

Southam Town Council Newsletter

JUNE 2013

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

MAYOR'S REPORT 2012/13

When I was re-elected Mayor twelve months ago I pledged to continue to work for the townspeople and its voluntary organisations which play such an important part in our everyday life.

I have been pleased and honoured to represent the residents of Southam and the Town Council at events at home and away. Gwenda and I have travelled over 3500 miles on Mayoral duties and attended over 200 engagements promoting Southam and meeting many voluntary organisations who are represented here. All volunteers, including Councillors, give up their personal time for no reward other than the satisfaction of helping others and making Southam a thriving community.

I am grateful to all of you who have supported my charities this year and was particularly pleased with the support for the Mayor's Charity Concert in memory of Red Arrows pilot Jon Egging which raised £1000 for the Air Ambulance. The colour party provided by our own 2028 Squadron ATC during the Royal Air Force March Past was highly commended by all present. I also presented an additional £1500 to the Air Ambulance and £720 to Thare Machi Education. The Mayoress presented £900 to Air Ambulance, raised during her year as President of Rotary.

We take for granted our firefighters, youth leaders, Southam Lions, Round Table and Rotary organising town events for young and elderly residents, Southam Christmas Lights and Southam in Bloom, who struggle for funding in these difficult financial times but brighten up the town over the Christmas period and during the summer, the indoor and outdoor sports clubs in the town. To all these I say 'thank you' on behalf of the townspeople. I ask you to continue to support all their events at every opportunity and draw your attention to the Battle of Southam re-enactment in August

I am delighted that the Council I have been privileged to lead in this past year has achieved some successes with the start of the library redevelopment and plans now being made for refurbishment of Market Hill. Both these schemes will be completed by early 2015. We still have problems to solve, such as provision of burial space and will continue to work for a satisfactory solution for all parties at Tollgate Road, after many years of discussion.

Thank you to our Southam District and County Councillors and, in partnership with the County and District Councils, we will continue to ensure that this is a pleasant town to live in and be proud to say we come from Southam. I thank my fellow Councillors for their patience and understanding during meetings and helping me to conduct meetings in a business-like and impartial manner over these past two years.

Mike Gaffney - Retiring Mayor 2013



MAYORAL ELECTION

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on Thursday 9th May 2013, Councillor Jason Ward was elected to serve as Town Mayor of Southam. During his Mayoral year he will raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. He will be supported by his wife Michelle as his Mayoress.

The new Mayor is pictured at his first official engagement in Southam when he opened The Original Factory Shop.

Councillor Mark Willoughby was elected to assist as Deputy Mayor.



GRANTS AWARDED

At its February meeting Southam Town Council awarded section 137 grants to the following local groups.

Southam Christmas Lights	£2500
Southam in Bloom	£1500
Southam Carnival	£ 840
Southam Congregational Church	£5000
Southam First Living History	£2500
Southam Lions	£1000
John Turner Festival	£ 250
VASA	£ 850
Southam Childrens Centre	£1000

Under the Local Government Act 1972 2a, it also awarded Stratford on Avon Citizens Advice Bureau £887.50, to continue to provide a service in Southam Library on a Tuesday morning.

SOUTHAM LIBRARY HAS MOVED!

Southam Library has moved temporarily whilst the new library is being developed. It can be found at Unit 9, Brewster's Corner, Pendicke Street, Southam.

Opening hours

Monday 09.30 - 17.30
Tuesday 09.30 - 17.30
Wednesday closed
Thursday 09.30 - 17.30
Friday 09.30 - 17.30
Saturday 09.30 - 12.30
Sunday closed



Warwickshire Direct Services include

- Police Front Desk Service
- WCC enquiries, Concessionary Travel passes
- Access to Stratford District Council services via video conferencing
- Free access to 4 public computers
- Free WiFi
- Free requests for WCC stock items whilst in Temporary home
- Free weekly Rhyme Times



The Citizens Advice Bureau is also available in the temporary library premises on Tuesday mornings and can be accessed by ringing 01789 200136 for an appointment.

DOG FOULING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Additional patrols to control dog fouling are continuing to take place in Southam, paid for by Southam Town Council. Initially the patrols focused on the education of dog owners and advice has been offered by the warden on clearing up after your dog.

The second phase of the campaign is focusing on enforcement.



Do not permit your dog to urinate in shop or residential doorways and always clean up after it! Failure to pick up after your dog may result in a **£75 fixed penalty fine**. Properly wrapped dog waste can be placed in litter bins.

PLEASE INFORM SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL IF YOU KNOW WHEN AND WHERE OFFENCES ARE TAKING PLACE; THE DOG WARDEN CAN THEN BE DIRECTED TO THE AREA CONCERNED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME OF DAY.

HOLY WELL - SLIPPERY SURFACES -CARE NEEDED



Due to the changes in the water table, the spring at the Holy Well is flowing heavily and the stones are wet and slippery.

PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN VISITING THE SITE.

For health and safety reasons, no persons or animals should enter the water

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND COUNCIL MEETING PAPERS

can be viewed at Southam Town Council Offices at the Grange Hall between the hours of 9am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday.

