



# CHURCH NEWS

#### July Services

9 <sup>th</sup> July 10am	-	Holy Communion 10am
16 <sup>th</sup> July 10am		Holy Communion 10am
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 10am	_	Service of the Word 10am
26 <sup>th</sup> July 2.30pm	_	Hymns and Tea

## METHODIST CHAPEL

It is with much sadness that we announce that <u>Southery</u> Methodist Chapel will be closing on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023. There will be a closing Service at 3pm followed by refreshments. Everybody who wishes to come will be very warmly welcomed. The Services for July are listed below

Services now alternate with <u>Hilgay</u> and they are as listed below. All Services at <u>Southery</u> & <u>Hilgay</u> now begin at 10.30am unless otherwise stated. Everybody is most welcome to join us at all Services.

Chapel Services for July 2023

- 9th 10.30am At Hilgay Local Arrangment
- 16th 10.30am At Southery Mrs. Val Fisher
- 23rd 10.30am At Hilgay Mr. Dudley Pickston
- 30th 10.30am At Southery Revd. Gail Kerry

#### Weird Norfolk: The magical stone of Southery which marked the gateway to hell

Extract from the Eastern Daily Press.

# It fell to earth during a storm on Halloween and marked the gateway from Norfolk to hell – was the Southery stone a visitor from outer space and why did naked women sit on it for good luck?

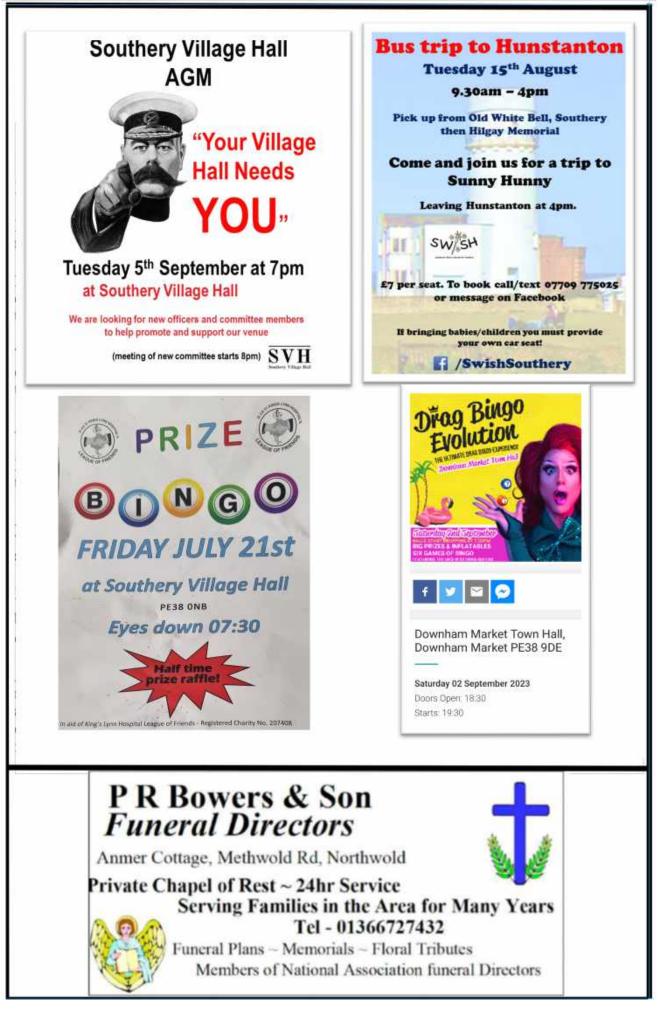
In October 1642, as the first English Civil War raged across the land, the skies were equally tempestuous. Thunderstorms illuminated the sky on October 31 and in Southery, villagers saw a mighty bolt of lightning strike the earth close to the old mill - the next morning, the local parson went to investigate and found a large hole in the ground where the supposed lightning had struck.

Inside the hole, a fierce fire burned for several days until it was extinguished by rainfall of almost Biblical proportions: in Southery, rumours began to fly. Some said that the hole was the opening to a tunnel which led directly to hell, and it became known as The Way In. Over the following year, Southery's parson began to act in an erratic manner and, by 1643, he had disappeared without trace. By this time, the mysterious hole, created on a dark and stormy night, had filled with water and its named had telescoped to the Wayin Pond.

Years later, the decision was taken to drain the pond and clear it of debris. There, under thick layers of mud, a strange blue stone was found and alongside it, the skeleton of a man wrapped in iron chains: was it the parson? The Southery parish registers date only from 1706, so no mention is made of the poor wretch found in Wayin Pond. Quickly, the boulder earned a reputation for having magical powers and became a magnet for locals, who attributed a host of superstitious beliefs to the rock - women who were in pain from joint or ligament problems would visit the stone at midnight, shed their clothes and sit on top of it naked in the hope of being cured, farmers believed it could guide their work by foretelling the weather - if rain was imminent, it was said that the stone would sweat.

https://www.edp24.co.uk







# SOUTHERY WOMENS INSTITUTE

Members and guests enjoyed a lovely day out for our June meeting stopping off in the beautiful town of Lavenham with it's quaint winding streets and period buildings. After a welcome stop for refreshments, we made our way to Beth Chatto's Gardens on the outskirts of Colchester where we spent the rest of the day wandering around the lovely flower boarders and plant nurseries.

Beth Chatto began the gardens in the 1960's converting what was a wasteland into what it has become today, well worth a visit. <u>Needless to say, the</u> coach had a variety of plants stored onboard for the return journey.

Our thanks to Lorraine Cummings for organizing a lovely trip. For our meeting on Thursday <u>July 6<sup>th</sup></u> we have a hairdressing demonstration with Emma Walters.







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#### **Southery Play Group**

Outstanding Ofsted report & inspection 2015. Spaces available for children 2-5yrs A safe environment for your child to play & interact with other children. Located in the School grounds. To book a place for your child please call Kerry Jones on 01366 377117



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### NOTE FROM SOUTHERY VILLAGE VOICE Paper copies of The Village Voice

We are providing a limited number of paper copies of the newsletter. If you would like to receive a paper copy, please send an email with your name and address to:

contact@village-voice.org so delivery arrangements can be made.



05:30

- 📋 Thursday 13 July 2023
- 📋 Friday 14 July 2023
- Sely Cathedral, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4DL

# LIGHT RELIEF

As farmers we hear a lot of jokes about sheep. We'd tell them to our dog, but he'd herd them all !

Why do farmers like going to the movies? To watch the trailers!

Which farm animal tells the best jokes? Comedi-hens!