

LodeSTAR

St Andrew's Church Magazine for the Parish of Soham

30p

July 2009

Services at the Parish Church

Sundays 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30 am Sung Eucharist (ASB)
Thursdays 10.00 am Eucharist (BCP) 3rd Sunday 9.30 am Family Service

St Andrew's Church Fete

St Andrew's Church Fete on Saturday, 13th June was yet another wonderful success raising a staggering amount of money - more than £1300!

The church and churchyard were awash with stalls selling everything from gardening tools and plants to books and computer games (and everything in between). And there were plenty of games for children to enjoy - tombolas, beat the goalie, hook-a-duck and the ever popular stocks. And if you didn't have a cream tea you missed out. Yummy!



We would just like to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone who supported the event - all those individuals and organisations who ran stalls, all those church members and groups such as the bell ringers and Mothers' Union who, without being asked, yet again stepped up and helped out and, every bit as important, thank you to the people of Soham for once more supporting the event.

While it is lovely to raise funds for the church, that isn't why we started the fete back in 2001. We just really wanted our beautiful church, which presides over the centre of the town, to truly become its focus for the day and the joy of seeing the church and churchyard full of people doesn't diminish with each year we do this. It is also lovely to give lots of organisations and individuals the chance to raise funds for their particular cause in such a majestic venue. We truly thank you for your continued support. It's always a little worrying a fortnight before the event when there are only a handful of confirmed stalls but you never let us down. By the big day there are always plenty!



Next year's fete is likely to be June 12th or 19th (date to be confirmed) so please put those in your diary, watch this space for confirmation, and join us once again. Thank you. *James and Alison Palmer*

SCHOOL REPORT

Richard Liddington, Headteacher of St. Andrew's School



Our World

One of the many responsibilities that Primary Schools have is to help prepare children for living in a diverse, multi cultural society.

St Andrew's is very fortunate to have a number of pupils from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds and we recognise and celebrate the diversity that exists amongst us. We are proud of the excellent relationships that exist throughout our school, which are built on mutual trust and respect.

However, we are not complacent with this position and continually look to expand our curriculum so that our pupils' understanding, experiences and interaction with people from different cultural background is improved even further.

St Andrew's currently has the privilege of being involved in a two year creative arts project entitled 'Our World'. This project celebrates cultural diversity by exploring dance from a number of different countries around the world.

Professional dancers and musicians from India, Africa and the UK have all worked with our Key Stage 2 children in developing their knowledge, understanding and skills in different forms of dance which the children have already performed at different local events over the past year.

This project reached its climax on the 1st and 2nd July this year with a two day festival which took place on the playing fields at St Andrew's. On Thursday 2nd July, St Andrew's hosted 900 pupils from different parts of Cambridgeshire who had also been involved in this project, for a fantastic day of story telling, art and dance, including over 600 who performed a number of traditional Fenland Molly Dances!

Unfortunately due to the size of this event, this particular day was not open to the public. However, on the previous day, the 1st July, the school held a Summer Fair which was open to the entire community. For this event, the children in each year group adopted a different country from around the world and demonstrated games, sang songs and performed dances from their chosen country.

To make this event even more attractive it was combined with our Home School Association summer fair, which included a range of games, stalls, activities, refreshments and a BBQ.

BRIDGE THE GAP

4½ mile Charity Walk around the Cambridge Colleges

Sign up now for the annual 'Bridge the Gap' Charity Walk! Taking place on *Sunday 13th September* and one of the most popular charity walks in the region, 'Bridge the Gap' is a lovely opportunity to meander through the sites of Cambridge and its colleges. And at just 4½ miles, it's something the whole family can enjoy together.

Set to raise thousands, this year's walk will be in aid of Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Press Relief, The News Community Fund, as well as being partnered by the University of Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, the Cambridge News and Headline Sponsor - Cambridge Building Society.

As well as seeing the Colleges and bridges, walkers also have the opportunity to visit the Zoology Museum and The Pitt Building. There will also be Tourist guides on hand to talk about the history of the colleges and other local sites.

Entry Forms are already being received following our launch on 18th June. To make sure you don't miss out, download an entry form from www.bridgethegapwalk.org or call 01223 723115. Registration costs £8 in advance (£14 from 1st September) for adults; entry is free for children of 16 and under.

