

# LodeSTAR

St Andrew's Church Magazine for the Parish of Soham

30p

June 2008

## 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



There is still time book a stall at St Andrew's Church Fete on Saturday 14th June from 10.00 am until noon in the church and churchyard. We hope it will be just as much fun as ever with lots of stalls, games, crafts, children's activities, music and refreshments. If you hold a stall or run a game at the fete, whatever you make on the day is yours. All we ask for is a small donation towards the work of St Andrew's church.

So, with that in mind, please give us a call and book your place - the more the merrier. And if you cannot be part of the fete, we hope you'll come along on the day and support the event. Please call James or Alison Palmer on 01353 720572 as soon as possible to book your space.

Last year, as part of the fete, we also ran a bootless car boot sale (so you will obviously need to bring a table to sell your wares!). Pitches for that are £5 and must be booked in advance via Alison or James on the above number.

## Soham Community Archive: Pictures Please!

Our online photo archive has an impressive number of photos on it, from the 1800's to the present day - but there's always room for more! If you have photos of Soham or Barway people, places or events to share with the community, we'd love to borrow them. We will scan them and return the originals to you. It's as easy as that. You can contact Ann Roberts (722129), Jim Ames (720596), Lynne Crisp (220139) or Barbara Warner (721324).



If you want to browse the archive yourself log on to [www.ccan.co.uk](http://www.ccan.co.uk) and click on Groups - click on Soham (currently on page 4) and then click on Thumbnails to see what's there. There's even an email link so that you can tell us what you think, add information or put us right! *Ann Roberts*

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

**1943, March 8th** Mum's birthday. Two thousand seven hundred and eighty of Division going up country on a working party on fifteenth of month. Said to be 30,000 letters in Changi, hope lucky this time. **March 13th** Symphony concert last night, damned good. **March 22nd** Apparently we reported as prisoners in September - hope no-one worrying. **March 26th** Sydney twenty-nine - suppose he's started a family. Hurrah! A letter as last, all well, Sidney a father, bet he's proud. Letter only been 8 months coming. From Freda. **March 25th** Saw "Dancing Years" last evening. Costumes and scenery excellent **April 1st** Surprise - two more letters, one from Mum, other from Ellen. April 14th Thirty today. Bill a father? **April 17th** Queer this mail business. Received a letter from Dad, written previous to the other two.

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**April 23rd** Good Friday, letter from Ellen, written 12/7/42. Writing about holidays. Ben gone up country. **April 25th** Easter Sunday. Letter from young Pat. Bigger waiting nine months for a letter. **April 29th** Moved into another area, infested with mosquitoes and bugs. **May 1st** Now an R.P. and in a P.O.W. Camp. **May 9th** Another working party left for up country. **May 15th** Another overseas party left. **CHANGI MOTTO** *To those that hath more shall be given, but to those that have not, shall be taken away even that which he seemeth to have.* Very appropriate, found chalked on wall. **May 18th** No longer an R.P now on malarial squad.

**May 23rd** Another move into Sebrang area. **May 27th** Turned tailor, making shorts for myself out of tent canvas. **June 3rd** Flogged watch for ten dollars, case of necessity. **June 8th** Eton twenty-six. **June 11th** Came across this in a book, thought it apt and original. There was an owl who lived in an oak, the more he heard the less he spoke, The less he spoke, the more he heard: soldier imitate that wise bird.

