



SOHAM TOWN FORUM

Sept/Oct 2010



www.sohamtf.co.uk



Soham Christmas Event

Our popular annual Christmas Street Fair will be held on **Friday 10th December**.

If you wish to have a stall please contact:
editor@sohamtf.co.uk

There is no charge for Soham organisations, local charities, schools and clubs



Body Shop at Home are Recruiting in the area.

- Flexible hours to suit you
- Earn extra money for christmas
- Full training given

Call: Kim on **07870411128**
or **01353 722 557**



Soham Ghost Walks

We're now taking bookings for this years walk:

Saturday 30th October

(yes I know Halloween is on Sunday, but even ghosts need a day of rest)

Starts at 8pm from the foot of St Andrews church tower. Walk takes approx 1.5 hours. Five pounds per person payable on the night, cash only. All money raised goes to Soham based charities and organisations.

www.sohamghostwalks.co.uk

dare you?

[CONTENTS]

4 NEWS AND VIEWS

Form your local area

Items in brief from the most recent Soham Town Forum committee meetings and local area.

5 THE SECONDHAND SKIRT

By Barbara Warner - Soham Community History Museum Project

An amazing story of a secondhand skirt donated to the Museum collection and its Royal connections.

6 THE FLORAL LADY - St Andrews House

Soham Ghost Walks

One of our most beautiful and least seen ghosts takes a stroll once again...

7 WHATS ON

Events and activities for the coming months of May and June. Don't miss out on something special.

8 SPICY PORK AND CHILLI PEPPER GOULASH

This months recipe

An autumn warmer to share

If you wish to submit an article, advertise an event or place an advert within this publication and associated web site, please email: editor@sohamtf.co.uk

NB: Advertising is sold as either a full page (twenty pounds) or half page (fifteen pounds). Price is for two months in our online magazine - visit: www.sohamtf.co.uk

Soham Christmas Event

Soham Christmas Event Committee

A new committee has now been formed to officially run and progress the hugely popular annual Christmas Street Fair. With new ideas joined with traditional favourites, the Soham Christmas Event Committee hope to make this event better than ever.

We are asking any shops, businesses, organisations or individuals wishing to open, have a stall or take part to please contact us via email at: editor@sohamtf.co.uk

So keep this date in your dairy - **Friday 10th December.**

Soham's last school pool

St Andrews CofE Primary School

Parents are being asked to meet next month to discuss building a new swimming pool for the school. Governors are hoping to raise funds for the new pool after the existing one was closed after 20 years of service.

The project could cost 50,000 or more and they are hoping that parents and residents will get involved, providing labour and other skills to help with the rebuild.

If they are successful, the pool could also open to the public, bringing back an amenity sadly missed since it's closure in the late 1970's and much asked for by Soham residents ever since.

The meeting is due to take place on the **23rd September at 7.30pm in St Andrews Primary School.** Please attend as this could be our last and only chance to regain a pool for our children and the town.

Yet More New Homes

Controversial plans for the building of ninety six new homes by Hopkins Homes have just been given the go ahead by ECDC in principle. The houses are to be built on the old allotment grounds along Fordham Road.

Soham Town Council raised no objections to the plans, although residents and neighbouring properties expressed their concerns over the development.

The development will impact on the already heavily congested and traffic controlled Fordham Road and have a call to some degree on new school places which Soham is currently lacking. Highway officials have asked for further information on the impact of increased traffic would have on the area.

Cash Con Tricksters

Residents are being warned to be on their guard against distraction burglars following recent incidents in Soham and Littleport. Police issued the warning last week following reported incidents.

Two men posing as water board officials called at the homes of elderly people in Soham and Littleport claiming to be investigating a leak. The Soham occupant discovered money missing after both men had left. In Littleport, the men left empty handed after the occupant raised the alarm.

Householders are being warned to take extra care when answering the door and not to allow anyone in unless they can prove their identity. Anyone with any information about the men should call **0345 456 4564** or crimestoppers on **0800 555111**.

