

# Southam Town Council Newsletter

APRIL 2019

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

## DON'T THROW AWAY THAT OLD HOOVER!

A new initiative is starting in Southam. It's called the Repair Café and is based on a similar idea already running in Leamington and elsewhere. It's designed to help prolong the life of our "stuff" and cut down on avoidable trips to the tip.

**How does it work?** Just bring your broken appliance, damaged item of clothing or piece of wobbly furniture to the Repair Café and the volunteers will do their best to fix it up. The more volunteers there are the better.

**How much will it cost?** The service is free but a contribution to costs is welcome. Of course, being a volunteer service, no guarantee is given that it will be possible to do an effective repair but it could be worth a try if it might save you buying a replacement. It also is kinder to the environment.

**When is it on?** The first Southam Repair Café will be at the Graham Adams Centre on Saturday 13th April starting at 11am. No appointment is necessary but you will be requested to register on arrival. The café will be open for purchase of tea, coffee and snacks.

**How Can I help?** More volunteers are needed to help; in particular anyone good with wood, especially if you have your own tools! Please contact Adrian Beaumont [ajbeaumont@gmail.com](mailto:ajbeaumont@gmail.com).



Pictures from the Leamington Repair Café

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SOUTHAM

Last summer, a small group was established with the aim of making Southam more "user-friendly" for residents and visitors living with dementia.

Dementia is the name given to the effects of any of a number of conditions that can affect the brain. Although dementia can affect younger men and women, it is more prevalent in the elderly. As our population's average age increases, there will be more and more people living with dementia in Southam. People with dementia are still people and like to go out, go to the shops or visit friends just like anyone else. Often they are prevented from doing so by a fear that people will not understand or be impatient if they have problems remembering or become a little confused.

Dementia-Friendly Southam aims to help overcome this by ensuring more and more people are aware of the condition, can recognise it and understand how to react. To this end, we organised two Dementia Information Sessions at Galanos House. Organisations who attended (including shops, churches, medical practices) all found it useful and gained a window-certificate to show that they have a Dementia Friend. A second was held in March and a public event is planned for May during Dementia Action Week.



November's New Dementia Friends



## HS2 CORNER

Residents will have noticed the recent series of road closures between Harbury and Welsh Road. These were for ground tests before laying cable to power the tunnel boring machine. Now this is complete, excavations will start in May for the cable duct itself. This is planned in four phases working north to south along the same route and will involve more temporary road closures. Formal notifications will be sent out nearer the time.

HS2 contractors have established a small compound off Welsh Road and this site will grow in size as work accelerates late this year.

Meanwhile near Wormleighton, the A423 is being affected by work on the access to a major test excavation along the route—the “Heave Trial”. This is in essence a massive trench designed to reveal how the ground heaves up when a large mass of earth is removed



from the top. Excavation will start around May and the illustration shows what it will look like. It will not be filled in after the trial as it is planned to be part of a cutting in the final line.

## POLICE STATION

The old Police Station has been sold to an unidentified bidder. The Town Council has attempted to have the building listed as a Community Asset.

## EDUCATION GRANTS

Students living in Southam who need financial assistance to study at college or university may be eligible for a grant from Southam United Charities. Grants are normally awarded to students over 18 and undertaking a recognised course or other activity with clear educational value. Priority is given to first-time applicants but all are considered according to their circumstances.

Application forms are on the Town Council web site here: [www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk/pdfs/suc-grant-appform.pdf](http://www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk/pdfs/suc-grant-appform.pdf) or contact the council office.

Completed forms are accepted between 1st June and 31st August. The charity may also be able to offer general help where there is no other source of financial assistance available. General applications should be made in writing to:

Mary Rouse, Clerk to Southam United Charities  
Olympus House,  
Olympus Avenue  
Leamington Spa CV34 6BF.

## GRANGE HALL HIRE

Contact Carole at The Grange Hall on  
01926 813933  
[carole@thegrangehall.co.uk](mailto:carole@thegrangehall.co.uk)



## RETRO DAY AT LAST

Following last autumn's weather-driven cancellation, Southam's popular Retro Revival Day will now be on Sunday 2nd June. Attractions will include 50's and



60's music and dancing, classic vehicle displays and vintage themed market stalls. There will also be lots for children to do.

Subject to the required permissions, the high street will be closed to traffic from the bottom of Market Hill to the Bowling Green pub from 8am to early evening.

## WANTED: VOLUNTEER TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATOR

Southam Town Council runs a volunteer transport service to help those without access to a car and who have difficulty in using or affording public transport to get to important medical appointments.

This service has proved invaluable and very popular but currently relies on a dedicated band of volunteer drivers. The demand is increasing but the number of drivers isn't and sometimes people are left disappointed.

There is also an immediate vacancy for a volunteer administrator to join the group and come in to the office at the Grange Hall for a couple of hours a week to help arrange bookings.

So the call is out: if you are willing to spend a few hours a week helping in the office or, if you have a car and a current driving licence, driving clients, please call the Town Council for more information on 01926 814004.

## WHO MAKES THE CARNIVAL HAPPEN?

Every Spring Bank Holiday, it's carnival time in Southam. We have a procession, a carnival princess and a funfair in the Park Lane recreation ground. With pony rides, climbing wall, displays, music and stalls there is something for everyone to smile about. Even if the weather is not ideal the streets are always lined with people enjoying the procession. Many onlookers are always hopeful of seeing a return of the Lions Wives' wine-assisted "French Tarts" float.

