

The SUDBURY SOCIETY

Newsletter

Autumn 2012



A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT

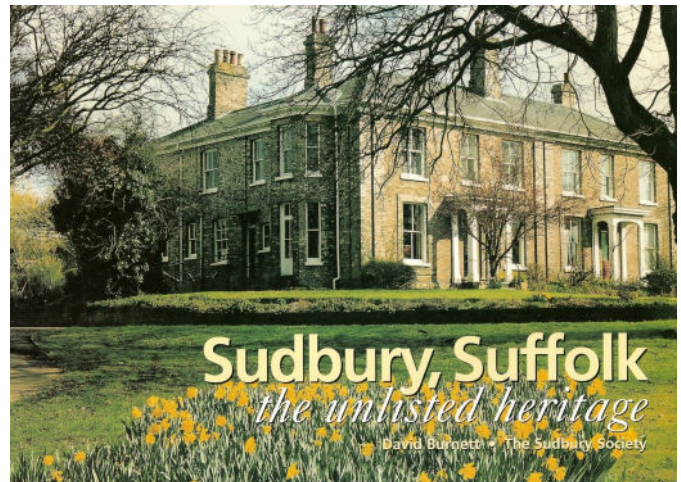
It's that time of the year again... Christmas. You have your presents lists all complete, no doubt? No? Well, how about a gift showing where you live?

Sudbury, Suffolk: the unlisted heritage, a beautifully produced coffee-table-type book, written and photographed by David Burnett, is a snapshot in time: a look at Sudbury's 'unlisted' buildings. These commercial and residential properties mostly from the Victorian and Edwardian periods have largely retained their original appearance and help give the town its unique character.

It is no small thanks to David's book, originally published in 2002, that interest in Sudbury's buildings has increased and their profile raised so that more people are now aware of the importance of the town's rich building heritage which already boasts many 'listed' buildings. But the 'unlisted' buildings also add much to the fine townscape.

Indeed, the book led Babergh District Council to include these buildings in a Sudbury Local List and extend the boundaries of the town Conservation Area to include significant 'clusters' of them.

Said David, "I hope that the book will remind us all of the importance of the town's 'Unlisted Heritage' and encourage property owners to continue to treat these fine buildings with the care and respect they deserve."



Sudbury, Suffolk: the unlisted heritage by David Burnett, published by the Sudbury Society, price £11 – a special Christmas offer – is available from the Tourist Information Centre in the Library, Market Hill; Kestrel Bookshop on Friars Street, Bookends in Gaol Lane and through the Sudbury Society (c/o The Treasurer: pgm@travelandleisure.com) sudburysociety.org.uk

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

From Wednesday 5th December to Saturday 8th December, 10am to 7pm.

Sunday 9th December, 10am to 6pm.

St Peter's, Market Hill, Sudbury



This will be the first year we participate in this annual fund raising event, so please go along and have a look for our tree.

DON'T MISS

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas get together

Cheese and Wine

with Picture Quiz of Sudbury

Cost: £6

7.30pm Friars Hall,
School Street

Booking essential

see page 11



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As we are awaiting further developments from our Health Authority I have nothing to report re Walnuttree Hospital. We are optimistic that the original Victorian fabric will be preserved and we are still committed to retaining the current outpatients building for civic use as a town museum and archive centre. We can only await future developments.

As already stated the long running saga of People's Park has been an exhausting campaign for many committed Sudburians over the years. However, any legal redress against the NHS regarding mendacious practices following the original purchase of same is solely the remit of the Common Lands Trust which was the aggrieved body at the time. Whatever course they find fit to take will have the full support of our Society.

With regard to the selling of surplus land adjacent to the new facilities it would be an extremely stupid and short term measure. Sudbury, with over 1500 new homes in the pipeline, is rapidly expanding with an ever aging population. In twenty years time will the Health Authority then be compulsory purchasing more land elsewhere to provide further facilities? What silly and unimaginative thinking!

