

Services at the Parish Church

Sundays 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00 am Parish Communion (CW)
Thursdays 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 3rd Sunday 10.00 am All Age Communion

Coffee Morning

Come and join us at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 13th July for a Coffee Morning. Funds raised will be shared between Guide Dogs and St Andrew's Church. As well as enjoying coffee or tea and homemade cake you can meet a guide dog puppy.

Come & meet a guide dog puppy at a

Coffee Morning

including Refreshments & Tombola



St Andrew's Church Soham
Saturday 13 July, 10am-12.30pm

Raising funds for Guide Dogs & St Andrew's Church

All Welcome!

It costs Guide Dogs around £55,000 to support a guide dog from birth to retirement including breeding, training and support once with an owner, so every penny you spend will be welcomed.

Viva Hits the Edinburgh Fringe Festival This Year!!

Join Viva this summer as we prepare two hit comedy musicals to take to the world famous Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

The two shows: *A Slice of Saturday Night* and *Sister Act* will be performed in Soham throughout two weeks in July, both to give the show teams a chance to perform their work before they hit the Fringe and to give our local supporters a chance to enjoy the shows at home!

The first of the two musicals, **A Slice of Saturday Night** will be performed by our young adult group and is a fabulously funny, nostalgic romp back to the swinging sixties. The show is set in a night club where young love, teenage dreams, fashion and music are the order of the day. The show will be performed in a purpose built pop-up theatre inside the Ross Peers Sports Centre, Soham on 11th-13th July at 7.30pm.

The second, **Sister Act**, is a well-loved favourite of many. It tells the story of disco diva Delores Van Cartier who is placed in protective custody, disguised as a nun in a convent. Delores breathes new life into the choir and the community and is, quite frankly, hilarious while doing it! The show will take place at St Andrew's Church, Soham on 17th-19th July, 2019 at 8pm. Don't miss this heaven-sent production!

Visit <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/viva-arts> to purchase tickets for either show. For assistance with booking tickets please call the Viva Office on 01353 7222287.

Outdoor Songs of Praise: Sunday 27th July.



Churches Together in Soham are holding an outdoor Songs of Praise on the Recreation Ground at 3.30pm on Saturday 27 July. All are welcome to join in the singing led by Soham Comrades Band.



St Andrew's 200 Club

200 Club winners for June were Ben Bullman - £5 and Lynette Smith - £10

St Andrew's Regular Events

Bread Basket our drop-in continental breakfast café is next on 20 July in church. All are welcome for a morning of fellowship and fun. See old friends and make new ones over a hot drink, croissant or toast, etc. all for £1.50! A warm welcome awaits you and a service with a big smile.

Little Fishes for July is on Tuesday 9th. Babies and pre school children are welcome with their grown-ups for singing, sticking, snacks and chat.

Creative Minds meets every Wednesday at St Andrew's Church from 1.30 - 4.00. It aims to promote Well Being, through different creative media e.g. art, art therapy, music, creative writing. No Artistic skill needed. Please contact Janene on 07917 151955 or Lindy on 07795 22201 for more details.

The poster for the musical 'Sister Act' features a yellow background with a sunburst pattern and small stars. At the top left, the word 'viva!' is written in a purple, lowercase font. In the top right corner, a red circular badge with white stars contains the text '17th, 18th & 19th July 2019 8pm'. The central image is a stylized illustration of a nun's head and shoulders, with a red dot for a nose and a black cross on her chest. Below this, the title 'Sister Act' is written in a large, red, cursive font. Underneath the title, the credits are listed: 'Music by Alan Menken & Lyrics by Glenn Slater' and 'Book by Cheri Steinkellner & Bill Steinkellner'. A smaller line of text reads 'Additional Book Material Douglas Carter Bruce' and 'Based on the Touchstone Pictures Motion Picture "Sister Act" written by Joseph Howard'. A red banner with white stars at the bottom of the poster displays the ticket prices: '£12.50 Adults, £11.50 Over 60s, £10.50 under 12s'. Below the banner, the venue information is given: 'St Andrew's Church, Fountain Lane, Soham, CB7 5ED'. The website 'www.ticketsource.co.uk/viva-arts' and the box office number '01353 722228' are also listed. At the bottom, there is a small logo for Music Theatre International (MTI) and a line of fine print: 'This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe www.mtishows.co.uk'.



