

Southam Town Council Newsletter



EASTER 2011

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk



MAYOR'S EASTER MESSAGE

After a long and difficult winter, it has been such a joy to see the carpet of snowdrops, crocuses and aconites unfold in the Library Grounds, heralding the start of Spring. As a keen gardener myself, I have been checking cherished plants for damage, and how heartening to notice signs of buds shooting and very few losses.

As you recall from the last newsletter, the Town Council has invested in the refurbishment of Park Lane Recreation Ground, and by the time this newsletter goes to press, work should be underway. This is a really positive achievement for the current Town Council, and one which will benefit families for many years to come. The Mayfield Road Play Area is taking longer to achieve, but slowly the stages are being completed, and it will happen.

The process of allocating the proportion of the Tesco S106 contribution to the Town that will benefit local businesses has been started. Grants up to £5000 are being awarded to successful applicants.

The death of Ken Graham in February marks the loss of a highly regarded member of our community. Ken was involved in many local groups and indeed was a founder member of some, like Southam in Bloom and the Twinning Association. He served as Town Mayor in 1984/5 and 1988/9. Southam owes him a huge 'thank you' for all he did for the town.

In May there will be a new Town Council which will endeavour to continue promoting the Aims of the Council. The wisdom, knowledge and commitment of those who are retiring/not standing for re-election, will be missed and I would take this opportunity to thank them for their achievements.

Jane Soni

TRAVEL TOKENS FOR THE OVER 65s

At its Precept Meeting, Southam Town Council agreed to maintain its allocation of travel tokens of £10 to each resident of Southam over the age of 65 and those who are registered disabled.



N.B. Residents between the ages of 60 and 65 are no longer eligible for tokens; you must be 65 or over on or before 31st May 2011.

The tokens can be collected from the Town Council office at the Grange Hall from Tuesday 3rd May until Friday 27th May, 9.30am to 12.30pm.

All claimants will be required to provide proof of age and residence in Southam. If you are eligible and unable to collect the tokens during May, please telephone the Town Council office on 814004. There will be no further opportunities to collect tokens this year.

Distribution at sheltered accommodation will take place on Thursday 28th April 2011

GRANTS—LOCAL GROUPS TO BENEFIT!

Southam Town Council awarded grants totalling £6,950 to local organisations at the Council meeting in February.

The organisations which benefited were Southam Area Action Group HS2 £1000, Southam in Bloom £1500, Warwickshire Association for the Blind (Southam Branch) £250, The Friendship Project for Children £500, VASA £700.

In addition, Southam Lions was awarded £2000 towards the purchase of a projector for the Southam Cinema and Warwickshire Domestic Violence Support Services was awarded £1000 towards the furnishing of a new refuge. These amounts to be earmarked and paid when additional funds have been raised.

Grants will next be considered at the September meeting. Application forms are available from www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

DOG FOULING!

Please clean up after your dog!

You may be liable to a £75 fixed penalty fine if you fail to do so.



THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT ON REQUEST

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Thursday 28th April
Thursday 12th May Mayor Making & Town Meeting
Thursday 26th May
Thursday 23rd June
Thursday 28th July
August Summer Recess - No Meeting
Thursday 22nd September
Thursday 27th October
Thursday 24th November
December Christmas Recess - No Meeting



Meetings take place in the Grange Hall, Southam and start at 7.30pm - members of the public are welcome and may speak at the start of the meeting.

PLAY AREA UPDATE!

Work has now started on a major refurbishment of **Park Lane** recreation ground and is scheduled to finish in time for the May Carnival.



During the Easter holiday access will be to the bottom half of the park only. Your nearest alternative play area with swings and slide is at Tollgate Road.

Plans have been submitted to Stratford District Council for the Mayfield Estate play area and will shortly be available in the library and at www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk for viewing.

TAKE CARE SWITCHING ENERGY SUPPLIERS!

Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards has had reports of "rogue" energy sellers operating locally who will say anything to gain access to your property. One claimed to be a "council home energy surveyor"; another claimed that he had been sent out to check meters in the area because of a report of "overcharging on tariffs" and carried a device similar to those used to record meter readings; a third claimed that the gas and electricity meter had been mis-calibrated.

