

# The Friends of the Cardall Collection

# NEWSLETTER

## No 7: Summer / Autumn 2010



Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2010, where we bring you up to date with our activities over the past months. We report on our progress in developing the Cardall Collection as an important local heritage resource, and in finding a permanent home for it within Southam town.  
*(NB This Newsletter is larger than normal because it has been some time since our last one.)*

### Notice of 2010 Annual General Meeting

**Date for your Diary:** Our AGM this year will take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in Southam Library. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend. If you are a member and have an item for the Agenda, please submit it in writing to the Chairman by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Nominations for membership of the Committee are also being accepted.

### FoCC Update



Our first major event in 2010 was a stall at Southam Town's May Bank Holiday Carnival. The theme for the Carnival this year was 'Sports and Games' and we had a successful day publicising the Collection and introducing visitors to the medieval game of Tippet.

Councillor Dave Wise tries his hand at Tippet (above)



On July 10<sup>th</sup> we worked in partnership with Southam Fire Service and had a stall at their Saturday Open Day.

This was another very successful day, not just because of the number of people who supported the event, but also because the Fire Service personnel are now very keen to work with us again on various heritage projects themed around Southam's Fire Service.

This year Southam's Local History Group decided to disband, and the members very kindly agreed to donate their remaining funds and records to Southam's Cardall Collection. We have also been approached by a well-known local historian and author with a view to receiving a major archive of Southam photographs into the Collection. We are very pleased that people with a long-standing interest in local history are recognising the importance of Southam's Cardall Collection. We hope that the Collection is no longer regarded as just one family's memorabilia, but as a valuable heritage resource for the town and its people.

A great deal of time and effort has been spent this year on preparing two rooms at our headquarters in Warwick Road as a semi-permanent exhibition. We can now use this space to display some of the more important artefacts to small groups and individuals. (See 'Walk and Talk' report below).

Many thanks to Gill Hopkins who has been busy with her sewing machine making a series of individual calico covers. We now have covers for all the clothing items as well as all the display cases and several screens to protect items from sunlight and the fading that would result.

Regarding our HQ, (the Old Labour Exchange in Warwick Road,) it is a huge relief that the problems we were having with our burglar alarm appear to have been resolved. Six months after installation the alarm started to sound at random for no apparent reason, causing much disturbance to neighbours and key-holders alike.

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*Southam's Cardall Collection is a collection of artefacts and memorabilia associated with Southam and its history. It was started by the late Mr Jack Cardall and until her death in 2007, its custodian was Mrs Irene Cardall. Representatives of the County Museum Service have inspected the collection and agree that it is an important record of the life and times of our market town. The Collection urgently needs a permanent home in Southam where it can be displayed to the public, and used and appreciated by local history societies, reminiscence groups, researchers and schools.*

We tried various means of eliminating moving objects - curtains, vibration from thundering lorries, mice etc. Eventually, after our Chairman taking over 400 photos of the alarm console over a two month period to record all the messages being generated when the alarm was triggered, it was decided that the problem was a faulty circuit. This was put right by connecting one of the sensors to a spare circuit, and hopefully the problem will not recur.



Part of our new display area

The first phase of documentation is now complete. Colin, Helen, Pam and Jacky augmented the Documentation team and Jenny Fell has also returned to add her support. Over 2,700 items are now recorded both in our manual ledger and on an Excel spreadsheet, along with a number of digital photographs and scans of documents. This greatly improves our ability to sort and search for related items when preparing for exhibitions and talks. Approximately 126 archive boxes have been filled to date.



A meeting of everyone involved in documenting has been held to discuss what we have learnt and how next to proceed. We are going to rationalise the categorisation of the artefacts and deal with any discrepancies and duplications in the next phase. If anyone would like to be involved please do contact Jenny Frith, our Documentation Team leader.