**June 12th** Talking with a Dutchman from Java - asked him how many casualties did you have? He replied "Ve deed not vite". Some of the P.O.W nationalities here are English. Australians, Americans, Dutch and Anglo-Indians. Just de-bugged my stretcher - bloody thing nearly got away from me. **June 17th** Mostly some entertainment of an evening in this area, either lectures, gramophone records or concerts. Also "Smokey Joes" where if one has money can purchase coffee and rissoles. **June 20th** Completed three years service. **June 21st** Pay for a fifteen day period - dollar thirty-five. Sixty-five cents stopped for messing, tobacco twenty-five cents an ounce, papers ten cents. Am broke the following day. **June 27th** Saw "Midsummer Follies" at the Palladium - fair, scenery good. Nothing piles up more misery than an imagination **June 29th** T.A.B inoculation. **June 30th** Dysentery inoculation. **July 1st** Feeling groggy, result inoculation. **July 6th** Second TAB inoculation **July 7th** Second Dysentery inoculation. **July 15th** Palladium - "Love Laughs" - fair. The boys idea of work in a P.O.W. camp - the work is hard, the pay is small, so take it easy, bless 'em all". **July 18th** Saw Show, had two goodish comedians. Dawn this morning, watched sun rise, most beautiful colouring. **July 19th** Cricket match between Australian and British limbless, each team composed of twelve men, six minus an arm, six minus a leg. **July 24th** Expect another move shortly. **July 31st** Lecture on training circus animals by "Appy Any" of the A.I.F. **Aug 1st** Minders day, no celebrations no smokes. **Aug 2nd** Bank holiday Monday, without a holiday. **Aug 3rd** Kit and billets searched today **Aug 5th** Mail arrived for us. Bad eye cases now given extract made from leaves and grass. **Aug 11th** Saw medical specialist, advised me to use left arm as much as possible as shall never get rid of tremors in right arm. **Aug 13th** Letter from Ellen. **Aug 16th** Letter from Freda, want to write about holidays and dancing classes. Tot of brandy today - wondering what it is in aid of. **Aug 18th** Moved into fresh billits. **Aug 21st** Palladium, last show "The Little Admiral" best seen in P.O.W. camp. Scenery and costumes good, even artificial fountains etc. **Aug 30th** Believe more mail arrived. **Sept 1st** Issued with pair of white woollen socks and trunks. **Sept 3rd** Dad's birthday. European was been on four years. Razor blades 35 cents each. **Sept 5th** A.J.T. show "In the News", quite good. Employed on wood dump guard and picking leaves for extract. **Sept 11th** My pal Russ Burgess discharged from hospital. His home town Whittlesey. **Sept 15th** Letter from Mum. Got into conversation with a fellow out of the "Cams", discovered he's the son of Bob Mason, He's minus a leg.

**Sept 19th** Another letter from Mum dated Jan 24th - still no knowledge of me. Ulcer started on leg. **Sept 21st** Letter from Ellen - gave me the impression they are beginning to give me up for lost. Also stating "Mum O.K." - reading between the lines I know different. **Sept 23rd** Letter from Ellen written Jan 6th, would like to get some news for change. **Sept 29th** Letter from Freda written Jan 1st. Usual type of letter, but who the hell is Stan. Never heard of him. **Oct 1st** On gate police these days. **Oct 4th** Landed in the isolation ward with Diptheria ulcer. **Oct 17th** Two years since last home. **Nov 5th** Some of the unit gone on a working party to Blahak Matik. **Nov 15th** Pay while in hospital 75 cents for fifteen days and tobacco 33 cents an ounce. **Nov 16th** Picture show in ward, Charlie Chaplin and Popeye films no more than 20 years old but created shrieks of merriment. Partner and I won bridge league. **Nov 20th** A quiz last night, memory terrible. **Nov 23rd** Pictures again - "Laurel & Hardy". **Nov 26th** Whist drive. Won second prize - a razor blade.

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## Charity Work in Tanzania

Travelling to Africa has always been and probably always will be a passion for us both, but this year we decided to do something a bit extra; we chose to do some charity work at a Tanzanian school. This was arranged by an organization dedicated to preserving indigenous traditions and developing appropriate programmes of education for local children.

The first couple of days began in Nairobi meeting up with our guide and the other members of the group, then travelling by public transport down into Tanzania. We met up with our driver and cook and then travelled into the Serengeti where we camped for 2 nights with the days packed with game drives.

One of our ambitions in life was to experience the famous Ngorongoro Crater and after the Serengeti we achieved just that! Our expectations were completely met - our driver instructed us to "shut our eyes" just as we arrived at the rim of the crater;



*Laughing faces while digging a water-well at Noonkodin School*

I can still remember the emotions I felt as I opened my eyes to reveal the vastness inside the crater and way in the distance herds and herds of animals. The highlight of the crater game drive must be spotting a black rhino mother and her young calf. We stopped in this spot to eat our packed lunches hoping to get a closer look at the two rhinos we were carefully watching - we were rewarded when they both stood up and had a bit of a wander! We arrived at Noonkodin

School where we were introduced to the pupils and had a brief tour of the school before being taken to the site of our work for the next week. Our task was to dig a water-well; our tools consisted of a couple of shovels, a pickaxe, and 3 buckets between the seven of us! This was not going to be easy!! After a quick packed lunch and a carton of juice we all set to work. We had underestimated; the task at hand was much, much harder than we first thought, the immense heat sapped your energy in a matter of only a few minutes labour. We had to establish a routine where the work was best shared amongst us with regular breaks to take on plenty of fluid. After about 4 hours of digging we walked for 3 kms high up into the mountains to the village of Eluwai where we had the privilege of experiencing Maasai life for the next week. The village consists of one elder, three of his ten wives, their children plus about 100 goats, 20 or so chickens, half a dozen cows, and a few dogs! Their traditional mud huts where they lived were quite amazing - quite small but very efficiently designed; even the young vulnerable kid goats and calves shared this shelter over night. There was one larger communal hut where our cook was to prepare and cook our meals. Now this communal hut was just that, a large hut - no running water and no power; whatever water we used (for cooking and washing) had to physically be carried to the village from a lake about six kilometres away! We very quickly learnt how clean you could get with a single wet wipe!! Our sleeping accommodation consisted of rather small tents which you quickly learnt to make the most of! We will never forget our very, very early morning (5am) alarm calls each day - cockerels and goats surrounding our tents, competing for the loudest roost or bleat - wonderful to look back on now, but very painful at the time!