People of any age or ability can take part and the route is wheelchair and pushchair friendly, so it really is open to all. It is also a non-competitive event, so participants are welcome to stop off at a café or restaurant en route! Plus the highest fundraisers

John W. Clark (Jack) was born in Soham in 1913. He was the eldest of 6 children Nellie, Freda, Ellen, Doris and Roy. When he died in 2005 the family found a diary he had kept during his time as a Japanese prisoner of war. When Jack was alive he spoke very little of his time as a prisoner although it effected his health throughout his life a great deal. So when we found the handwritten diary it was of great interest to his family. His sister in law offered to type it, so all the family could have a copy. She typed it exactly as it was written. Jack was one of several Soham Men held prisoner by the Japanese during World War 2 We found it so interesting that we thought we would like to share it with the readers of Lode Star, as a fitting tribute to their bravery. *Susan Taylor*

Second World War Memoirs of Private John W. Clark 5832529 - 5th Battalion Suffolk Regiment - Part 9

June 2nd Garden yield last month a record 62 tons of vegetable. **June 8th** Ellen's birthday 28. Stomach trouble now, cannot feed. How much longer will this bloody war last. **June 13th** Hell of a job today, got lice in my kit, rags I mean, hell of a job. Will keep thinking of food. **June 16th** Moves on the go again. Would not be surprised if I make a journey in the near future, but shall hang on in this camp if possible. But if Russ and I can remain together, shall not mind so much. **June 17th** One of the chaps who sleep in the cell, Hany Randle, received a wireless message from home dated 9.6.1945 - lucky blighter. **June 20th** Five years service, never imagined should do 5 years and as far as know and can see of things, shall do 6. 12 sacks of mail in, hope I'm lucky and either hear from, or some news, of Roy. Sick with my stomach, gosh I'm fed up with this life, same routine, same faces, rice, rice, rice. I'd give anything for a slice of bread and butter. Anyway, hope Ma hasn't forgotten how to cook. No smokes - cheroots about the size of a Players 70 cents, cigarettes 4 dollars packet, tobacco when it comes in will be 9 dollars an ounce. Wish I could describe my thoughts clearly. **June 21st** Put in a stool for test - told I've got worms (most people have) but no treatment, bloody things, cannot get enough food for myself, we've been here too long. **June 25th** Len Gilbey received a photo of his wife, looking at it made me feel homesick. Soon as I get out of this, must have my eyes and teeth attended to. **June 30th** Card from Dad dated Dec. 1944, all at home well. Thank heaven for that. **July 1st** Six months of the year gone and nothing seems to happen. Why the hell don't they get moving. Harry Randle and Wilf Horn went away on a party today. Got my fingers crossed, still managing to hang on, but things move like a bolt from the blue these days. Stomach hell of a trouble. **July 4th** Inoculation, believe TAB. Harold Purchon managed to wangle his way back - amazing what a difference a little assistance from the right quarter makes. Parties still keep going - hope it's a good sign. **July 9th** Gossip says anything can happen after the 15th. Beginning to feel more optimistic, probably because the stomach feels much better. September will be the month before, I hope. Believe our hosts bringing numbers of brothers to assist them in the coming struggle. **July 11th** Bloody deadly of an evening, no lectures, no shows, no entertainment whatsoever, in fact must not laugh just because some fellow escaped- good luck to him. Only things not stopped are church services. **July 22nd** Stomach still bad, losing weight rapidly, almost a skeleton, not worrying, feel confident, shall see the next 4 months and *home* again. O.K. **July 30th** Dysentery inoculation. Stomach still bad, maybe we soon be free, then can get treatment. **Aug 1st** Minden Day - have not even seen one of our officers today. To my sorrow Major Harrison's forecast on last Minden Day incorrect. **Aug 4th** A tonic today, saw 7 Lightenings, looked good, fairly close-up view. Reading a biography on G.W. Carver - these lines rather impressed me:- "The toad beneath the harrow knows, Exactly where each tooth point goes, The butterfly upon the road Preaches contentment to that toad. Saturday night, but for us just the same old routine - home one thing I'm longing and living for. **Aug 6th** Major Harrison in to see Russ and I tonight but he didn't attempt any forecast this time. 3 months have now elapsed since quietness reigned at home so feel certain must soon happen. Latest camp racket, sometime back, fellows had to place all watches in camp office, now our hosts say if camp authorities hand over the watches they will increase our rice ration a few grams per man per day. So people who own the watches have agreed to hand them over, owners be paid when we *are* free. Often lie and picture my arrival home, hope everyone will be there to greet me, what a reunion. Guess we'll feed and chatter all night. It's silly I know but it passes many an hour away when one cannot sleep. Suppose one will find fresh personalities in all spheres of life and great changes in people I know, and what a lot of reading and questions one will have to ask, to catch up with the times. It will be like being born again only this time one will be able to appreciate things. Gosh, what a lot we've to look forward to.

[continued on next page]



☆ **The 200+ Club** winners for the last two months are as follows - May Lisa Moore £5, Alice Fisher £10, June - Gerrard Hobbs £5, Pat Johnson £10

☆ **Grand Duck Race.** There is still time to sponsor one or more ducks @ £1.00 each. The Race takes place on the Lode at 11.30 am on Sunday, 12th July and proceeds are in aid of St. Andrew's Church. The prizes are: 1st Place - £100, 2nd - £50, 3rd - £30, 4th - £20. To sponsor your duck contact Jo Sturgeon, 9 Angle Common, Tel. 723452



☆ **Please remember** there is no Lodestar in August but items for the September issue should be with Alison Palmer, Oak House, 41 Sand St, Soham, Cambs, CB7 5AA alisonpalmer@oakhouse24.freeserve.co.uk no later than 20th August.

Fete and Draw

Thanks to everyone involved in the fete last week. We raised a total of £1332 (of which £467 came from the draw). The draw winners were: Dawn Laver - Holiday cottage; Ian Bowers - Dinner; Diana Hillman - Decorated sponge

Other prizes: Rachel Rutter, Alison Rutter, Matt Laver, Luan Griffiths, Richard Pepper, Daria Wotherspoon and Trevor Cole.

Date for your Diary...

How brave is your Teddy? Come and see on Saturday 12th September at our Teddies on the Tower event. This is always a hugely enjoyable event – for young and old alike (and Teddies too!). You don't need to bring parachutes, they will be provided, just bring your Teddy along for a 10.00 am start.



SOHAM SHUTTLE BUS

Soham Town Council in partnership with Ely Soham Dial-a-ride have pleasure in announcing THE NEW TUESDAY SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE which will start operating on Tuesday 21st July 09 for 6 weeks.

The shuttle service is to bring Soham people into the centre of Soham, not only to shop but to visit friends or dare I say weather permitting stroll around, visit the church, recreation ground, have a meal.

The shuttle will pick up from the Barleyfields estate north end Soham and from Downfields estate south end, on both services there will be stops on the way into Soham. Leaflets setting out the service and routes can be picked up at the Council offices, recreation ground, Fountain Lane and at the Viva Community Building Churchgate Street. Details will also be in the Ely Weekly News nearer the start date.

The service is available to all. A return trip will be £1 under 12's go free but there is no reason why you can't use the shuttle one way. Please use this service. It could become a permanent shuttle. *Anne Tuite, Chairman Soham Town Council*

[continued from previous page

Aug 11th Is it true, or isn't it true, but everyone taking it calmly. Got my fingers crossed **Aug 12th** Hopeful yet fearful, time seems to have stopped, what price an Xmas dinner at home? Len admitted to hospital with malaria, hard fines, but he's not too bad. Russ and I going to keep together until reach home if possible. **Aug 13th** Despondency reigns, only thing happened today the sirens sounded. **Aug 14th** So our hosts have toed the line. Things going on as usual. Patience is the word. **Aug 15th** Prisoner three and a half years today, thank heaven couldn't see into the future. Managed to get some treatment for worms unofficially from Capt, C. This uncertainty and suspense, or am I too impatient, or is "Linger-Longer-Louie" still fingering. **Aug 16th** Situation unaltered. Heavy duty rations for everyone from tomorrow.

[to be continued



A Councillor's Comments

There was no Public Comment Time at our June meeting so we got under way with our Chairman's announcements. They were: that our next planning meeting would be on the 17th June at 6pm, and that the holiday shuttle bus service for the town begins on the 24th July, running until 1st September.

After the initial agenda items were completed we had a presentation by Dr. Carin Taylor about the Village College. It was entitled Development at the College but in her presentation she spoke about the College itself, its size and quality and its asset to the town. She said there were 200 staff and 1300 pupils on the site and it served the surrounding district. It was only when it was time for questions that the new development was addressed. It would now cost about 1.8 million instead of the 1.9 million because of recent cut backs, and it was hoped to start in the autumn and be completed by September 2010. The question was asked would the tennis courts, (which the development would build over), be replaced? There was no clear answer to this.

National Ploughing Championships: These will be held in Soham again this year in October and the council is once again going to give our support as we did this last time. It begins with a service at St Andrew's on the Friday night after which some refreshments will be laid on at the Pavilion, and over the course of the weekend it was hoped to lay on a shuttle bus for use by the public to travel to the ploughing area.

