



ALAN PHILLIPS AWARD FOR FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

GENESIS

The Friends were recently bequeathed a substantial sum by a member of the Meeting. Several donations were made to various charities and there was then a discussion on using the balance to update the building. It was considered that an extension at the front would be the most effective – it would bring the



building nearer to the road, attract the attention of passers-by, make possible internal improvements such as more daylight into the circulation area, better toilets, and also make it easier to use separately the school room to the front. The Friends were inspired by a similar but grander project at the Bury St Edmunds meeting house.

Early investigation into "green" initiatives such as solar collection and rainwater harvesting proved either practically difficult or met with planning officer resistance.

Nevertheless it was agreed to upgrade the existing building with internal insulation and better heating served by an efficient boiler, including underfloor heating to the

glazed extension. James Blackie was appointed architect at an early stage on the basis of his work and on the recommendation of an active member.

PLANNING PROCESS

This proved long drawn out, draining and frustrating. In July 2010 a detailed application was made for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent and these were granted in early November 2010. The decision was taken to close the whole building after Christmas that year to allow the builder unencumbered space for his work. Time was needed to satisfy the Trustees' requirements but tenders were then invited, John Younger won the contract and work started in July 2011.

At this point the architect had further thoughts about the submitted design of the porch and whether it properly met the Friends' brief and provided a revised design which the Friends accepted. It was hoped that this would meet the planning conditions as a minor amendment. The planning officer disagreed and requested a fresh application for Listed Building Consent. Fresh applications were submitted in late November 2011. In February 2012 the planning officer recommended refusal on the subjective grounds of "harm" to a listed building. Councillors Barrett and Bennett were contacted to request that the application be considered by the Planning Committee who unanimously approved it on 13th June, some four months later. Concern was expressed by members at the inexplicable delays that had occurred.

Apart from client and architect credit is due to –

Mike Garnham, architect, who carried out the earlier investigations into the green issues and suggested and detailed the inclined posts with their tactile nature; Tim Holding, a Friend, who produced an informative drawing of the project as completed, and also suggested a winding approach path which well complements the extension and replaces the attractive secret garden which proved a deterrent to the casual visitor; John Younger who carried on working as long as he could while the planning issues were being resolved.

The Sudbury Society is convinced of the need to celebrate publicly this achievement and proposes to make a one-off Alan Phillips Award for it as was done two years ago for the Library/Corn Exchange refurbishment.

The Roman philosopher Vitruvius defined the “well building” as satisfying the three conditions of “commodity, firmness and delight”. Commodity, or fitness for purpose, is certainly met by the imaginative solution from spacious and welcoming entrance area through to the meeting room, firmness is evident in the close attention to

detail and the fine quality of the building work. Above all the result is a delight and just reward for the architect who persevered and the Friends who kept faith with him. We do hope that this Award will encourage other owners of buildings in the town to employ good designers and architects and to work closely with them. We may yet see the quality of today’s buildings rise to match our town’s architectural inheritance.

The Award will be presented to The Friends, James Blackie as architect and John Younger as builder on Saturday 5th October in the afternoon at 3pm at The Friends Meeting House.

Stephen Thorpe



The building before updating.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Despite the efforts of our local authorities Sudbury could be having a mini resurgence. An excellent new restaurant, Blaze’s in Station Road, the Olde Bull and Trivets now serving Far Eastern fare and the Kings Head re-vamped as a Thai venue. The good number of coffee shops thriving in Gainsborough Street and a traditional boozer, the Horse and Groom, under new vibrant ownership achieving great takings. The Wagon and Horses, empty for months and a sad place since the departure of Councillor Nick Irwin, sold to a local brewer and possibly to become, like Mauldon’s Brewery Tap, competition for Greene King. The Bay Horse finally under the ownership of the hardworking licensees who have been tied to pub company landlords for years. The old Anchor has been stripped of its ugly and totally unoriginal front and been imaginatively restored. All it awaits is a tenant, but again the ubiquitous business rates do little to encourage any budding entrepreneur. Surely it cannot take a lot of imagination for Babergh Council to offer a short, say six months, rating holiday for new start up businesses. All such ventures suffer at the outset. From furnishings and fittings, rent deposits, legal costs and their inevitable mistakes, businesses are always at their most vulnerable to begin with. Not only is the failure of a cherished new venture catastrophic for the owner and family but the resulting empty premises become either a charity shop or an eyesore and produce little or no rateable income.

