

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, THE GRANGE, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 12th MAY 2016 at 6:45pm

Present: Councillors: J Ward - In the Chair
G Oubridge, S Exton, M Panton, L Ellard, G Barratt, M Brooks, G Foster, M Connors. M Gaffney MBE TD, P Jenkins, K Geddes

Approximately 35 Members of the public were present including:
D Hudson, P Monday Snr, P Monday Jnr, T Saddler, B Cadogan, S Goatley, P Brailsford, B Howard, D Smith, S Forgan, R Evans, M Hill, J Steele, Manjit Kaur, G Gaffney, L Gale, M Gale, T Grey, J Grey, A Cragg, D Morgan, C Ellard, S Ellard, P Wilson, M Ellard, S Ellard, J Gwillam, K Brooks, L Brooks, L Doyle, M Ward

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following:
D Moreton 2028 Southam Squadron, A Birch 4th Southam Brownies, S Gascoyne Southam Bridge Club, S Hoyle Southam Carnival Committee, J Graham Southam Darby & Joan Club, K Palmizi St James C of E Primary School, K Cooper Southam Christmas Lights, M Hardy Southam Inner Wheel.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 21st May 2015 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 2015/2016 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 First
Southam Heritage Collection
Grange Hall Management Committee
Southam Christmas Lights Committee
2028 Southam Squadron
SCIF
Rotary Club of Southam 2000
Southam Darby and Joan Club
VASA
Craven Lane Hall
St James Cof E School
Southam & District Lions Club

Graham Adams Centre
Fosse Food Bank Southam
Southam Twinning Association
Rotary Club of Southam

Verbal Reports

Southam Mothers Union
Southam Twinning Association
Craven Lane Hall Management Committee
The Parenting Project – Southam Childrens Centre
Southam and District Lions Club
Southam Heritage Collection
Rotary Club of Southam
Graham Adams Centre
Southam First
SCIF
Southam Christmas Lights Association
Fosse Food Bank – Southam
Melody Makers
VASA
Southam Congregational Church
Southam Womens Institute
Southam in Bloom
Southam 2000 Rotary Club

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 7:45pm

Appendix A

Mayors Report 2015/2016

Being my second time as mayor, I was tempted to use my previous annual address so I didn't have to write a new one, but looking through it, a lot has changed in Southam in 2 years. My previous address spoke of a new library to be built and potential redevelopment of the town, this year we have seen the completion of both, and I have been very pleased to see the positive impact each has had to the town centre. Both myself and Michelle continue to be amazed by the generosity and commitment of the Southam people, giving their time, effort and passion to many great causes in and around the town.

My chosen charity this year is the MS Society, having supported this cause two years ago, I feel it is even more appropriate that we help beat this condition that can strike people of all ages any time. I am pleased to announce that a cheque for £600 will be presented to the charity.

With Southam growing all the time, it's important that all newcomers are welcomed in to the community with open arms and hopefully forge lifelong friendships, memories and contribute to this wonderful town of ours.

It is only left for me to offer my thanks to my fellow Councillors, my wife Michelle who has been at my side throughout my mayoral year and last but certainly not least the Office team of Debbie, Denise and Carole who work tirelessly to keep Southam ticking. Thanks to you all.

Jason Ward - Retiring Mayor 2016

Appendix B

SOUTHAMFIRST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING REPORT 12th May 2016

The Southam First volunteers continue to make a very positive and successful contribution to Southam community life. A great deal of our work in the past twelve months has been focused on enhancing the tourism potential of the town with the establishment of a new website and visitor guide. In summary, our achievements since May last year have been:

May/June 2015:

Finalisation of the 2015 annual benchmarking statistics and surveys.

August 2015:

Facilitation of the annual Southam Flower & Produce Show, providing financial administration, insurance and resources. We are grateful for the financial support of Southam Town Council for this annual community event, and we look forward to assisting with this year's Show which will be held on September 10th at the Grange Hall.

September 2015:

Successful launch of the new logo and website for the town: www.southam.co.uk which includes lots of information about the town and surrounding area, together with a Business Directory, a Community Directory and 'What's On' listing which is available for all businesses and community groups in the area to use. This project was funded by Warwickshire County Council and was facilitated by Stratford District Council.

November 2015:

Schools Cycling Survey produced and results distributed. This project was initiated to find out what facilities our local schools provide to help students cycle to school.

The 2015 Annual Benchmarking Report and Executive Summary were produced and distributed. However, our application for funding for a 2016 survey was unsuccessful.

December 2015:

Assisting with the Christmas Lights Switch On event, providing storage for the lights, loan of gazebos, and provision of a Santa Grotto.

Loan of Santa Grotto to Southam Children's Centre.

Provision of wall-mounted Christmas Trees for 13 town centre businesses.

