

DOG FOULING
continues to be a priority for Southam residents.
PLEASE clean up after your dog! You may be liable to a £75 fixed penalty **fine** if you fail to do so.



Blue Badge Scheme & Concessionary Bus Passes



Application forms for Blue Badges and Concessionary Bus Passes can now be obtained from and processed at Southam Library

NEW TOWN COUNCILLOR CO-OPTED

At its meeting in April, the Town Council co-opted Councillor Carol Pratt to serve as a member for the Merestone Ward. Councillor Pratt has previously served as a Councillor and as Town Mayor in 2001/02 .

A second vacancy was also advertised and is due to be filled by co option at the May Council Meeting. At the time of going to press, a total of three applications had been received for this vacancy.

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

FRIDAY 29th JUNE 2012
7.30pm
'FAKE THACKRAY'
'A witty, satirical & hilarious evening'
Cropedy Festival August 2013
Grange Hall Southam 2012!
Tickets £9

Contact Carole at The Grange Hall on
01926 813933
carole@thegrangehall.co.uk
www.thegrangehall.co.uk

Southam Town Council Newsletter

ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2012

www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk



TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

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

Gwenda and I have travelled over 2000 miles throughout the County this year promoting Southam at every opportunity and meeting many voluntary organisations who have representation in Southam.

All volunteers give up their personal time for no reward other than the satisfaction of helping others.

We take for granted our firefighters who keep us safe, our youth leaders training our young people, Southam Lions, Round Table and Rotary organising town events for young and elderly residents, Southam First, a new organisation of local business people and volunteers organising new events such as the Retro Day and more in this Jubilee and Olympics year as well as the many indoor and outdoor sports clubs in the town.

We are indeed very fortunate in Southam to have such a wealth of talent available to us and I ask you to support all their events at every opportunity.

The Cardall Collection shows what a few dedicated people can achieve and provides an insight into our local history envied by other similar towns in Warwickshire. It deserves protection and a permanent safe home so I urge you to make your support known whenever possible.

I am delighted that the Council I have been privileged to lead in this past year has achieved some successes with the completion of the Kineton Road roundabout, bus shelters on Warwick Road, Mayfield Play area shortly under construction and further improvements under consideration. I am a little disappointed that the redevelopment of the Library area is proceeding so slowly with little evident progress. Over the next few months we hope to see more rapid progress.

I am grateful to all of you who have supported my charities this year; Southam Young Carers will be enjoying some quality time on outings free from the pressures of caring and six emergency Water Survival Boxes bearing Southam's name will be sent to disaster areas. I am particularly pleased with the support I received from the townspeople and the surrounding area at the Band Concert in March for Afghan Heroes and we were able to give them £1550 to assist injured servicemen and servicewomen.

The work of the Town Council goes on and in partnership with the County and District Councils we will continue to ensure this is a pleasant town to live in and be proud to say we come from Southam.

Finally, I thank my fellow Councillors for their support and The Town Clerk and the Council staff for all their work on our behalf.

Mike Gaffney

Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
Cllr Linda Tasker	Browns Bridge Ward	01926 817426	linda@priority-people.co.uk
Cllr Jason Ward		01926 812796	WAJAS3@AOL.COM
Cllr Les Hewer		01926 814180	alexhewer@gmail.com
Cllr Chris Worsh		01926 817122	cldr.chrisworsh@tiscali.co.uk
Cllr Ann Forster	Mill Hill Ward	07845997680	annforster@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Jane Soni		01926 812966	jroni@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Ralph Barrington QPM		01926 817837	ralph.barrington@btinternet.com
Cllr Lesley Smith		01926 813986	smith.lesley47@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr John Smith		01926 815658	johnsatstc@aol.com
Cllr Mike Gaffney MBE TD Mayor	Merestone Ward	01926 811028	mike@mandggaffney.plus.com
Cllr Mark Willoughby		01926 811050	markjwill@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Dave Wise Deputy Mayor		01926 817951	wizzerdaj@aol.com
Cllr Carol Pratt		01926 812533	carolannpratt@yahoo.co.uk
Vacancy			

MAYOR: Councillor Mike Gaffney MBE TD (Tel 01926 811028)

EDITOR: Councillor Ann Forster (Mobile 07845 997680)

TOWN CLERK: Mrs D Carro, Town Council Offices, Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA (Tel 01926 814004) Email: clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk.

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

YOUR TOWN

2011 /12 was yet another busy year for both Councillors and office staff. The multi use games area in Park Lane recreation ground was completed and the new play area was officially opened by Southam @ Play's Andy Crump. Feedback has been extremely positive and the area is now well used by townsfolk and visitors alike. As we go to press, the Mayfield Road play facility is nearing completion and will now be in use. Councillors have also been active in consultations for the Town Centre Development . Progress is slow but it is hoped the new year will be more fruitful.