Sadly those who make such decisions have not lived in the real world, that of the small independent traders who were the backbone of our communities. Shielded from the vagaries of

Continued on page 9

UNVEILING DAY 2013

In February a group representing the Sudbury Society, Gainsborough's House and Sudbury Town Council met with Val Herbert, author of 'The Painter, the Princess and the Statue', to discuss a recreation of the original unveiling of the statue of Thomas Gainsborough in 1913. Monday 10th June meant that Schools could be involved and by extending into the evening working people could participate.

The brief for your Committee of the Sudbury Society was to involve Sudbury citizens. So many people, groups and organisations, too numerous to list individually, responded positively and offered their expertise for free. Sudbury could effectively celebrate the 100 years since the unveiling of this National Monument of Thomas Gainsborough.

Celebrations started with children dancing round the Maypole and finished with the Morris Men. The Friends of St Peter's supported the day and flower arrangers decorated the Mayor's Parlour and St Peter's. Actors Monica Murphy and Michael Harding from the Quay Theatre took the roles of Princess and Sculptor and Sheila Simpson made the Princess' outfit whilst Ian and Suzie Liddell designed and constructed the veil. The musical input, led by Tom Cogan, included a trumpeter, children from St Gregory's Church of England Primary School, and the Stour Valley Singers. The bell ringers closed the ceremony and the suffragettes provided a diversion. Sudburians went on the two guided Walks, joined the Friendship Dancers and played along with the Klangers. Ormiston Academy and Thomas Gainsborough School provided entertainment and artists displayed work on the railings. The Community Wardens set out the seating and Cornard Scouts and Cubs packed up and everyone involved were given refreshments.

The prestigious list of guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Lord Phillips of Sudbury and the Mayor of Sudbury. Representatives of the Sudbury Society and Gainsborough's House were in attendance as were Councillors from Sudbury, Cornard and Chiltern and many representatives of local organisations and businesses.

Sally Freer

UNVEILING DAY a special request from Sally

The Committee of the Sudbury Society were delighted to be in this rather special event that only comes round every one hundred years and those of us who were actually present on 10 June to WITNESS the day are encouraged to sign the Special Commemorative Book that is held at the Shop at Gainsborough's House. Those of us who might have descendants in Sudbury in 2113 will be able to witness OUR names!

Also, if you were taking pictures would you please send your images caught on the day to Nick Winch: nick@gainsborough.org

TOM'S BIRTHDAY

The usual garlanding of his statue took place in May but in a rather more extravagant manner than usual as a foretaste of the centenary celebration to follow (above). A band of musicians in historical dress processed from Gainsborough House up through Market Hill to the statue and assisted by trumpeter, the Mayor and the Town Crier helped us wish Tom a very happy birthday. One of those glorious days when with the market in full swing Sudbury is at its best.

Stephen Thorpe



ROSE VILLA, 19 WALDINGFIELD ROAD, SUDBURY

The History of a Plot of Land

We moved into number 17 Waldingfield Road in February 1979. We loved our end terrace Victorian house although with two growing boys it was soon a trifle cramped. In 1985 we got the opportunity to buy the larger detached house next door, and whilst it was a big step to tie ourselves up to a much larger loan, we decided to go for it. Twenty-seven years later we still do not regret that huge financial commitment. When we finally paid off the mortgage on our property, the Solicitor handed us a huge wedge of papers. These took the history of not only the house, but the land, back to 18th April **1819**. If I have read the copious notes in the 'Abstract of the Title' correctly the land had a lot of legal processes to pass through before being sold to Mr Joseph Barwick in **1878**.

In **1819** the area of land being sold was about 4 acres so I am assuming that it was a plot coming down from Harp Close Meadow to the bottom of Upper East Street. In **1841** the "Mayor Aldermen & Burgesses " under powers enacted by Parliament "Did release and discharge the said parcel of arable land called Pig Tail Piece from All rights of Shackage and Commonage". By 18th June **1860** Mr Doubleday King owned the land and it had passed to his wife Susanna by 11th May **1868**. It becomes a bit disjointed at this stage with the "Abstract" darting back and forth around the various dates. In one legible section the land is "to the use of the said Jonathan Grubb, his exors. & admins. during the natural life of the said Mrs D King. I am assuming she rented out the land to the aforementioned Mr Grubb who maybe farmed it. However on 30th January **1864** Mr Doubleday King's will was proved and he bequeathed his estate to "my Cousins Alfred Smith of Sudbury, Upholsterer, Joseph Watson Beamish also of Sudbury, Bankers' Clerk, and Joseph Doubleday of Halstead, Draper, in trust to receive the profits arising" for the maintenance of "my beloved wife Susanna". So presumably these good gentlemen acted on her behalf when Mr Grubb took an interest in this particular piece of Mr King's estate.