January 2016:

Official launch of the new 'Southam Area Visitor Guide' leaflet, and start of its distribution campaign via Take One Media to the wider tourism catchment area (hotels, B&Bs, visitor attractions and Tourist Information Centres in Warwickshire/West Midlands). The leaflet includes a map of the town centre and its facilities for visitors, and themed lists of things to see and do in and around the town.

April 2016:

Organisation and promotion of a highly successful French Street Market event on Sunday 10th April. Feedback from the public and the traders themselves was extremely positive and we hope to make this an annual town event.

We have recently renewed the lease on our asset store for a further 3 years. We will be holding our AGM in July when we hope to recruit new members to the team.

Southam Heritage Collection

(Friends of the Cardall Collection)

Annual Town Meeting Report – May 12th 2016

2015/6 has been another great year for the Collection as it strives to promote awareness of the knowledge of Southam's proud past. Although discovering, preserving and collecting knowledge of the town's history is a valuable activity in its own right we at the Collection are also very much interested in using that knowledge for the benefit of the town from a business, tourist, educational and social perspective and 2015/16 has seen advances in all these areas. However, it has not been roses all the way through the year. Perhaps the biggest frustration has been the continuing delay in gaining any information on

whether it will be possible for the Collection to take advantage of the new Community space that should become available in Tithe Place. This delay has also meant the Collection has unfortunately incurred additional expense which is something we can ill-afford given that all our funding comes from individuals on an ad-hoc basis.

On a positive note however we have gone from strength to strength in the Vivian House basement, and in the first three months of this year we have doubled the number of visitors, compared with early 2015, attending our “Keep the Home Fires Burning” exhibition curated by Val Brodie, Chris Holding and Chris Jerome. They have done a fantastic job in welcoming and educating visitors as the numbers show and I am delighted to make this known. Earlier in 2015 we also had significant numbers of visitors who left many appreciative comments about our “Old Southam, Tithes and Taxes” exhibition, and a positive deluge of visitors on the day of the French Market. In addition, the comments in our Visitor’s Book show that many visitors come from out of town and make use of other facilities in Southam.

We will shortly be opening our second exhibition of 2016 to be called “Cementing Relations in Southam” and focussing on the Cement Industry and its impact on Southam and local villages. We have been fortunate in receiving generous financial and material support from both CEMEX and the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund to assist in creating this exhibition, for which we are very grateful. Interest in and demand for our exhibitions is steadily increasing.

Earlier this year Debbie Carro pointed the BBC in our direction when they were researching the Shakespeare Anniversary and this resulted in both a lot of work on our part, much new information being discovered and three live radio interviews on one day in April. These interviews and other material are available on our web site which now has an additional section focussing on Southam’s History and indeed new contributors coming forward to offer their material for inclusion. We have also had a number of great donations to add

to the Collection including a large number of deeds going back several hundred years for one of the oldest Inns in the town. Southam Town Council has provided valuable support to allow us to purchase museum standard display cases one of which is now installed and in daily use.

Our membership continues to grow. In addition, more people are coming forward both as part of Val Brodie and Chris Jerome's Centenary Archive work, and offering to work as volunteers or contributors of stories for our web site and monthly "Cardalls Corner" articles in the Southam Advertiser.

2016 is the 10th anniversary year for the Collection and we are optimistic that our support will continue increasing and with it our ability to succeed in our objectives for promoting local history in the town.

Finally, I would like to mention that we are running our 200 Club again this year to help with fund raising and tickets are available from me this evening for £5 for 12 draws with a guaranteed £10 prize each month and substantially more for the November and May draws depending on the final number of tickets sold.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Thursday 12 May 2016

REPORT FROM GRANGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

John Gwillam – Chairman

It is with sadness that we have lost another of our Committee members; our Vice Chair, Mrs Pat Ferguson, lost her brave battle with cancer in March of this year, and she will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

The Grange Hall continues to be well used on a regular weekly basis throughout the year, with bookings into 2019! The past year saw 'peaks and troughs' with parties and presentation events, but this seems to be a continuing sign of the times. The good news is that they are increasing, and the diary continues to fill up. The Bar continues to provide additional much needed income for the Hall, and we always keep prices as competitive as possible. We are lucky to have a small but committed team of casual bar staff. We have also seen an increase in business meetings requiring refreshments/lunches.

Our concert programme continues, albeit much reduced. The Abba Tribute Evening is booked again for this year by popular demand, and we are hoping that they will again be successful. We have so enjoyed our Christmas with

Bob Brolly, MBE, the last three years, but are giving him a break this year (although we hope he will come back again in the not-too-distant future). We are in the process of arranging a Rock & Roll Christmas, so check out our website nearer the time! Our lack of spare funds means that it is difficult to take too many gambles and we have to be fairly certain that something will work.

