

Southam Town Council Newsletter

December 2010

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk



MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

It feels a little strange to be writing the Christmas message for the newsletter in the first week of November, but much thought, planning and budgeting is already taking place in families and the community in preparation for the forthcoming Christmas festivities. Some people face anxieties regarding finance, jobs and care provision for themselves or family members, so that Christmas may be tinged with worry and uncertainty. It behoves us all to be neighbourly and vigilant and also helpful and supportive to anyone facing difficulties.

Through the efforts of the Christmas lights group, the Southam town centre is bright and colourful for us all to enjoy. The switching on event provides a vibrant community activity for the town and our thanks go to this group of volunteers for 'coming up trumps' despite financial constraints.

Nowadays Christmas has many different meanings, from the purely commercial and secular to a simple celebration of the birth of Christ. I hope that, whatever your interpretation, the joys of singing carols, decorating a tree, hanging the mistletoe, producing a wholesome meal, meeting with friends and family, giving and receiving gifts and the peace that stillness can bring will be our shared experience this Christmas.

In 2011 the Town Council will continue to progress initiatives to benefit all of our community.

My sincere good wishes to you all

Councillor Jane Soni, Mayor of Southam



THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to all those local residents, traders and organisation who gave so generously in time, money and raffle prizes to support the Mayor on the occasion of her Civic Dinner. Seventy people attended a very enjoyable evening and approximately £500 was raised to support the Mayor's charities, Cord and the Woodland Trust.

SOUTHAM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Will take place at St James Parish Church and will run over the weekend 11th & 12th December 2010; organisations and business are invited to take part.



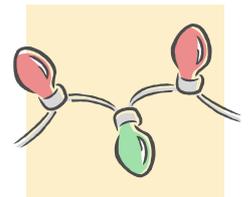
Trees of 4/5ft high will be included in the entry fee of £10.00 The theme for this year is COUNTRIES.

For more information Telephone 01926 812148

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Southam Christmas Lights Association is a small committee which works very hard to provide a display each year in the town, through fund raising, local business sponsorship and grants.

If you are interested in joining us, making a donation, sponsoring or just finding out more about the Christmas Lights Association please contact Val Steele, Secretary on 01926 813577 or Carolyn Akeister 01926 815085.



Christmas Lights — Supported by Southam Town Council

HE*BREWS CAFÉ & CHILL

Age 11—17

A new Café, Chat & Chill Venue for young people is now open every Thursday evening in the Coffee Cup, Market Hill 7.30 till 9.30.

Good Snacks & Drinks + Cheap Prices + Cool Tunez = HE*BREWS A place to hang out & spend time with your mates!

Why not give us a try!!

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2010

December – Recess – No Meeting
Thursday 13th January 2011 Precept
Thursday 27th January 2011
Thursday 24th February 2011
Thursday 24th March 2011
Thursday 28th April 2011



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.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL SOUTHAM RESIDENTS**

THE GRANGE HALL
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Cubbington Silver Band

Friday 17th December 2010 at 7.30pm

A Sparkling Christmas Celebration

Tickets £10.00/£5.00 children £25.00 family (2+3)

To include: mulled wine & mince pies
orange juice & biscuits

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Tickets available from The Grange Hall

01926 813933

The Coffee Cup 01926 812288

Licensed Bar open 7.00pm



The programme resumes on February 12th 2011 with
'Molly Brown'
'Funky blues and swing in their own unique style'

FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is offering all Warwickshire residents a **FREE** Home Fire Safety Check.

A **Home Fire Safety Check** offers fire safety advice on all areas of high risk that are in your home such as kitchens, open fires, candles, electric blankets, and smoking materials.

An escape plan should also be a vital part of your Fire Safety Plan, which can also be discussed during the visit, along with the fitting of free smoke detectors where necessary. Remember this service is completely free!

To take advantage of this **FREE** offer call us on 01926 466282



WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SNOW WARDEN SCHEME

The County Council is looking to trial a network of voluntary Snow Wardens and is seeking volunteers to participate and their function during severe weather will be to:

- Provide information to the County Highways Team on the local situation during the period of severe conditions
- Consult with Area Teams on local needs and determine jointly what action to take
- The Area Teams will sanction the treatment of agreed town footways from salt supplied
- Any work undertaken will follow the guidelines from the government Snow Code as detailed below

Snow Code

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public space. If an accident did happen it is highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you are careful and use common sense to make sure that you do not make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before. People using an area affected by snow and ice also have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

Tips and advice on clearing snow and ice:

- Start Early, it is much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it.
- Do not use hot water – this will melt the snow but may replace it with black ice increasing the risk of injury
- Be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property.
- If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it does not block people's paths or drainage
- Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to be walked on
- Spreading salt will help stop ice forming but avoid plants as they will be damaged.
- Pay particular attention to steps and gradients
- Sand or ash are good alternatives to salt.

