

The Friends of the Cardall Collection

NEWSLETTER

No 12: Spring/Summer 2013



Chairman's Update

We were saddened to hear a short while ago of the death of Major Terry Mills. Terry had been an enthusiastic supporter of the Collection for many years and it is largely due to him that we have been able to make the progress we have in preserving the Collection for the benefit of Southam. Terry came to our aid at one of our darkest hours shortly after the death of Rene Cardall when he offered the Friends the use of the Old Labour Exchange building at a nominal rent for a five year period. It is fair to say this offer helped to save the Collection. We are extremely



grateful to Terry for his very valuable support and offer our condolences to his family.

The lease on the Old Labour Exchange building expires in January 2014 and the death of our landlord means we are now in another period of uncertainty whilst his affairs are resolved. Although work has started on the Southam Town centre redevelopment, it will be two years before the work is complete. There have been positive discussions about a new home for the Collection in the completed building, but discussions are still ongoing about exactly what space might be available. We may well have a serious problem of storage when our lease expires in January 2014 but remain optimistic about the longer term.



Fundraising and publicity are two topics that are never far from the Management Committee's

mind and this year we have put in place a number of actions to both raise our profile and hopefully add to our funds. You can read about these initiatives later in this newsletter. One proposal was for the Chairman to face an audition with the Warwickshire Federation of Women's Institute as a potential speaker. In order to be placed on the WFWI list of approved speakers the Chairman had to appear on stage before about 250 women at the Guy Nelson Hall

in Warwick and give a strictly timed 5 minute 'taster' talk without any visual aids. At the end of 5 minutes the bell was rung and you were off! The evening turned out to be much less of an ordeal than the Chairman feared and was actually quite enjoyable. Furthermore it seems he passed muster since his talk on "The Shaping of Southam" is now on the WI approved list.

To date we have received 3 bookings for the talk over the 2014 season and we hope this will bring the delights of the Collection and Southam to a wider audience in the County as well as providing some welcome additional funding. We are now starting work on several other talks covering different aspects of our local history.

2014 Calendar

A couple of years ago we were very fortunate to acquire the Alan Griffin photographic archive. Following the successful project to digitise these photos and add them to others we already have in the Collection, we now have a large number of digital images of old Southam.



We decided that some of these wonderful photographs could be brought to the attention of the wider public, and also provide us with some much needed revenue, by producing a calendar for 2014. After much debate and drafting, we are pleased to report that the first edition of Southam's Cardall Collection calendar is now ready and available to buy at just £5 a copy. If you would like to reserve your 2014 "Old Southam Calendar" please contact any member of the Committee, telephone Bernard on 01926 613503 or email cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk

Southam's Cardall Collection comprises artefacts, documents, photographs and memorabilia associated with Southam and its surrounding villages. Started by the late Mr Jack Cardall, its custodian was Mrs Irene Cardall until her death in 2007. The County Museum Service inspectors agree that it is an important record of the life and times of our historic market town. The Collection urgently needs a permanent home in Southam where it can be displayed, used and appreciated by the general public, local history societies, schools, reminiscence groups and researchers.

17th Century Workshops

In partnership with Southam St James Church we are running a series of family workshops in the school holidays. These free drop-in sessions are intended to raise awareness of the forthcoming Battle of Southam event (17th & 18th August). The first one was in the Easter holidays, and children and parents were writing with dip in quill pens and had the challenge of writing their own names in 17th century script.



The second workshop during the May half term holiday was also very hands on and everyone had a chance to take part in games that were played at the time of the English Civil Wars – both indoor and outdoor.



St James' Church provided refreshments and had also put together a family friendly quiz aimed at introducing people to the church building itself - which of course was one of the most important buildings in Southam in the 17th century.



Hopefully both workshops will run again in the summer holidays.

200 Club: It's Not Too Late!

We have recently launched a brand new fund-raising scheme: the "200 Club". So far the response has been excellent and we have already sold over 140 tickets.