Now for a personal view of our much maligned town centre, particularly Market Square and North Street. As one who resides in the town and walks those streets most evenings I find the whole area to be depressing and uninviting. Market Hill, with its wonderful vista of St. Peter's Church, the Library and the finally refurbished Town Hall should provide a superb setting townspeople and visitors alike. Instead we have a car park. All the shops, with the exception of McColl's, are closed in the evenings with the one pub, the picturesque Black Boy, usually closed by 9.30. There exist no wine bars, restaurants or inns to provide any buzz,

or places to linger, just a car park and race track.

North Street itself fares little better. Between the White Horse and Wetherspoons there are no wine bars etc. with only Starburger providing a single table for the inevitable smokers. At my last count the street hosted a dozen premises that were either empty or charity shops. Compare this with St. John's Street in Bury St. Edmunds. The resultant loss in business rates alone should ring alarm bells with the shortfall having to be made up from our domestic rates.

We now have a plethora of well meaning bodies meeting and voicing their concerns from Babergh and Sudbury Town Councils, the new Sudbury Steering Group, Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, the Sudbury Market Town Partnership and our own Society among others, but all we can do is make recommendations. We have no power for change.

Would our Rating Officers offer a six month 50% reduction to start up businesses, would landlords offer a likewise incentive? Above all would the townspeople forsake their weekly shop at Tesco to support small independent town centre traders? Will those same Sudburians patronise any new licensed, independent, bars, restaurants or pubs? Or will they continue to enjoy their supermarket wine and takeaways in front of the comfort of their televisions?

Any much needed improvement to our town centre rests not with endless committees and talking shops but with changes in the public and private sectors, as well as individuals, to embrace modern culture and lifestyle.

However, let us not be too negative, it works in other towns, why not Sudbury?

Peter Thorogood

LOVE, INTRIGUE AND PARACHUTE WEAVING IN WORLD WAR II SUDBURY

by **Liz Trenow**



On 10th September 1940 a German bomb destroyed 26 Cheapside, the London offices of Stephen Walters & Sons, taking with it sample books and written records dating back over a hundred years.

These documents held within them the history of the oldest silk weaving family in Britain and the company they founded nearly three hundred years ago. It is now one of only three silk mills still operating in the country (the two others are also in Sudbury) and one of the oldest – if not *the* oldest – family-owned companies in Britain.

At the time they had more to worry about than the loss of their historical papers. They were at full stretch weaving parachute silk and other wartime supplies, and were more concerned with tracing the shareholder lists, accounts and customer credit records that also went up in flames. But this lack of archive materials perhaps explains why the history of the company has never been recorded until today. I was brought up in the world of silk with my father, brother and now my nephew successively managing the company. I spent my early years in the house next to the mill in Cornard Road, Sudbury, and as a teenager spent my school holidays working there. Instead of going into the business myself I became a journalist, and when I took early retirement in 2008 decided to research and write the history of the company.

The family had modest roots and, perhaps surprisingly, were not Huguenots. The earliest ancestor we can trace was a seaman born in East London in 1666, but two of his sons were apprenticed to Huguenot weavers. Their children in turn became master weavers in the 1700s, prosperous Spitalfields manufacturers and merchants during the 1800s and then, in the 1900s, developed weaving operations in East Anglia, making use of local rivers for water power and the residual wool-weaving skills of local people.

Their story mirrors the social history of England: how artisans operating from their own homes became masters of their craft and started to employ others; how free trade ideals changed trading relationships and supported the expanding prosperity of the liberal, merchant middle classes (along with a rise in religious non-conformism); and how, driven by the industrial revolution and the advent of the railways, they became factory owners and

moved away from their urban roots. Naturally enough, as part of my research, I interviewed my late father Peter Walters, who had been the company's managing director for around 40 years. Among many other things he told me was that, while many other mills closed, the company survived the Second World War by weaving silk for surgical dressings, electrical insulation and even for the maps which were secreted inside the lining of airmen's jackets, to be used if they were shot down in enemy territory. But the main war-time product was parachute silk, and they had to work double shifts and employ additional weavers to keep up with demand from the Ministry of Supply.