Our accounts are with the Accountants, and we hope that the past year will show us just breaking even. Savings are almost impossible in a high maintenance building. Southam Town Council continue to be very supportive, and we are extremely grateful to them for the assistance they give. We also appreciate the Town Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council continuing their capital investment in the hall. We were very fortunate to have been awarded two grants from Southam Town Council (September and February) and this has meant that we were able to repaint the Rear Room and also the Rear Entrance – a much needed and appreciated face-lift to both!

The committee continues to work hard, but it desperately **needs** some **new members** who have a little time to spare and, more importantly, have new ideas to share.

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

-o-o-O-o-o-

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Thank you very much for your continued support with the grants for the Southam Lights Association, as you may or not be aware this event cost us E 10,000 per year to put on.

We also try to raise money by holding various events throughout the year such as Easter Egg raffle, a quiz evening, a meal and raffle at the Balti Hut, a table top at the Lions May Day Fete, and coffee mornings at the Craven Lane Welfare Hut. Also this year we are trying a couple of new events that are in the pipe line.

In the autumn we contact a lot of local businesses for sponsorships and are usually well supported but of course fund raising get more difficult every year.



**ROYAL
AIR FORCE
AIR CADETS**
the next generation

2028 (Southam) Squadron
R(T)
Air Training Corps
Millar House
Wattons Lane
Southam
Warwickshire
CV47 OHX

Squadron Commander- Flight Lieutenant D.K.Moreton RAFV

Tel No - 01926 815390
E-mail – co@2028sqnatc.co.uk
Web Site – www.2028sqnatc.co.uk

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCIL 26th April 2016

Mayor

2028 Squadron Air Training Corps has been in Southam since 1942 and has always attracted young people from both Southam and its surrounding Villages. My Squadron is proud to offer these young people opportunities to Fly, Shoot, participate in adventurous activities, gain a BTEC and play a direct role in this community all of which we continue to do very successfully. During 2014 the Royal Air Force Air Cadets began taking young people from age 12 which will expand the opportunities to more young people.

We continue to develop and expand with more new recruits in the pipeline. This is on no small part due to the endeavours of our Senior Cadets who now hold regular assemblies to recruit for the Squadron, mostly at Southam College which continues to be our main source of Cadets. We have a fantastic relationship with the Headmaster Mr Samra.

We have maintained and developed our commitment to offer Cadets the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and achieve two levels of BTEC in Aviation studies, equivalent to no less than 4 GCSE's currently.

During 2015 we travelled to various locations, Wolvey, Wellesbourne, Rough Close and Derbyshire and the Forest of Dean for our Expeditions and rate highly in the Warwickshire and Birmingham Wing area for the most Duke of Edinburgh Awards gained including 9 Cadets gaining their Gold Awards.

In 2015 we achieved 10 Bronze and 7 Silver D of E Awards as well as the Golds.

Air Cadets also get the opportunity to fly in both powered aircraft and in Gliders. In 201 Cadets from Southam flew in both aircraft throughout the year flying out of both RAF Cosford and from Little Rissington in Gloucestershire although for most of the year places were in short supply to issues with pilot's availability.

Members will also know that in 2015 the Squadron was involved in collecting for the Annual British Legion Poppy Appeal and was proud to lead the Remembrance Day Parade once again last year, as every year with no less than 34 Cadets attending.

In 2015 our Cadets helped at the Guide Dogs open day and also did a sponsored swim on behalf of Fisher House which is located at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. The Squadron received a letter of thanks and a Certificate from HRH The Prince Harry and will in the next few months have the honour of going to Fisher House and meeting some of our injured Armed Forces Heroes and the staff who help with their rehabilitation.

During the year we continued to maintain the Holy Well on behalf of the Town Council and also took part in the Town Carnival and look forward to being involved again this year. Generally, we have been involved in many community activities too many to mention but where possible we will take part to maintain the blue footprint in Southam.

A number of my Cadets have attended Courses at RAF Cosford, both for promotion to Corporal and also senior development courses, all designed to ready them for leadership positions within the Squadron.

Cadets from 2028 Squadron were able to spend Annual Camps at RAF Waddington, RAF High Wycombe, Southwick Park, Lossiemouth, Bristol and Nesscliffe plus a week at HMS Bristol. We also had Cadets go to Gibraltar and Cyprus!

Our Senior Cadet was appointed as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for the Air Cadets in Warwickshire and members will like to know that 2028 Squadron now has the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for a second year in 2015. We also had the first ever Cadet at Southam achieve a Junior Leaders Qualification which took no less than 9 months hard work for him to get his Maroon lanyard.

The Cadets have taken part in Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Rugby, Soccer, Hockey and netball, representing the Squadron.

2028 Squadron was also presented with a Trophy as the Best Squadron in the Warwickshire and Birmingham area, a great achievement.

