

How can you help?

If you would like to help with the Collection, or simply show your support, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Volunteers are needed for the following:
IT, website design, scanning, photography, writing articles, working with schools and community groups, interviewing, fund-raising, exhibitions, marketing & publicity

Become a Friend!

Membership is open to anyone interested in the history of Southam and its surrounding villages. Annual membership costs £15 for an individual, £20 for a couple, £5 each for over 70s and is renewable on 1st October each year. It entitles you to receive our Newsletters, vote at the AGM and take part in our training and membership events.

To join the Friends, please send your membership fee with this slip to: The Treasurer, Friends of the Cardall Collection, Vivian House, 21 Market Hill, Southam, CV47 0HF.

Name:
Address:.....
.....
Email:Tel:.....
Payment enclosed: £.....

*Cheques payable to The Friends of the Cardall Collection
Payments by Standing Order or bank transfer are welcome: please request our bank details.*

How to contact us:

**Southam Heritage Collection
Vivian House
21 Market Hill
Southam CV47 0HF**

Email: cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone: 01926 613503 (Chairman)

You can find us on this website:

www.communityarchives.org.uk

where you can download copies of our Newsletters

Find us on **facebook** under

Southam's Cardall Collection



If you would like to visit us, please get in touch.

Leaflet updated: April 2014



Preserving the Past, Connecting with the Present

Southam Heritage Collection

Southam Heritage Collection contains important artefacts, documents, photographs and recordings relating to the history of Southam, its people, and the surrounding villages.

The Collection belongs to the people of Southam and is managed by Trustees and a team of volunteers. It comprises the Cardall Collection, the Alan Griffin Photographic archive, the writings of Trevor Rogers, Jim Fitchett and others, extracts from Southam Library's local history archives and many other significant donated items.

Southam Heritage Collection needs a permanent home within the Town Centre, so that it can be made accessible to the wider community.

Background

Southam is a historic market town with many unique and ancient buildings. Located on important north/south and east/west transport routes, it was for many years a bustling trading hub, particularly in the era before railways. It played an important role in the English Civil Wars, with both Charles 1st and Cromwell billeting troops in the town.

Southam Heritage Collection incorporates the “Cardall Collection”, which was started by the late Jack Cardall and enhanced by his widow Rene until her death in 2007. It contains in excess of 4,500 items including a large photographic archive donated by local historian, Alan Griffin. It includes many other donated items and documents and a growing collection of oral history recordings made by local people.

The group known as the **Friends of the Cardall Collection** was established in 2006 with the primary aim of finding a permanent home for the Cardall Collection. Since then its role has expanded as the Collection itself has grown.

The Collection is a valuable resource for people living in and researching the area. It also has the potential to increase the town centre’s visitor footfall and trade. It has a role in informing and inspiring educational and community institutions and it provides people of all generations with an opportunity to develop and exercise skills in support of their community.

Southam Heritage Collection is currently housed in the basement of Vivian House on Market Hill in the centre of town. These premises are not ideal because of limited space and a steep staircase which makes the basement inaccessible for those with restricted mobility. We hope to be allocated

affordable space in ‘Tithe Lodge’ – the new Orbit development in the centre of town.

Our work is funded by donations, membership subscriptions, fund-raising events, sale of small items, and small grants from awarding bodies. Through successful fund-raising we have acquired equipment to support our community outreach work and to carry out the conservation and documentation work that underpins everything else we do.

To pay running costs (rent, business rates, insurance, electricity, water,) our volunteers concentrate much of their efforts on revenue earning projects.

Current Projects

Documenting the Collection

- Identifying, recording & describing all items
- Creating a computer database of items
- Scanning all documents
- Photographing all objects
- Digitising all photographic material

Outreach Activities

- Working with local Schools & Colleges
- Working with retirement homes and similar organisations
- Walk & Talk Events
- Presentations & Talks for local groups
- Exhibitions & displays
- Partnership working with Southam Fire Service, Southam Primary Schools and Southam volunteer groups

Oral History

- Digitally recording memories of local people and producing oral history CDs

Other Activities

- Helping to research Southam’s historic buildings and archaeology.
- Introducing Exchange Students to the town.
- Taking part in community events
- Dealing with enquiries from the public about local and family history
- Partnership working with local artists, writers & historians, and other local history groups
- Producing booklets, calendars and information packs relating to Southam

We receive advice, support and training from the Warwickshire Community Museum’s Officer and are working towards national museum accreditation.

Future Plans

- To widen access to the Collection
- To expand the Collection
- To increase our use of social media and enhance our web presence
- To assist schools with their local history study
- To raise awareness and engage local people with Southam’s historic past
- To make the Collection work for Southam in terms of increased tourism and trade

Many more activities are possible, but to do them we need willing volunteers and a secure future for the Collection – which means finding a suitable and affordable permanent home.

If you are interested in your local heritage and would like to help, please get in touch, (contact details overleaf).