It was testing and difficult work: the porosity of the fabric for parachutes must be absolutely perfect, and they had difficulties with the finishing process at first. All silk was sequestered at the start of the war and, as supplies ran short, a yarn merchant was sent to the Middle East to source raw silk from the small hill farmers in Syria and Lebanon but unfortunately this yarn was not of very good quality. All the time work on improving nylon was continuing, but this still had many problems including the fact that it did not compact as tightly, or unfurl as quickly as silk. It also had an unfortunate and devastating tendency to catch fire and turn into molten plastic.

Another aspect of this wartime history fascinated me. The family had many Jewish customers and suppliers in Europe and were horrified by news of their persecution, so in 1938 they sponsored five Jewish boys to come and work at the mill, and rented a cottage for them in Church Street. In 1940, after the Nazis had stormed into France and were clearly preparing to invade Britain, there was growing fear at both official and local level about spies and infiltrators. Internment was a perhaps understandable reaction to that fear, and was eventually extended to all men and boys holding passports from enemy countries aged 16 and over, regardless of their profession or the length of time they had lived here – and that included the young Jewish boys who worked at Stephen Walters.

Their treatment was scandalous: 2,500 were packed onto the *Dunera*, a troopship intended for half that number, guarded by English criminals released from gaol for the

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SUDBURIANS on THE MOUNT

The Mount, now called Newton House, stands on sloping ground above the Newton Road. It was formerly part of the parish of Chilton but is now within the Sudbury built up area. The imposing 4 bedroom detached Victorian house was built in 1850 in the centre of a once much larger plot. There are gardens to all sides and a number of outbuildings on the site to the rear of the existing dwelling.

Over the last century or so this substantial dwelling had been occupied by a number of local people who have played a significant role in the life of the town. The earliest recorded occupants were the Andrews Family. Marshall Andrews was born in Market Deeping in Lincolnshire in 1841, married Catherine Bristow in Peterborough in 1868 and then came to Sudbury. By 1881 he owned Andrew's Bazaar, the extensive hardware store which then stood on the corner at 45 & 46 Market Hill – the HSBC now occupies the site. They had 5 children, George, Carrie, Herbert, Florence and Lydia, and the 1891 Census records the family living at The Mount.



The Mount c. 1920



Newton House today

In 1920 Marshall Andrews sold the property to Percy Howitt Jordan for £1,340.00. The property at that time included large gardens and a four acre meadow. A plan of the property also shows that the lane running-up from Newton Road along the side of the wall was called Church Road and led to St. Mary's Church, Chilton.

Percy Jordan had married Dorothy Main in 1907. She died in Sudbury in 1931 but Percy lived on until 1961. By all accounts Percy was a colourful and energetic character with a range of commercial interests. He owned a local coach company and a number of sand and gravel and pits. His pit at Brundon was dug for sand and gravel but was also a rich source of prehistoric fossils and also provided evidence of early human settlement in the Stour Valley.



Percy Jordan's workers at the Brundon Lane pit



One of Percy Jordan's charabancs with a group on an outing – some time in the 1920's

Percy's executors, his son Alfred Jordan and Robert Gould sold "The Mount" to Eileen Dorothy Livock in 1963. It looks as if this sale actually kept the property in the family since Eileen Jordan was probably their sister, having had married Peter Livock in 1941. Peter Livock died in 1975 and Eileen in 1981. Her executors then sold the property to Michael Brian Beckham in the following year.

On inspecting the property after the purchase, Michael entered the dining room and promptly put his foot through the floor; the wood had rotted away. After considerable renovation the property eventually became habitable. The coach house was then rebuilt as a two bedroom house, followed shortly after by the stables being rebuilt as a 3 bedroom house.

The property was then split; Michael Beckham retaining the recent rebuilt properties and orchard, while the main house and surrounding gardens were sold to Clive Madgwick in 1988, and renamed Newton House. Clive Madgwick had trained as a dentist but in early middle age he had become a full time artist. He was self taught and highly successful. Most Sudburians know Clive Madgwick from his attractive paintings of local scenes but his work covered a much wider scope and earned him a considerable reputation – one of his paintings is in the Royal Collection. In addition to his clear, detailed and unsentimental depictions of the English landscape he produced a large number of atmospheric topographical painting, many of them painted in Italy and France and the Low Countries. He died in 2005.

Adrian Beckham

PLANNING COMMENTS

Our planning group's fortnightly comments which go to Babergh and the Town Council now appear on our website. If you want to comment on anything going on in the town you can contact me. There is nothing really significant at present, which is not to say that nothing is happening.

Ask is being taken over by Pizza Express. The building will not be altered but we said that we thought the city-style attention seeking signage was excessive for the modest façade of a listed building in our market town. You will be able to see if we were listened to.

The owner of the Pied Cow has given up on marketing it as a pub and has applied to convert it minimally to 4 business/professional units. It could conceivably easily revert to its original function.

Rumours abound. Prolog may be going cold on their proposals – they are apparently locked in dispute with Babergh over the planning conditions to be imposed (their section 106 payment?) and have yet to receive planning permission.

A Tesco Express? A hotel on the site next to Belle Vue House? When or if we learn more it will go on our website.

A new initiative. A **Sudbury Steering Group** has been set up to coordinate the work of the various town based bodies and jointly produce and realise a vision for the whole town and the dependent communities outside it beginning with Market Hill/Old Market Place and the stalled Hamilton Road Development. It has Babergh's backing and Suffolk Highways have agreed to consult with the town on spending its initial £400k on "traffic based" developments. The Group's meetings are to be held in public. More on this on our website and in future newsletters.

Stephen Thorpe

Apologies to those who have submitted articles containing colour photos only to find they are in two- tone. Unfortunately owing to the cost of printing we are restricted to colour on the front and back ages only. The Autumn Newsletter was in colour throughout because it was a special edition for the 40th Anniversary. Ed.

REMEMBERING RELUCTANT RESIDENTS OF SUFFOLK AND ESSEX

A few years ago, I looked inside a pillbox not far from Sudbury and, much to my surprise, I found some foreign graffiti on a wall. Here are some examples:

I popoli che abandono la terra sono condannati a la decadenza (Italian for "The people who leave the land are condemned to decadence")

Meine susse kleine Lady hier gebe ich dir einen Verbrummt (German for "My sweet little lady, here I have left you a memento")

And in blunt English:

Mussers men keep out!

Well, I already knew that Italian "Musser"= Mussolini and German Prisoners of War had worked the land in this area during and after WW2. However, it was an extraordinary feeling to link with them through the medium of their graffiti. I could even understand the feelings of the stropky Englishman, who presumably begrudged them a little shelter from the weather (amongst other things*).

Further evidence of their stay in East Anglia is the explanation for the statue of a very Italian wolf which used to be at High Garrett, site of a POW camp. Apparently there was also, later, an eagle, presumably reflecting the changeover to German POWs later in the war.

***"An Italian wolf left behind
in a POW camp"***

As you can see from the footnote*, the presence of the Italians was not always welcome (The German POWs were more disciplined and harder workers apparently!)

However, a plaque in Foxearth church honours one Italian in particular: Bruno Cornazzani: He tried, with others, to save the crew of a British plane which crashed nearby. The story is confirmed by a now retired worker on the farm who was 15 at the time and befriended Bruno. Unfortunately, by the time that Bruno's family was traced in 2001, Bruno had died, but he has become quite a celebrity in the Florence area!



Airman Thomas J. Klacking, of Wethersfield's Communication's Squadron, examines a mystery wolf statue at High Garrett. APRIL 1958



***"Italian POWs in
1942."***

[Bruno is on the left, front row]

Similarly, in 1947, (yes, the German POWs stayed well after the War) the Suffolk Free Press reported that -

"In recognition of his bravery in rescuing a Lawshall man from an attack by a bull, a German P.O.W , Godfrey Dappert, has received an illuminated address from the Carnegie Trust and a watch at a ceremony on Hardwicke Heath".