We now have a second computer, kindly donated by Barry Frith, which is used as both a backup for the first one and also as a means to run the interactive Oral History demonstration since the monitor has built-in speakers. There is a section of the semi-permanent display dedicated to the Oral History project. We have also acquired a flat screen monitor for our first computer so that we can show high quality presentations about the Collection.

Whilst we still have no permanent home for Southam's Cardall Collection, we continue to press the case to both our Town and District Councillors for some form of accommodation / heritage room within the possible town centre and Library redevelopment. If you feel able to support us in lobbying for a heritage facility for Southam, then please do get in touch with your local government representatives and make your views known.

## Membership Subscriptions

The annual subscription for membership of the Friends becomes due on 1<sup>st</sup> October. We have kept the fee the same as last year: £15 for an individual, £20 for a couple and £5 for the over 70s. There is a form on the last page of this Newsletter which you can use when renewing your subscription or you can pay the Treasurer at the AGM or if you use Internet Banking or would like to set up a Standing Order, our Bank Details are as follows:

Bank: HSBC  
Account Name: Friends of the Cardall Collection  
Account No: 31436848  
Sort code: 40 42 15  
Payment due: Annually on 1<sup>st</sup> October

Please note: If you use automated payments, you must ensure that your name will appear on our Bank Statement as the reference - we need to know who sent us the money!

*Treasurer's Plea: If you send us a cheque, we need to issue you with a receipt so you MUST enclose a stamped addressed envelope please!*

## John Turner Festival 2010

We will be having a stand at the John Turner Festival again this year. It takes place on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Southam College and we look forward to seeing you there. This year our Exhibitions project leader, Barbara Pink, has planned something **'TRULY REVOLTING'** for our display activity, the aim being to show a rather unusual method of finding out about the past.

The activity should really capture the imagination of any children visiting our stand, so please do bring your children and grandchildren along to take part! If you are able to help out on the day by 'manning' the stall for an hour or so, please do let us know.

## Getting Involved

As our AGM approaches, we hope that as many of you as possible will find time to attend, not only to learn what has been happening first hand, but also to give us your thoughts and views on what the Friends should be thinking about doing over

the coming year. Please make a note of the date (28<sup>th</sup> September) and see if you can find time to attend. We value your practical support as much as your financial contribution.

In addition to meeting the Committee, the AGM gives you the opportunity to consider whether you could offer some of your time and skills to the group. At each AGM the Management Committee stands down and we hope that new candidates will come forward. It is always a good thing to have fresh faces on a Committee as it not only gives those who have done sterling work the opportunity to recharge their batteries, but it also brings fresh ideas and a new perspective on the work being undertaken.

So give it some thought - join the Committee for a year or two and make a real contribution! The work involved can be varied and very interesting, but is not onerous. If you would like to explore the idea further please contact Bernard Cadogan (01926 613503) to discuss what is involved and we can arrange an election at the AGM if necessary (don't worry it's nothing like standing for the Council!).

## Grants Success

Although we are no nearer winning the lottery or finding a kind soul to give us a suitable building in the centre of Southam, we have been successful in our applications for two small grants to help us in our work.



**RENAISSANCE**  
WEST MIDLANDS  
museums for  
changing lives

The first success was a Funding 4 Free grant from Renaissance in the Regions and Warwickshire County Council. This was to purchase a studio lighting kit and camera lens for photographing items in the Collection. The grant also

allows us to hire a professional photographer to provide training in "product" photography. (See 'Training Opportunities' below.) Once we have items in the Collection digitally photographed, we will be able to consider what is involved in getting an Internet presence for the Collection.

The second grant is from 2020 Vision for Southam (Stratford District Council). This grant allows us to purchase a data projector, a laptop and associated equipment and have some training on how to give a really good presentation about the Collection. We hope to use this equipment and knowledge to take the Collection out to a much wider audience than we are able to at present, and thereby spread the word about Southam and its history.



Each grant is only for a relatively small sum but bit by bit we are assembling the tools we need to increase our effectiveness and to bring the Collection to life. We want to make the Collection into a resource everyone in the town can use and be proud of. Hopefully the more we raise awareness, the more people will want to become involved.

## 'Walk and Talk' Gets Going!

Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> saw the first of what we hope will be many "Walk and Talk" events. The idea is to combine a little fund-raising with raising awareness of the history of Southam.

Many diverse groups are seeking new ideas and activities for their regular get-togethers. So we thought we would try to address both their objectives and our own by providing an evening activity based on the Cardall Collection, lasting for about two hours. First there is a short conducted walk around the centre of the town that takes about an hour. It is led by a one of our volunteers who explains the background to some of the more interesting buildings in the town. At each stopping point the group is shown pictures of how that part of the town used to look in days gone by, as well as being told something about the history of a particular building or area.



*Walk and Talk Visitors examine the exhibits*

Following the Walk, (or in parallel with it if the group is large,) there is a short presentation at the Old Labour Exchange on the history of the Cardall Collection, together with an opportunity for the visitors to examine some of the items we have on display. In one of her Oral History recordings Rene Cardall selected 10 items from the Collection which she regarded as significant. The displays have been constructed around these ten items. There are also several reconstructions of posters that Rene used, as well as some items which were never previously on display at her home at Beech Loft.

The first group to take advantage of a Walk and Talk event was the Stretton History Group and twenty members came along to see what we had

to offer. Subsequently Southam's Solo Group has visited the Collection on a Sunday afternoon and thirteen members had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Following the success of these pilot events we will be advertising the facility to other local organisations and already 5 or 6 groups have expressed interest.

If you would like to take part in a Walk and Talk event either as an individual, or as a member of a group please contact us either by emailing [cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk) or by telephoning 01926 613503. Evening events are only really possible during the summer months, but daytime events could take place at any time of the year. The cost is £5 per person and we can accommodate a maximum of 20 people per visit.

## The Oral History Project

Over the last few months we have been working on our third oral history CD which is now finished and on sale. (CD Nos 1 and 2 are also still available.)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> CD has the theme of 'famous names' in Southam. We have an interview with Ann, wife of the late John Turner, who is commemorated each November at the John Turner Festival of Arts and Crafts at Southam College. The Graham Adams Centre is a popular community venue and café in St James Road, and is named after the late Pastor Graham Adams whose life and work in Southam is remembered by Janet Whitehead in her recording.

A fascinating account of trade in times gone by is given by Cyril Goodwin of Goodwin's shop and funeral service, and Joan Allsop has given details of her father, Victor Hodges, and the home for the elderly that is named after him in Southam's Town Centre. Moira Keddie, née Brewster, has recorded memories of her childhood home which is now known as Brewster's Corner (in Pendicke Street), and an interview with Mrs Janet Green features her late husband Harry, a keen local Rambler after whom the Harry Green Way is named. We would be interested to hear from anyone who would be willing to talk to us about other famous names of Southam.

Our next oral history CD is being planned and the theme will be Southam 'Disasters'. If anyone can tell us about historic fires, floods, accidents, or other dramatic events and incidents in Southam's history, please do get in touch with Helen Morris, our Oral History project leader, on 01926 812830. For example, Helen is keen to find out more about the escape from Southam Zoo, flood rescues, wartime incidents, the fire at Stoneythorpe Mill and similar events. You may also contact Helen if you would like copies of our Oral History CDs, they are priced £3 each (plus post and packing if required).

## Our First Overseas Visitor

On Friday May 14<sup>th</sup> the Cardall Collection had its first overseas visitor. John Bates was born in Southam, but emigrated to Canada many years ago. John, who now lives with his Canadian wife in Montreal, was surfing the Internet back in March whilst on holiday in Florida, and came across an article in the Leamington Courier about the work the Friends had been doing to preserve the Cardall Collection.

John has many happy memories of his youth in wartime Southam, so he emailed the Friends and asked if it would be possible to arrange a visit. He was already planning to come to the UK in May, so a day was fixed for John and his friends to come to the Old Labour Exchange whilst he was here. The day duly arrived and John didn't need any directions to our HQ as he knew exactly where the building was. He was very surprised to see just how much work had been done and the progress that has been made.



We were able to show John (in the dark jacket in the photo) and his party a number of items relating to his father, Ted Bates, including Ted's discharge certificate from the Army which was signed by Field Marshal Montgomery, no less.

John recollected how Jack Cardall used to take him to target practice during the War. He also told us that Jack was fond of relating a story about biking over to Ufton Woods, complete with rifle, to escort a Luftwaffe pilot (who had been shot down) back to the police station in Southam. Not the kind of thing that happens very often today!

Unfortunately the time for John's visit passed very quickly and although we would like to have spent much longer tapping into his recollections, John and his friends had to move on to the next stage in their whistle stop UK tour.

This contact was very rewarding for us as a group. It also indicates just how useful the 'World Wide Web' can be in spreading the word about Southam's Cardall Collection.

## Other Visitors & Contacts

In early summer we had a visit from the communications manager at Renaissance West Midlands, Mr David Middleton, who was interested in seeing the work of the Friends and using some of our experience to inspire other similar groups. He was accompanied by Glynis Powell of the County Museum Service, who organised the visit. We were asked to provide an article on the Collection for the Renaissance West Midlands magazine, and hope to see it published shortly.

A special viewing was arranged for the Rev Trevor Rogers, former Mayor, Councillor, Southam Church curate, and prominent long term Southam resident, whose daughter Jacky has recently joined the Friends.

We have received email enquiries from researchers asking for information on items we may have in the Collection, particularly relating to identifying people in photographs. We are always pleased to offer help when we can.

Recently, our new neighbours, the owners and developers of the former Stoneythorpe Hotel have been to the Old Labour Exchange for a visit. As the newly renamed 'Warwick House' is to be an exclusive wedding venue, they were particularly interested in the wedding dresses and wedding photographs we have in the Collection. They advised us that there is to be an Open Day at Warwick House when the development work is complete.

Last but not least, Southam's Mayor, Jane Soni, her Deputy and other members of the Town Council have accepted our invitation for a special viewing of the work we have done at the Old Labour Exchange, and we look forward to welcoming them to our HQ in September.

## Training Opportunities

Our building is looking good, the collection is catalogued and now we are ready to look more carefully at what we have, and take it out into the Community. As supporters we offer you the opportunity to get involved in the following:

**Photography Training:** We need good quality digital photographs of most of the artefacts within the Collection. Join a group learning to improve their digital photography. Two sessions with a professional photographer have been arranged on the evenings of September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup> then the group will practice their skills on the collection. Contact Bernard on 01926 613503 for details. The sessions are free, and further dates can be arranged, subject to demand.

**Presentation Skills Training:** On the afternoon of September 14<sup>th</sup> a group will be attending the Museum Service's Network Event at Warwick (Hill Close Gardens) for lots of tips and guidance on how to give a good presentation. Please get in touch with Pam on 01926 814923 if you would like to attend this free event (car share being arranged).

### Fire Service Research & Activities:

Join the group planning next year's activities based around our Fire Service artefacts. Research will start on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at the OLE at 7.30pm. It is hoped to put together a talk, a children's workshop, an exhibition and possibly a book, all with a Fire Service theme. Please contact Barbara on 01926 612402 if you are interested in helping with this work.

## Rene's Mystery Object

If you have been reading our Newsletters for some time, you will remember that back in 2007 we published a photograph and invited readers to guess what this object could be, as we had absolutely no idea!



It is a wooden tray-like object, with a handle, raised metal rings and the small plaque at the base, inscribed 'G Mapplebeck, January 27<sup>th</sup> 1910', which is shown enlarged below.