By 15th August **1871** Mr Smith, Mr Beamish and Mr Joshua Doubleday were selling off the land in parcels, totalling 25 lots, which were put up for sale by public auction. A Mr John Bird Westoby bought Lots 6, 9 and 10 for the sum of £452.10.00. Within the copious notes on this transaction is the interesting fact that there was a covenant made that Mr Bird Westoby was not to erect a building within 12 feet of the Queen's highway leading from Sudbury to Waldingfield, and within 6 feet of the Queen's highway leading from Sudbury to Acton.

Bird Westoby seems to have had 8 shares in "The Sudbury Permanent Benefit Building Society" and this entitled him to be advanced £400 presumably for the purchase of the 3 parcels of land mentioned above. The signatories on this mortgage were Mr R Bevan, John Sikes and Henry J Pratt.

On March 1st **1873** Mr Bird Westoby sold a plot to a Mr John Hall Burton (Dyer) for the sum of £30. Mr Burton approached the Building Society and they lent him £25 to complete the purchase. In identifying the piece of land sold to Mr Burton it is mentioned that it lies between four cottages owned by Mr Westoby and four cottages owned by a Mrs Peck. These must be the two terraces of four cottages on either side of our house, which were obviously built by the same builder, even if the land was owned by two different people.

Then on 9th September **1878** Mr Burton paid off his mortgage to the Trustees of the Building Society, cited here as Mr Joseph Higgs and Mr Alfred Baker. One month later, on 7th October **1878** he was selling the plot to Mr Joseph Barwick (Solicitors Clerk) for the sum of £50. On the same date Mr Barwick borrowed the sum of £230 from Mr Robert Ransom. We have to assume that Mr Barwick used the £230 to complete his purchase of the plot and build the house although he would have been speedy to do so within the time scale. He had only two months left in the year of **1878** which is the date inscribed on the front of the house under

the name of Rose Villa. At this point the Abstract document ceases and the conveyancing documents begin.

Despite the front plaque on the house being engraved with Rose Villa the deeds for the most part refer to the house as Rose Cottage. We have all the conveyancing documents from now on, and several mortgage agreements too. The first conveyance was when Mr Ransom foreclosed on Mr Barwick and sold on in **1884** at public auction. It went to a W C Brown for £360. This conveyance refers to the property as being on the Waldingfield Road. Mr Brown got a mortgage for £160 on 8th February **1895** from a Mr W H Wade, and the house is referred to as the property on Waldingfield Road. In June of **1895** he sold to a Mr Benjamin Brown and the Conveyance states the sale of Rose Cottage, situate in East Street, Sudbury, Suffolk. The price was £360.

In **1905** Mr B Brown sold to Mr William Savage and his wife Ellen , again the house is referred to as Rose Cottage but on East Street, Sudbury, Suffolk and the Solicitor who dealt with this is Thomas Bates of Sudbury. Mr Savage is interesting not least because he shared the ownership of the house with his wife. He was referred to as being a hotel proprietor of the Trafalgar Hotel, York Road, Waterloo Station in the County of London. He paid £325. So the value of the property had fallen.

On the 25th October **1920** Mr & Mrs Savage sold the property to Mr H A Bryant. There is no name of the property on the front of the Conveyance document which is dealt with by Ransoms. However, in the document itself is states as follows: "aforesaid property abutting upon the road or King's highway leading from Sudbury aforesaid to Acton with a front thereto of thirty three feet or thereabouts towards the north west upon the road or King's highway leading from Sudbury aforesaid to Chilton and Great Waldingfield etc

Mr Bryant paid £395.

Mr Harry Bryant sold to Vic Sayers on 21st March **1927**. Ransom & Sons dealt with this. This is the first typed conveyance so a lot easier to decipher. Again the front of the document shows no address, and the description of the property is exactly the same as the description above although added to it is "premises known as Rose Cottage". £695 was paid ! Going up!