In addition, there were many "affairs" between local women/landgirls and the Italian POWs in particular. After the war, there are several examples of German POWs staying or returning to marry. On the other hand, the Suffolk and Essex Free Press reports in 1948 that -

"There were heartbreaking scenes at the railway station when a large number of German POWs started on their way home.....a young woman entered the train and clung to one of the prisoners. The police tried to get them apart but they eventually came off the train together and were parted on the platform. The German then hurried onto the train"

Another drama played out at Fornham Park POW camp, sends even more of a shiver down the spine. A British officer at that camp recalls that-

"It was a transit camp for those going home after the War.....some POWs had to be forced home and there was at least one suicide: one hanged himself in the woods - his home was in the Russian sector of Germany (and he feared their revenge)"

To end on a lighter note, here are two connected letters from the Suffolk Free Press in 1946:

"For years barbed wire has disfigured the common lands at Sudbury and there has been cases of injury to the cattle grazing there, the barbed wire was erected in connection with anti invasion measures, long poles were also placed there to discourage enemy aircraft from landing there, these are now gone they were cleared away by Italian P.O.W.'s with the trustees providing them with tea and cigarettes."

That last sentence must have annoyed someone, because the following week appeared an assurance:

" From the Ranger of Sudbury Common Lands. In reply to Mr Cooper's letter - re the supplying of tea and sugar to the Italian P.O.W s who dismantled the barbed wire on the Common Lands at Sudbury, there were no extra rations, the prisoners brought their own from their camp at Liston."

*The local paper reported the case of a Cavendish man who shot at an Italian, because ***"he thought the Italian was after his wife. "***

Excellent "propaganda" type films about Italian and German POWs may be viewed for free at <http://www.britishpathe.com/>

(putting something like "POWs England" etc in the Search box).

Also the book "*Prisoners of England*" by Miriam Kochan gives a much more objective account.

Paul Windley

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purpose. They endured three months of hell until arriving in Australia where they had to build their own camp in the desert. When news of this scandal reached the UK, the government was shamed into repatriating the internees on condition that they signed up to fight with the Allied forces. One of the boys had fallen in love with a girl at the Sudbury post office and, after serving in North Africa, he returned to marry his sweetheart, ultimately becoming a senior manager of the silk company and a lifelong friend of the family.

Having written the company history I decided to turn my hand to writing fiction and the material was all at hand: parachute silk, spy fears, a Jewish refugee and a love affair that brought him back to the UK – what a romantic story around which to build my first novel!

As further background material I was also fortunate enough to meet a group of former weavers who had worked at the mill during the Second World War. Their recollections were invaluable, and made me really appreciate the vital importance of the work they carried out. But it was not all hard grind; they certainly knew how to have fun, despite the pressures of wartime.



My debut novel, *The Last Telegram*, was published in September 2012 by Harper Collins, and also in the United States and in German translation. Of course all the characters and what happens to them are entirely fictional, but my inspiration was certainly rooted in Sudbury, and in real people and real events. It is available from all good local bookshops and online, and as an eBook.

Liz Trenow has worked under the name Liz Curry for local newspapers, BBC radio and television news. She will be giving an illustrated talk about her researches to The Sudbury Society on 31st May 2013 at Friars Hall, School Street (next to the URC) starting at 7.30pm.

600 YEARS IN 60 MINUTES

or

everything you've always wanted to know about St Peter's



And who better to tell the packed meeting on Friday 28th September than Roger Green (Chairman of the Friends of St. Peter's) making a welcome return to the Sudbury Society. For 'the hour' Roger entertained and amused the audience with little known interesting facts and anecdotes on the history and foundation of St. Peter's, some of which are given below. He began with the earliest reference which was in the Will of the Earl of Gloucester who bequeathed it to an order of nuns in Warwickshire!

The early church is thought to have been at the bottom of Market Hill where HSBC now stands. This building was probably demolished in the late 15th century and the new one started in its present position a few years later. The oldest bell is from 1470. The new building was probably started at the East end but there were various constraints on the site and the alignment is not true. The building may have been interrupted by an outbreak of Plague which could have affected the various craftsmen. However, nothing stopped them leaving their marks in various places on the building there being many 'Green men', including one under the sundial on the South side and an unique angel with a forked beard over the priest's door.