A Framework For Soham – Preservation and Development: A presentation on this was given by Cllr. Schunmann, and the Conservation Officer, Rosie Burton. In the light of the Soham vision and future development there was also a need to protect and preserve some of the buildings that we have. Two examples were highlighted, the Windmill, and the Old Grammar School. The Old Grammar School is at the heart of our Town Centre and Conservation area and for many years now has been of great concern to all those wanting to improve our Town. The building itself has a wonderful association with the past and the site itself has great potential for an enhancing development with a delightful courtyard. At present this building is in a terrible state with many windows boarded up, the front area has been packed with disused cars and after the latest fire there was a skip filled with burnt remains. There was nothing anybody was able to do about this sad state of affairs apparently, the local Council, East Cambs. County Council, or even our MP, but this presentation offered a glimmer of light. The answer that was offered was the setting up of a Building Preservation Trust. These come in two types; one takes responsibility for a single building and the other repairs and sells on the building, which provides capital to rescue the next building. Once set up the trust is able to obtain funding from a number of sources. This is certainly something that Councils can look at, and in the light of Soham vision it has been suggested that we aim for short term gains to promote the scheme. If the Old Grammar School was restored and the site creatively laid out it would go a long way to meet what the vision planners envisage. This is not an easy option; a trust must be set up, composed of dedicated people, a leader of expertise and prepared for hard sustained effort.

Neighbourhood Panel: There was a need for two appointments for future meetings and they are; Councillors Anne Pallet, and George Ginn. Any points to be brought to the meetings, that's if you cannot attend in person, please let either know and they will voice your concern.

Environmental Action Day: To be held on 23rd June at Gadwell Way at 5.30pm

Application for Financial Support: A request from East Anglian Children's Hospice was received and as Soham children have benefited from the hospice the Council granted them £1,000. *Councillor Ginn*

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Dear Friends,

I do not think that I was the only one who was rather alarmed as I was interrupted very loudly when I announced the last hymn at the main Sunday service. Richard Worsley, our Associate Priest, got to his feet and yelled “Stop!” at a not inconsiderable volume and moved to the front of the church.

The reason for the interruption was soon apparent. He was asking people to stay behind after the service to share in the surprise celebrations of the anniversary of my ordination. I was ordained as a deacon 21 years ago (on the very day that we were celebrating) but we usually mark the ordination to the priesthood, which was a year later. It is a sobering thought that I have been a priest for twenty years and it was a huge delight to be able to share the anniversary with my friends and church family in St Andrew’s. I was presented with the most magnificent card – which, under the circumstances, I seemed to have trouble opening; all four sides of the card (outside and inside) were beautifully inscribed and I read out the back and then the front without realising that the real message was inside. Very many thanks to everyone who was involved in the celebrations – particularly to Judith for the delicious cake.

The occasion made me think about anniversaries. We are pretty good at marking birthdays and wedding anniversaries, but perhaps we might also celebrate other anniversaries. Teachers, doctors or nurses could celebrate the anniversary of their qualification; all of us could remember the years that pass since we moved house, or started a new job, or joined a club or society. It is good to be able to observe these yearly mile-stones as we pass them; they give us a chance to reflect on how far we have travelled, on what we might have achieved, of things that we might have done better and of the things that lie ahead of us.

At the baptism service here in St Andrew’s, every newly-baptised child receives a lighted candle as a symbol of the Light of Christ, that comes into the child’s life as they are received into the church. I always invite the parents of the children to re-light the candles on the anniversary of the baptism to remind them, and the children, of this significant day. I wonder whether you know the date of your baptism? If you do, do you celebrate it? It seems to me that in many ways this is the most significant anniversary of all and perhaps it is one that we all ought to make an effort to observe. Of course, we can (and do) renew our baptismal promises at various points through the church’s year – most notably at Easter, but it is not quite the same thing. When we are baptised we join the world-wide family of God’s church and become members of Christ’s body, which is the church. At baptism we are re-born as a new creation and this, surely, is something that we ought to remember every year. We are only baptised once in a life-time, but we can celebrate it every year. With every good wish, yours sincerely, *Tim*

PS For those of you who are going away on holiday, may I wish you all a happy time, safe journeys and Godspeed.

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

David Anthony ‘Tony’ Guy (72)

Evelyn Ruby ‘Eve’ Cutchey (88)

Michael Edwin ‘Baldy’ Audus (68)

Margaret Jessie ‘Margie’ Behan (85)

Mandy Hagley Allison (50)

Baptisms

7th June

Jake Michael Lofts

21st June

Daniel Christopher Collen

Maximus Cooper