Your £5 ticket lasts for 12 months (June 2013 to May 2014). There will be a £10 monthly draw on the 28th of each month for 10 months. In November and May there will be a special prize draw when the prize money rises to £25. If we sell 150 tickets this special prize goes up to £40; 200 tickets sold raises it to £50. There is no limit to the number of tickets you can buy and the 200 Club is open to anyone who would like to support

the work of the Friends. Members are kindly requested to help us sell as many tickets as possible – the more we sell the bigger the cash prizes.



To obtain your 200 Club tickets, all you need to do is supply the name(s) for the tickets holders, address, phone number and email address (if you have one) and send this information with your payment to:

Jenny Frith, Friends of the Cardall Collection, Beech-Hurst, Warwick Road, Southam CV47 0HN

Payment can be made in cash or by cheque payable to Friends of the Cardall Collection. Please enclose a SAE if you live outside Southam so we can send you your ticket(s).

Oral History Update

Four interviews for **Disc 6 - Clubs and Societies** have been completed and one more is yet to be made. Thanks are due to Joyce Bates (GTC), Doreen M Smith (Sparklets Group and Youth Club), Len Gale (Southam in Bloom) and Loraine James (Southam Ramblers) for their fascinating contributions. The new disc should be available by the end of the summer. Copies of Discs 1 to 5 are also available for sale at £3 each.

Partnership Working

Southam's Cardall Collection has always been keen to work with the various Southam organisations that contribute to the life of the Town and to promote Southam to outsiders as a place to visit. In May we again presented a report on our activities over the past year to the annual Town meeting and subsequently at the Mayor making invited the new Mayor, Cllr Jason Ward, to visit the Collection and see for himself what the Collection is all about. We have recently met with Anne Solomon, Stratford District Council's Business Enterprise & Tourism Officer for Southam and in June we will be participating in the "Hidden Britain" workshop which she is organising to focus on developing Southam's tourism potential.

Doctor Pirie

Following a "Cardall's Corner" article about Dr Pirie in the March 2013 edition of the Southam and District Advertiser, there were some interesting responses from readers who remembered the Doctor's visits. As a result, Helen Morris carried out more research into the life of this interesting local character.

The 'Hungry Harbury' booklet revealed that Dr Pirie was one of the four local worthies who paid Mr Osborne of Harbury Hall the rent of 1 shilling per year for the Harbury Club house. He made his own vaccines and one reader described broken medicine bottles found buried in her garden which was at the house where he lived near the railway cutting at the top of Station Road.

Dr Pirie established several hospitals for tuberculosis sufferers in the area - behind Harbury station and on a farm near Ufton. He served thirty-two villages and held a surgery every day in Harbury, rarely accepting payment for his services but sometimes taking eggs instead. He was also County Surgeon to the St John Ambulance Brigade and after his death an ambulance was purchased and in 1948 dedicated to his name at Southam church by his many admirers.

He was not universally popular though, as a record in the County Record Office contains correspondence regarding an argument in 1906 between him and his partner William Dymes Stevenson who was a surgeon. It caused the partnership to be dissolved.

In 1947 Dr Pirie was awarded the Order of St John of Jerusalem at Holyrood Palace. On the Pathe News internet site there is a silent excerpt of unused film of part of the ceremony though nothing to identify the doctor. It was a ceremony to reinstate the order after its being suppressed by Mary Queen of Scots 400 years earlier. The doctor had other Scottish connections as he once attended King George V at Focabers Castle and in the 1990s an uncle of his was living near Aberdeen. Dr Pirie is buried in Ufton Churchyard.

The Battle of Southam

You are probably aware that on 17th & 18th August 2013, there will be a "Living History" weekend in Southam themed around events that happened in the town during the Civil War period. Soldiers from the Sealed Knot Society will be present in the town on both days from noon onwards, and there will be various other displays and entertainments in the town centre.

The English Civil War (between 1642 and 1651) was one of the most violent times of England's history. It brought chaos, death and destruction

and put father against son and brother against brother. Behind it lay one question - *Who was to rule the country - King or Parliament?*

Southam lay on an important route between London, Oxford, Leicester and the north of England, and for years before the Civil War it was a frequent overnight resting place for travelling Royalty. During the Civil war it was garrisoned by both the Royalist and Parliamentary armies as each passed through, often leaving destruction behind them.