There are other marks possibly scratched by pilgrims and some to ward off witches including 'W' (double V) for Virgin 'M' for Maria. A later one scratched on to the roof leads reads: 'Peter Upcher Esq. repaired this Chancel 1776'. In the 17th century St Peter's didn't escape the attention of William Dowsing. He recorded that 100 pictures of Christ, 20 angels on the roof, two crosses and a picture of God were destroyed. How richly decorated the church must have been before. Roger told us of many other interesting features and facts about St. Peter's too numerous to list here.

In old 18th Century prints St. Peter's is shown with a spire or Fleche, this was replaced in 1810 and finally taken down (at great expense) in 1968.

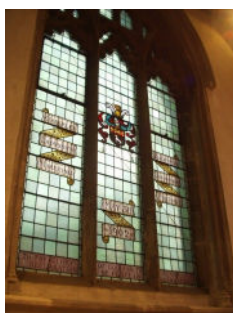
The life of St. Peter's has been full of incident over its long history not least the near riot in 1859 when the High Church vicar, Canon John Molyneux, sold the pews for firewood...there was a fight outside the church with pieces of pew. By the 1960s the church was in need of extensive (and expensive) repairs. In line with other acts of municipal vandalism at the time, there was even a proposal to demolish it! Of 325 people who responded to a poll, 112 said pull it down, 188 said keep it – 25 had no opinion. It was finally closed in 1971 but revived by the Friends, notably Tony Moore, and is now the second most used 'redundant' church in the country and with a full peal of bells.

These are just a few of *'the things we always wanted to know about St. Peter's'*. Roger kept to his *'sixty minutes'* on the riveting 600 hundred-year history of just one of Sudbury's three medieval churches. There was a brisk asking of questions at the end after Diana Clifford gave the vote of thanks for yet another entertaining and educational evening.

Heather Coltman



St Peter's c. 1860



Rowland Suddaby 1940

THE MYSTERIES OF SUDBURY'S CHALK

CHALK PITS, BULMER'S MYSTERIOUS CHALK LINES AND ROMAN GESTINGTHORPE'S CHALK FLOOR

For the last indoor meeting of the 2011/2012 season the Chairman welcomed a return visit by Ashley Cooper, enthusiastic delver into the history ancient and modern of Suffolk and North Essex.

Mr. Cooper began his talk by asking if anyone knew how many chalk pits there had been in Sudbury and handed out an illustrated card to the person who guessed the nearest; which was 11. More cards were handed out during the evening as the audience guessed, or knew, the answers to an eclectic mix of questions such as 'how much chalk is there beneath Sudbury and how old is it?' Answers: 700 feet and 70,000,000 years, laid down in the Cretaceous Period when the area was under the sea.

The many uses of chalk and its derivative, lime, were listed including such diverse items as cleaning materials, cosmetics but above all mortar, burnt chalk (lime) mixed with sand, horsehair and water. It forms a bond so hard that it is difficult to demolish as was discovered when an attempt was made to get rid of Colchester Castle. Another attribute of the chalk is its porosity allowing water to seep beneath the earth's surface and collect in the 'much in the news' aquifers.



Most of the pits in around Sudbury such as Lucas Road, Chilton, Newton Road and Middleton Road had lime kilns which glowed with heat at night – it is thought that the First World War Zeppelin raid on Sudbury may have been because the pilot thought there was a sizeable town below instead of a small market town of about 8000 souls.

There are several tales of the dangers of lime including the one about the man carrying a cartload when it started to rain thus 'slaking' the lime and causing it to burn through the cart. It was also used in mediaeval times as a weapon of war; the English catapulted slaked lime at the French in a battle in 1218. As usual with Mr. Cooper we were treated to many interesting and little known facts which are too numerous to list here.

Chalky soil also carries an interesting variety of plants which do not thrive elsewhere, particularly certain orchids. The Military Orchid among others, was found by apothecary Joseph Andrews, (stepbrother to the Robert Andrews, local landowner immortalised by Gainsborough) on the chalk ground around Gestingthorpe. Mr. Cooper and his father have excavated extensively on their land and found evidence of a substantial Roman Villa which would have been lime washed. He also related his great excitement when he discovered some mysterious chalk lines in a field but later research proved them to be 18th century land drains; the surface water being taken down through the clay topsoil.

