

Soham PUMPKIN fair

2019

FIRST PRIZE



**Cover designed by Freddie Gowler**

45th Soham Pumpkin Fair

Saturday 28th September 2019

Soham Recreation Ground 1.30 – 5.00pm

[www.sohampumpkinfair.co.uk](http://www.sohampumpkinfair.co.uk)



## Chairperson's Message

Dear Friends of Soham Pumpkin Fair

Welcome to our 45th fair! Our theme for 2019 is the '75th Anniversary of the Soham Rail Disaster'. To commemorate this there will be displays from Soham Museum and Soham Heritage and Tourism Group.

As usual there will be lots of competitions linked to the theme including a children's fancy dress competition. This year we will also be holding a pet show. There will be performances from local primary schools and groups including ferret racing, Irish dancing and martial arts. Also on show there will be a collection of classic vehicles, charity and food related stalls, a craft tent, fun fair and a wide range of produce.

This year's beneficiaries are: St Andrews Church - to help with the restoration project; Soham Community Group - to help fund the new day centre and Friends of Soham Village College - to help improve outdoor seating areas for their students.

I would like to thank Mark William's on behalf of the committee for his 21 years of service to the Pumpkin Fair. At the end of 2018 Mark decided to step down as Chairman and I know this decision was not an easy one for him. As of November 2018 I was elected by the committee to stand as Chairperson and I will try my very best to serve as well as Mark did.

We hope that you enjoy your day at this year's fair.

Michelle Harrison  
(Chairperson)

### Entrance Fees:

Adults	£2.00
Concessions	£1.00
12 – 17s	£1.00
Under 12s	Free

### Car Boot Fees:

Car — £7.50 Van — £10.00

Please arrive on site by 11am

### Parking:

Use Gardeners Lane onto site.

Stewards will inform you where to park.

Car Parking £1.00 + entry fees.

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# Our chosen beneficiaries for this year

Friends of Soham Village College is a newly formed group dedicated to supporting the school and the young people here. Our aims are:

- Increasing parental engagement in the school community
- Raising funds for things directly benefit the students
- Providing an additional forum to raise ideas to benefit the school.



Our current project is improving the outside areas for students at social time by providing more seating and covered areas. We have a series of events coming up this year so keep a look out!

The Friends of SVC team:

**Chair** – Liz Johnstone

**Vice chair** – Jen Elsdon

**Secretary** – Melanie Francis

**PR Secretary** – Lisa Sanford

**Treasurers** – Nicola Botcher and Allison Lyon

**Ordinary Committee Members** – Linda Davey, Melanie Jones, Sharon Wright, Kevin Baldock, Charlotte Pindar

**School Liaison** – Ed Slingsby and Josh Blunt

If you would like to join the team or just find out a bit more, please email [FSVC@soham-college.org.uk](mailto:FSVC@soham-college.org.uk). Follow us on [Facebook](#).

# Our chosen beneficiaries for this year

## Soham Community Group

I noticed in my day to day work as a foot health professional that there are many elderly people living at home alone and unable to get out and about mostly due to



lack of transport and mobility problems. Soham did not have a day centre and there was no funding available to set one up so I started fundraising with my friends and family in May 2018. As a result of this Soham Community Group was opened in January 2019 and held at Millbrook House with about 20 people in attendance.

Fast forward six months and we now have between 28 and 50 people attend our new venue at The Causeway each Monday. The day starts at 10am with refreshments, which are free of charge. Various activities are arranged take place such as crafts, bingo, exercises and music. A two course lunch is available at a small charge. The day usually finishes about 2:30pm with more refreshments. We have volunteers who help with the day to day running of the group and help with transport. Despite also having help from Nellie, the Tuk-Tuk, we still need more volunteer drivers, so please get in touch.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending this group or volunteering as a driver, please contact me (email [carol@sennitt.com](mailto:carol@sennitt.com) or ring 07762 645 579).