I would also like to mention our Civilian Committee ably chaired by Councillor Mike Gaffney, who worked very hard throughout 2015, raising money to increase the amount of equipment we need to allow Cadets to take part in D of E, take exams and so decrease the need for parents to buy expensive kit. The biggest item by far was the purchase of our very own 'Recruiting Gazebo' which will make its first appearance at the Town Carnival in May.

So Chair I am pleased to say that 2028 Southam Squadron is very active and successful and continues to play an important role in the Town. We are respected throughout our Wing as a strong and proactive ATC Squadron with my Senior Cadets seen as a role model to other Senior Cadets in Warwickshire and Birmingham Wing. 2016 is also producing amazing opportunities for our cadets including taking part in a prestigious weekend at RAF Cranwell in August to celebrate 75 years since the Air Cadets were formed. They will be accompanied by Flt Lt Moreton and Flying Officer Thorns from 2028 who will be in charge of the Cadets from all over the Wing.

Finally may I say that the Royal Air Force Air Cadets in Southam has always been there for any young person from Year 8 to 17 years of age and offers some very challenging but rewarding opportunities to achieve both academically and physically which will look good on any future CV or simply help them to become better members of our community. .

I commend the report to the Annual General Meeting



Daryll Moreton
Flight Lieutenant RAF VR(T)
Officer Commanding

Web Site – www.2028sqnafc.co.uk
Face Book Site – 2028(Southam Squadron) Air Training Corps

Southam Civic Ideas Forum

Chairman's report for 2015-16.

SCIF is a group of dedicated local people who are concerned about our environment and are happy to work with Southam Town Council and other agencies for the benefit of the community. All members make a contribution and it is my pleasure to thank everyone for the efforts that they make. In all we have held 9 meetings all of which are open to the public and anyone can attend and all have been interesting and productive.

We continue to meet at Craven Lane hall at 10am for our meetings which now take place every other month. We hold daytime meetings to allow WCC Highways officers, on a quarterly basis, to attend to discuss road, footpath and associated works that have come to our attention. The result of these meetings has led to a better than average condition of our roads and footpaths. We have also held evening meetings, including our AGM, at the Southam Sports and Social Club to encourage those that are not available during the day.

Our main project is the repair and replacement of the Church Gates and we continue to make progress with fund raising. We now have letters of offers to contribute from Southam Town council of £2000, a local company has offered £5000, a local family has offered £3000, we have £1300 of the Cemex grant remaining and we have had two cheques for £100 from local people and another promise of £500, which gives us a total of £12,000 towards the amount we need for the project of £35000 plus.

We have updated both the Town Trail and The Holy Well Trail leaflets and are currently negotiating for some finance to have them reprinted thanks to the efforts of Jenny Frith, Pam McConnel and Lesley Smith. Southam First has produced the new Southam Visitor Guide and Pam McConnel is to be congratulated on that.

We continue to monitor the progress on the Sponsored Roundabouts trial which is being dealt with by the WCC. Members took part in the Bench Marking Survey that is run by the Southam First Group.

During the year we saw the completion of the town centre project and the opening of the new library within the new Tithe Place development. We now have new planters and safer access to bus stops on Market Hill. Wood Street has been pedestrianised and the town centre footways have been improved, whilst modifications to the bus stop in Coventry Street have been made to overcome the bus parking problems there. It is gratifying to see that some of the ideas put forward by members of SCIF during the debate on the Town Centre Redevelopment are reflected in its final outcome.

We continue to maintain the Willow Walk and can report that for the first time we have all trees actually growing. The Holy Well path has been sprayed by Jason Ward to keep the weeds from encroaching which helps to maintain it. Members have replaced and realigned the directional signs. Representations were made to BT about the condition of the Telephone exchange grounds which resulted in an improvement. Members were also asked to carry out various audits of facilities in and

around the town including a Sign Audit which was passed to the WCC for their reference.

In general SCIF has had a year of satisfactory progress and all members can be proud of that.

Report from the Rotary Club of Southam 2000

Southam 2000 Rotary Club is now in its 22nd year. It's not 2000 from the year we were founded, as many people believe, but 20.00 hours, the time we meet! The Club has enjoyed another good year of service, fellowship, international connections and fund raising. We have this year donated a little under £9000 to support our local community and international projects.

In the local community our main activities are to organise an annual holiday for senior citizens in Blackpool, to support the activities of Southam College, to help organise and support the Southam Carnival, assist in making the Fosse Food Bank collections at Southam Tesco store, provide assistance with transport for some members of Southam Vision Support and participate in the Southam Business Breakfast Club.

Internationally this year we have financed a major refurbishment of a secondary school in Malawi, continued to support the education of a young man in India and, in conjunction with other clubs, financed the provision of solar lighting for the children's hospital at Bo in Sierra Leone and also a major literacy project in Guatemala. The Club has wholeheartedly supported the Rotary International initiative to eradicate polio. The most up-to-date figure shows that there have been only 12 cases in the world this year - we are nearly there!