THE SECONDHAND SKIRT



With a Royal connection

As Curator, of vintage clothing and small donated items within the Soham Community History Museum Group, I receive and occasionally buy interesting items, which often need researching to find out more of the history of a particular item. I recently purchased a khaki service skirt. On checking it I found a label underneath the waistband, which proved to be a real gem. It read:

H. Huntsman & Sons Ltd., 11, Savile Row, London. W.1. Lady Margaret Egerton.13.6.41.

After surfing the net I was surprised to find so much information about her and an address. I decided to take a chance and write to her in the hope that she could give me some information. As a result I received a telephone call from Harriet Bowes-Lyon, her daughter. Sadly, her mother had died in 2004 but we had a long chat and she was happy to give me many details. Margaret was in the ATS and rose through the ranks to Captain. She was stationed at Edinburgh Castle and in the Orkneys, where she was in charge of a group of women. Her father wasn't happy about her joining up, but insisted she travel to London to have her uniform made by his tailor. Sadly, I do not have the jacket but Mrs Bowes-Lyon has the greatcoat and has said that she would probably like to donate it to us when we find a

building to use as a Museum. What a generous gesture.

The Egerton family came from Stetchworth, near Newmarket and they eventually moved to Scotland. Margaret married Sir John Coville in October 1948. A wedding lunch was held at Stetchworth Park on the occasion of their marriage. Sir John was private secretary to three Prime Ministers. Lady Margaret was Lady In Waiting to the then Princess Elizabeth & to the late Queen Mother from 1990 until she died. Mrs Bowes-Lyon was Lady in Waiting to The Princess Royal.

After several more telephone conversations and letters, I now have photographs of Lady Margaret in her uniform and wearing the now famous skirt.

Harriet is rather amused that her mother's skirt should create so much interest. It is so satisfying to bring research to a conclusion and meet new people along the way.

My thanks go to Ann Roberts and George Ginn for providing information which helped in my research.

Barbara Warner.
www.sohammuseum.org

THE FLORAL LADY



An 18th Century beauty

Some of you may know Soham very well, others may not, but one house on our annual Halloween Ghost Walk features heavily as a hot spot for ghostly activity. With all its history and classic style, you can see why this House is hard to leave - alive or dead!

St Felix House, now called St Andrews House is a wonderful and magnificent building. It was the 'vicarage' for centuries, the front section being built in 1720 and refurbished greatly in the mid 1800's. Below this building and still visible today, are vaults dating as far back as Anglo-Saxon times with some Norman and Tudor additions. Needless to say a very historic house.

Around this building and subsequent land was the Abbey of St Felix's time. The great recorder of social history, William de Malmesbury c.1120AD, writes that, '*at this date, the ruins of the Abbey of St Felix are still visible*' and so they were until the 19th century. Most of the Abbey site has now been developed and lost under a housing estate - St Andrews Park and Budgens.

Although a number of ghosts haunt the outskirts of this building, she is the only one who haunts within its grounds. Only a few

sightings of this lady exist, she seems to be the most infrequent of our afterlife visitors, yet the most beautiful in appearance and smell!

The Floral Lady

A tall, slim beautiful and graceful young woman in her twenties has been seen waking slowly around and in front of the tall windows and lawn of St Andrews House. She wears an elegant dress, covered with embroidered flowers resembling that of an English 1760's sack dress. Her actions are small, in that she is either seen sweeping her hand above long gone foliage and raising her hand to her face as if to smell the flowers perfume or more sadly sitting and gently weeping. Her weeping does not seem to be heart wrenched or desperate, more of a sadness of passing, either hers or someone dear to her - an alas.

On the rare occasions, when she is seen, a heavy flower based perfume smell pervades, before she appears and after she leaves. The term floral lady is not attributed to her attire, more to the scent that surrounds her presence. What a real shame she isn't seen that often and in such a setting as St Andrews House.

