

# Southam Town Council Newsletter

**JUNE 2014**

[www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](http://www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)

## MAYOR'S REPORT 2013 2014

I have been very proud to represent Southam as Mayor this past year. Both myself and Michelle have met so many lovely and committed people, all of whom have a common love for Southam and want to invest their time freely to put on events, help others and make Southam a pleasant and welcoming place to live and visit.



There have been many events to attend, and many raffle tickets to buy, but all with a great cause to support. I won't reel off all of the events, but I can certainly say the sun did shine on us this year. I can't say I had much influence on the weather, but the Carnival saw great weather, and a great turn out. The Southam in bloom Open Gardens was blessed with glorious sunshine all weekend, with visitors attending from all over the Midlands, even the Southam Lions fete just this Mayday had beautiful sunshine and great support from the people of Southam.

In fact the only event I attended where it did rain was Southam Christmas Lights Switch On, but it certainly didn't dampen the spirit of the Southam people as it was the biggest and best Switch On to date, and on that point, I would just like to say a special thank you to Val Steele, who, after 13 years as Secretary of Southam Christmas Lights, is this year standing down. Thank you Val for all your hard work and I hope someone will show as much dedication and commitment as you have shown all these years.

My chosen charity this year was the MS Society, having seen first-hand the devastating effect this condition can have on its sufferers, I'm pleased to announce that a cheque for £2136 was presented to the charity.

I would like to think that Southam is in a better place than it was 12 months ago, the new Library well under construction with completion due early in 2015, the plans now finalised for the redevelopment of the Southam town centre and the project due to be completed by the end of this year. Soon we will see Southam fit to attract new visitors and new residents who can all enjoy a revitalised Town Centre

It is only left for me to offer my thanks to my fellow Councillors who have supported me through the ups and down of Council life, I say thank you, to my wife Michelle who has been at my side throughout my mayoral year and last but certainly not least the Office team of Debbie, Denise and Carole who work tirelessly to keep Southam ticking. Thanks to you all.

Jason Ward - Retiring Mayor 2014

## MAYORAL ELECTION

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on Thursday 8th May 2014 Councillor Mark Willoughby was elected to serve as Town Mayor of Southam.



During his Mayoral year he will raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care and Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. He will be supported by his wife Rachel as his Mayoress.

Councillor Jason Ward was elected to assist as Deputy Mayor.

## COUNCIL RESOLVES TO OPPOSE A BILL IN PARLIAMENT

At an extraordinary meeting on May 15th, Southam Town Council resolved to oppose a Bill in Parliament, namely the High Speed Rail (London—West Midlands) Bill 2013-2014 under the provisions of Section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Authorisation was given to the Town Clerk to draw up and submit the petition in conjunction with a working party consisting of Cllr B Thomas, Cllr L Tasker & Cllr V Shepherd and to call in any other person relevant to the process.

The petition cites a number of reasons for the opposition including construction traffic, the effect on business in the town, loss of valuable green space, noise including infra sound and light pollution.

## SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursday June 26th 2014  
Thursday July 24th 2014  
August Summer Recess No Meeting  
Thursday September 25th 2014  
Thursday October 23rd 2014  
Thursday November 27th 2014  
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.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**WEB WISE** is looking for people like you to help older people get the benefits of being on-line that younger generations take for granted.

If you are

- good at using computers
- patient
- like helping others
- have some time to spare



Please contact John Sawyer on 07881 812943 or email [john.sawyer@ageukwarks.org.uk](mailto:john.sawyer@ageukwarks.org.uk)

## SOCIAL HOUSING IN STRATFORD DISTRICT

Social Housing, also known as affordable housing, is for people who cannot afford, or who cannot find, suitable housing to rent or buy on the open market.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council does not own any properties itself. All affordable housing in this area is provided by Housing Associations. All housing association properties that fall vacant in Stratford-on-Avon District will be allocated through Home Choice Plus, a partnership of local authorities. The scheme replaced the Housing Waiting List and Orbit Heart of England's transfer list. Housing Association tenants in the Home Choice Plus area seeking a move are also able to apply to join Home Choice Plus.

The Home Choice Plus partnership includes the following authorities: Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills, Stratford-on-Avon, Worcester, Wychavon and Wyre Forest. If you want to be considered for housing association properties in any of the areas included within these authorities, you need apply to Home Choice Plus.

The Home Choice Plus Process

You register with Home Choice Plus by filling in an application form. You can get an application form by contacting the Council's Housing Advice Team (by telephoning 01789 260861/2, by email to [housingadviceteam@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:housingadviceteam@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or by faxing 01789 260895).

You can also download an application form from [www.homechoiceplus.org.uk](http://www.homechoiceplus.org.uk)

## 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.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk) or

[www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](http://www.southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)



## OVER 65s PARKING PASS

If you are: 65 years old or over, resident in Stratford-on-Avon District, and the owner of a vehicle you are entitled to apply for an Over 65's Parking Pass which will enable you to park in the Recreation Ground and Swans Nest Lane Car Parks in Stratford upon Avon, subject to available spaces. From 1 October to 31 March, Over 65's parking passes are also eligible to park for a restricted period of up to 4 hours maximum in the Windsor Street Car Park.