On the 22nd of August 1642, King Charles 1st raised his standard at Nottingham and war was declared. He continued to march south and at the same time Lord Brooke's Parliamentary soldiers were marching towards Coventry and on reaching Southam decided to stay there for the night. It is said there were 6,000 foot soldiers, 300 cavalry and nine pieces of ordinance.

Unbeknown to each side, as the Parliamentarians settled for the night in Southam, the Royalists were also settled for the night along the Welsh Road East. The alarm was raised as both sides became aware of the other's presence close to hand.

The Battle of Southam reportedly started at 8am on the morning of the 23rd August 1642 and continued for four hours, covering a wide area around the town. The open fields allowed the cavalry to range far and wide. The soldiers wore similar clothing and colours, and the final outcome was inconclusive, with men from both sides getting accidentally amongst the wrong army.

The Parliamentary troops stayed one more day in Southam before leaving. Two months later it was the King's turn to reside in the town at the Manor House (now the Pharmacy) when he passed through Southam on the eve of the battle of Edgehill, 22nd of October 1642.

In 1992, the 350th anniversary of the battle, Irene Cardall put together a booklet using the late Jack Cardall's notes from original 17th Century sources. Today a new book "The Battle of Southam 1642" has been compiled by Linda Doyle of Southam's Cardall Collection to help raise awareness of Southam's past. It includes new historical research and incorporates Mrs Cardall's original booklet. Copies will be available to buy direct from Southam's Cardall Collection, and will also be on sale at the event on 17th & 18th August 2013.



October Social Evening

Last October we held our first ever public social event (a talk and two course supper) at Southam Cricket Club. Kevin Hicks of the History Squad entertained us with his tales of the English Civil War period, with costumes, weapons and musket fire.



The event was so successful that we are running it again at Southam Cricket Club and have invited Kevin to return on Thursday October 24th. This year we have asked him to regale us with tales of the Henry V's legendary victory against the French at the Battle of Agincourt on October 25th 1415. This will be a great night out, and tickets will be on sale during September, so put the date in your diary now.

We will try to keep cost of the tickets the same as last year (£12.50) and any proceeds will go towards helping the Friends continue in their work of preserving Southam's Cardall Collection.

Harbury Heritage Centre

We have arranged a reciprocal visit with Harbury Heritage Centre on the evening of July 9th 2013. If you are interested in visiting the Harbury Heritage Centre, please get in touch as soon as possible – spaces are very limited, so this has to be 'members only' evening.

There will be no charge, but there will be a donation box at the Centre, which is in Harbury School. Please contact Linda Doyle on 01926 814214 if you would like to come along.

Southam Open Gardens

On Saturday and Sunday July 20th and 21st we will be opening the Old Labour Exchange to welcome visitors attending the Southam Open Gardens event. We will have a small display, and our brand new 2014 Calendars will be on sale, as well as Oral History CDs and tickets for the 200 Club.

Please pop in to our Warwick Road HQ for a chat and a look around en route between gardens.

What's In A Name?

For some time now the Friends Committee has been considering whether to change the name of the Cardall Collection. Initially the Cardall Collection comprised material collected over many years by the Cardall family. It was given to the

people of Southam in 2007 in the care of Friends Trustees, and is managed by the Friends group.

However, it has become apparent that in today's internet-dominated world, the name 'Cardall Collection' does not immediately signify to the wider community what the Collection is. You are not automatically directed to the Cardall Collection when searching for local history sources relating to Southam.

Since 2007 we have acquired material, artefacts, documents and photographs from many other people and sources, including notably the Alan Griffin Photographic archive. So it is no longer just the Cardall family's original material - it has expanded to become an even more important archive of Southam's heritage.

Hopefully in June 2015 we will be moving the Collection to new premises in the centre of Southam. This may well be the opportune time to re-visit our Constitution and look at re-naming the Collection to make sure its name reflects what it has become.