WHATS ON - EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

An online version can be found at: www.sohamtf.co.uk

The Cambridge Food, Garden & Produce Festival

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September on Parkers Piece, Cambridge, CB1 1JF.
www.oakleighfairs.co.uk

Celebrating everything that's good to eat and drink as well as arts and crafts marquees and our ever popular produce tent. We are also pleased to announce the attendance of the ITV/BBC Gardeners Question Time Roadshow.

Featured events:

Gardeners Question Time at: 11am, 1pm & 3pm
Cookery Demonstrations at: 12noon, 2pm & 4pm

HADDENHAM STEAM RALLY

11th and 12th September - Sutton Road, Haddenham.

Traditional steam and country fair featuring over 600 exhibits including: engines, vintage cars, stationary engines, tractors and lorries. Enjoy an old time fair with the steam driven Gallopers and heavy horse show on 12th.

BRIAN KENNEDY

The Brook, Soham on 28th October from 8.15pm

Tickets are 15 pounds for show only and 30 pounds for the show and three course cavery dinner. Tickets can be purchased from ADeC box office on 01353 616991.

OUT OF TOWN

Events and activities form around the country

National Trust Days Out

Pram push and toddler waddle

Wicken Fen

10th September at 10.30am - tickets: 3.75 for all.

Pre school fun, painting and craft for pre-schoolers together with a short pram and pushchair friendly trail to follow. For more details visit: www.nationaltrust.org

English Heritage Days Out

Audley End - Apple Weekend

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th September - 10am to 5pm.

Tickets available to purchase on day of event.

Visit the kitchen garden and enjoy a variety of apple themed activities. Pick up useful gardening tips, watch demonstrations of traditional country crafts and seasonal cookery.

Best of all indulge in some yummy apple based treats!

Antique Textiles Fair

Kensington Town Hall, London

10.30am to 4.30pm, 26th September. Tickets: 7.50 each.

Call: 01491 572126 or visit: textilesociety.org.uk

Bundles of braids, ribbons, buttons, embroideries and garments from the 17th century to the 1970s from all over the world are on show and for sale at the London Antique Textile Fair.

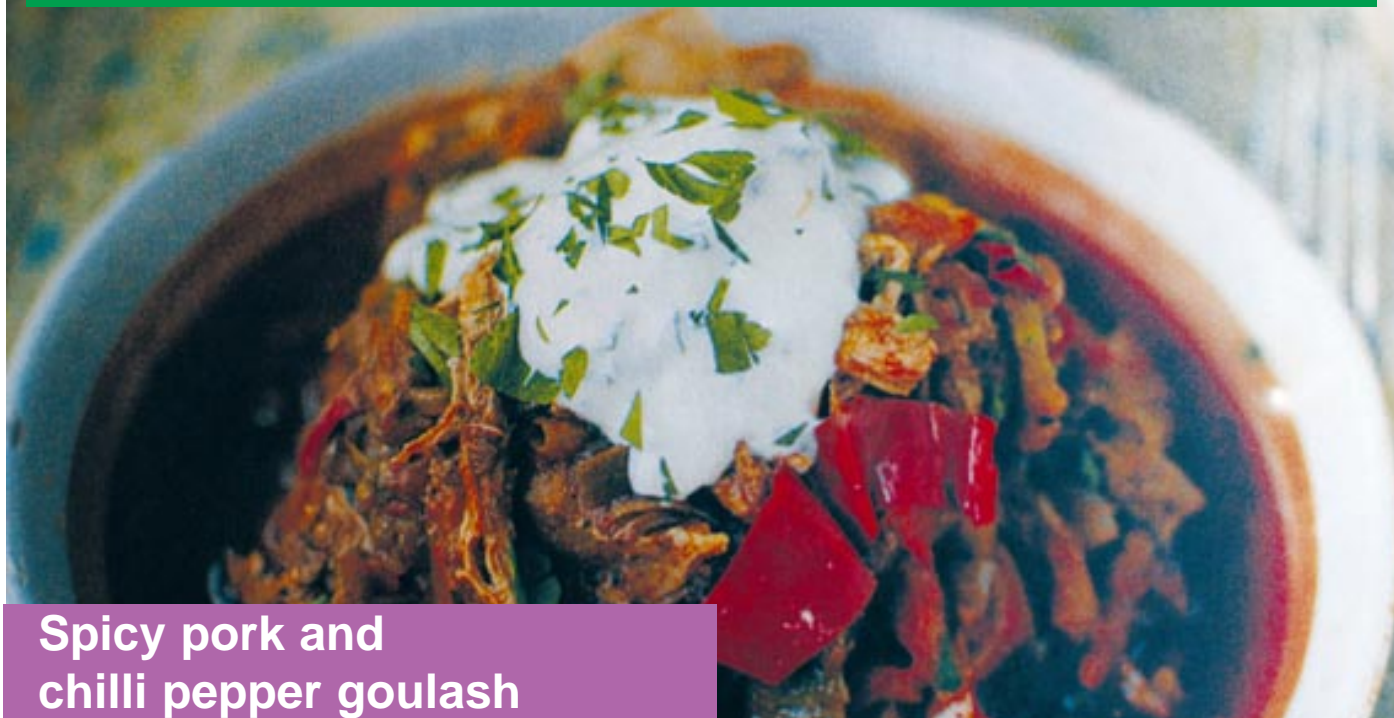
All Aboard

Call 0845 077 2222 or visit: orient-express.com

Orient Express has extended its day trips on the British Pullman and Northern Belle trains. There are visits to Chartwell, the former home of Winston Churchill, Exbury gardens in Hampshire and Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire.

If you would like to advertise your event or activity here, free of charge, then contact: editor@sohamtf.co.uk

All events are correct at time of publication. Please check nearer the time if event is still going ahead with parties concerned.



Spicy pork and chilli pepper goulash

Serves - 4 to 6 people

Ingredients

2kg pork shoulder off the bone, in one piece, skin off and fat left on.
Sea salt and ground black pepper
Olive oil
2 red onions peeled and sliced
2 fresh red chillies deseed and finely chopped
2 generously heaped tablespoons of mild smoked paprika
2 teaspoons ground caraway seeds
Small bunch of fresh marjoram or oregano leaves
5 peppers any colour or a mix of
1 x 400g tin of plum tomatoes
4 table spoons red wine vinegar
400g basmati or long grain rice
1 x 142ml pot of soured cream
Zest of 1 lemon
A small bunch of fresh flat leaf parsley, chopped

Method

Preheat oven to 180c/350f/gas 4. Take a deep oven proof pot with lid and heat on hob.

Score the fat on pork through to meat. Season generously with salt and pepper.

Pour a good glug of olive oil into pot and add the pork, fat side down. Cook for about 15 mins on a medium heat. Then remove the pork and put to one side.

Add the onions, chilli, paprika, caraway seeds, marjoram or oregano with good pinch of salt and pepper. Gently heat to cook onions for about 10 mins then add sliced peppers and tomatoes.

Put the pork back in and give a little shake. Pour in enough water to cover the meat. Add vinegar and bring to boil. Put on lid then place into the preheated oven for 3 hours.

Then cook rice.

Stir the soured cream, lemon zest and most of the parsley together in a bowl.

When meat is done take pot out of oven and break apart using a folk.

Serve goulash with the rice and top with soured cream mix. Add remaining parsley by sprinkling on top.

Tuck in!

CONTRIBUTORS

Soham Town Forum

Features

Barbara Warner
Elizabeth Johnston

Photographs

EJ Photos - www.ej-photos.co.uk

Disclaimer: All information, dates and events are correct at time of publication. We do not accept responsibility for any changes made there after.



STF magazine and web site are designed and hosted by:
Puffafish Design Limited - www.puffafish-design.co.uk