To volunteer as a Snow Warden please write to Bryn Patefield, Warwickshire County Highways, Old Budbrooke Road, Budbrooke, Warwick CV35 7DP or email brynpatfield@warwickshire.gov.uk

HELP TO HEAT YOUR HOME THIS WINTER!

Act on Energy local energy efficiency, insulation and heating solutions advice and possible funding. Call 0800 988 2881



Discretionary Grants Stratford District Council provides grants for both minor and major works including replacement boilers. To be eligible you must be on means tested benefits, have savings of less than £10,000 and have lived in the property for at least 1—3 years. Call 01789 260848

Handyfix It A handy person service run by Age Concern for people over 50 or people with disabilities. They can clear lofts and install loft insulation. Reduced rates for those on means tested benefits. Material costs are charged to the client. All of the handy-people are vetted through the Criminal Records Bureau. Call 01926 458131

Tenants of Social Landlords can contact their landlords to discuss energy efficiency home Improvements to help reduce fuel costs.

Tenants in Private Rental may also be eligible for help in improving the energy efficiency of their home and should speak to their landlord. If your home is not being kept in proper repair contact the Private Sector Housing Standards Officer at Stratford District Council. Call 01789 260851

Energy Companies provide a range of services for those in need of extra help with their bills. Most provide cheaper tariffs for those on low incomes or in receipt of state benefits, including Pension Credit, to limit energy costs or spread payments.

Switching suppliers to find the best tariff for you can also save money. This can be done through Energy Watch certified sites such as www.ukpower.com If you don't have access to the internet contact Consumer Focus for this information in paper form. Call 08454 04 05 06

For further information on any of the above contact Josh Niderost at Stratford District Council on 01789 260127

PARKING AT SOUTHAM COLLEGE

Southam Town Council has received several complaints that children's safety is being put at risk by the inconsiderate and dangerous parking of those dropping off and picking up children attending Southam College.

Primary school children walking in formation to attend the swimming pool and other walkers are unable to use the footpaths or are forced to take avoiding actions as vehicles bump up the kerbs onto the pavement.

PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY AND DRIVE CAREFULLY NEAR OUR SCHOOLS!

SAVE A LIFE—GIVE BLOOD

Your next blood donor session will take place in The Grange Hall, Southam on 3rd February 2011.



TOYS, TOYS, TOYS!!!

Do you have any good quality working toys that you no longer need? If so Southam & District Children's Centre needs them for its new Toy Library.



Please ring 01926 814953 for more information

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

The office will close at 1pm on Thursday 23rd December 2010 and reopen on Wednesday 29th December 2010 at 9am. It will close again on Thursday 30th December 2010 at 1pm and reopen on Tuesday 4th January 2011 at 9am.

CENSUS 2011

The next national census is due to take place from 27th March 2011 and it is important to achieve as high a response rate as possible so that local figures are accurate and we can respond to community needs effectively.

Census figures are used to help the government and other public sector bodies to distribute funding for healthcare, education, transport and other similar services and the statistics that are used stand for 10 years until the next census is carried out. Therefore, it is important that everyone completes the census questionnaire as accurately as possible.

There are some job opportunities available now for people interested in helping with the census in this area. If you want to find out more visit www.2011.census.gov.uk.

The manager for the Census 2011 in this area is Karen Boyland so if you would like to speak to her about what job opportunities are available email her on F113@census.gov.uk or telephone 07801 331376.



COMMUNITY FORUMS

Community Forums give **YOU** the opportunity to have **YOUR** say and keep up to date with what is happening in **YOUR** Community.

Warwickshire Police promote 'Safer Neighbourhoods' through the Community Forums. Additionally the Safer Neighbourhood Teams hold a surgery prior to the forum from 6.30 to 7.00pm during which time tea/coffee is available.

Your next Community Forum meetings will take place at Southam Primary School on Wednesday 15th December

To arrange free transport call 01789 260133

GRANTS

At its September meeting Southam Town Council awarded grants to:

- Southam & District Children's Centre
£300 towards provision of a toy library
- Southam & District Lions Club
£1000 for its poetry competition
- Southam Christmas Lights Association
£2500 to light Southam at Christmas
- Southam Area Action Group HS2
£1000 to provide information on the proposed railway

The next round of grants will next be considered at the February meeting. Call 01926 814004 for more information

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
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	paulcuruana@tiscali.co.uk
Cllr Andy Crump (Deputy Mayor)		01926 815745	andycrump@btinternet.com
Cllr Les Hewer		01926 812365	theelectricshopsoutham@hotmail.co.uk
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.co.uk**