

# Southam Town Council Newsletter



## CHRISTMAS 2009



### Mayor's Christmas Message

As Christmas approaches the Town Centre will be brightened by Christmas lights. The Christmas Lights Committee, like many organisations in Southam, work throughout the year to support the community. Southam is fortunate to have a wide range of community groups for all ages – from play groups to clubs for retirees, interest groups to opportunities to meet friends. We are grateful to all those who organise and participate in community groups and in so doing contribute towards the well-being of the town and community. Thank you!

Christmas represents a busy time for businesses, retailers, school children and offices alike. We are grateful for the decorations that brighten shop windows, school halls and offices. Beyond the glitter and shine we remember those for whom Christmas can be a difficult time and the importance of living in a caring community. In different ways we all contribute towards making Southam a vibrant and considerate community for all people.

The Town Council also contributes towards this aspiration of a caring community through its work and decisions. The Town Council aims "to improve the safety, the environment and quality of life in the town". Hopefully residents can see this work demonstrated in the Town Council's petition to maintain Victor Hodges House, providing recreational opportunities, making decisions that preserve green space and promote choice, upgrading street lighting and working with partner agencies to improve road safety.

I would take this opportunity of thanking all who work hard to make Southam a vibrant and caring town.

I wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Revd Cllr Wayne Hawkins  
Southam Town Mayor

### PETITION OPPOSING THE CLOSURE OF VICTOR HODGES HOUSE

Thank you to all who have helped to collect signatures. The petition will close on 31st December 2009 and arrangements are being made to present it to the Secretary of State who has to approve a change of use of the land. If you haven't yet signed the petition and would like to do so, it is still available in Southam pharmacy or by contacting your Town Councillor.

### CAB RETURNS TO SOUTHAM !!

Following an initiative by Southam Town Council's Credit Crunch Group and with support from the Town Council, the CAB outreach service is once again available in Southam.

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Southam Library</b>
<b>Day</b>	<b>Tuesday mornings</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>10.00am to 1.00pm</b>
<b>Tel</b>	<b>01789 261966</b>

**for an appointment**

For telephone advice ring  
01789 293299 Monday Wednesday  
& Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm  
Tuesday 10.00am to 7.00pm  
Thursday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Advice on Benefits, Debts,  
Employment, Housing, Legal &  
Consumer Problems, Immigration,  
Relationships, Taxes, Utilities,  
Discrimination and much more.

### SOUTHAM IN BLOOM VACANCIES

Those of you who attended the Southam in Bloom AGM will be aware that Len and Marlene Gale, Chairman and Secretary of Southam in Bloom, are to step down.

A new chairman and secretary are needed to take over at the February 2010 AGM. Anyone interested in the positions can be assured that assistance will be given in the form of advice as to what is involved and the contacts needed to ensure a smooth transition. For more information contact Len on 01926 817174 or email [len.gale@btinternet.com](mailto:len.gale@btinternet.com)

## GRANTS

Grants will be considered at the February 2010 Council meeting. Local organisations wishing to make an application for a grant can obtain a form from the Town Council offices at the Grange Hall.

Telephone 01926 814004.  
or by email from  
deputy@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

Completed application forms should be submitted to the Town Clerk, Mrs Debbie Carro by Tuesday 2nd February 2010

## SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

The office will close at 1pm on Wednesday 23rd December 2009 and reopen on Tuesday 29th December 2009 at 9am. It will close again on Wednesday 30th December 2009 at 1pm and reopen on Monday 4th January 2010 at 9am.

## SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 14th January 2010 7.30pm at The Grange Hall, Southam. Members of the public are invited to attend and may address the meeting at the start of business.

## SAINSBURY'S PLANNING APPLICATION FOR A TOWN CENTRE STORE

At the time of going to press Sainsbury's had submitted a planning application to Stratford District Council for permission to build a store in Southam's Town Centre; details are not yet available.

Southam Town Council will arrange a public meeting at the Grange Hall to give **you** the opportunity to air your views once the plans have been received. As usual, the plans will be available for viewing in Southam Library.

Please look out for posters around the town for details of the meeting.

If you would like to receive email notification of this and other events of importance to Southam, add your name to the mailing list by emailing  
deputy@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

## WELCOME TO NEW SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCILLOR

At the Mill Hill Ward election on Thursday 12th November David Isham was elected to the office of Member of Southam Town Council.

Doherty, Jeffery Michael	84 votes
Isham, David Colin	231 votes

Turnout 17.41%

We wish Councillor Isham well in his new role.

## PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST BURGLARY

Over the past few weeks the Southam area has suffered an increase in the burglary of dwellings. Southam Safer Neighbourhood team offer the following advice to residents.

- \* Don't hide spare keys, leave one with someone you can trust  
Burglars know where to look!
- \* Fit good locks to doors and windows and use them!
- \* Change the locks when you move into a new home.
- \* Use lights and radio on timers to make your home appear occupied.
- \* Secure windows and doors when you are elsewhere in your home or garden
- \* Fit a good quality alarm from a reputable supplier
- \* Fit and use a door chain
- \* Join Neighbourhood Watch
- \* Find out about property marking.

Supplies of Smartwater for property marking are available at Southam Police Station at a cost of £15.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD FAIR

Festive food from local suppliers will be available for all to sample and buy at a Christmas Food Fair



- \* Sunday 6th December 11.30am to 4.30pm
- \* Graham Adams Centre
- \* Cheese & Wine, Chutney & Chocs, & much much more!
- \* Parking at Southam Primary School

**STC—Supporting local business**

## YOUTH CAFÉ / DROP IN TRAINING CENTRE

Do you think Southam would benefit from a youth café/drop in training centre for young people and are you interested in joining a group to explore how this could be achieved?

If so, please contact the Town Council Office on 01926 814004 for further information

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday 12th December 10am to 5pm  
Sunday 13th December 12 noon to 4pm  
at the Congregational Church

FREE ENTRY

Come and see 40 trees decorated by local groups



### WHERE ARE THE COUNCIL OFFICES?

**Southam Town Council Office** is situated in the Grange Hall, Coventry Rd, Southam. (Not to be confused with the white building which is the Grange)

**Stratford District Council** has moved from the Grange and now operates from Southam Library in the centre of the town, as does **Warwickshire County Council**, and enquiries about blue badge renewal and bus passes are dealt with there.

### WALK THE TRINA TRAIL!

As well as celebrating Trina Gulliver's achievements, the recently opened trail provides a healthy walking route for residents. Seven well placed seats - one for each year Trina won the world darts championship - allow walkers to pause and enjoy the view. Route maps with information are available in the Library and the Grange Hall. The original idea for the trail came from local people who formed a Trina Gulliver Tribute Group. The idea was taken forward by the Better Welcome to Southam Team and part funded by Southam Town Council.

### KEEP FIT - WALK THE TRINA TRAIL

### DO YOU KNOW ABOUT DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS?

Homeowners and private tenants, with repairing responsibility, may be eligible for grant assistance of up to £5,000 from Stratford-on-Avon District Council to carry out minor repairs to their homes.



What works can be considered?

- Roof repairs
- Upgrade electrics
- Replacement windows and doors
- Hot water and heating systems

Who can apply?

Qualifying persons shall:

- Be on a means tested benefit
- Have capital of less than £10,000
- Have lived in the property for at least one year

**IF YOU THINK YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY BE ELIGIBLE AND WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TEAM ON 01789 260848**

**EMAIL: [psht@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:psht@stratford-dc.gov.uk)**

**OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.stratford.gov.uk/housing](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/housing)**

### DOG FOULING

Dog waste can now be disposed of in ordinary litterbins providing it is properly wrapped.

**Please clean up after your dog!**

You may be liable to a £50 fixed penalty fine if you fail to do so.



### THE GRANGE HALL YOUR COMMUNITY VENUE

## A SONG FOR CHRISTMAS

**David Harrop & Carl Lewis**  
from London's West End

Friday 18th December 2009 7.30pm

Tickets £10.00/£9.00 (over 60s)

Children U14 £5.00

Family Ticket £25.00

Including mulled wine & mince pies

## NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Music with the fantastic band

**"The Gatecrashers"**

**Buffet Supper—Champagne**  
**See In the New Year in Style**

Tickets £30.00

First come, First served

2010

## LIVE & LOCAL

**The London Philharmonic**  
**Skiffle Orchestra**  
in Concert

Friday 26th February

7.30pm

Tickets £9.00/ 8.00(over 60s)

Children U14 £5.00

email:[carole@thegrangehall.co.uk](mailto:carole@thegrangehall.co.uk)

Tel 01926 813933



### WALC SECRETARIAL VACANCY

A vacancy exists for a person to provide a secretarial and administrative service to the WALC Area Committee, which meets four times per year. Duties include arranging venue, dates, guest speaker and taking minutes. Approximately 6 hours per Meeting. Fee and conditions on application

Contact Alison Hodge 02476 531283

email [Alisonh@wrccrural.org.uk](mailto:Alisonh@wrccrural.org.uk)

### STOP PRESS!

At its meeting on 17th November 2009, Warwickshire County Council turned down the Climafuel Manufacturing Facility application for the Southam site.