- ☆ **Soham Museum Coffee Mornings** – First Saturday of each month at Soham Library, 10am – 12 noon. Bring along any items or photos of local historical interest you may have, or just join us for a chat and coffee, All welcome.
- ☆ **Soham Museum History Group** presents Bernard Olley and “100 Years of Duxford Airfield”. Thursday 4 July at 7.30pm, Berrycroft Methodist Church Hall, off Pratt Street, Soham. Members free, non members £3.
- ☆ **Viva Baby and Toddler Group:** a weekly singing and dancing class designed for little ones! (12 months- pre school age). Every Wednesday morning at 9.45am-10.30am at the Viva Centre, 7 Churchgate Street, Soham (above the Viva Charity Shop)
- ☆ **Soham Mens Shed:** Thursdays 10.00 - 16.00 at South Angle Farm, Soham. (Over mill bridge, and the railway line, then turn right and follow your nose, we are the first building on the left) We are affiliated members of Mens Sheds UK and promote men’s positive health and wellbeing.

Items for the September Edition of LodeStar

If you have anything you want to publicise or report on please send material to aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk by Wednesday 21 August.

Soham Beer and Music Festival



The annual beer and music festival run by Soham Staploe Rotary Club will take place on the rec and in the Pavilion on Friday 5 July (5pm-10.30pm) and Saturday 6 July (2pm-10.30pm). Enjoy draught beer or cider (wine and soft drinks also available) while listening to music by local bands.

Funds raised will go to Alzheimers Research UK and the Blue Smile children’s charity with a Charity Auction at 7pm on Saturday in aid of Posability (who run exercise classes

for people who have suffered strokes, Parkinsons etc.)

Blue Shed Studios are providing the sound stage.

Happy’s Circus

Happy’s Circus has been invited to Soham to help raise funds for St Andrew’s School. They are coming to put on a fantastic performance for two nights. Ticket numbers are limited and at only £8 each a total bargain. (Children under 3 are free and no unaccompanied children can enter the big top)

Come and join in with all the fun, there will be a BBQ, ice creams, face paints and lots more before the circus begins.

Tickets are on sale in Gloof Coffee Shop in Soham or from the St Andrew’s School Office

Weatheralls Summer Fair

The Weatheralls School is holding their Summer Fair and car boot sale on Saturday 6th July from 1pm till 4pm. Lots of stalls including ice cream and a BBQ.

Car boot pitches are now available to book, pitches are £5 and must be booked in advance. Email weatherallshsa@gmail.com to book or for more details.

News from Wicken Fen

We've recently had a pair of common cranes breed successfully at Wicken Fen for the first time in over 100 years, in fact we suspect that cranes have not bred here since the time of Henry VIII. This is exciting not only because cranes are on the amber species list, but also because it shows that the diverse habitats



Common crane pair and chick by Michael Holdsworth

developing at Wicken Fen are attracting new and varied species. Once the young crane starts to explore the reserve, it is hoped that visitors will be able to spot the new crane family in the near future.

We're looking forward to sunny, warm days when everyone will be enjoying the summer buzz throughout the reserve. Enjoy the gentle hum of dragonflies, bees and other insects, and the jewel-like flashes of colour as butterflies flutter past. We'll be joining with the British Dragonfly Society for the annual **Dragonfly Day** on Sunday 21 July. Join us for dragonfly walks at 11am and 2pm, and drop in for dragonfly craft activities, pond dipping, and larvae feeding.

Our programme of adult events continues: local printmaker Judith Handley returns for her second **Introduction to Lino Printing** workshop on Saturday 20 July 10:00-16:00, and our writer in residence Guinevere Glasfurd completes her series of workshops with **Telling the Story of Wicken Fen** on Saturday 27 July 10:00-16:30; a full day creative, non-fiction writing workshop.

Our **Mucky Pups: Summer Safaris** for under 5s will be held on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 July 10:15-11:45, and in addition to the normal outdoor fun, stories and crafts we'll be decorating scones as animals as part of our **Sconeathon** 8-14 July. We'll be asking you to vote for your favourite scone, and serving it for you to enjoy in the Docky Hut Café, as well as other scone related activities.

Don't forget that we'll have lots of fun family activities on offer over the summer holidays, starting with **Den Building** on 29 July. Check out the 'What's On' section of our website for all the details.

Advance booking is essential for all events at Wicken Fen. Full details and ticketing information can be found on our website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Would you like to receive 45p per mile by volunteering?

We are the Volunteer Centre in Ely and we operate the East Cambridgeshire Social Car Scheme. We are in desperate need for volunteer drivers! Last year we undertook 7,800 journeys which is yet other year of increased usage.

It would help us provide transport for people who are unable to use conventional public transport to attend hospital, dental appointments, visit loved ones etc.

Do you:

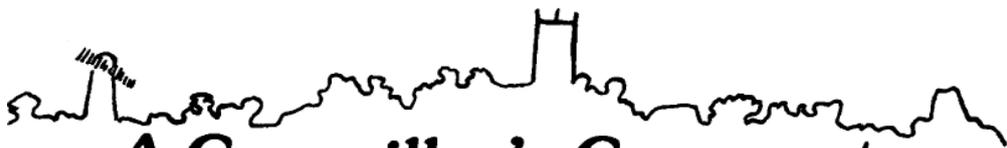
- ☆ have access to a roadworthy car?
- ☆ like helping people?
- ☆ have a day to spare each week?
- ☆ hold a full clean driving licence?

And are you willing to undertake an enhanced DBS (CRB), check?

For more information please call Granville on 01353 666166 or

email: granville@vcaec.org.uk or visit: www.vcaec.org.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter or Facebook



A Councillor's Comments

Thanks to Councillor Liz Johnston for sending this report from the Town Council.

Soham Town Council - Full Council meeting, 10th June 2019

This month's meeting saw the addition of three new Town Councillors, who applied to stand for the remaining seats, after the May elections. They are: Angie Curtis (Soham Central), Peter Leonard (Soham Central) and Colin Gipp (Soham South). All candidates were interviewed individually by the current Town Councillors and we are delighted to have co-opted them all onto the council. As an amendment to last month's report to the Lodestar, I omitted to say that Councillor Anne Pallett remains the Chairwoman of STC's planning committee.

Other points of interest made at the meeting were the updates from our County Council representative, Mark Goldsack. He informed us that Sand Street will be resurfaced and lined instead of the initial patch and repair as previously suggested. It will start from the Tanners Lane turning and continue along the High Street. As yet he could not advise us of a start time for this work. He also informed us that The High Street, Clay Street, Gardner's Lane, Mere Side and Station Road areas are also under review for road use, traffic, access, condition etc.

You may have also seen, via facebook etc that The Man Shed scheme is now up and running and that all the money needed has now been raised and 'Nellie' the TukTuk has been purchased and ready for use. The last note to make is that an island crossing is going to be installed along Kingfisher Drive, to aid safer child/parent access to The Shade School. Soham Town council have also helped to fund this project.

It only leaves me now to finalise this report with some future dates of interest -

11th to 13th June: Installation of electric gates to Fordham Road Cemetery

24th June: STC Planning meeting (see website for timings and agenda)

Weds 26th June: 7.30pm at the Pavilion - Neighbourhood Planning meeting

Councillor Elizabeth Johnston

Soham Winter Fayre: Friday 29th November, 6pm – 8pm

Run by Soham Heritage and Tourism and St Andrew's Church for the people of Soham. Stalls and activities in and around church. To book a stall please email aly-evans@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01638 721534.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

2 June	Finley Maurice Baker
9 June	Noah John Charles Carter Burch

Weddings

1 June	Kathleen Loveridge and James Merry
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Funerals

20 June	Sylvia Mann
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[2 June 1944 continued from page 6

Although both Herbert Clarke and Frank Bridges' names appear on the commemorative plaques in the town, neither received any civic recognition of their bravery at the time of the incident. Neither did Frank Bridges' widow receive any financial compensation for the loss of her husband: he was deemed to have been exceeding his duty in helping to uncouple the wagon... Anthony Day's book 'But for such men as these' was surely aptly named.