*Experiencing Maasai life*

Each day we walked to the school to do our day's work armed with a packed lunch consisting of half a slice of bread sometimes with a slap of butter, half an orange, a boiled egg, a dry muffin, a carton of juice and sometimes a bar of chocolate between us!

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- ☆ **The team of ardent gardeners** who usually have a stall at the annual St Andrew's Church Fete have held a plant sale a few weeks early. The sale, which was held at the home of Mary and Malcolm Shelbourne in the High Street, Soham, on 18th May raised a fantastic £150 for the church. Many thanks to the team who would like to extend their thanks to all who supported the event.
- ☆ **An Antiques & Collectables** evening will be held in the Garden of the Manor House in the High Street on Saturday, 14th June (in the Church if wet). Bring a picnic and chair and an item that you would like to be discussed by our expert. Tickets for the event are £7.00, available from Mary Shelbourne (01353 722464) or at the Manor House. All proceeds will be in aid of St Andrew's Church Development Fund.
- ☆ **Soham Methodist Church will hold a Tea Dance** on Saturday, 28th June at Soham Pavilion from 2.00 to 5.00pm. Admission £2.50 including refreshments.
- ☆ **1940s Workers Playtime** at Soham Methodist Church on Saturday, 21st June, 2008 at 6.30pm for 6.45pm. There will be a prize for the best 1940s outfit. Admission £5.00 including a meal. Tickets available from Thelma (tel. 721057), Arleen (Tel. 624944) or Denise (Tel. 727855) - all proceeds for Soham Methodist Church Property Development Fund.
- ☆ **Congratulations to Claire Rutter** who scooped £10 on last month's 200+ Club draw. And also to Sheila Snowey, our £5 winner.
- ☆ **Articles for inclusion in the July issue** should be with coordinator, Alison Palmer, [alisonpalmer@oakhouse24.freemove.co.uk](mailto:alisonpalmer@oakhouse24.freemove.co.uk) or Oak House, 41 Sand Street, Soham, Cambs, CB7 5AA no later than 15th June. Please be reminded there is no Lodestar in August so if you would like to publicise something happening in August or early September, the July edition will be the one in which to do it.

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Now the work was physically challenging but it was made easier by the distraction of the children stopping for a chat in between classes - often being chased back to lessons by the Head Master!! Their knowledge of European sports was quite impressive - it wasn't long before Keith was challenged to a bit of football.

We were rewarded on one of the days by being given the afternoon off with the option of going to the local market; of course we were all keen to do this so off we set for the market. It was after about half an hours walking that we realized that the market was about 10kms away in the opposite direction of the village! So after half a days work and 26kms walking we were suitably exhausted! But very worth it none the less! By the end of the week we were screaming out for a shower and a substantial meal - the cook did a very good job of feeding us considering the basic facilities and limited food supply - but a significant meal was in order!

At the beginning of the trip I don't think we knew the reality of what we were about to encounter but by the end of the experience it definitely put our complex lives into perspective. On reflection, we have been left with many emotions; there is a feeling of immense satisfaction in that we were able to give a small something back to a community that taught us so much in a short space of time. We now tend to question ourselves



before buying anything, asking ourselves "do we really need this?", as our short stay in Tanzania has proved that it's not your financial wealth or possessions that make you truly happy. Our time there has also made us realise how very lucky we *are* and how we still tend to take everything for granted, especially our health.

*Keith and Maureen Richardson*



# A Councillor's Comments

There was no Public Comment Time taken up at our May Council Meeting, which was the start of the new council year. This required elections and appointments and as a result Councillor Palmer was re-elected as Chairman and Councillor Tuite as Vice-Chairman for the coming year. Councillors were asked if they wanted to change their appointments on the various committees and the question was raised whether the planning committee could be held in the evening instead of midday? It was decided to send planning agendas to all councillors so they would be kept informed of all proposals. Representatives to outside bodies are appointed for four years so there was no new appointments but there was some concern about what was happening at Barway.