An interesting aside is that in the previous documents they always refer to the two terraces on either side as a description of the siting of this house. They seem to always have been owned as a set of four. At this stage a Mr Green owned the ones going up the road, and a Mr Beaumont owned the four going towards the town.

In February **1928** Mr Sayers took a mortgage with Mr Bryant for £250. It is only a thin piece of paper but it refers to Rose Villa Waldingfield Road. This is the first time Rose Villa appears in documentation.

In **1973** Mr Sayers made a Deed of Gift to his wife of one half share in "Number 19 Waldingfield Road". Steed and Steed did this. Within the document it states "Formerly known as Rose Cottage and now as Number 19 Waldingfield Road".

Mr Ransom and Mr Bates, both solicitors dealing with the property, became Bates, Wells & Braithwaite in due course.

Caryl Knight

UNEXPECTED DISRUPTION OF IMPORTANT OCCASION ON SUDBURY MARKET HILL

On Monday 10th June 1913 a distinguished audience of Townsfolk, Civic Dignitaries, invited guests and a Member of the Royal Family had gathered on the Market Hill to witness the unveiling by HRH the Princess Louise of Argyll of the statue of Thomas Gainsborough, late of this town.

The members of the official party were admiring the newly unveiled statue of the painter standing proudly on its Portland stone plinth gazing down the Hill to the old family house, when there was a sudden flurry of women in green, white and purple sashes, brandishing a large banner proclaiming 'Votes for Women'; they rushed at the assembled dignitaries, who were considerably startled, distributing leaflets to anyone they could reach and shouting loudly. Our local constable, who was on ceremonial duty only and obviously not expecting 'trouble' on such an auspicious occasion, rushed to grasp the ringleader and remove her as speedily as possible. However, he was not able to prevent some of the other disturbers of the peace placing their banner at the foot of our wonderful new Gainsborough statue. Order was soon restored though and the main party travelled in a horseless carriage to a special reception.

The 'invasion' of such a prestigious and happy occasion by those vociferous women is to be deplored although some would say their cause was just and recognition of women's status is long overdue.

By an eyewitness

MY LIFE AS A SUFFRAGETTE – the Inside Story

My life as a 'Suffragette' began on 4 March 2013. Volunteers were wanted to take part in the centenary re-enactment of the unveiling of the statue of Thomas Gainsborough on Market Hill on 10 June, dressing up to contribute to the 1913 theme so I asked a friend, Penny Power (Sudbury Ephemera Archive), "Fancy being a Suffragette?" "Great!" said Penny. So I telephoned the organiser, Nick Winch at Gainsborough's House. "How about if, after the unveiling, the Suffragettes rush out and tie a banner around the base of the statue reading 'Votes for Women'?" "Brilliant!" said Nick.

It was to be a 'surprise' on the day so enlisting recruits had to be discreet. Eventually there were nine of us – and a policeman – Dave Daldry, a former policeman who still had his uniform, whistle and an old-style helmet.

Penny made a 'Votes for Women' banner for two Suffragettes to hold aloft. Dave's wife helped in sewing 18 feet of purple, white and green fabric (the Suffragette colours) into a banner to wrap around the statue held on with knicker elastic and buttons. Emblazoned across the middle was 'Votes for Women'. I made sashes for the Suffragettes to wear, devised leaflets for them to hand out to the crowd, bags in which to put the leaflets and black arm bands to wear in memory of Emily Davison who had been knocked over by the King's horse in the Derby. (She died on 8 June 1913 two days before the unveiling of the Gainsborough statue on 10 June.) Each Suffragette made, improvised or hired her costume and we had a dress rehearsal in my garden. We didn't actually see the unveiling ceremony for we were waiting in St Peter's church. On cue we rushed out, greeted by much cheering! Three of us fixed the banner round the statue, the others chanted, "Votes for women!" and handed out leaflets. I had to adjust the banner but avoid being caught by PC Daldry. I ducked under the handheld banner while the poor long-suffering arm of the law had his path blocked by the Suffragettes who lowered it in front of him. But eventually he nicked

me and marched me into the church. I 'escaped' through the north door back into the fray, ran round to the front of the statue, turned and gazed up at Thomas Gainsborough standing with my arms akimbo – the well-rehearsed cue for Dave to put his hands in the 'loop' of my arms, lift me off my feet and cart me back into the church – replicating (sort of) a famous photo of Mrs Pankhurst being carried off by a policeman! It's not everyday you see the Press Officer of the Sudbury Society 'arrested'!)

