

The Friends of the Cardall Collection

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007

Welcome to our First Newsletter!

The Friends group was formally constituted in November 2006. Its primary aim is to find a permanent home for the Cardall Collection* thereby preserving it for future generations.

The Committee of the Friends group, which comprises 10 people, meets regularly to plan and review progress with the various project leaders. In addition to the core Committee, there are a further 20+ members who support the aims of the Friends, and, if they are able to do so, become actively involved with the various projects.

The Committee is now organised into three sub-groups which concentrate on:

- 1) documenting all the artefacts,
- 2) recording stories and memories about the artefacts and how they relate to Southam's history,
- 3) organising exhibitions and establishing educational links with local schools.

Alongside this practical work we are actively promoting awareness of the collection by ensuring our local and district Councillors are kept informed together with potential donors and other interested parties. In particular, if decisions are being made about the development of tourism or community facilities in Southam, we want our Councillors to keep in mind the urgent need to find a safe future home for this important collection within the town.

To generate publicity for the Collection, we have produced posters, this Newsletter (which will appear 3 - 4 times per year) and have included details of the group on Southam's website - take a look at www.southamonline.co.uk - click on the link to Local Groups. We have also had local press coverage, for example, of our inaugural meeting.

Throughout this project, the Friends are working closely with the Warwickshire County Museum Service. Our museum mentor attends Committee meetings, and the service is providing invaluable training on museum best practice and guidance on materials to use, equipment to buy, and how we can obtain financial support.

Museum Open Day: Sunday 3rd June from 2pm

The museum will be open to the public on Sunday 3rd of June, starting at 2pm at Beech Loft, Warwick Road, Southam. Please come along and view the collection and chat to members of the Friends group about their work. All suggestions welcome! There will be refreshments available, and a special display to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Scouting movement.

Mrs Cardall's Mystery Object



Can you identify this object from the museum? We really do not know what it is! The inscription on the metal plate at the bottom reads:

**"G MAPPLEBECK
JAN^Y 27TH 1901"**

If you can suggest what this is, please email cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk, or contact Carolyn, the documentation group leader (see overleaf).

**The 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 its custodian is 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 needs a permanent home in Southam where it can be displayed to the public, and be used and appreciated by local history societies, reminiscence groups, researchers and schools.*

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Progress Update in Detail:

(1) The Documentation Group: One of the first and most important jobs is itemising and recording what the collection actually comprises. This is a huge task, and needs to be done in accordance with recognised museum standards. We have received detailed training on the correct methods of permanently labelling artefacts as diverse as photographs, nightdresses and cannon balls. We have also purchased a museum standard 'Accession Register' in which to record the collection formally, and the various materials required to mark each item. Alongside this work, we are developing a computer database to provide a digital record of the museum's contents for researchers and educators. Good progress is being made, and if you are interested in helping with this work please contact the group leader, **Carolyn Akeister on 01926 814544.**



(2) The Oral History Group: This group is concentrating on making oral recordings relating to the memorabilia. It aims to supplement the physical artefacts with verbal stories, providing background information on where the item came from and/or how it was used. The group also considers it important to record the memories and reflections of long-standing Southam residents to help future generations understand their town and its origins. It is therefore hoped that the Cardall Collection can be used to develop reminiscence groups and prompt discussion and understanding across the generations. If you are interested in oral history please contact the group leader, **Helen Morris on 01926 812830.**



(3) The Exhibitions & Education Group:

This group aims to help raise awareness of the collection, and ensure that the 'powers that be' understand the importance of preserving it and finding it a permanent home in Southam. A display board was provided at the official opening of the Holy Well project in March when over 60 people were able to view items from the Collection. In addition, there will be a series of open days for the general public (see front page) and private viewings for local history enthusiasts. We also hope to provide a display in the Library in the Autumn.

The group has also established links with local schools. The aim is to set up a 'loan box' scheme for teachers - artefacts from the collection could be used to prompt classroom discussion about local and social history. It is hoped we can link parts of the collection directly to subjects within the Key Stages curricula. If you are interested in any aspect of this group's work please contact **Ken Graham on 01926 813652**

Joining the Friends

You can show your support for this worthwhile cause by becoming a 'Friend' of the Cardall Collection, and/or by joining our band of helpers.

Membership of the Friends group is open to anyone with an interest in preserving this unique collection for the benefit of the Southam community. You pay an annual subscription (currently £5) and membership entitles you to attend general meetings and vote on matters concerning the Collection.

If you wish, you can also become actively involved in many ways. For example could you help us to document and preserve the artefacts? Are you interested in hearing and transcribing oral history? Can you help out at open days and exhibitions? Could you use the collection in your school? Above all, could you assist us in our quest for a safe future home for the Collection?

You can find out more without commitment, or join our band of 'willing helpers' by contacting any of the group leaders, or the following:

Chairman: Bernard Cadogan (Tel: 01926 613503)

Treasurer: Jenny Frith (Tel: 01926 814643)

Secretary: Pam McConnell (email: cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk)