their Baden Powell Challenge this year which is the highest award Guides can gain and we have another 6 who have started to work towards the Challenge.

I hope that Guiding will continue to flourish in Southam and that I will be able to return to this meeting next year to report on another successful year of Guiding in the Southam District.

Mary Adnitt
District Commissioner
Southam District

Southam Gymnastics Annual Report



It has been a busy and successful year. Thanks again for another year in which our committed volunteers have helped to ensure the club is a success and continues to attract new members. We spent a lot of time working on reviewing our Accreditation "Gym Mark" and were delighted when it was re-awarded in April 2012. The work to keep the club ticking over never seems to end however we manage to achieve a great deal from a small committed team

Classes

All our classes have continued to thrive and we currently have 90 gymnasts attending regularly each week with waiting lists for Mondays and Wednesdays.

The invitation only class on Wednesday has welcomed additional gymnasts. Head Coach, Karen Edwards, is keen for gymnasts to recognise the importance of the session and make the most of this development class.

Training

Jamie Dunne, Tracey Powell and Jessica Cox are now all qualified Level 2 coaches. Their training and commitment have strengthened our coaching team. Four coaches have attended a judging course to support their coaching skills. The whole coaching team will be renewing their First Aid and Safeguarding training during June 2013.

Displays /Events

The rain held off and we were able to perform at Southam Carnival in June 2012 and we are currently busy practising again for this year's Carnival Display.

We supported Southam Games which despite the rain attracted a number of people who were interested in the work of Southam Gymnastics.

Following on from the memorable Olympic torch run by Club Founder Member Marion Childs in July, we have been along to a number of local fêtes where we have promoted the club.

Fund-raising

To avoid increasing class fees in this difficult financial climate we decided to focus on fund-raising to meet our overheads. Following a request to parents for support, the idea for a sponsored roll event came forward which raised an amazing £607.55. It was decided to donate half of this to the 2012 "Children In Need" Appeal. We had a successful cake sale at the Christmas lights switch on raising £92 and raffles held at the Awards Evening, Christmas Party and Inter-Club Competition also boosted funds. Thanks to Linda Harvey, Becky Abbott and Angie Pryor for organising these and sourcing prizes.

Funding

Grants Co-ordinator, Ruth Lowe, secured funding which enabled us to purchase a much needed new wooden vault. Whilst our members their family and friends helped us to get enough tokens to raise £68.28 from Coventry Evening Telegraph's "Wishes" campaign as well enough Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers to enable us to gain small items such as bean bags, hoops and a large storage bag.

Report for Southam In Bloom

In 2012, after a poor start due to inclement weather, we had a truly magnificent floral display in the town, fitting for the Queen's Jubilee, in red, white and blue, which continued from July right through to October. For this we must thank Peter Healey and his team from Greenleaf Nursery for planting the baskets and troughs and for maintaining them throughout the summer months. Indeed the display was so good that there was a rumour about town that Peter had a secret ingredient with which he was feeding the plants!

There would be no display without the work of the Committee, the many shopkeepers who purchase baskets for their premises, the local businesses and the members of the public who very generously give donations. I would like to thank all of them. Southam in Bloom could not exist without our band of Helpers (around 20 in all). Some care for the small planters around town, planting and weeding as necessary, and some help with our fund raising. We are very grateful for their help.

This year we held our usual fund raising events: a plant stall on Carnival day in June, when we also had fun in the Carnival Parade dressed as Team SIB, a street collection in July, and a bottle stall at the Christmas Lights Switch On.

In July we held the Southam Front Garden and Container Competition (last held in 2009). Judges were drafted in from outside of Southam. There were awards for 'Best Front Garden' and for 'Best Container' in 8 different areas of the town and for the overall winners. We also had an award for the 'Best Business' and 'Best Community Area'. In October we held the award ceremony at Galanos House, where the Mayor presented the certificates and trophies. We now hope to hold this competition every other year.

In the Autumn, small work parties helped to tidy the planted areas in Wood St car park and planted bulbs in a number of places about the town.

We had one disappointment this year. We had planned to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year by placing a horse-trough planter outside the Craven Arms. We also wanted to build a brick planter outside The Market Tavern and another on Market Hill to replace the two old green cement planters. In February we were delighted to hear that STC had awarded Southam in Bloom a grant of £3000 in order to achieve this. Unfortunately we hit planning and other problems and the project and council funding was unable to go ahead. However the good news is that the horse trough has now been purchased and is in the process of being installed ready for summer planting.

We now look forward, in 2013, to another summer of Southam in glorious bloom.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Thursday 9 May 2013

REPORT FROM GRANGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

John Gwillam – Chairman

The past few years have proven to be relatively uneventful for the Grange Hall in that it continues to be well used on a regular weekly basis throughout the year. Weekend parties, presentations, etc. have been booked most weekends, with only a few exceptions, and bookings have already been taken for 2014 and 2015! The Bar revenues provide a useful income for the Hall as well as a welcomed facility for hirers, and we try to keep prices as competitive as possible.

Yet again, our concert programme is somewhat diminished, and is a far cry from the monthly promotions we put on a few years ago. This is partly due to falling audiences and difficulty in finding quality acts at reasonable prices. Tribute bands appear to be very popular at present, but are costly. However, we shall be having an Abba Evening in October and a Mercury/May Tribute next April. Interest has already been expressed in both of these, and also for our Christmas show with Bob Brolly, MBE (Radio presenter/singer) in December.

The committee continues to work hard to promote these events, and are always ready to welcome new members, who have some time to spare and, more importantly, have new ideas.

Our accounts will shortly be on their way to the Accountants, and we are hopeful that the past year will show a small profit instead of just breaking even. We are trying to build up a surplus to enable us to spend money on hall decoration and new furnishings, but this is difficult in a high maintenance building. The current Southam Town Council continue to be very supportive, and we are very grateful to them for any assistance they give. We also appreciate that the Town Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council continue their capital investment in the hall, and thanks are expressed to them for the recent refurbishment of the hall floor.

As always, I should like to thank Mrs Louise Neal (our Caretaker), Mrs Carole Gwillam (our Administrator) and the Management Committee members for their continued support.

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Southam Ladies Darts & Domino League

Southam Ladies Darts League has been running since 1970. It was started up by the men's league that helped form a ladies committee which took over after two years. I have been secretary since 1983. The Southam Summer Darts League is a charity league raising money for Southam Age Concern.

I also head the committee for Southam Domino League having taken over from my Father, Mr Bill Calcutt, after his death. He had been running it since 1950. We also run a small league during the summer months; again, this is for charity. The charity is riding for disable children and a riding school in Rugby benefits from this.

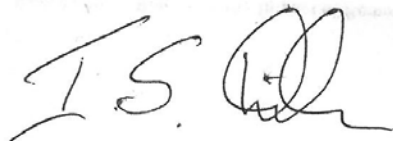
Mrs Phyllis Scandrett

The Rotary Club of Southam 2000

Report to Town Meeting 2013

I am pleased to present this report, as President, on behalf of the members of The Rotary Club of Southam 2000 which meets on Thursday evening. The club is involved in a number of varied and interesting Projects, locally, nationally and internationally.

Locally, we work with the other service clubs and the carnival committee to help with the Carnival; we also organize a holiday for senior citizens in Blackpool, taking them there by coach (and bringing them back!). This year, we have also launched a Helping Hand fund to help local people directly. We have already provided three small donations to local people in need and look forward to helping more! As mentioned by Rotary Club of Southam, we work together to encourage our young people to get involved in national competitions, this year, including Young Chef, Youth Speaks and Young Musician. Nationally, we are supporting Dogs for the Disabled this year and internationally, we are involved in a number of projects in Africa and India and continue to support End Polio Now an International Rotary initiative to eradicate Polio – a goal that is very close!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I.S. Wilson', written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Iain Wilson

President Rotary Club of Southam 2000

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL,
COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 9TH MAY 2013**

Present: The Mayor Cllr M Gaffney - In the Chair
Councillors, C Worsh, A Forster, L Smith, M Willoughby, C Pratt, J Soni, E
Thornley, V Shepherd & J Ward

In Attendance: Cllr J Appleton

1. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders are suspended to allow the election of Mayor, not to appoint representatives to outside bodies and consider planning applications

2. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

It was moved by Cllr M Gaffney and seconded by Cllr J Soni and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Cllr J Ward be elected Town Mayor of Southam for the year 2013/2014

3. TOWN MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair. He was invested with the Chain of Office by the former Mayor and he thanked his fellow councillors. Cllr Ward announced that his charity for the forthcoming year would be the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The past Mayor, Cllr Mike Gaffney MBE TD thanked his Mayoress, Chaplain, Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk for all their hard work during his mayoral year and announced that funds raised during his year would be divided between his charities Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance & Thare Machi Education

4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Cllr A Forster proposed Cllr M Willoughby, seconded by Cllr V Shepherd and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Mark Willoughby be appointed Deputy Town Mayor of Southam for the year 2013/2014

The Mayor invested the new Deputy Mayor with the Jewel of Office. The new Deputy Mayor expressed his thanks.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr L Tasker Personal

Cllr J Smith Holiday

Cllr L Hewer Personal

Cllr B Thomas Holiday

District Cllr A Crump

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2013, having previously been circulated be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor.

7. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Council considered the applications for planning permission detailed on the schedule dated May 2013 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council

There being no further business, the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m. and invited Councillors, members of the public and guests to join him for light refreshments.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS B					
SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MAY 2013 Issue 2					
13/00680/FUL	Mr Ian Webster	19 The Furrows, Southam CV47 1TA	Demolition of existing conservatory to rear and erection of replacement single storey extension	22nd May 2013	No representation