What do you think? If we are to change our name, we will need to make a formal proposal to the membership and have it agreed at our AGM. Once we have our permanent home, we will also need to look at the Constitution to make sure it is still appropriate to our role. We have worked hard to establish the Cardall Collection 'brand' so would, of course, retain our 'blue helmet' logo.

If you have strong views either way – keeping the original Cardall name or changing it - please get in touch with your suggestions. You can email us at cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk message us on Facebook, write to us at The Old Labour Exchange, 2/4 Warwick Road, Southam CV47 0HN, or telephone Bernard on 01926 613503.

AGM Date / Gift Aid

Our 2013 AGM will take place on Tuesday 24th September (venue to be confirmed). Any members' proposals should be sent to the Secretary, Linda Doyle at the Old Labour Exchange, 2/4 Warwick Road, Southam CV47 0HN by Monday 16th September 2013.

Anyone interested in Southam's history is welcome to attend the AGM. We keep the business part of the evening short and sweet, and then have drinks, nibbles and chat. Members' annual subscriptions become due on 1st October and can be paid to the Treasurer at the AGM.

All members and donors are reminded that we can now claim Gift Aid on all payments made to us by income tax payers. Please don't forget to sign & send us your Gift Aid form!

Southam's Cardall Collection



Information and Contacts

Are you interested in local history? Do you belong to a local community or business group that would be interested in hearing more about the Cardall Collection? Would you like to join the Friends and support their work? This is the information you need:

General Information, Suggestions or Enquiries:

Please contact the Chairman, Bernard on 01926 613503 or email cardallcollection@hotmail.co.uk

Southam "Walk and Talk":

Available for groups - a short guided tour of Southam on level footpaths to see some of its most interesting buildings, and hear something about their history, followed by tea and chat at the Old Labour Exchange. Complete session lasts about 2 hours. £5 per person to include refreshments.

Contact: Linda on 01926 814214 to find out more.

Presentations and Talks for Local Groups:

We can attend one of your group meetings or visit your premises and give a presentation and talk about aspects of Southam's history tailored to your interests. Contact Bernard on 01926 613503 or Linda on 01926 814214. (A fee will be charged by agreement.)

Exhibitions & Workshops:

Available for residential homes, schools and similar institutions, Reminiscence and/or educational workshops with displays and activities appropriate to the age group. Please contact our Outreach Leader: Barbara on 01926 612402.

Attending Events:

If you would like us to attend your event, festival or exhibition, please contact our Events co-ordinator Jenny on 01926 814643

Membership of the Friends and/or Donating:

If you would like to support our work, please complete and return a membership form, with your payment. A membership/donation form is attached to this Newsletter, and includes a Gift Aid Declaration which taxpayers are asked to sign so that we can reclaim the tax you have paid on your subscription or donation. (Membership is renewable on 1st October each year.) You can also donate online at mydonate.bt.com

*Thank you for reading this Newsletter.
Please feel free to pass it on to your friends, relations and colleagues.*

Friends of the Cardall Collection

The Old Labour Exchange, 2/4 Warwick Road, Southam CV47 0HN

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / DONATION FORM / GIFT AID DECLARATION

Full Name:
(please print)

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone: Email:.....

*I would like to become a member of the Friends of the Cardall Collection or renew my annual Membership, and I enclose herewith my subscription.
(Current annual subs are: £15 for individuals, £20 for a couple, £5 each for the over 70s)
I would like to donate the following amount to support the objectives of the Friends of the Cardall Collection.*

£

£

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form with your payment to the Treasurer: Pam McConnell, 19 Tattle Bank, Southam CV47 1NU. Cheques should be made payable to: The Friends of the Cardall Collection. Payments by internet banking to: HSBC Account Sort Code: 40 42 15 Account No: 31436848 Ref: (your name). Membership is renewable on 1st October each year. Many thanks for your support. Please tick this box if you require a receipt:



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GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you pay Income Tax, the Friends of the Cardall Collection can claim back the tax you have paid on your subscriptions and donations. In order for us to claim this tax back, please complete the following Gift Aid Declaration:

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money

today in the past 4 years in the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply, and sign the Declaration below.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signed: Date:

Please notify the charity or CASC if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Note: If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.