The members were left with a much clearer idea of the part which the ancient chalk deposits under Sudbury and its surroundings have played in the development of the area over the millennia; providing everything from land enrichment, bricks and mortar to theatrical limelights before the advent of electricity. We were all kept on our mental toes trying to answer the many questions that Mr. Cooper fired at us at intervals. A most informative evening; one which might encourage a few members to carry out further research.

Heather Colman

MARKET HILL

Further to the Planning Comments on page 5 – what ideas do you have for Market Hill and Old Market Place?

More space for people and outdoor events and less for car parking?

Some trees? Where? More seats? Where?

Some permanent market stalls for local producers, craftspeople? Where?

Pave over roads and parking areas? The "shared space" idea. If this were done people would feel more relaxed/safer/less pressurised by traffic? Old Market Place could become the town square? It's potentially a fine space, the town's hub?

What about a town notice board rather than banners on St Peters railings?

All ideas are welcome, this is your opportunity.

Email me at stephenjthorpe@btinternet.com

MEMBERSHIP

We end 2012 with a membership of 244. This is about where we were this time last year, losing about twenty members and gaining a similar number. We have tried many ways of attracting new members and begin to despair of ever increasing on the figures. Our main push was through an article in the Mercury together with a large print run of our leaflet and membership application form to be sent out inside the newspaper. The article went out under my name and with my phone number. I received no calls and to date have not received an application to join the Society.

I have, in the past, asked each of you to enlist a friend or neighbour, and that gave us a small flurry of new members. Can I ask you again to think through your acquaintances and encourage some to sign up. If you have new neighbours moving into your vicinity, ask me for a leaflet and you can either introduce yourself or just pop it through the letter box. If the newcomers are fresh to Sudbury it is an ideal way to find out about the town and its environs.

This membership drive is NOT to raise revenue. £7.50 for a single member and £12 for a couple is only just covering the cost of the newsletters. We want members to be part of a dynamic civic society which can speak for Sudburians on all matters that affect the town in which we live, and the more people we speak for, the more we will be listened to. Help us to do this. If you want any further information then please ring me on 01787 371916, or write to 19 Waldingfield Road, Sudbury CO10 2PU.

In the meantime I would like to welcome as members Mr & Mrs P Sanderson, Mr & Mrs D Thompson, Mrs M Gilbert, Mr M Cornish, Mrs G Crawshay and Ms T Dalziel, Mr R S Bowen, Mr & Mrs J Hill, Ms M Bugler and Mr C Collins.

MEET AND GREET

Coming naturally after the above article on Membership, I am trying to put together a small band of "Meeters and Greeters" to help new members feel more welcomed at our meetings. Stuck on the door as I often am it is not easy to do more than say "Hello". I have recruited someone to help me on the desk so that if the crowd isn't too heavy I can move out and introduce new members to at least one other member, but I would like to feel that every member would be prepared to talk to a new member and make them feel comfortable. My fellow committee members have already stepped up to the mark but many of them have other duties on the night so if any of the broader membership is prepared to hover around the door at our meetings, I would be really pleased to hear from them.

"RAISE AN ISSUE"

The committee would like to offer you, the members, the opportunity to raise any issues that concern you and which you think the Society could either help with or advise on. To that end it is proposed that at our Friday night meetings, before the speaker begins, we will give members an update on current issues and take questions from the floor.. Needless to say you do not have to wait until these meetings. You may talk to any of your committee members at any time, either by phone or letter, if there is anything that worries you about the town or your particular street.

Caryl Knight

MY LIFE IN SUDBURY

The Sudbury Society Engaging with Young People in Sudbury

Is this a great time for young people to be living in Sudbury in 2012? We hope so!

Certainly the Sudbury Society is keen to get young people involved in helping us make Sudbury somewhere to be proud of and to possibly assist us in finding ways to achieve this. We already know that there are creative young people who live locally. Many have participated in our exhibition 'Visions of Sudbury' at St Peters over the years and have amazed us all with their skills and ideas. They have looked at our town and depicted different aspects of what they have seen. But we have not actually engaged with them to hear what *they think* of Sudbury –yet!