# Our chosen beneficiaries for this year

St Andrew's Church

*St Andrew's Church building is in urgent need of restoration and repair. Any donations made to our Restoration Appeal ('Soham PCC Development Fund') will be used solely for restoration work.*

*Initial works began last year, when we obtained a relatively small grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to enable us to clear and repair the church's gutters and drainage apron (we have a huge problem with water getting into the building and stonework), and to take steps to break the cycle of pigeon roosting, but this is just the beginning: the church building requires additional, significant repair work. As anyone who's walked through the churchyard will know, our tower has been fenced off since February 2018 as there is a risk of falling masonry. Patch repairs aren't possible: the whole exterior of the tower is in need of urgent repair. In addition, the entire church roof needs replacing.*

*Our aim is to carry out this major restoration in 2021 and 2022. This may seem a long way off, but the anticipated total cost of the works is an eye-watering £1.5M. We plan to make another bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund this autumn, but although a successful NLHF bid would be of considerable help to us in our fundraising effort, we will still need to find additional sources of funding. Some very generous private donations have already come in, and we have been delighted to be one of the beneficiaries of this year's Co-op Community Fund donations. It is a real privilege to have been selected as one of the beneficiaries of this year's Pumpkin Fair: THANK YOU!*

Rev'd Eleanor Whalley.

Photos: Mark Fairhurst



# Cheque Presentation Evening 2018

Last November, we were delighted to be able to award

**The Liam Fairhurst Foundation £150**  
**The Weatheralls Primary School £600**  
**St Andrew's Primary School £600**  
**&**  
**The Shade Primary School £600**

Any organisation wishing to be considered as a beneficiary for the 2020 fair should apply in writing to the committee from the 1st October 2019 to 31st January 2020, stating the aims of the organisation and what they would like to put the money towards.

Send your application to [office@sohampumpkinfair.co.uk](mailto:office@sohampumpkinfair.co.uk)

Anyone wishing to join the committee should email us on email address above.



## What's on this year?

There will be lots of competitions and activities to commemorate the: *'75th Anniversary of the Soham Rail Disaster'*

Soham Heritage and Tourism Group, who will be dressed in 1940s style, have a display in their gazebo.

Soham Museum's items and documents of interest, together with Anita Brown's scrapbooks will be in the Scout Building.

We have a Children's Fancy Dress on the theme, and we are running a Pet Show (which is new this year).

Arena displays include those from: Soham's Primary schools and other local groups: Ely Irish Dancers, Ferret Racing and Kuk Sool Wan. With of course the usual Classic Cars, Zorbs, Funfair, BBQ, Stalls, Raffle and Refreshments.

We have a Children's Fancy Dress on the theme, (please arrive at the Rec no later than 1.15pm). Also Perfeq Pets are running a Pet Show (see schedule on next page).



# Soham Pumpkin Fair

Saturday 28th September 2019

# Pet Show



**Judging starts  
12:00 midday**



Just bring your dog/pet along in their collar and/or

harness (no extendable leads or check chains please) and have some fun.

- 1) Best looking pet
- 2) Best biscuit catcher
- 3) Best group of pets
- 4) Cutest pet under 12 months
- 5) Cutest pet over 12 months
- 6) Pet the Judge would most like to take home



For details contact:

**Perfeqpets**

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Saturday: 9am-4pm  
Sunday: 10am-12 noon

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## Soham Classic Vehicle Club

There will be a static display of classic vehicles including cars, tractors, motorbikes, commercial and military vehicles. (Courtesy of Mr P. Cox)

You are most welcome to come along on the day and join in with the fun.

For further information email the organisers using the address below:

[office@sohampumpkinfair.co.uk](mailto:office@sohampumpkinfair.co.uk)



# Beneficiaries 1975-2001

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Beneficiary</u>
1975	£176	Soham St. Andrews Church Tower Fund
1976	£880	Soham Clinic Mini-Bus Appeal
1977	£596	S.B.A towards Jubilee Coins for Soham Children
1978	£1000	Various Soham Associations
1979	£962	Newmarket General Hospital for Orthopaedic Beds and Wheelchairs
1980	£500	MAGPAS (Helped equip 2 Soham Doctors)
1981	£1000	St John's Ambulance Appeal
1982	£900	Soham Parish Council (tables and chairs)
1983	£1062	Various Soham Organisations
1984	£1045	Various Soham Organisations
1985	£765	Various Soham Organisations
1986	£700	Various Soham Organisations
1987	£800	Graham Rowley Leukaemia Fund
1988	£800	Milton Hospice
1989	£750	Papworth Hospital, S.N.A.P. Sue Ryder
1990	£1000	Fen Probe Talking News Service for the Blind
1991	£800	Assisted Ventilation Unit, Newmarket General Hospital
	£100	Keith Leonard House
1992	£700	Professor Sir Roy Calne's Research Fund
1993	£700	Multiple Sclerosis
1994	£900	The Weatheralls and St Andrews Schools
1995	£650	The Princess of Wales Hospital
1996	£650	The Windmill Playgroup Soham
1997	£500	The Children's Wards: Addenbrookes Hospital
1998	£500	The Soham, Isleham and Fordham Nurses Fund
1999	£1200	MAGPAS
2000	£1500	The Weatheralls and St Andrews Schools
2001	£1400	St Andrews Church

# Beneficiaries 2002-2018

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Beneficiary</u>
2002	£1400	Dance for Fun, Soham Town Colts Girls (Under 12s), Time For Me, St John's Ambulance
2003	£1200	Soham Sight, Ely Hockey Club (Under 12s)
2004	£800	Viva Youth Theatre
2005	£1050	Noah's Ark, MAGPAS, St John's Cadets
2006	£1200	Soham Town Colts, Soham Fenlander Majorettes
2007	£2400	Soham Dive Club, Soham Twinning Association, Ely Roller Hockey
2008	£1000	Equipment for the Soham Guide and Scout New Building
2009	£2750	Hearing Dogs For Deaf People
2010	£1800 £705.40	The Weatheralls & St Andrews Primary Schools Help for Heroes
2011	£2500 £300	Soham Guide and Scout Hut Fund, Soham Over Sixties
2012	£2100	Molyn Care, Ely Youth Choir, Soham Ladybugs Playgroup
2013	£2400	Soham Friends, Soham Holiday Playscheme, Soham Guiding Group
2014	£1300	Soham Museum, Soham Playgroup, Soham Action 4 Youth
2015	£2000	Little Miracles, Soham Young Farmers, Soham Heritage & Tourism & Weatheralls Allotment Project
2016	£1700	Shade Primary School P.T.F.A., Soham United Football Club Youth Teams, Pos+Ability and Soham Community Archive
2017	£2000	Creative Minds & Soham Community First Responders
2018	£1950	Liam Fairhurst Foundation & Soham's Primary Schools
2019	?	Friends of Soham Village College, Soham Community Group & St Andrew's Church



# Pumpkin Competitions

Group	Class	1st	2nd	3rd
1	Soham 16+ Male	Lawrence Cup + £5	£3	£2
2	Soham 16+ Female	Bavester Cup + £5	£3	£2
3	Soham Village College Students	Bert Peacock Memorial Shield + £3	£2	£1
4	The Weatheralls Pupils	Ryder Trophy + £3	£2	£1
5	St Andrew's Pupils	Ron Manning Memorial Cup + £3	£2	£1
6	The Shade Pupils	Border Farm Timber + £3	£2	£1
7	Soham Children Under 16 attending schools outside Soham	£3	£2	£1
8	Soham Pre-School Children	£3	£2	£1
9	Heaviest Pumpkin grown by 2nd Soham Scout Group	Scout Pumpkin Shield		
<b><i>Heaviest Pumpkin grown by Soham Child (Groups 3 - 9) wins the Murfitt Cup</i></b>				
<b><i>Heaviest Pumpkin from Soham Groups (Groups 1 - 9) wins £50 (Sponsored by Pooley, Bendall &amp; Watson)</i></b>				
10	Heaviest Pumpkin grown by Non-Soham Resident (Child: Under 16)(Sponsored by G's)	Shropshire Cup + £10	£5	£2
11	Heaviest Pumpkin grown by Non-Soham Resident (Adult)	Boyce Cup + £10	£5	£2
12	Heaviest Pumpkin grown in East Anglia	Williams East Anglian Cup + £20	£3	£1

## Sunflower Competitions

Group	Class	1st	2nd	3rd
13	Biggest sunflower head grown by Under 16s	£3 + The Manning Cup	£2	£1
14	Biggest sunflower head grown by Adult	£3	£2	£1
<b>Biggest Sunflower Head from Groups 13 and 14 will win the T.S.B Cup</b>				
15	Tallest sunflower grown by Under 16s	£3 + The Knott Trophy	£2	£1
16	Tallest sunflower grown by Adult	£3	£2	£1
17	Tallest sunflower grown by 2nd Soham Scout Group	Scout Sunflower Shield		
18 <b>NEW!</b>	Heaviest Potato (unwashed)	£3	£2	£1
19 <b>NEW!</b>	Longest Leek (without roots)	£3	£2	£1
<b>Tallest from Groups 15, 16 and 17 will win The Digital Trophy</b>				