Our major fund raisers are a Burns Night meal which this year attracted nearly 100 diners, our annual "Run for Rotary", a 10 km run around Draycote Water, organised in conjunction with the Rugby Dunsmore Rotary Club and held in September, the "2 Castles Run" organised by the Kenilworth Rotary Club, and "tin shakes" for a range of charities including MacMillan Cancer Support.

Rotary runs a number of national competitions for young people. Southam 2000 is fully involved with the local rounds of "Rotary Youth Speaks" - a public speaking competition, "Rotary Young Photographer" and "Rotary Young Chef", with the winners going forward to the area or district level competitions.

On the lighter side, the Southam 2000 quiz team have, over a number of years, often won the Area round of our District quiz. This year they won the Area competition and then went on to win the District Cup, a competition in which almost all of the 62 Rotary Clubs in our District take part.

Robin Cooter,
President of the Rotary Club of Southam 2000.

SOUTHAM DARBY AND JOAN CLUB

SOUTHAM TOWN MEETING 12TH MAY 2016 – 6.45pm

Southam Darby and Joan Club meets at Wattons Lodge, Park Lane, Southam on the first Friday of the month from 2pm to 4.30pm

We now have a membership of 50 which includes the helpers. We seem to lose a few members each year due to their age, but we regain new ones as well. This now includes 3 gentlemen for which we are very pleased.

We had a varied programme this year including interesting Speakers, Musical Entertainers, Exercises, Strawberry Teas and outings which include lunches. We also have our very popular Bingo at most meetings which they do enjoy.

We collect for two charities, Myton Hospice and the RNLA which we alternate each month.

We had a Tombola Stall at the Lions Fete and also at the Carnival, and we also have a Raffle each month. All these help with funds. Members pay £1 per meeting which includes tea and cakes made by our Committee.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to our Club where they can meet old and new friends in a happy and fun loving environment.

Transport can also be arranged by contacting Jacky Graham on 813652 or Ann Jakeway on 814294

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING REPORT

- 1) A full report on all VASA activities over the last year will be sent (shortly) to the Town Council.

We'd like to thank the Council for their support, notably for Southam's Volunteer Driving Office, and hope that this can continue in the future. It is an invaluable service for Southam residents and for all the villages in the surrounds – and use continues to grow.

We would also very much like to thank all the volunteers in Southam; those who are part of the Volunteer Drivers Scheme and all of those who are part of the Town's community groups. It has been a pleasure (for myself) working with you over the past few months.

- 2) We are part of a group now looking at volunteer driving for Social activities and use, something which has been very successful in nearby regions. Our present funding is specifically for medical transport work, includes a developing relationship with the Ambulance service, and we work closely with our present funders to develop this. If social volunteer driving is to happen we will have to find new funding support.

Whatever happens though, we do need more volunteer drivers just to support the present scheme. This is because of natural T/O and of increased demand so please, if you know of anyone who could join a wonderful group of volunteers, please let us know.

- 3) There will be a change to Volunteer Centre Services from July 1st. Warwickshire CAVA have been awarded a contract for countywide support, from WCC. VASA have been supporting the towns and the rural community of the whole of the District for many many years, and we will continue to do so.

If you need our help, please ring or e-mail and we will be there for you. If you have any particular need or ideas for the type of support you really could do with, please see me after this meeting or contact me on 01789 298 102. What can we do to help?

David Morgan
Funding & Development Officer – VASA – 01789 298 102
david.morgan@vasa.org.uk

Report for Craven Lane Hall

The Welfare Hut was designed as a First World War billet in Belgium. In 1919 it was brought to Southam, paid for by monies raised at £1.00 subscription from the people of Southam.

It's original use in the town was as a meeting place by WW1 Old Comrades, then used by Southam branch of the British Legion, after that was known as the 'Welfare Hut; where babies from Southam and the surrounding area were weighed and seen by medical staff, also used for weddings and other social events.

A hard working group of people have been organising the day to day running of the hall, it is in continual use by individuals, groups, small starter businesses, social events, children's parties, the most regular of these being the Tuesday Mini Market it has been the main stay for many years, the hall has been in continual use for nearly 100 years.

In 2008 as there was only one Trustee HSBC Bank - the Charities Commission recommend it be sold, it was going for auction and an



anonymous donor came forward with a donation of £100,000.00 to purchase the building with the remit that it be saved and donated to Heart of England Community Foundation as it is a historical WW1 building the only one that has survived and when refurbished would be of educational value, also benefit the people in Southam and surrounding villages, attracting many interested visitors to Southam

Heart of England were successful in applying for and getting a very generous grant from Heritage Lottery to completely refurbish the building and bring it up the modern day standards. In 2007 a group of people volunteered as a 'Management' committee, to manage the day to day running of the hall, also at times included personnel from HECF.

Planning was going well, when unfortunately it had to be delayed owing to a boundary wall dispute, which has lasted 18 months and cost a sum of the money to settle. This delay has meant extra cost, as professional and materials prices have risen above the grant from Heritage Lottery.

At this present time additional funds are being raised by Heart of England Community Foundation to hopefully make up this shortfall.

JIM STEELE- Chairman Craven Lane Hall Management Committee

St. James'

C.E. (VA) Primary School
Tollgate Road
Southam
Warwickshire
CV47 1EE
Telephone: 01926 812127
Fax: 01926 815438

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Phyllis King
Head of School: Mrs Kathy Palmizi

14 April 2016

Dear Mrs. Carro

Annual Town Meeting and Mayor Making

Thank you for your invitation to this event. I apologise that I am not able to attend due to prior commitments but I am able to provide you with a report about our school as follows:

This has been a very busy year for Southam, St. James C.E. Primary school. In July, we said goodbye to Mrs. Wankling following her retirement. The event was marked by a lovely church service followed by afternoon tea. Mrs. Wankling still pops in to school occasionally so we are able to keep up to date with all her news.

In September, the school entered a formal collaboration with Long Itchington C.E. Primary School. We now have an Executive Headteacher, Mrs. Phyllis King, who oversees the strategic direction of both schools and I became Head of School at St. James with responsibility for teaching and learning and the day-to-day running of the school. This arrangement is working very well and we have received positive feedback from our children and parents. Being part of the collaboration means that we are able to share costs. This has enabled us to provide exciting opportunities for the children such as a 'Robot Day' and a 'POP UK' concert. Children from Years 3 and 4 in both schools joined together to prepare for this concert and the event was held at Southam, St. James Church for parents and relatives from both schools. It was lovely to see the children making new friends and their performance was outstanding.

We have also contributed to our local community by singing at the switch-on of Southam lights, making Christmas cards for the residents of Galanos House and making Easter Gardens for St. James Church, Southam and All Saints Church Ladbroke.

We now have a new logo for the school, designed by one of the children, and our school council were involved in selecting a new school motto. The children often refer to this motto, 'Let Your Light Shine', when they are talking about their learning.

We believe that St James provides an excellent education for its pupils, but we are always looking for ways to improve the teaching and learning in our school. This year we have been focusing on improving progress and attainment in mathematics. Teachers and Teaching Assistants have enjoyed working with a maths specialist and it has been fascinating to see many of the ideas from this training incorporated into lessons.

We work closely with other schools from our local area, including Southam College. At a time of great change for schools with the introduction of a new National Curriculum and assessment arrangements, as well as the academies agenda, it is important that we share good practice and keep up to date with local and national initiatives. Our older children benefit from regular visits to Southam College to take part in transition lessons and this year, our most able readers have met regularly with a teacher from Southam College to support them with reading and understanding more challenging texts. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to meet others who share similar interests and they are enjoying being challenged in this way.

Our sporting achievements include winning a local netball tournament, taking part in cross country races and participating in football tournaments and athletics events. The children also have opportunities to experience residential visits. Year 5 go to the Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire to take part in outdoor and adventurous activities such as kayaking and abseiling. Year 6 spend a week in York, exploring the city and visiting a number of places of interest to enhance their learning.

Our PTFA are working very hard to raise the money to replace some outdoor play equipment which is no longer safe to use. They have held several fund-raising events and work tirelessly for the school. Their support is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Palmizi
Head of School

Phyllis King
Executive Headteacher



President:

Brian Howard
14 Spire Bank
Road
Southam
CV47 1PB
01926 812797

Secretary:

Tony Lorimer
6 Rainsbrook Close

Southam
CV47 1GL
01926 811710

tonylorimer@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Dave Richards
15 Mayfield

Southam
CV47 0JX
01926 812611

12th May 2016

**REPORT TO SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL ON SOUTHAM & DISTRICT LIONS
CLUB ACTIVITIES 2015 – 2016.**

Membership of Southam Lions Club currently stands at 31 and we have had a full and rewarding year once again. Our turnover this last year has been just short of £18,600.00.

As most of you probably know all members pay their own fees to be members of the club and all our monies raised by events goes towards helping individuals, local causes, and charities. We also make donations to national and international appeals.

We have continued to support requests from senior local students who are fundraising to take part in international charity, humanitarian and educational events overseas

Our re-cycled furniture sales are held on the second Saturday every month but we have recently taken the decision to suspend the sales through the winter months, primarily due to weather conditions at this time of the year and to allow for our efforts with the Father Christmas sleigh through December. As well as making a nominal charge for furniture we have also made several charitable donations of furniture to deserving cases brought to our attention.