Plans are also available online at www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk or www.stratford.gov.uk

TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT



The development on the Library and Victor Hodges Site in the Town Centre is now well under way. The developer has plans to hold 'meet the builder' sessions to allow residents and community groups the chance to speak to them about any problems that arise during the build.

These sessions will be advertised on the Town Council website but in the meantime, if there are any problems please contact the Town Clerk who will liaise with the developers. Tel. 01926 814004

CCTV REPORT

Southam Town Council is continuing to provide additional funding for enhanced monitoring of the four CCTV cameras in Southam.

Early indication from the police reports received have been positive.

In March 111 camera patrols were made. Police attended 6 incidents and 4 arrests were made. One of these was for an assault and the offender is now being prosecuted. The remainder were for various vehicle related incidents including drink driving, driving without insurance and without a licence.

SAVE LIFE—GIVE BLOOD

The next Blood Donor session will take place at the Grange Hall in the afternoon and evening of Thursday 4th July 2013



SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

YOUR TOWN

2012/13 was yet another hectic year for both the volunteer Councillors and Officers. The new Mayfield Road play area was completed and opened and has proved to be very popular with estate youngsters. Councillors have also been active in consultations for the Town Centre Development and a public meeting was held to give residents the opportunity to express their views on the proposals. Councillors then attended Stratford District Council planning committee meetings to make sure the views of Southam residents were represented. Planning permission was granted and work is now in progress. The completed development will house a new library, community space which will be managed by this Council as well as extra care accommodation for part ownership and rent; forms to express an interest in the accommodation are available from the Town Council office.

Funds were again provided to rent a room for CAB in the library thus ensuring the continuation of the advice service for Southam people. The old Travel Tokens have now been replaced by a scheme operated by VASA and its volunteer drivers and funded by STC; this provides free travel for pensioners to medical appointments. Early indications are that the scheme is working well. Financial support has again been agreed to enhance the CCTV operating in Southam and this improved service is now a valuable resource for the local Police. It has been responsible for several arrests and successful prosecutions in recent months.

On-going are the negotiations to retain as much of the Tollgate Road play area for public use as possible, whilst supporting the needs of the pupils of St James School for sufficient space to meet the requirements of the curriculum. WCC are currently investigating the regulations governing the provision of out door space and how these should be interpreted in relation to St James Primary School.

THE AIMS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

- To improve service whilst ensuring best value
- To work with others to improve safety, the environment and the quality of life in the town, paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable members of the community
- To regularly and effectively consult the community
- To promote the local economy

THE COUNCIL

During the year, fourteen public meetings of the Town Council were held. At many of these meetings members of the public took the opportunity to speak in the Public Representation part of the agenda. Subjects raised and acted upon, or advice given, include dog fouling, footpaths, play area signage, speeding, road closures, planning issues, closure of dental services, neighbour disputes, grass cutting, churchyard space, posters on lampposts. Where the items were the responsibility of other bodies, reports were made asking for action. Some of these items, such as the lack of burial space. are on-going.

GRANTS

Grants were awarded to the local organisations during the year. St Mary's Childrens Club £ 500, Southam Young Carers £ 800, Carnival Committee £ 840, Christmas Lights Committee £4840, Southam Volunteer Centre, £800, Southam Cricket Club £225, Southam Church & Community Project £2500, Southam & District Lions £1000, Melody Makers £400, Southam in Bloom £600, Southam Youth Initiative £2925, Southam Area Action Group HS2 £3000, Cardall Collection £1500.

PLANNING

A total of 71 planning applications were considered, sites visited, discussed, meetings attended and comments reported to Stratford District Council during 2012. These included large complex applications such as the town centre development (this application alone involved Councillors and staff in many meetings and discussions to modify and improve what was proposed) house and warehouse extensions, listed building consents, new signage, tree felling and maintenance. All planning applications are made available at the Town Council offices at the Grange Hall for public comment or they can also be accessed on line at www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk or on the Stratford District Council website www.stratford.gov.uk

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETS ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Thursday 27th June 2013
 Thursday 25th July 2013
 August Recess - No Meeting
 Thursday 26th September 2013
 Thursday 24th October 2013
 Thursday 28th November 2013
 December Christmas Recess No Meeting



Meetings take place in the Grange Hall, Coventry Road Southam and start at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome and may make representation to the Council at the start of the meeting.

SOUTHAM COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC CLOSURE

The Southam Clinic was closed in October 2012 and all patients registered with the clinic were sent a letter informing them of this. They were offered on-going treatment with the same dentist at Crown Way Clinic, Lillington or with another dentist in Brunswick Healthy Living Centre.

All patients who wish to continue with Special Care Dental Services are able to be seen at these alternative clinics or may choose to attend one of the three practices in Southam Town Centre. Any patient who requires further assistance may telephone the service on **01926 317585/7141**

GRANGE HALL
The Concert Programme will resume on Saturday October 19th with 'ABBA SENSATION'



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
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Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
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Cllr Carol Pratt		01926 812533	carolannpratt@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Victor Shepherd		01926 817010	victor@shepherd3092.fsnet.co.uk

MAYOR: Councillor Jason Ward (Tel 01926 812796)

EDITOR: Councillor Ann Forster (Mobile 07845 997680)

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