***All children entering any of the pumpkin groups will be entered into a raffle to win £10***

## Winners from 2018

Heaviest pumpkin grown in Soham by Andrew Fletcher 288.5kg

Heaviest sugar beet in show grown by Chloe Phillips 3.7kg

Biggest sunflower head in show grown by David Long 38cm

Tallest sunflower in show grown by Archie Leonard 379cm

# Other Produce Competitions

Group	Class	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
20	A presentation of five different items of fresh <b>Home Grown Produce</b> - <u>One</u> of each type	<b>Alfie Wells Cup</b> + £3	£2	£1
21	Heaviest Marrow grown by a Child	<b>S.B.A. Cup</b> + £3	£2	£1
22	Heaviest Marrow grown by an Adult	£3	£2	£1
23	Longest Carrot (Excluding Green Top) grown by anyone	£3	£2	£1
24	Heaviest Tomato grown by anyone	£3	£2	£1
25	Longest Runner Bean grown by a child	£3	£2	£1
26	Longest Runner Bean grown by an adult	£3	£2	£1
27	Heaviest Onion grown by anyone	<b>Eric See Cup</b> + £3	£2	£1
28	Heaviest Sugar Beet grown by anyone (sponsored by Peter Cox)	<b>Albert Cox Cup</b> + £10	£2	£1
29	Pre-carved Pumpkin (On theme of your choice)	£3	£2	£1

Groups 18 - 24 Sponsored By G's

## Winners from 2018

A Presentation of Five Fresh Vegetables grown by Beatrix Scott  
 Longest Carrot in show grown by Henry Leonard 27.5cm  
 Heaviest Tomato grown by Mr S Cowell 505g  
 Longest Runner Bean in show grown by Archie Leonard 50.5cm  
 Heaviest Onion grown by Henry Leonard 1200g

# Competition Rules

1. **The decision of the judges and committee must be accepted as final.**
2. The committee cannot be held responsible for any accident, loss or damage to exhibitors, spectators or their entries howsoever caused.
3. **ALL ENTRIES** must be bought to the Recreation Ground between 9.30am and 11.30am on the morning of the fair.
4. **ALL ENTRIES** must be accompanied by a completed entry form, to be handed in at registration.
5. **ALL ENTRIES** must be labelled with the owner's name and group number.
6. Failure of entry form/label will mean the subject not being entered.
7. **ALL ENTRIES** to be removed by their owners between 5.00pm and 5.30pm.
8. Cups and trophies to be held for one year only. These need to be returned by September 1st the following year.
9. The **Williams East Anglian Cup** competition is open to the following counties - Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northampton shire, Rutland and Suffolk.
10. The sunflowers are measured as follows:
  - Biggest head - across the seeds' widest point.
  - Tallest - cut off at ground level to top of flower head.
11. Runner beans **will** be measured along the length (around the curve if curved not tip to tip)
12. Carrots **will** be measured from the top to the bottom of the storage root (no foliage).
13. **All entries that need to be weighed must be labelled with relevant group numbers before they go on the scales!**





# Indoor Competitions

Group	Class	1st Prize		
A	Scouts	Scout Cup		
B	Cubs	Cub Shield		
C	Beavers	Beaver Shield		
D	Soham Brigade - Junior & Senior	Boys Brigade Cups		
E	Women's Institute	W.I. Trophy		
F	Guides	Guide Shield		
G	Brownies	Brownie Shield		
H	Rainbows	Rainbow Cup		
I	School's Breakfast Clubs	Breakfast Club Shield		
Group	Class	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
J*	Decorated Victoria Sponge Cake (11 & Under)	£3	£2	£1
K*	Decorated Victoria Sponge Cake (Age 12 - Adult)	£3	£2	£1
L	Construction of a Steam Train to be built with Meccano, Lego, Knex or similar. Must be home-made (no commercial kits) To fit within a 40cm square. 16s and Under (Sponsored by Standens Engineering Ltd)	£25 + Tony Brown Memorial Trophy	£2	£1
M	Photographic Competition open to all ages. Submit a photo (10 x 15cm) of a Steam Train	£3	£2	£1
N	<b>Colour A Picture</b> (Under 8s) (Sponsored by Soham Books) <a href="http://www.sohampumpkinfair.co/documents/colouring_competition_2019.pdf">www.sohampumpkinfair.co/documents/colouring_competition_2019.pdf</a>	£15 Book Token	£10 Book Token	£5 Book Token

# Indoor Competitions continued

Group	Class	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
O*	A HANDWRITTEN poem Poetry (7-11) (Sponsored by Heffers)	£15 Book Token	£10 Book Token	£5 Book Token
P*	A HANDWRITTEN poem Poetry (12-Adults) (Sponsored by Soham Books)	£15 Book Token	£10 Book Token	£5 Book Token
Q	Largest Bloom of any type or colour (excl. Sunflower)	£3	£2	£1
R	Cut Flowers: 5 stems of any of your home grown blooms	£3	£2	£1
S*	Floral Arrangement: A table arrangement on the required theme	£3	£2	£1
T*	Farm and Garden Produce Sculpture: of a steam train <i>For Children only</i>	£3 + Graham Rowley Cup	£2	£1
U	Funniest Shaped Vegetable <b>No painting, alteration or accessories are permitted</b>	£3	£2	£1
<b>*Decorate with fruit and/or veg. Minimal props and accessories accepted.</b>				
V <b>NEW!</b>	Homemade Bread of your choice (Written recipe to be included)	£3	£2	£1
W	A jam of your choice (Written recipe to be included)	£3	£2	£1
X	A chutney of your choice (Written recipe to be included)	£3	£2	£1
Y*	Needlecraft, Sewing, Knitting or Crochet of your choice, but on the required theme.	£3	£2	£1
Z	Under 16: <b>Hand Drawn</b> Design for the Front Cover of Next Year's Brochure.	The Alpha Trophy		
<b>*Groups J, K, O, P, S, &amp; Y must be presented on the theme of '75th Anniversary of the Soham Rail Disaster'</b>				

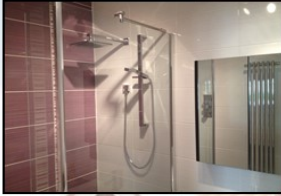
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Groups Entered \_\_\_\_\_



Please hand in this Entry Form when booking in



## Label

Name \_\_\_\_\_

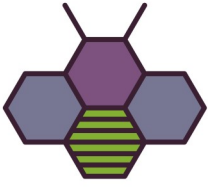
Group Entered \_\_\_\_\_



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More Labels and Entry Forms can be found on our  
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to book your place and more information please contact:

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or email: [lena.stockley@outlook.com](mailto:lena.stockley@outlook.com) / [www.tiskakarate-ely.co.uk](http://www.tiskakarate-ely.co.uk) All

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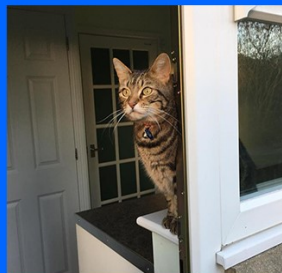
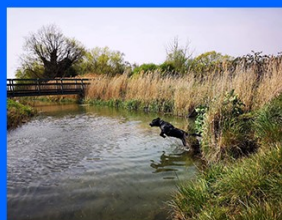


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**SATURDAY**

**09.00 - 13.00**



## The Willow Tree Garden Est. 2018



**Picking the perfect place for an event?**

A private secure field approaching 2 acres encompassing natural beauty with a hint of rustic charm making this the perfect backdrop for any outdoor event. Located within walking distance of Soham Town.

**Spend the night under the stars and wake up to the sounds of nature**

Enjoy sleeping under the Enormous Willow Trees which surround the open, bright, verdant lawn suitable for erecting marquees and environ by a mixture of trees, plants and shrubs. Try your hand at pond dipping, there are amazing wildlife underneath the surface of the water waiting to be explored or just sit back under the Willow Tree listening to the birds and watch the dragonflies skim the surface of the natural pond.