As I have already mentioned, one of our major annual efforts is the Father Christmas sleigh bringing Father Christmas and chocolate buttons to the children of Southam

and the surrounding villages over 16 evenings throughout December, and if you saw us last year, I hope you noticed that the sleigh has been extensively refurbished. We had our most successful year ever and donated £3,000 each to both the Juvenile Diabetes Fund and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Our community cinema is held in the Graham Adams Centre most months and is appreciated in the local community, particularly by young families.

Following the success of previous children's Aquathons and adult Triathlons held in September we have added our first Spring Aquathon/Triathlon. This was held two weeks ago, and has also proved very successful. These have been supported not only by individuals from the local community but also by several Triathlon clubs as training events.

Our poetry competition was again held last year and planning is well advanced for this year's competition. We thank Southam Town Council for their support for this event.

We also held our Ken Graham Senior Citizens Party in September with an afternoon of entertainment at Southam College with high tea of sandwiches, tea & cake. Ironically half the lions would probably be eligible as guests.

Our other ongoing annual events include the May Day Fete, our Race Night, heavy involvement with the Town Carnival and assistance at the Christmas Lights Switch-on and of course the Hog Roast held annually at the Mop Fair.

The Lions ladies not only support and help at our main events but also raise money in their own right, and this year they have again held a successful Quiz Night in February, a Christmas Hamper raffle, and a Tea and Cake stall at the May Day Fete. These have all been in support of the Ladies nominated charity – The Alzheimer's Society.

My year as President ends in June and we have all of our Club's officers elected for the coming year.

Brian Howard
President
Southam & District Lions Club

Graham Adams Centre Report

It's been another challenging year for the Graham Adams Centre (GAC), but I am pleased (and relieved) to report that we end the year in a much better place than we started it!

We have been encouraged by the support we have received this year from the Congregational Church, the Congregational Federation (CF) and our local community. At the end of last year we received a grant from the CF, which has enabled us to focus on future development.

Following a well-attended AGM in July last year, 'Friends of the GAC' was established. The group has been generating ideas for new initiatives, helps with fundraising and organising events, and now regularly open the café on Saturday mornings and for events.

For the first time last year we included a fundraising target in our budget, a necessary step to make ends meet, and were pleased to exceed it. We could not have done this without all those who volunteer at the Centre, and Southam Lions who have been a big support.

Towards the end of last year we had positive outcomes to some grant applications:

- We received some money to support 'Messy Meals' where children under 5 can come and cook something with their parents/carers – and then eat it! The first series of sessions was a huge success with up to 25 preschoolers cooking, learning about food and where it comes from, and enjoying the fruits of their labour. Our next series starts this month and is run entirely by volunteers.
- We received a County Councillor grant to run 'Vegetable Art Workshops' for primary aged children in February half term. These were really well attended and enjoyed by everyone. The Youth Club got involved with a film project. Following this we ran a one-day art workshop at Easter. There is a clear need for holiday activities for children.
- We received a 'Digital Inclusion Grant' which will enable us to offer opportunities for people to gain access to the Internet, computers and training. Lack of access to the Internet can often disadvantage people and we are looking forward to developing some exciting projects with this grant which will launch in September.

Southam Youth Club (for 10-13 year olds was re-launched last September with great success – we have a waiting list! Thank you to the Town Council for supporting the Youth Club in such a significant way. We are in the early stages of planning to open an additional session soon, although we have a real need for more volunteers to assist the youth leader.

One of the biggest worries hanging over us has been our roof and the potential claims and counter-claims relating to the repairs carried out in 2014, and the subsequent leaks. This matter has caused much stress for Directors and is still ongoing, but has recently moved forward and we hope to achieve a positive outcome in the near future.

We have welcomed two new Directors, including Councillor Barratt, who each bring valuable experiences, skills and ideas to the board. We would welcome more Directors, and volunteers in general to assist in the work and development of the GAC.

Our next community event is 'Growing Southam' on 12th June from 2-5pm. Lots of local charities and groups will be exhibiting and there will be stalls selling local produce.

In its simplest terms, the mission of the GAC is to serve the community. This happens in so many ways, and many of the various individuals, activities and groups that use the GAC would struggle without it in Southam. In the past couple of years we have been focused on firefighting and keeping afloat financially. In 2016 our focus can move from 'maintenance' to 'mission' and we are excited about developing the work of the Centre to ensure we meet the needs of more local people.

Sally Forgan, Chair

Town Mayor and Councillors

The fosse food bank has been open in Southam for nearly two years, in that time there has been 127 vouchers issued for emergency food, servicing approximately 200 adults and 45 children

I am the co-ordinator, of the foodbank, we have 14 volunteers who help with the issuing of the food parcels, and sign posting. We also take food over from the

donation box which is situated in Tesco's to the ware house in Kineton this is done on a rota basis, where the food is weighed, dated and check.

We are opened on a Monday at the Graham Adams Centre from 11.00 am until 13.00hrs; we also deliver emergency food parcels outside these hours.