It's not just about fun – each year about £2,000 is raised for charity and good causes. Other funds, including fees from stalls and a grant from the Town Council, go towards providing free activities for children including crazy golf, climbing wall and a small animal farm.

But how does this all miraculously just happen each year? Surely there must be dozens of people to plan and organise it? In fact the Carnival Committee is only six people and the chair, Terry Grey, has been involved for the last 32 years. The committee is supported by Southam Lions and the Rotary Club but as the job becomes more demanding, the committee is looking for more people to help. There are jobs to do on the day as well as with the planning and organisation.

So please don't leave it to someone else – pitch in and keep Southam Carnival at the top. For more details email [tmgrey@tiscali.com](mailto:tmgrey@tiscali.com)



## SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REACHES FIRST FULL DRAFT

The Neighbourhood Plan for Southam has reached a crucial stage in that all the missing pieces have been filled to complete a first complete draft. This is the result of a lot of work from a group of people (councillors and non-councillors) comprising the Southam Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and its helpers. You may have participated in various surveys and walk-in exhibitions held as part of our data gathering process over the last two or so years.

But there is still a long way to go.

First we have to validate that our current draft is technically sound and robust then there are a number of pre-submission consultations (so-called Regulation 14) to do before we are able to officially submit the plan to the District Council. You will be able to read and comment on a summary and the full plan as part of the pre-submission consultation and we will publish information on how to do this in due course. The Working Party will be required to consider and document a response to every comment received and where necessary, make modifications to the Plan. Meanwhile we must produce two other documents to demonstrate that we have met national and local rules and that we have involved residents and other stakeholders. All this will take time.

Following submission, the District Council will organise its own consultations and then send the resulting plan for Independent Examination. More changes will arise from these stages and more time will be spent.

After this, the plan will undergo independent examination, sponsored by SDC. Just before that, there will be another consultation, this time by SDC (known as Reg. 16) for any comments to be submitted to the independent examiner. Changes will inevitably arise from this stage which will last some weeks.

Finally, the resulting Plan will be subject to referendum in Southam and, if there is a simple majority in favour, the plan will be "made" in the District Council Cabinet. At that point, our plan will be in force. If all goes smoothly from here, this will be early next year. Meanwhile, look out for more news of how you can participate in the local consultation. Catch up on the "Southam Town Planners" Facebook page or at [www.npsc.co.uk](http://www.npsc.co.uk).

### **But isn't it all too late for a development plan in Southam?**

**A frequent comment is that there is no point in having a Neighbourhood Plan in Southam because it is too late; Southam is already full of new developments.**

**Well, yes and no. While we can say that Southam could have started its plan earlier, in the end there was not a lot that could have been done to prevent the current wave of housing development across the country. The housing need was (and still is) there. One objective of the plan is to direct homebuilding to serve the needs of Southam first. And it's not only about housing developments but also it is an opportunity for us to say how Southam should look in the future.**

**The plan horizon is into the 2030s and likely beyond that if it is kept up to date. Anything can happen in that sort of timeframe.**

## BECOME A BLOOD DONOR

The next Blood Donor session in Southam will be the afternoon and evening of Thursday 9th May. Donating is by appointment and you can make an appointment online at [my.blood.co.uk](http://my.blood.co.uk). You may need to register first.



**Thank  
You**

If you already have an appointment, please don't forget to go!

**Giving blood  
saves lives.**

## FREE DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Warwickshire Hearts are running training sessions at the Grange Hall to give residents a chance to learn how to operate Southam's defibrillators. (See last edition for more information on them.)

The sessions are on 18th April, 30th May, 20th June and 18th July. All sessions are free of charge, start at 7:00pm with light refreshments and should last until 9pm. To book your place, visit [warwickshirehearts.org/events](http://warwickshirehearts.org/events).

## SOUTHAM ANNUAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING

Every year Town Councils are required to hold an Annual Meeting of the town. Ours will be on Thursday 16th May starting at 6:30 pm in the Grange Hall. It is slightly later this year due to the local elections.

Representatives of local organisations will be invited to attend and say a few words summarising highlights of the past year or submit a written report for inclusion in the minutes. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting and speak if they so wish.

The Town Meeting follows the Annual Meeting and will include a short ceremony to install the Town Mayor for 2019/20 followed by a reception in the hall.

## 2019 LOCAL ELECTIONS

Thursday 2nd May is polling day for all members of Southam Town Council plus our representatives on Stratford District Council. If there are fewer than 15 nominations for the Town Council, all the candidates will be elected unopposed. Whether or not this happens, your vote will still be needed for the District Council election so please turn out on 2nd and use your democratic right.

### SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

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Cllr Gareth Oubridge	Browns Bridge Ward	01926 817505	<a href="mailto:gareth9dylan@outlook.com">gareth9dylan@outlook.com</a>
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Cllr Angela John	Mill Hill Ward	07920 097387	<a href="mailto:cllrjohnstc@gmail.com">cllrjohnstc@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Lee Ellard (Mayor)	Mill Hill Ward	01926 814444	<a href="mailto:atticaballoons@gmail.com">atticaballoons@gmail.com</a>
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Vacancy	Southam Fields Ward		

### **SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**MAYOR: Councillor Lee Ellard**

**TOWN CLERK: Mrs D Carro**

**Town Council Offices, Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA**

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

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*Contact the editor if you wish to submit an article or publicise a Southam community group.*