One of our Committee members, Linda Doyle, is a keen family historian, and has been researching the Mapplebeck name shown on this intriguing object. She has arrived at the following conclusions:

"My first search was with the pre-1911 census, and feeding Mapplebeck into the country's 19<sup>th</sup> century records, I discovered hundreds of families, with the name being predominant in Yorkshire. However, trawling through pages of names and not knowing exactly what I was looking for, all I could find was a mixture of labourers, miners and some shoemakers. Very

few had a 'G' initial in their families, and nothing was indicative of the type of profession I was perhaps looking for, so I gave up the search for some time.

Then the 1911 Census was released, so I thought it was worth another try. The 1911 census has more detail than earlier records, and another ten years on can often reveal more useful information – and it did for me this time!

There, in Lillington Road, Leamington Spa were three brothers and a sister, Edward, Gordon, John and Constance Mapplebeck. They were born either in Edgbaston, Birmingham or at Lillington. All were unmarried in 1911 and the head of the household was 34 year old Edward. He was a 'Tube Manufacturer' and his younger brothers were a 'Stock Broker' and 'Stock Broker's Clerk'. A well-to-do family, they supported three house servants.

This was the most relevant G Mapplebeck occupation to date, and an added bonus was that the family was local to this area.

Our G Mapplebeck item could have belonged to Gordon and was possibly a desk-top stand for a Stock-Broker's or Clerk's ink, pens and writing items. I then went back to look again at the 1901 records and found the family living that year at 35 Grand Parade Eastbourne, between hotels and boarding houses. Were they on holiday in fashionable Eastbourne at the time of the 1901 census? Or did they have friends there? I had discovered that ten years earlier in 1891 the two eldest boys, Edward and Gordon were at boarding school in Eastbourne.

Gordon's father was a Copper and Tube Manufacturer, employing workers, so perhaps he had this item fashioned especially for his son when he became a fully qualified stockbroker – well it's possible, and perhaps this interpretation suits our purpose. Digging a little deeper, Gordon Mapplebeck's grandfather came from Yorkshire and was an ironmonger.

This link is the most probable of any I have found to date. However, to verify this research, we would need to find anyone who has historical knowledge of the local Copper and Tube Manufacturing industry and the Stock Broking profession, and better still of the Mapplebeck family's involvement in it, in Leamington or Southam in the early to middle 20<sup>th</sup> Century."

There is one further mystery about this object of course – how on earth did it find its way into Rene Cardall's front room? If anyone has any further information regarding this little bit of family history research, or if you are inspired to find out what other mysterious objects can be discovered within the Cardall Collection, please do get in touch.

## John Cardall, RIP

It is with sadness that we note the death on August 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 of Mr John Cardall, aged 85.

## Joining the Friends

Membership of the Friends group is open to anyone with an interest in preserving this unique collection for the benefit of the Southam community. Your annual subscription entitles you to attend and vote at general meetings. You can also become actively involved in many ways. Find out more by contacting any member of the Committee, or the following:  
Chairman: Bernard Cadogan (Tel: 01926 613503)  
Treasurer: Jenny Frith (Tel: 01926 814643)  
Secretary: Pam McConnell  
email: [cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk)

*You can read and download back issues of our Newsletters on [www.communityarchives.org.uk](http://www.communityarchives.org.uk) search for Cardall and scroll down to the foot of our page. You can also find us on [www.southamnews.org](http://www.southamnews.org)*

**You can join the Friends, renew your annual membership, or simply make a donation by completing and returning this form to our Treasurer.**

Name (in capitals please) .....

Address: .....

Email: ..... Telephone: .....

Donation enclosed: £.....

Membership subscription: £..... (*£15 for individuals, £20 for a couple, £5 for over-70s.*)

Send this form, together with your cheque made payable to 'Friends of the Cardall Collection', plus a stamped addressed envelope to: Jenny Frith, FoCC Treasurer, Beech-Hurst, Warwick Road, Southam CV47 0HN  
Internet payments or Standing Orders to HSBC Bank: Account name 'Friends of the Cardall Collection',  
Sort Code 40 42 15, Account number: 31436848 Subscriptions are due annually on 1<sup>st</sup> October