Fosse food bank provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis, the food bank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide network.

Today in Southam and the surrounding area there are families struggling to put food on the table. For people on a low income a sudden crisis, redundancy, benefit delay or even an unexpected bill can mean going hungry.



Southam Twinning Association
Southam and Mœolles-en-Hurepoix
Formed 1992



TWINNING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

Southam Twinning Association has been going since 1992 when we signed the charter with our partners, Marolles-en-Hurepoix near Paris. Since then we have visited each other in alternate years and made some very good friends there. We have about 20 active members in Southam and District, and are completely self-financing, so in addition to activities with our French friends we hold fund-raising events among ourselves. This year we have organized a barbecue, a social evening, a quiz and a tombola at the visiting French market in Southam. We are always trying to attract new interest, as many of us are founder members and our average age is rising!

This year's exchange starts tomorrow when we will meet our visitors at Birmingham Airport. On Saturday we have arranged a day trip to Leicester where we will visit the Richard 1 1 1 Exhibition, the Cathedral and the Guildhall. On Sunday the host families will entertain their visitors as they choose and in the evening we will all have a farewell meal together before the departure for France on Monday. Anyone interested in joining our association can find more information on our website or contact any of our members.

Southam Melody Makers Annual report 2016

We are a ladies choir with an increased number from last year. There are now 33 members and we began our choir year by singing at a wedding at Warwick House and shortly after that completed our 5th year.

As well as the serious side of learning music for our varied commitments, we also have lots of social events; we took part in the Carnival procession, went on a theatre trip to Northampton and we dine out!

We sang and entertained the Darby and Joan club and some of our members took part in the Swimathon in Warwick in aid of the Soroptomists.

In September we sang in Stockton Church and combined with the local ladies Ukelele group and in October joined with the RNA mens choir, for a concert Warwick

We took part in the Advent carol service at St. James Church here in Southam and at the Primary School Christmas Fair we sang until we couldn't be heard any more, once the sugar kicked in!!

At Christmas time we headed for the Newbold Comyn Arms in aid of Zoe's place, Heathcote Hospital, and Tesco's in Southam, raising money for Diabetes UK, the British Heart Foundation, and Music and the Deaf.

Our most recent event last week was at Wood Street Church where in celebrating the Queen's 90th Year with a concert of British music, we raised another huge amount for charity.

REPORT FROM ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHAM

Southam Rotary Club has a membership of 15 and meets every Tuesday lunchtime at the Fox and Hen. We meet to enjoy each other's company, raise money for Rotary charities by having local events and social activities and listen to excellent speakers. The speakers are normally from National and Local charities. Our main charities we support this year are SSAFA and Acorns Childrens Hospice.

Locally we have run the Tree of Light at Christmas in Southam for fifteen years and the proceeds of some E 20,000 have gone to Acorn Childrens Hospice. We have organized coffee mornings in Harbury, a whist Drive and quiz for the local area. We are active with our sister club Southam 2000 and with Southam college running Rotary youth competitions including Young Chef and Young Photographer of the Year. Unfortunately, there was no take up from the College for the Young Musician and indeed little take up from any school in a wider area.

We have given to 8 charities this year and our club enjoys meetings and activities and we would welcome new members.

Contact details are on local web sites and in local free papers.

1st May 2016 Ed Mulley
President

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL,
COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 12th MAY 2016**

Present: The Mayor Cllr J Ward - In the Chair
Councillors G Oubridge, S Exton, M Panton, L Ellard, G Barratt, M Brooks, G Foster, M Connors. M Gaffney MBE TD, P Jenkins, K Geddes

In Attendance:

1. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders are suspended to allow the election of Mayor and to consider planning applications

2. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

It was moved by Cllr G Oubridge and seconded by Cllr G Barratt and unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Cllr M Brooks be elected Town Mayor of Southam for the year 2016/2017

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 Brooks announced that his charities for the forthcoming year would be the Myton Hospice and Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

The past Mayor, Cllr Jason Ward thanked his Mayoress, Fellow Councillors and the Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Grange Hall Administrator for all their hard work during his mayoral year and announced that funds raised during his year would be given to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Cllr K Geddes proposed Cllr L Ellard, seconded by Cllr G Foster and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Lee Ellard be appointed Deputy Town Mayor of Southam for the year 2016/2017

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

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Cllr A Crump
PC J Cramp

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2016, 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 2016 upon which the Town Council had been consulted by Stratford District Council. See below

There being no further business, the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.07 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					
APPLICATION NO.	APPLICANT NAME	SITE	PROPOSAL	OBSERVATION DATE/COMMENT	Additional Information
16/01372/TREE	Boyland	12 Banbury Road, Southam CV47 1HL	T1 : Sycamore:fell	25th May 2016	Please refer this application to the Arboricultural Officer