To apply for an Over 65's Parking Pass, you will need to apply in person, bringing with you, your valid driving licence and provide proof that you are the registered keeper or main driver of the vehicle. (for example vehicle registration document or valid insurance documents confirming the applicants name and address at the property to which the permit relates) to one of the following offices;

Stratford-on-Avon District Council - Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon

Southam - Warwickshire Direct, Southam Library and Information Centre, High Street, Southam

## BUSINESS MATTERS

Business matters provides an opportunity for businesses in the district to hear about current topical issues, matters of concern, business initiatives and good practise.

To find out how you can contribute contact Nancy Singleton Business Enterprise and Tourism Manager on 01789 260803

If you would like to receive regular Business Matters newsletters please register your details at [www.stratford.gov.uk/businessmatters](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/businessmatters)

## SAVE A LIFE—GIVE BLOOD

The next Blood Donor sessions will take place at the Grange Hall in the afternoon and evening of

3rd July 2014, 4th Sept 2014 & 6th November 2014



## **SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

### **YOUR TOWN**

Town Councillors have spent many hours on the proposed refurbishment of the Town Centre working alongside officers from WCC Highways authority. Residents and traders have been widely consulted and the original plans have been amended to take account of their views. A final walk - through of the town took place in May and it is hoped that work will commence in April 2015.

Southam Town Councils continues to support the VASA volunteer drivers providing free travel for Southam pensioners to medical appointments at a cost of £6115 in the year to the end of March 2014. The Citizens Advice Bureau received funds towards the rental of a room in order that the outreach service in Southam can go on for another year. Additional dog fouling enforcement patrols were also funded as was the CCTV in Southam in an effort to support the basic service provided by Stratford District Council.

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 remain ongoing. Southam Town Council has agreed to a proposal by WCC for the division of the land and WCC is now in talks with St James School to secure its agreement and finalise the matter.

### **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, fifteen public meetings of the Town Council were held. This included an Extraordinary Meeting to allow residents to voice opinions on the proposed travellers emergency stopping site which was attended by approximately 150 members of the public. Matters coming before these meetings are increasingly complex and involve many hours of work for Councillors and staff. At many of the 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 many of the perennial problems that crop up year after year dog fouling, public footpaths, play area signage, speeding, road closures, planning issues, grass cutting, churchyard space, posters on lampposts and the disruption caused by development in the town centre. Where the items were the responsibility of other bodies or councils, reports were made asking for action.

### **GRANTS**

Grants were awarded to the following local organisations during the year. John Turner Festival £250, Southam Carnival Committee £1160, Southam Christmas Lights £3844, VASA £850, Southam First £2500, Southam Childrens Centre £1000, Southam and District Lions £1000, St James Church £500, Southam in Bloom £1660, Southam Congregational Church £10,000, Southam Area Action Group HS2 £1000. The Town Council also supported the Royal British Legion by organising and funding the road closures necessary for the Remembrance Day Parade.

### **PLANNING**

A total of 73 planning applications, included listed building consents, signage, tree felling and Maintenance, as well as development, were considered during 2013. Councillors studied the plans, commented on all applications and, on many occasions, visited the sites to see for themselves what was proposed. Councillors also attended Stratford District Council planning meetings to ensure that the views of residents were represented including the proposal to develop Holy Well Field which Southam Town Council objected to and which Stratford District Council subsequently refused.

PRESENTING THE MUSIC OF ABBA IN A DYNAMIC SHOW SPECTACULAR

AGNETHA // BJÖRN // BENNY // ANNI-FRID

# SENSATION

ABBA TRIBUTE BAND

**SELLING FAST! SELLING FAST! SELLING FAST!**

★★★★★  
"THE ABBA TRIBUTE I'D BOOK"  
TROY LINEHAN - G CASINO

★★★★★  
"SENSATION BROUGHT OUR VENUE ALIVE"  
THE LAKE - LONDON

★★★★★  
"GREAT SHOW - WE LOVED IT"  
UNITY FM - HOLLAND

**SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER 2014**  
8.30pm Doors & Bar open 7.30pm  
**TICKETS £12.00**

WWW.ABBASENSATION.COM // INFO@ABBASENSATION.COM

## 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

**SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER**  
**7.30PM**  
**AD CONCERT BAND**  
In commemoration of the start of  
**WW1**  
**Tickets £12.50 inc Fish & Chip Supper**

Contact Your Councillor	Ward	Telephone	E-mail
Cllr Linda Tasker	Browns Bridge Ward	01926 817426	linda@priority-people.co.uk
Deputy Mayor Cllr Jason Ward		01926 812796	WAJAS3@AOL.COM
Cllr Daphne Smith		01926 814430	
Cllr Chris Worsh		01926 817122	cldr.chrisworsh@tiscali.co.uk
VACANCY	Mill Hill Ward	Contact Town Clerk 01926 814004	clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk
Cllr Jane Soni		01926 812966	jrsoni@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Bransby Thomas		01926 812607	bransbythomas@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	Merestone Ward	01926 811028	mike@mandggaffney.plus.com
Mayor Cllr Mark Willoughby		01926 814257	markjwillo@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Eddie Thornley		01926 259115	mail@eddiethornley.com
Cllr Carol Pratt		01926 812533	carolannpratt@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Victor Shepherd		01926 817010	victor@shepherd3092.fsnet.co.uk

**MAYOR: Councillor Mark Willoughby (01926 814257)**

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