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COMING EVENTS

Friday 30th November

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

A History of Royal Mail Coaches in East Anglia

A talk by Mike McKeon

Friday 14th December

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

Cheese and Wine *

with Picture Quiz of Sudbury

£6 Booking essential. Tickets from Diana Clifford 379499

Friday 25th January 2013

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

Life in Sudbury 1986-87

January to June

FILM

Friday 22nd February

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

Life in Sudbury 1986-87

July to December

FILM

Friday 29th March

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

AGM followed by an illustrated talk by David Burnett.

"O Brave New World?" the impact of late 20th Century development on Sudbury.

Friday 26th April

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

Quiz with Fish and Chip Supper

£6 Booking essential. Tickets from Diana Clifford 379499

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When we had the recent show Sudbury Summer Art Show last July we were delighted with the number of young people who voluntarily came to the desk and asked how they might be involved in showing their own work. So based upon on these initial enquiries we are already planning some ways to give young people opportunities to exhibit their visual ideas about Sudbury and also possibly we want to encourage the young budding poets amongst us too.

But these are early beginnings and we do want direct feedback as to what would be deemed the most engaging and productive ways forward in our attempts to give young people a say as to how we should proceed.

The Sudbury Society is the civic voice of our community. We act as a kind of 'ginger group' to advise and encourage those organisations that might have the ability to carry out our proposals. We work with a number organisations including Sudbury Town Council, Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council and we find that our comments are greatly respected and very often acted upon.

If you have contact with young people roughly between the ages of 11 and 20 years perhaps you would ask them to contact me to let me have their thoughts about how they view our town? An initial contact via email would be really great. I look forward to having any concerns or issues

All events are £2 for members and £3 for non-members unless otherwise stated.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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*All articles to **Caryl Knight***

in the first instance, please.

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that could be the sort of thing that the Sudbury Society might be able to pursue.

Similarly if anyone wants to pass on their positive comments we can also build on these too.

Sally Freer

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A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

The Society website has been looking very dated and also quite difficult for us to operate. It has now had a major revamp. The attached image shows the top part of the Home Page as it should come up on your computer. (If you find it looking very different it could be that your browser needs updating.)


The address is the same... www.sudburysociety.org.uk

but we hope that members will find it far more useful.

We can now keep you up to date on matters of current interest. There is a self explanatory 'Urgent Message' slot on the Home Page as well as a separate 'News' section. In 'Planning' you can read about the latest Planning Applications and the comments made by the Society's Planning Group whilst 'Newsletters' will allow you to read that Newsletter which you inadvertently put out with the rubbish (in the blue bin of course!)

Perhaps just as important is the section called 'Contact us'. Here you will find the contact details of our Chairman and all the members of the Committee. Please use it to feed back **your** views. Perhaps you feel that there is an issue the Society should address or perhaps you disagree with a particular line we are taking. Personally, I would welcome any comments on the website and, of course, suggestions for its improvement.

David Burnett



The SUDBURY SOCIETY

Caring for the Past and the Future

HomeAbout UsNewsPlanningSociety EventsNewslettersPhoto GalleryHow To JoinContact UsLinks

Welcome


Welcome to the new website of the Sudbury Society, a registered charity with some 230 members which is affiliated to Civic Voice and the Suffolk Preservation Society. Our broad objectives are threefold:

1. To stimulate local interest and pride in our attractive and historic market town.
2. To encourage the very highest standard of planning and architecture in the construction of new buildings and in the renovation of existing structures.
3. To protect, develop and improve the many features of historic or public interest.

The images below were chosen to highlight a few of the significant buildings in the town but they also take you to the various sections of the website.

Urgent Message

Please join us this Friday to hear Roger Green's talk



Thomas Gainsborough, Sudbury's famous son

Latest news

Walnuttree Hospital
King Street crossing
Sandy Lane Tip

Events for your diary

'Six Hundred Years in 60 minutes', September 28, 2012

Recent event reports

Summer Wine and Nibbles

About UsNewsPlanningEvents DiaryPhoto Gallery