Eleanor
sohamvicar@gmail.com 01353 725948

A View from the Vicarage



2 June 1944 continued ...

Our town's commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Soham Train Explosion were a tremendous team effort: thank you to all involved. The Train Explosion will also be the theme of this year's Pumpkin Fair, when a further exhibition will be held. In the meantime, Soham Heritage and Tourism have kindly allowed us to quote the following from the exhibition we hosted in St Andrew's Church:

From the 9 June 1944 edition of the Soham Advertiser, written in Benjamin Gimbert's own words:

'Jim and I were on the footplate as we approached the station. Looking back along the train I saw flames coming from the bottom of the first bomb truck. I have never thought so clearly or quickly before. I knew that if I stopped the train with a jerk, all the 51 trucks of ammunition might explode. It had to be a smooth pull up without any banging about. I told myself I had to keep calm as I brought the train to a standstill. As we stopped, I shouted to my mate to uncouple the wagons and to take the coal hammer with him in case the coupling was hot. Nightall didn't turn a hair and didn't hesitate or ask any questions. He jumped straight down on the track and I ran round to help him. Sailor Bridges came out of his signal box and ran to help us. In a minute the train was uncoupled. I started the engine again by pulling the burning wagon behind me. Jim was by my side. The flames were quite high around the wagon by then, and I knew that we had to hurry. Everything was so peaceful and still. The town was in darkness and I thought of all the sleeping women and kids and the 50 trucks of bombs behind us. I thought I must stick to the engine until I could get clear of the town, and I was just opening the throttle when I remembered that the mail express was almost due on the line.

What I did next may have saved my life: going to the right of my cab, I shouted to Signalman Frank to stop the mail while I got clear. He began running to his box and I remember turning back to the engine looking at the fire and starting to pull off, away from the station. I knew those bombs were due to explode'

The experiences of Herbert Clarke and Frank Bridges:

'...Herbert was a goods guard at the time of the Soham Incident. He suspected there was something wrong when the train slowed right down when his van at the rear of the train was a train's length away from the distant signal. As the train was on a curve in the track, he was able to see the fire in the front wagon and applied his brake to help in slowing the train.

A stationary train is the responsibility of the guard, so he rushed off towards the engine to try and help. The engine and lead wagon started to move before he reached them, but the blast hurled him back along the track 80 yards and left him concussed. He gradually recovered enough to relight the lights on the rear of his van and collect some detonators to place on the line back towards the Barway signal box. He staggered into the signal box at 3.30am, absolutely spent.

Although not badly injured he never fully recovered his health: he did return to light duties at Ipswich station but took early retirement in 1949. His wife Alice died in 1956 and he moved in with his son, Edward, in Ipswich. In 1976, he was offered a council house where he lived until his death ...'

'... Although Frank had only been on a ship when being transported in World War I, for some reason he became known as 'Sailor'. He was an easy-going and friendly man, an ace darts player and he liked a drink with his pals. He was appointed as signalman at Snailwell Junction before moving to Soham in 1939. He and his family set up house in Brook Street.

Frank was on duty on the platform at Soham Station at the time of the incident. He had seen the flames and had realised what the driver was trying to do. He had already sent a message to get another train sent to move the other wagons, and was standing with a fire-bucket of water, thinking he might be able to douse the flames as the wagon went past him.

As a result, he took the full force of the explosion and was very badly injured in the blast. He died in hospital a few hours after the explosion...'

[continued on page 5