**Ely and Soham Dial A Ride:** We had a presentation from Nick Blencowe, a manager from Dial A Ride, about a proposed shuttle scheme to bring people in from the out lying parts of Soham to the town centre to do their shopping and visit the medical centre. As you know Dial A Ride requires membership to access their services as individuals or groups but for this scheme they would be offering a complimentary membership to Soham residents. The Council agreed to run a trial period during the school holidays, starting in July; it will run every Tuesday and Friday ending in September. There will be a small charge and if it is successful it maybe extended. Those who feel they would make use of this scheme and the area they are from please contact the Council on 01353 723472.

**Ely Masterplan:** We were given an outline of what is proposed in the Ely Masterplan and we had the opportunity to register our comments and if we so wished make our own individual response before the 31<sup>st</sup> of the month. The plan anticipates a growth of up to 28,000 people with a planned extension in the North creating three or four new neighbourhoods, each with their own identity and local facilities. Each new neighbourhood should have its own community hub. They hope to build 3,000 plus homes in the northern growth area within a country park, the plan also hopes to produce some 3000-6000 jobs so reduce commuting levels. The question was asked whether the Ely master plan would take anything away from the Soham plan,? But we were assured it would not.

**Soham Community Facilities Audit:** The council have now been given the full report to look at, and at this meeting we were able to make some comments on some of the points that had been made. The consultants had done a thorough job on the remit they had been given, assessing all the facilities that were available and also pointing out what limitations there were on each one. Having concluded their assessment they did come up with their recommendations, which the council will look at in detail in due course and decide how best to respond to these recommendations. They were in brief, "that consideration is given to establishing a modern or modernised central facility with public appeal for moderately large events." "It is recommended that the community is consulted on, and involved in, any plan to take this forward as this facility must reflect the needs and aspirations of the community," and "It is recommended that, in any event the Pavilion be remodelled and the access road lighting be improved, as a minimum, to eliminate barriers to usage of this building. Several points were raised but the report was adopted with thanks expressed to the consultants. Application for Financial Support: Soham on Line was granted £600 for the cost of running the website. *Councillor Ginn*

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## Annual Cobwebbing

Monday, 19th May was the date of our annual Cobwebbing and Spring Cleaning evening (an event sadly not recorded on our Web site). Using ladders, dusters and brushes on jointed poles, a good turnout of helpers thoroughly polished or cleaned the inside and outside of the church. Many thanks to all.



# Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Dear Friends,

There is an old saying that if Mohammed won't go to the mountain then the mountain will have to go to Mohammed. I do not intend to use this as an excuse to talk about Christian-Muslim dialogue, which is surely important and about which much could be said, but rather to talk about the decidedly more prosaic subject of transport to church.

It is not always widely known that if people wish to come church but have difficulties actually getting there, then we are very willing to lay on transport for them. We are very grateful to our volunteer drivers who willingly bring people to church services, functions and events, but we would like the service to be more widely known. If you know someone who cannot get to church on a Sunday morning but would like to come, please do let me know and I will arrange a lift for them

Similarly, many people do not know that it is possible to have Holy Communion brought to people's homes. This is most often done for the sick, but we are very willing to bring communion to those who are housebound for whatever reason. Again, please let me know if you would like to receive communion at home and we will sort something out. The service at home is normally rather shorter and simpler than the full service in church; we do not, for example, have hymns. We also take Holy Communion to the residents of Keith Leonard House and Fairhaven Nursing Home once a month (normally on the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month respectively) and these services are open to all. It is the normal custom, at these services, to take the bread and wine that has already been consecrated at one of our main services; those receiving home communion are therefore symbolically part of the whole congregation. As we say on Sundays: "We are one body, because we all share in one bread."

Sometimes people find that the main service on Sunday (at 9.30) is just a bit too busy for them and the early service (at 8.00) is just a bit too early. This gives me a chance to remind everyone that we have a weekly service of Holy Communion according to the rite of the old prayer book (The Book of Common Prayer) every Thursday at 10.00am. This is a simple, said service which lasts about half-an-hour. We normally hold this service in the Lady Chapel in the colder months and in the Chancel in the warmer months. All are welcome to this service whether or not they are familiar with the old service. Yours sincerely, *Tim Alban Jones*

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## PARISH REGISTERS

### Funerals

|      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| 19th | Dominick Spencer (83) |
| 21st | Lillian May West (87) |
| 27th | Ralph How             |

### Baptisms

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 4th May | Ewan Cadmore<br>Charlie William Saberton<br>Cobey Clai Thomson |
| 11th    | Eryk Szymanski   |
| 18th    | Grace Bagley   |

### Wedding

|          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| 10th May | Jason Alps and Elizabeth Trainer |
|----------|----------------------------------|