Thanks to the non-appearance of Tim Yeo MP who the BBC TV had come to film, they filmed us instead and we were on *Look East* that evening! I am hugely grateful to everyone who



went along with my 'Suffragette' idea and made it a reality.

See video clip
[www.suffolkfreepress.co.uk/
community/community-news/
suffragettes-crash-statue-
ceremony-1-5181866A](http://www.suffolkfreepress.co.uk/community/community-news/suffragettes-crash-statue-ceremony-1-5181866A).



Anne Grimshaw

VISIONS OF SUDBURY EXHIBITION 8th – 13th October 2013

I wonder how many local artists working away at their 'Visions' projects like me are thinking that there is still plenty of time to apply to participate in 'Visions of Sudbury' exhibition because there does seem to be plenty of time until next October and as a result have not yet bothered to submit their application.

Well, it is time to panic now because the final deadline of 13 September is not so very far away. Not only must we complete the form that we have collected from the Sudbury TIC in the Library or Gainsborough's House Shop and post it to the Treasurer Peter Mills but we then have to wait for the next set of forms to be sent to us so we can let the organisers know the titles of our pictures in readiness for the show and also tell them how many friends and family we are bringing to the Private View.

Most artists are notorious for leaving things to the last minute. The next picture will be even better than the last and there are so many ways to create our 'Vision' of Sudbury – that final decision about what we want to exhibit will have to be delayed a little longer – just in case. Also, this year we can use a wider area around Sudbury for our source of inspiration too so we can submit subjects that perhaps will be new for both the Artist and the Visitor.

Certainly, I think that I can safely guarantee that despite the panic that is currently being experienced in studios around the region, visitors to St Peter's next October will once again enjoy some exciting results. Artists from all over will have made those final adjustments to realise their 'Vision' and we will have a marvellous exhibition once more. Furthermore, like all the previous shows organised by the Sudbury Society, the pictures will be flying off the display screens and will be hung on walls both in the UK and abroad and there will be another cohort of satisfied customers enjoying their own special 'Vision of Sudbury' in 2013 to enjoy during those dark winter months.

Sally Freer

SUMMER LUNCH

Despite a somewhat unpromising weather forecast, Saturday 27 July proved to be a perfect summer day for the Sudbury Society's Summer Lunch held in Tony and Lesley Platt's garden in Great Cornard. It was sunny with a light breeze now and then, warm – hot even, but sitting in the shade of leafy cherry trees it was just right.

There was food and drink aplenty – all contributed by members and such variety and so colourful. Thanks go to Diana Clifford and Maria Mills for their catering and organisational skills. But, of course,



what really 'makes' events such as these is the company. There isn't much 'chatting time' at regular meetings so today's lunch was a time to relax and catch up at length. It was good to see and talk to some newer members of the Society. We hope you enjoyed yourselves and will continue to attend Society events.



We were even treated to unofficial (at least I assumed no one had arranged it) low flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's World War II Dakota aircraft!

Tony and Lesley Platt were given tokens of appreciation for their hospitality with the offer of their garden in future. The offer was gratefully accepted – let's hope they can organise the weather again!

Anne Grimshaw

LEST WE FORGET (1) HARRY TURNER

When we celebrated our forty years as The Sudbury Society we talked and wrote a lot about our decades of campaigning on behalf of the town and mentioned some of our successes. As a member of the Society for many years and now being privileged to be your Membership Secretary, I cannot help but remember those people, now gone, who helped save some of our iconic buildings and amenities.

We have written previously about Betty Bone and Alan Phillips and have awards set up in their name, but I would like to comment on a man with whom I had a lot of dealings, because I used to type a lot of his campaign letters and sit and listen to his justifications for leaping in where others feared to tread. I am writing about Harry Turner, and am grateful to member Marina Reed who also worked with him for many years, for providing me with some of the background information.

Without Harry we would not have the Quay Theatre. The one-time granary was due for demolition in the 1960s when he stepped in and converted it into an indoor cricket facility before making it available to the Sudbury Dramatic Society. The rest is history, as they say.

He led a campaign to take over the Friars Meadow riverside area. He single-handedly, using his own mowers, proved to local authorities that the rough grassland was suitable for recreation, and he purchased adjacent land and ensured it was transferred to public ownership at a peppercorn fee to provide part of the town's riverside walk. Without his dedicated enthusiasm would we have this facility now?

In the early 90s he was a forceful objector to the proposed Southern Link Road, which if it had gone ahead, would have lost us Lady Island and disturbed the peace of the Friars Meadow to Great Cornard river path. He, with a few dedicated supporters, helped persuade a Government Inspector to reject the idea.

This is just a brief resume of the work of this retired chartered surveyor (another member now owns his business) and if anyone has other memories of Harry Turner, we would love to hear from you. There are others who worked tirelessly on Sudbury's behalf, and if you would like to write to me about them, please get in touch.

Caryl Knight

LOVE, INTRIGUE AND PARACHUTE SILK

This was the interesting title of Liz Trenow's talk at the last indoor meeting for the season on 31st May. A capacity crowd of members and guests packed into Friar's Hall to hear Liz's account of her research into her silk weaving family and how she came to write a book based on her findings.

Liz Trenow is a member of the Walters family in Sudbury now the oldest silk weaving company in the country. She began by tracing the company history back to Segar Walters in 1666 and on through the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 which drove 200,000 Protestant Huguenots over to Britain bringing with them their silkweaving skills. By 1722 the family was established in Spitalfields, the centre of the industry at that time. 50 years later the family was still in the district and Liz discovered they had lived at no. 25 Wilkes Street. The house is still there and when she called there she was thrilled to be invited in by the current owners to see the house which has changed very little and is now Grade II listed. Liz described the many ups and downs in the fortunes of the family until the fourth generation decided to move out of London and came to Sudbury where they built what is now the Dental Emporium (The 'W' for Walters is still visible on the end gable). We were also told about many of the silkweaving processes and some of the problems that beset it e.g. woodworm was partial to the raw silk! Three Walters brothers, Bernard, John and Peter (Liz's father) moved to the present Cornard Road factory and had another manufactory at Glemsford powered by a water mill; Cornard was driven by gas engines.

The 20th century brought many prestigious commissions including royal gowns and Coronation robes and the silk for Princess Diana's wedding dress. But before that World War II had produced many challenges for the company. However, the company survived (where many others were unable to) by making parachute silk. It was the fabric of choice because of its strength, lightness and easy 'packability' – this was before nylon had been fully developed. Other lines which kept the company going were surgical dressings, electrical insulation and 'escape and evasion' maps which were sown into pilots' clothing to be used if they were shot down. (Later a member of the audience showed Liz several examples of these printed maps which she had not seen before).

Before the war the Walters brothers frequently went abroad on business and came in to contact with many Jewish people. When Hitler started his persecutions the brothers brought five young men over to be apprentices. Unfortunately because they were German they were first interned then sent to Canada but somehow ended up in Australia and then fighting in the British Army in Burma. One of them had fallen in love with the local postmistress and in spite of everything came back to Sudbury and married her and once again begun work at Stephen Walters.

This heartening story was the springboard for Liz's first novel. First written as a PhD thesis when Liz took time out to get an MA., she was encouraged to try and get it published, eventually being accepted by J.K. Rowling's agent! After considerable editing and re-writing '*The Last Telegram*' appeared in paperback this year. The audience was most appreciative of Liz Trenow's entertaining and lively talk. After questions there was a brisk trade in signed copies. and there is the promise of another novel or two to look forward to.

Heather Coltman

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT continued from page 2

sixty hour weeks, possible bankruptcy and failure by safe and secure employment in the public sector with inflation proof salaries and pensions they have no knowledge or sympathy with those who are prepared to gamble to fulfil their dream. So next time you see a local shop or business foreclose, have sympathy and "Walk softly for you tread upon my dreams".

So ignore your out of town supermarket or chain coffee shop, walk past that huge managed pub with its cheap booze but lack of atmosphere, and pop in with an open mind and support that local lad or lass that's trying to earn a crust and enliven our town, whether it's a meal, coffee or a pint they offer that individuality that Sudbury is in danger of losing.

LEST WE FORGET (2) MARK CATESBY

The Society can claim another feather in its cap - significant recognition in Sudbury of the town's other famous artist Mark Catesby (1683-1749), who wrote and illustrated the first natural history of America and introduced new trees and plants to this country. He has been mostly ignored in Sudbury although he grew up in the town and his father was six times its Mayor. He sold property he owned here to finance his first trip to the New World.

At last, after years of lobbying, Gainsborough House is staging an exhibition of 27 of the watercolours of flora and fauna he painted during his travels in the British colonies in the first half of the 18th century. He used them to illustrate his *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* which he wrote, etched and published in two volumes. He even hand coloured the early volumes himself. They created considerable interest at the time, many of the birds and plants he painted being previously known in this country. Even so his natural history had a limited circulation, it being one of the most expensive publications of the century.

The selection on show at Gainsborough's House are on loan from the Royal Collection at Windsor, George III having acquired after Catesby's death all 250 of the watercolours painted on his two expeditions to the East Coast.

The Sudbury Society has played a key role in the wider recognition of Catesby in his home town. It began in 2004 when American art historian Alex Seltzer contacted the Society. Executive committee member Val Herbert researched Catesby's background for him, but an attempt made by the Society in 2006 to generate an exhibition at Gainsborough's House came to nothing. However, the following year the Society achieved the name Catesby Meadow for the old football stadium redevelopment between Quay Lane and Blackfriars, with the streets being named after two of his birds. Fresh talks behind the scenes with Governors of Gainsborough House led to the present exhibition which continues until the beginning of October. The wood pelican in the exhibition is featured here.

At the private view Brian Moody, chairman of the Governors of Gainsborough's House, paid tribute to the Society and Val Herbert for their part in the enterprise.



From the exhibition: Catesby's wood pelican

PLANNING COMMENTS

Plans for the Belle Vue area and the "bus station site" are proceeding but frustratingly slowly. A half day workshop in September is planned as a follow up to the Consultation Day back in February. We still hope for an overall town strategy rather than isolated bits. A number of issues still remain to be resolved and until they are no such strategy is possible.

Belle Vue – improved traffic and safe pedestrian flow, a right turn up Newton Road, the future of Belle Vue House, better access to the Park, a hotel?

Hamilton Road/Great Eastern Road – a cinema? an overall developer, final siting of bus station, connection to Market Hill.

Streets and pavements – traffic speeds and width and condition of pavements.

A test case. Localism or "a presumption in favour of development". Babergh refused permission for the development of the green space in Great Cornard – beyond Sheepshead Hill and Carson Drive. Remember the "Gainsborough View"? The developers have appealed and we await the inspector's decision.

Even less localism—the government is "consulting" on proposals to extend permitted development rights (i.e. no need for planning permission) to turn empty retail units into housing. If this is formalised then to quote Civic Voice "the voice of the community will be lost".

Stephen Thorpe

OBITUARY

JOHN GILBERT HOLMES died on 13 May 2013

John was an enthusiastic and active Executive Committee member of the Sudbury Society who belonged to many clubs and was interested in improving many aspects of life in the Sudbury area. He was the eldest of three brothers and was born on 12th August 1935 in Shoeburyness in Essex. During the war his family moved from the coast to Bures. Whilst there he attended Colchester Royal Grammar School and afterwards he began Architectural in Chelmsford whilst working for the Essex County Council. He continued working for many years in Halstead, finally qualifying as a Chartered Architect. After a period in Bury St Edmunds he spent the last ten years of his working life as the sole qualified architect for Suffolk Health Authority. One of his many projects was the design and construction of a large occupational therapy complex in Ipswich, opened by Princess Anne.

He was a keen rugby player and member of Sudbury Rugby Club and hockey player for Halstead Imps. Whilst playing hockey and joining Sudbury Young Farmers he met Ann and they were married in 1961. John was keen to help others and belonged to the Round Table, the Rotary Club, the Masons, the Sudbury Society and the League of Friends of Halstead Hospital. With the latter he helped them with the building of the new rehabilitation unit which was opened last year.

Living in Twinstead, he was involved with the Church for over 40 years where he was responsible for the fabric of the building and was still a sidesman. He was a member of the Parish Council for 31 years serving three terms as Chairman. Cricket and bowls were his main sporting activities, including winning a cup or two, and with Sudbury Bowls he was the Club's representative for the Men's County Indoor Association. One of the most memorable events in his life was being invited and attending a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in 2010 in recognition of his service to the community.

John was a devoted family man, very supportive of Ann with two sons Mark and Andrew, and celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary two years ago. They loved to travel and were away a great deal in between their activities in this country. He will be missed by many!

David Rayner

MEMBERSHIP

I am proud to say that we have 270 members as we pass the end June watershed. That is the date when the non payment of a subscription gets the members knocked off the list (unless a sub has been promised soon). This figure is terrific as normally we lose 20/30 members each year without replacing them. The big push last autumn and into this new year brought us a good number of new members but we must not be complacent.

Subscriptions are due on 1st January 2014 – and by the AGM in March I shall be chasing payment. This has become costly both in money and frustration. A good number of members pay by Standing Order in January which ensures they do not need to remember to send me a cheque, but if you are not one of those please consider requesting the appropriate form and relieving me of the worry! Or putting a reminder in your new calendar to send me the money in the first month of the year.

NOTES ON EVENTS (Full list on back page)

SEPTEMBER'S MEETING (27th) – Ashley Cooper was due to talk to us on the Roman Villa and Craftsman's Village at Gestingthorpe. Unfortunately he cannot be with us and Roger Green has volunteered himself to step into the breach. The title of his talk is "The Trials and Tribulations of a 19th Century Parson – Rev. Henry Watts Wilkinson of St Peters and St Gregorys". In OCTOBER (25th) Ann Mason is coming to describe the Warrens of the Brecklands, and in NOVEMBER (29th) we will welcome Philip Crummy to tell us about Colchester's Roman Circus. These three meetings will be held in the usual venue of the URC Hall in School Street at 7.30pm.

Our festive social event will be held at the Masonic Hall on 13th DECEMBER at 7.30pm and will consist of a Christmas Quiz. The cost for this will be £10.00 which includes cheese and wine.

If you have any queries on any of the above please get in touch with Diana Clifford (379499) or any one of the committee members shown on your programme cards.

COMING EVENTS

Friday 30th August *

2pm. Visit to Castle House Dedham (Munnings)
Entrance Fee £6.50 awaiting menu for Tea roughly £5.00.
Own Transport (shared if possible). Meet at the house.

Friday 27th September

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street
The Trials and Tribulations of a 19th Century Parson – Rev. Henry Watts Wilkinson of St Peters and St Gregory's
A talk by Roger Green

Friday 25th October

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street
Warrens of the Brecklands
A talk by Ann Mason

Friday 29th November

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street
Colchester's Roman Circus
A talk by Philip Crummy

Friday 13th December*

7.30pm the Masonic Hall
Festive Christmas Quiz. The cost for this will be £10.00 which includes cheese and wine.

Please note venue

2014

Friday 31st January

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street
Sudbury's WWII Invasion Defences
A talk by Jonathan Belsey

Friday 28th February

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street
"What makes Sudbury Special" (an historic and contemporary view).
A talk by Andrew Philips

***Booking essential,**
see full details in the appropriate newsletters and **for the most up to-date information logon to the website**

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

GHOST SIGNS OF SUDBURY

Further to my article of ghost signs in Sudbury in the last issue of the Sudbury Society newsletter



On the corner of Station Road and Great Eastern Road is a curved building (now a night club) but high up on the north-west wall is a barely legible sign with badly flaking paint: GREAT EASTERN

I have been unable to decipher anything else but this building was the Great Eastern Railway Hotel in 1911. However, I am grateful to **Rod Gray** for suggesting that the 'shape' of the design would appear to indicate that this was a Tolly Cobbold pub – unusual so far from the brewery at Ipswich. The website <http://www.tollycobbold.co.uk/pubs.htm> which has a list of known Tolly Cobbold pubs in 1924 and 1961 but the Great Eastern in Sudbury is not mentioned. Rod recognised the shape and colour of the Tolly Cobbold logo from a beer mat he has. So, thank you Rod – you just knew that all those hours spent in pubs would pay off eventually, didn't you?!

Anne Grimshaw

Copy date for Spring Newsletter 31st December

HOW TO CONTACT US

Peter Thorogood

Chairman

379050

David Burnett

Vice- Chairman

371880

Sue Ayres

Minutes Secretary

310219

Peter Mills

Treasurer

881173

Caryl Knight

Membership Secretary

371916

Stephen Thorpe

Planning

881661

Anne Grimshaw

Press Officer

375736

Sally Freer

sallyfreer@btinternet.com

Rod Gray

883368

David Rayner

311412

John Taylor

373921

Newsletter editor

Patricia Thorpe

881661

All articles to **Caryl Knight**
in the first instance, please.
knightsofrosevilla@yahoo.co.uk