**Go Wild.....**

- Shelter building
- Backwards Cooking
- Games
- Bug Hunting

**What will your group discover?**

The Willow Tree Garden truly is an outdoor experience with no running water, electricity or plumbing facilities on this site. If you are seriously considering The Willow Tree Garden I would strongly suggest that you come and embrace the surroundings and emprise the nature of your event. For an appointment or hourly rates email enquiries to [thewillowtreegarden@gmail.com](mailto:thewillowtreegarden@gmail.com)





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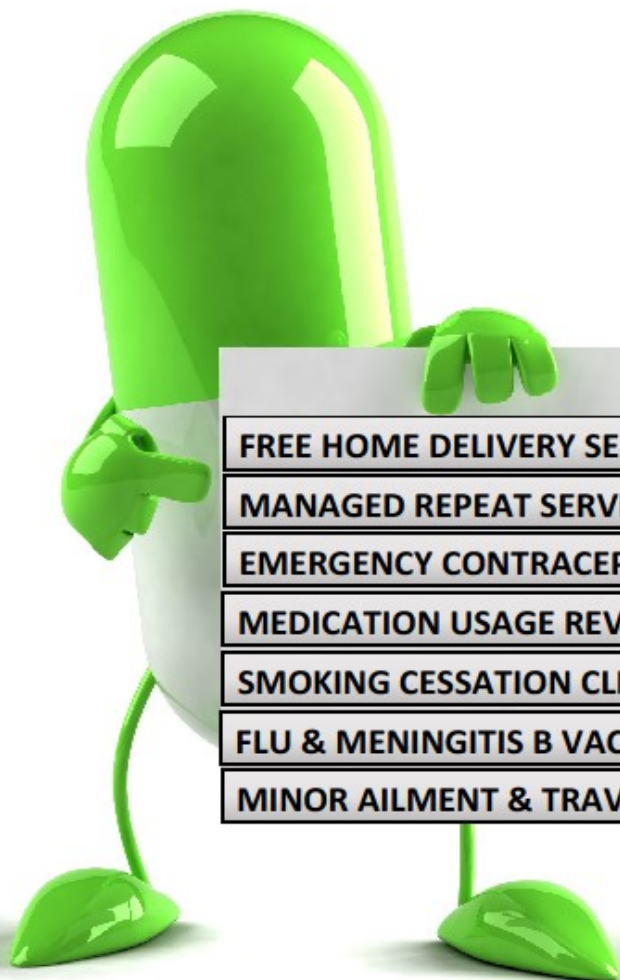
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# Our theme:

## '75th Anniversary of the Soham Rail Disaster'

*Gimbert, Nightall, Bridges and Clarke are names that many children in Soham will be familiar with, but how many of us really know their story? On the 2nd of June this year our town commemorated the event with various services, displays and a bell-ringing, so there was great opportunity to have discovered more about them then. However, Soham Pumpkin Fair Committee felt that we would like to do our own tribute to these war-time heroes. So, on the day many of our displays and competitions will be based on this theme.*

*Here is a reminder of how these four men prevented a greater disaster that surely would have obliterated our small town:*

D-Day was approaching, so troops and supplies for the invasion, were being transported southwards. An ammunition train, with several wagons laden with 250 and 500 pound bombs and their components was travelling towards Soham in the early hours of June 2nd 1944. As WD locomotive No. 7337 neared the station, the Driver, Benjamin Gimbert noticed the leading wagon had caught fire. The train was brought to a stop and Gimbert told James Nighttall, his fireman to uncouple the first wagon from the rest. As Gimbert started to draw away (with the intention of isolating the wagon in the open) its cargo detonated, killing the fireman instantly and mortally injuring signalman, Frank Bridges. Miraculously, Gimbert, although injured, was thrown clear. Guard Herbert Clarke, was stunned and although suffering from shock, managed to walk back down to the signal box at Barway Junction to warn the signalman there what had happened.



A crater, over 20m across and nearly 5m deep was the result of the explosion. The Station was almost totally destroyed and there was also much damage to surrounding properties nearby. Despite the severity of the damage, local people and servicemen stationed nearby were able to repair the line within eighteen hours. For his actions, Benjamin Gimbert was awarded The George Cross and the Order of Industrial Heroism as was his fireman James Nighttall, whose awards were posthumous.

*Pictures by kind permission of Elizabeth Johnston*