New rules introduced this year to protect consumers state that salespeople must carry a badge giving their name and that of the company and must give you a written quotation before the sale goes through.

If you have a pre payment meter you can now owe up to £200 and be able to switch.

Trading Standards advises:

If you really want to do business on the doorstep, do not switch on the first visit - get the written quotation and then check out whether it really is a better deal by using a price comparison website e.g. theEnergyShop.com. If it really is better for you, arrange for the agent to call back at a later date to suit you.

For more advice on problems with shopping or buying services, contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

THE GRANGE HALL LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

'Trial by Jury'
Gilbert & Sullivan



Plus Medleys from *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *Les Misérables*, and more!

Friday 8th & Saturday 9th April 2011 at 7.30pm

Tickets £8.00/£7.00 seniors & under 14s

An Evening of African Dance Music

'TWO MAN TING'

&

'JAMA'

Friday 13th May 2011 at 7.30pm

Tickets £8.00/£7.00 seniors & under 14s

The Grange Hall 01926 813933,
The Coffee Cup, Southam 01926 812288
or on the door

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL EASTER OPENING HOURS

The office will close at 1pm on Thursday 21st April and reopen at 9am on Tuesday 26th April.

For the Royal Wedding & Spring Bank Holiday the office will close at 1pm on Thursday 28th April and reopen on Tuesday 3rd May at 9am.

SAVE THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!

Southam Christmas Lights really need your support this year, times are hard and it is looking very likely that it will not have the funds to put on a display this year.

The AGM is on Monday 18th April, 7pm at the Grange Hall, Southam.

Do you have any ideas for how we can raise the funds? We would like new people to help but if you're not the committee type how about helping us fund raise?

Everyone is welcome! For more information contact Val 813577 or Carolyn 815085

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL has an emailing list to keep residents and traders informed of **PUBLIC MEETINGS** and events of importance to the town.

If you would like to be kept directly informed of such events, please send your email address to : **deputy@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk**

Don't forget to tell us if you are on the list but your email address has recently changed.

ELECTIONS

Elections for 14 Southam Town Councillors and also for one District Councillor for the Southam Ward will take place on **Thursday May 5th 2011**. A referendum will also be held on the same date to answer the question

At present the UK uses the 'first past the post' system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the 'alternative vote' system be used instead?

POSITIVE ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE are pleased to offer young people county wide

**Snax 'n' Sports
Easter 2011
Aged 8 - 13**

Want something to do in the holidays then visit our **FREE!!!** activities - throughout Warwickshire

Southam

**St James Primary School
Monday 18th April & Thursday 21st April
3.30 to 5.30**

**Park Lane Recreation Ground
Thursday 21st April
12.30 to 2.30**

For more info on sessions in other areas check out the website or call on
02476 754168

WWW.WARWICKSHIRE.GOV.UK/PaYP

SAVE A LIFE—GIVE BLOOD

Your next blood donor sessions will take place in The Grange Hall, Southam on 2nd June 2011 and 7th July 2011



SWITCHOVER IS COMING TO THE CENTRAL TV REGION IN 2011

For advice visit digitaluk.co.uk or ring 08456 505050

At switchover, the current analogue television signal will be switched off and viewers will need to convert or upgrade their television equipment to receive digital signals, whether through aerial, by satellite, cable or broadband.

Digital UK has sent all households a 20 page guide to switchover, which explains the options for going digital, what happens during switchover and provides guidance on retuning for viewers with Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV equipment.

The Switchover Help Scheme is offering help to all eligible older and disabled people through its local community campaign, Helping Hand. Go to <http://www.helpscheme.co.uk> to find out more.