Southam Town Council and neighbouring Parish Councils spoke against the application.

Permission was granted for the facility to be built on the Rugby site.

### REPORT FAULTY STREET LIGHTS

Telephone **01926 412922** or Text **LIGHTING** and the fault details including **town, street, column number**, or the **location** in a maximum of 160 characters to **07950 081082** (standard network charges apply)

Please describe the nature of the fault and leave contact details in case the inspectors need to contact you to clarify the exact location of the column. The number of the column is a black number on a white background facing the road and located at about eye level.

### VANDALISM & ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

To increase the chances of action being taken, it is important to **report all incidents**, however minor, to the Warwickshire Police Crime Desk **01926 415000 Extension 4550** and obtain a crime number.

If you are affected by anti social behaviour please also contact Kully Takhar on 01789 260123 or 07973 832075 or email [kully.takhar@stratforddc.gov.uk](mailto:kully.takhar@stratforddc.gov.uk)

### RETAIL SURVEY

Thanks to all local retailers who took the time to complete the recent survey questionnaire sent out by Southam Town Council. The information collected will help the Council's 'Credit Crunch' group decide where its future efforts should be directed.

### GRANGE HALL

Room Hire  
for  
**Weddings,  
Birthdays,  
Anniversaries  
Children's  
Parties  
in fact  
All Your  
Celebrations  
Family Functions,  
Meetings &  
Workshops**



**Licensed Bar Available  
Competitive Rates**

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

### EMPTY HOMES IN SOUTHAM

Do you know of empty homes in Southam? If so, please tell Stratford District Council and help bring these homes back into use.

Private Sector Housing Team  
Stratford District Council  
Elizabeth House  
Church Street  
Stratford on Avon CV37 6HX  
Telephone 01789 260866  
[psht@stratford-dc.co.uk](mailto:psht@stratford-dc.co.uk)

Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
Cllr Paul Caruana	Browns Bridge Ward	01926 817833	<a href="mailto:paulcuruana@tiscali.co.uk">paulcuruana@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Cllr Andy Crump		01926 815745	<a href="mailto:andycrump@btinternet.com">andycrump@btinternet.com</a>
Cllr Les Hewer		01926 812365	<a href="mailto:theelectricshopsoutham@hotmail.co.uk">theelectricshopsoutham@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Cllr Jim Griffin		01926 813508	<a href="mailto:jimgriff46@aol.com">jimgriff46@aol.com</a>
Cllr Dave Isham	Mill Hill Ward		<a href="mailto:isham_family@yahoo.com">isham_family@yahoo.com</a>
Cllr Daphne Smith		01926 814430	
Cllr Jane Soni (Deputy Mayor)		01926 812966	<a href="mailto:ridiough@hotmail.com">ridiough@hotmail.com</a>
Cllr Christopher Worsh		01926 817122	<a href="mailto:cllr.chrisworsh@tiscali.co.uk">cllr.chrisworsh@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Cllr Glesni Thomas		01926 812607	<a href="mailto:glesnithomas@btinternet.com">glesnithomas@btinternet.com</a>
Revd Cllr Wayne Hawkins (Mayor)	Merestone Ward	01926 810520	<a href="mailto:waynehawkins@hotmail.co.uk">waynehawkins@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Cllr Linda Tasker		01926 817426	<a href="mailto:linda@priority-people.co.uk">linda@priority-people.co.uk</a>
Cllr Richard Waller		05602 427609	<a href="mailto:richard.stc@btinternet.com">richard.stc@btinternet.com</a>
Cllr Bransby Thomas		01926 812607	<a href="mailto:bransbythomas@btinternet.com">bransbythomas@btinternet.com</a>
Cllr Peter Thomas		01926 814391	<a href="mailto:pgthomas7@yahoo.co.uk">pgthomas7@yahoo.co.uk</a>

**MAYOR: Revd Cllr W Hawkins, 20 Pine Tree Crescent, Southam, CV47 1EH  
(Tel: 01926 810520)**

**EDITOR: Cllr Glesni Thomas, 9 St Mary's Close, Southam, CV47 1EW (Tel: (01926 812607)**

**TOWN CLERK: Mrs D Carro, Town Council Offices, Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam  
(Tel: 01926 814004) email: [clerk@southamcouncil-warks.co.uk](mailto:clerk@southamcouncil-warks.co.uk)**