Funds were again provided to rent a room for CAB in the library thus ensuring the continuation of the advice service for Southam people. A £10000, contribution, linked to conditions of use for Southam primary schools, was made to the 'all weather sports facility at Southam College. A Flood Warning system is now in place for those residents and businesses whose properties are at risk and STC has committed to the continuing maintenance of the equipment once the grant funding has ceased. A new lighting scheme has been installed in the Watton's Lane area and its adoption by WCC ensures that STC will not need to fund its maintenance. A contribution, proportionate with its use by Southam people, was made to Community Links when funding was withdrawn thus ensuring the continuation of the service. Funding has also been agreed to enhance the CCTV operating in Southam and this is now subject to close monitoring by your Council to ensure you receive the extra service agreed.

Surgeries are now operated by Councillors in the library on the second Saturday of each month where residents can go for advice and help. Office staff have assisted the public with many other queries; some not the direct responsibility of this Council but with which the Council is concerned, liaising with other bodies and organisations in an effort to progress residents requests for action.

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, twelve 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, included overgrown hedges, dog fouling, footpaths, speeding, markets, planning issues, nuisance youths, HS2, street lighting and Mayfield Road play area. Where the items were the responsibility of other bodies, reports were made asking for action. Individual Councillors also served on numerous outside bodies Christmas Lights, Southam in Bloom, Grange Hall Management Committee, Southam United Charities to name but a few.

GRANTS

Grants were awarded to the following local organisations
Christmas Lights Committee £4500, Carnival Committee £320, Churchyard maintenance £2703, VASA £700, Friendship Project for Children £500, Southam Mini-bus Committee £1050, Southam Lions £2000, 2nd (Southam) Open Scouts £1050, Southam in Bloom £1500, Warwickshire Association for the Blind Southam Branch £250, HS2 £1350.50

PLANNING

A total of 69 planning applications were considered, sites visited, discussed and comments reported to Stratford District Council during 2011. These included applications for new dwellings, house and warehouse extensions, listed building consents, wind turbines, solar panels and tree felling / maintenance. All planning applications are made available in Southam Library for public comment or they can also be accessed on line at southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk or on the Stratford District Council website.

SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETS ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Thursday 28th June 2012
Thursday 26th July 2012
August No Meeting
Thursday 27th September 2012
Thursday 25th October 2012
Thursday 22nd November 2012
December No Meeting
Thursday 10th January 2013 Precept
Thursday 24th January 2013
Thursday 28th February 2013
Thursday 28th March 2013
Thursday 25th April 2013



Meetings take place in the Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam and start at 7.30pm, with the exception of the Annual Town Meeting which starts at 6.30pm.

Members of the public are welcome and may make representation to the Council at the start of the meeting.

A SUPPLY OF SAND BAGS CAN BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE FROM SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES AT THE GRANGE HALL 9am to 1pm MONDAY TO FRIDAY

MAYORAL ELECTION

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on Thursday 10th May 2012, Councillor Mike Gaffney MBE TD was re-elected to serve a second term as Town Mayor of Southam. During his Mayoral year, he will raise funds for Thare Machi Education, an overseas aid charity based in Leamington Spa, and Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. He will be supported by his wife Gwenda as Mayoress.



Councillor Dave Wise will again assist as Deputy Mayor and Reverend David Forster will serve as Mayor's Chaplain.

Educational Grants

Southam United Charities are again able to make grants to those in need of financial assistance for study at college or university in the next academic year. Applicants must live in the parish of Southam. Applications will be considered between 1st June and 31st August and must be made on the form which can be downloaded at www.southamonline.org.uk/suc or from www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk on the community groups page.

SOUTHAM RAFT

Residents Against Flood Threat

“FREE: Community Flood Alert”

Working together **RAFT & Southam Town Council**, utilising Stratford District Council grants, have now installed a “Community Flood Alert” early warning system. This will monitor the level of the River Stowe and provide for three automatic alarm conditions

Level 1) An early warning that something is possibly going to happen!
This would have been triggered on Sunday 29th April

Level 2) You really should do something e.g. moving stuff upstairs, put IPP in place (flood barriers), etc!!

Level 3) There's not much time left!!!

The system can send alarm messages via e-mail, mobile & land line texts whichever is applicable to you (All three may be possible subject to total number of messages required?)

The system will be going live in June and in order to programme the messaging output we need to know some essential information if you wish to be included i.e.:
YOUR NAME, PROPERTY ADDRESS & CONTACT DETAILS (e-mail, land line and mobile phone numbers

Please provide details by either a) post to the Town Council Offices, b) by visiting the Town Council offices or c) by e-mail to clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk

IF YOU ARE IN RENTED ACCOMMODATION IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING YOUR CONTACT DETAILS PLEASE PASS THIS TO THE PROPERTY OWNER OR AGENT

Should you have any questions or would like further information please contact Southam Town Council 01926 814004 or John Smith on 01926 815658 or email johnsatstc@aol.com

GET ON THE RAFT IT MAY HELP YOU STAY OUT OF THE WATER !