CONTACTING WARWICKSHIRE POLICE

EMERGENCY	If there is a crime in progress or life is at risk we will attend as quickly as is safely possible. Call 999 or 112 (the European emergency number).
PRIORITY	If the matter is urgent or a local policing priority, but not an emergency, we will be with you as soon as possible, usually within 60 minutes. Call 01926 415000 .
BY APPOINTMENT	If your call does not require an emergency or priority response we will make an appointment to see you at a police station or location to suit you, usually on the same or next working day. Call 01926 415000 .
ADVICE AND INFORMATION	If we do not send someone to you, we will provide advice and information. If we are not responsible for providing the service you need we'll direct you to the organisation that is. Call 01926 415000 . When you need to meet us face to face, there are a number of places throughout the county where you can go. Visit www.warwickshire.police.uk/contactingthepolice for details of locations and times. Our Safer Neighbourhood Teams are located throughout the county and their contact details, including information about when and where you can meet them, can be found at www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk .

FREE LABOUR FOR COMMUNITIES

ART (Arthur Rank Training) is an independent, charitable organisation providing educational and training opportunities for 14 to 19 year olds. We are looking to become more involved in Community Projects, providing some free labour in exchange for some time spent being part of a meaningful project, preferably in an outdoor setting, working alongside a variety of people from different walks of life.

Initially, we are able to offer some basic labouring, possibly site clearance or digging for example, with a small group of 16 to 19 year olds, supervised by a competent and experienced member of staff. We have our own transport, and a reasonable selection of hand tools. We will bring our own food and drink, but a cup of tea would be nice. If you feel you may have a use for an extra 'few pairs of hands' even for just a few hours and would be happy to work alongside a young person please feel free to contact us.

Martin Ellis, Special Projects Manager
martin@arthurranktraining.org.uk

Arthur Rank Training, Princes Drive, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2FD 01926 852111

SCIF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of **Southam Civic Ideas Forum** will be held in the Committee Room at the Grange Hall at 9.30 a.m. on Friday 8th April. If you are interested in helping improve Southam please come along.

GREAT POPPY PARTY

To celebrate its 90th anniversary the Royal British Legion is organising a Great Poppy Party weekend which will take place on 10th 11th 12th June 2011

For more information or to get involved go to

www.thegreatpoppypartyweekend.org.uk



PERENNIAL PROBLEM- INCONSIDERATE PARKING

Residents of Mill Road, Mill Crescent and St James Crescent have been experiencing continuing problems with inconsiderate parking.

Please try to park thoughtfully and safely and avoid driving on grassed areas or blocking pavements and access.



SOUTHAM PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning applications relating to Southam are now available through the Southam Town Council website.

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

For those residents without access to a computer the plans will continue to be available in the library.

GRANGE HALL

Room Hire
for
Weddings
Birthdays
Anniversaries
Christenings
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
www.thegrangehall.co.uk

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**NEW MEMBERS ARE WANTED TO SERVE ON
THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AT
BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS AND TO GIVE
PRACTICAL HELP AT CONCERTS AND
EVENTS**

Ring Carole or drop in for an informal chat!

Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
Cllr Paul Caruana	Browns Bridge Ward	01926 817833	paulcaruana@tiscali.co.uk
Cllr Andy Crump (Deputy Mayor)		01926 815745	andycrump@btinternet.com
Cllr Les Hewer		01926 812365	alexhewer@gmail.com
Cllr Torin Spence		01926 815339	torin.spence@btopenworld.com
Cllr Dave Isham	Mill Hill Ward	01926 817153	isham_family@yahoo.com
Cllr Daphne Smith		01926 814430	
Cllr Jane Soni (Mayor)		01926 812966	jroni@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Christopher Worsh		01926 817122	cldr.chrisworsh@tiscali.co.uk
Cllr Glesni Thomas		01926 812607	glesnithomas@btinternet.com
Revd Cllr Wayne Hawkins	Merestone Ward	01926 810520	waynehawkins@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Linda Tasker		01926 817426	linda@priority-people.co.uk
Cllr Richard Waller		05602 427609	richard.stc.@btinternet.com
Cllr Bransby Thomas		01926 812607	bransbythomas@btinternet.com
Cllr Peter Thomas		01926 817062	pgthomas7@yahoo.co.uk

MAYOR: Councillor Jane Soni, 26 Springs Crescent, Southam, CV47 0JU (Tel: 01926 812966)

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 CV47 1QA
(Tel: 01926 814004) email: clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk**