



THE BEST OF VISIONS

The fifth bi-annual art exhibition, *Visions of Sudbury*, organised by the Sudbury Society and held in St Peter's church, ran from 8-13 October. Visitor numbers were slightly down on 2011 but sales of artworks were up.

Artwork included sculpture, needlework, pencil drawings, photographs and a mix of paintings in a variety of media depicting seasonal images, markets, street scenes, meadow views, local walks, portraiture and events. This year, depictions of nearby villages were also included.

The youngest entrant was Joshua Thomas who took beautiful photographs when he was ten years old – he's eleven now. Both photos were sold. Well done, Joshua! At the other end of the age scale, the oldest entrant was Kate Thatcher, 97, who exhibited tapestries of the pub she and her husband used to run called the Windmill.

Visitors were asked to vote for their favourite. Many said it was just too difficult to choose! The winner and two runners-up were announced on Sunday morning: David Richold of Cornard gained the most votes for his glorious sunset painting *At the end of the day*. In second place, by just five fewer votes, was Christopher Ryland of Sudbury with his bold and snowy *Valley Walk*

in Winter, and third was Simon Whittnall of Bury St Edmunds with his atmospheric and poignant *Old Grandstand, Sudbury*. All three received cheques from the Treasurer of the Sudbury Society, Peter Mills.



Winner and runners up



Joshua Thomas the youngest entrant



Kate Thatcher the oldest entrant

To commemorate the fine standard of artistic work submitted, a full colour book has been produced featuring a selection of about 90 of the 250 artworks on show. These have been chosen by local publisher, Robin Drury of Radius Design. The book is on sale at Kestrel Bookshop, Gainsborough's House, Sudbury Tourist Information Centre (in the library) and Waitrose, or online at www.sudburysuffolk.co.uk. The price is £7.95.

Anne Grimshaw

COMING EVENTS

Friday 28th February

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

"What makes Sudbury Special?" (an historic and contemporary view)

A talk by Andrew Phillips

Friday 28th March

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

AGM. Followed by "Sudburians of Substance"

A talk by Peter Thorogood

Friday 25th April

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper.

Enter as part of a Team or just come along and join others to form a team on the night. Bring own drinks. **Booking essential**

Tickets, £6, from Diana Clifford on **379499**

Friday 30th May

7.30pm Friars Hall, School Street

"Is There Treasure in Your Attic?"

Members may bring one item for James Fletcher to talk about and value.

Saturday 27th June

10.30am

Visit to Peter Minter's Bulmer Brickyard.

Try to car share. Meet there and park as directed.

Friday/Saturday 25th/26th July

Summer Lunch

Actual day, location and time not yet available. (See next Newsletter or next Membership card)

Friday 30th August

2.30pm

Visit to Suffolk Regiment Museum, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Newmarket Road, Bury St Edmunds.

Try to car share. Meet there.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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HAVE YOU GOOGLED? (PART 1)

Have you visited the Society website since Christmas? If you bring up the Home Page using Google or one of the other internet search engines you will find **Messages for members** and **Latest news** - two sections in which we try to keep you up to date on important matters. You can also go on from the Home Page to **Planning** and read the Society's comments to Babergh on current planning applications. **Events for your diary** keeps you up to date on the current programme - very helpful if you have mislaid your Membership Card - whilst in **Recent event reports** you can catch up on that talk you missed. All this and much more at

www.sudburysociety.org

However, nothing's perfect and I would welcome any comments and suggestions on improving the website. How do you reach me? Just find me in the **Contact us** section.

David Burnett

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I have nearly completed my third and final year as Chairman of our Society. It has been an honour to serve in such a fulfilling role and I wish my successor the best of luck when he or she takes over at the March AGM. However, we have one problem, no successor has yet to identify themselves! There are not many roles in our local society that can be so public yet satisfying. It is my view that a chairperson should only reign for three years. They are the very public face of the Society and have great influence on policy. Therefore a new "face" is desperately required so please, if you think you can fill that role, please contact me as soon as possible.

The last three years have been somewhat frustrating. There is so much on our ongoing agenda regarding Sudbury. Absolutely no progress regarding the bus park/Hamilton Road eyesore. Yes, certain properties have been purchased by Babergh but with no finalised scheme, the land ownership still divided, and absolutely no leadership offered by any authority whatsoever. That area remains the wasteland it has been for too many years. Surely it is not beyond the remit of our local authority to appoint an Officer with the necessary powers to get the job done instead of forming yet another talking shop. The battle for People's Park was lost when Babergh's Planning Committee gave the NHS permission for housing development. That misguided decision poured millions into the coffers of the Health Authority and ensured that the Park would never revert to town ownership. Furthermore, the same Committee, by a massive majority, chose to ignore the wishes of the people of Chilton and other local bodies by granting Prolog permission to erect two massively inappropriate buildings. When questioned the reply was "We have to take into account the five hundred jobs this scheme will realise". Such warehousing would require a staff of twenty at most. What a price to pay, the destruction of such a habitat for the possibility of such small employment, yet great potential profits for the developers.

Recently our President, Lord Andrew Phillips, in a most perceptive article, bemoaned the lack of power held by our Town Council when debating local issues. It is obvious that the transfer of power to Babergh District Council in 1974, when Sudbury lost its status as a Borough, left our Town Council with little more power than a parish council. It is unjust that major decisions regarding OUR town can be made by councillors residing in the nether regions of Shotley or wherever. So much for the policy of localism promised by this government!

Why should the major issue regarding our town, a bypass, be regarded as a dead duck? Surely our MP and County Councillors should be pressing THEIR government to prioritise this matter before any future development such as the planned 1500 homes are allowed to be erected. Our public services such as health, police, courts etc. have declined under Babergh's patronage to such an extent that any further growth in our local population cannot possibly be serviced without proper transport links and the return of those lost services.

Our current major campaigning issue is still the preservation of the Victorian core of Walnuttree Hospital. Part of the scheme is the retention of the existing outpatients department for local civic use. The ground floor to be amended to give St. Gregory's Church and other local groups a much needed new Hall. The first floor to be converted to an archive and ephemera centre with a small museum showing the history of the site and the retention of the old vagrants cells. Although this worthy scheme seems to be taking forever to come to fruition I am reasonably confident that it will do so.

By and large Sudbury Town Councillors work exceedingly hard for our community and it is easy to sense their frustration when matters have to be referred to a so-called higher authority. We may not always agree with their decisions and as the town's independent civic body we have a moral duty to publicly state any misgivings. However, we are all striving for one end, the betterment of our town. If only that power had not been taken away when Sudbury lost its Borough status.

I hope that my successor's report in March 2015 will be more constructive. Sudbury is a lovely town and a great place to live. There are many, including your committee, Councillors, volunteers and others who strive to make it so. If you think you should be more involved join our committee, you are sorely needed.

Peter Thorogood Chairman

This article forms the basis of the Executive Report, which will be before the membership at the Annual General Meeting. Please bear this in mind when formulating any questions you may wish to put to the Committee at that time.

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE RECEIVES ALAN PHILLIPS AWARD

On Saturday 5 October the Sudbury Society's Alan Phillips Award was presented at the Religious Society of Friends' Meeting House in Friars Street. It was in recognition of the work done for the new entrance and the positive and beneficial contribution its refurbishment makes to the town.

The new porch fronts the old building with a shallow-pitched roof and timber supports and leads to light and airy entrance with a glazed roof. Additional improvements include better toilets, a separate entry into the schoolroom which is let out to groups, and the opportunity was taken to make the building better insulated and more energy efficient. The garden too has been revamped. Gone are the tall, overgrown plants in favour of gravel and containers, a water butt and timber fences to hide wheelie bins.

Proceedings were introduced by Betty Scrivener of the Friends, then Stephen Thorpe, Vice-chairman of the Sudbury Society, explained the background to the Alan Phillips Award which aims to encourage building owners to commission good design, at all levels, to match the town's great architectural heritage. Design matters: buildings should contribute positively to their surroundings, not detract from them.

Lord Phillips then presented the award (named after his father) to Sylvia Frith, Clerk of the Premises on behalf of the client, the Friends; to James Blackie on behalf of the architect (Tricker Blackie Associates) and designer and to John Younger on behalf of the contractor and builders, John W. Younger.

There had been some comment about the 'wiggly path' that leads from the street gate to the porch rather than the previous very straight and very narrow path. The curving was probably done as much for its aesthetic appeal as for any religious significance but for those who wish, it is possible to walk in a straight line from the gate to the porch without deviating!



Lord Phillips and James Blackie



The new porch

Anne Grimshaw

COPY DATE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 31st May

It really does help if entries for inclusion arrive by the copy date. We are very grateful for all the interesting articles received by our regulars who I call "our own correspondents" - without them there would be no Newsletter, but how about some other members contributing something, however small? Your Society Needs You. (Ed.)

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A 19TH CENTURY CLERGYMAN

THE REVEREND HENRY WATTS WILKINSON

The first meeting of the new season was introduced by Peter Mills who thanked Roger Green for kindly stepping in at short notice as Ashley Cooper, the advertised speaker, was unable to come because of his father's recent death.

Roger is always a popular speaker and the evening was no exception.

The Reverend Wilkinson, served as clergyman in Sudbury at both St. Peter's and St. Gregory's churches for 41 years from 1807 to 1851. We were told that his father, who held church posts equivalent to that of assistant curate at three churches in London, founded a large dynasty of clergymen. Henry was the eldest of four sons, three of whom were in the clergy (all had similar variations on the various family names, making an historian's life very frustrating), and there were also five daughters.

Henry went to Worcester College, Oxford and became a non-resident Fellow. However, he got married, a state not allowed to Fellows, and ended up in Sudbury where he was soon involved in various reforms and improvements, to St. Peter's in particular. He was also involved in the formation a Bible Society with the aim of taking the Bible to the poor.

His first wife bore him five children. The eldest lived to 14 years old; the following three sons all died in infancy – the final child, a daughter, survived but four months after giving birth his wife died, at the age of 35. All of which must have been a great tragedy. However, some time later he married again, to Sarah Walker; she had three children, a boy and two girls all of whom did survive. Roger went on to tell us that Henry was given the Freedom of Sudbury Borough in 1825 and in 1831 became much involved in politics and the elections of that year. There seems to have been some interesting features to the election not perhaps unlike those described by Dickens in his 'Pickwick Papers'.

The second part of Roger's talk was devoted to the curious case of Henry's eldest daughter Hannah (from his first marriage). She was deemed to be unable to conduct her own life and to have had a childlike attitude to all circumstances. Her grandmother's Will left her a considerable sum of money. She was only 7 years old when the Will was made and maybe her mental state was not so obvious then. As she grew older she was eventually placed under the protection of four guardians (all men!). At some point an impecunious seafaring cousin (also a Watts Wilkinson) effectively kidnapped Hannah, bore her off to a City Church and 'married' her. When asked to say 'I do' she said 'no'! Eventually, after endless legal wrangling the 'marriage' was annulled and her 'husband' unable to get his hands on her money went to sea again and ended up in the Americas. This, and much more was described in entertaining detail – the audience being encouraged to hiss every time 'the villain' was mentioned.

In 1845 Henry acquired another living, at Walton-cum-Felixstowe where he created a fine Rectory from a farm house. For the remainder of his life he divided his time between the two livings. It's noticeable from Church records that winter was mainly spent in Sudbury and summer in Felixstowe!

The Reverend Henry Watts Wilkinson did much good work in Sudbury and was very popular. When he died in 1851 aged 69 he was buried in St. Peter's and the parishioners put up a fine memorial to him (now unfortunately partly obscured by the organ frame) as 'a tribute of affection to the memory of their faithful pastor'.

The enthusiastic applause at the end of the talk was a sign that once again Roger Green had given us a fascinating insight into one of Sudbury's many interesting characters. As he said, the Curate seems to have been a good man who coped with the many vicissitudes of his life in a brave and stoical manner.

Committee member, Sue Ayres, proposed the vote of thanks. This was followed by refreshments and everyone went home a little wiser about a part of the history of our town.

Heather Coltman

BEN HUR IN COLCHESTER

November's meeting had a touch of the Ben Hur about it as archaeologist Philip Crummy described the Roman circus discovered in Colchester in 2004. There were many such circuses (forget trapeze artists and clowns!) across the Roman Empire: Spain, Libya, Rome, Egypt, Lebanon, France but this was the only one, so far, discovered in Britain. It was big – 450 metres long... and right under a proposed housing development. (The houses are now to be built elsewhere.) At one end were gates or starting stalls for eight chariots each with four horses. A central barrier divided the two long straight stretches, flanked by raked seating, that allowed full gallop before a tight turn around stone obelisks (turning posts) at the far end to head back towards another turning post nearer to the gate – then round again, and again... for those still in one piece.

Chariot racing was big in Roman times – on a par with football or Formula One. Charioteers were 'stars' and won vast amounts of money – even more than present-day footballers. They were largely slaves and, despite their wealth and 'glamour' were regarded as low down the Roman pecking order. Nevertheless, some of them had pretty impressive memorials which stated their winnings.

Forget Charlton Heston and his heavy chariot with knives on the wheels – real Roman racing chariots were lightweight: essentially a pole between the two middle horses, two wheels, a platform for the charioteer to stand on and a rail to hold on with except the charioteer had no spare hand. One hand held the reins and another the whip, although carvings did show some charioteers with the reins bunched together and tied around their waist, directions being given to the horses by leaning one way or another.

Philip described the archaeological dig and what has been discovered. The hope is that there will be a giant model built complete with 15,000 model spectators. On the site itself glass screens will be erected at various points. They will be etched or painted with the view as it would have been in its heyday – a very imaginative and original way of dis-

playing this enormous site.

A *Time Team Special* (including Philip Crummy) is available to watch on www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMRJM9hbv78

Anne Grimshaw



Mosaic showing gate (starting stalls) on right, central barrier dividing the track, turning posts (three) obelisks and race in progress complete with mishap on left!

MEMBERSHIP

We ended 2013 with 274 members. This is the highest membership level we have achieved, despite losing the usual 20 odd people during the year. I hope all the new members who joined during last year have enjoyed their membership and wish to renew for this coming year.

Welcome to new members - Mr & Mrs Crawley, Mrs Head, Mr Pullen, Ms Biggs, Ms Keeling, Ms Murphy and Mr Dodd.

Many of you pay your subscription by Standing Order and you will get a note from me when that has hit our bank statement and my records. There have been six members who have paid by cheque since the start of the year, and I would dearly love to see many more of you doing the same. Please do not leave renewing your membership until after our AGM.

Please remember that the sub is £7.50 for a single and £12 for a couple at the same address. If you are not a member please send a cheque with your name and address to The Membership Secretary at 19 Waldingfield Road, SUDBURY, CO10 2PU. There is a form on the website.

Caryl Knight

SHADOWING' SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL, SCOUTS AND SAILING – CAITLIN DOES IT ALL

As a civic society, the Sudbury Society is usually associated with planning, buildings, traffic and such-like but just before Christmas came the opportunity to do something a little different.

Last year a student from Sudbury Ormiston Academy, 14-year-old Caitlin Rawlinson, had, as part of her studies, been one of the first group of four students to learn first hand about local government, the duties of Sudbury Town Council and how it operates. She did this by 'shadowing' Town Councillor Sue Ayres, who is also a Sudbury Society Committee Member, by going to planning meetings, talking to the Mayor and so on.

"I know not all young people are involved and interested in politics as much as I am and I respect that but people could at least have an open mind about it. I want to have the chance to voice my opinions and campaign for young people's issues in the UK Youth Parliament. I feel that men sometimes think politics are something they need to take charge off and I think this is a chance for me to prove women are just as capable," said Caitlin.

A keen member of the Sea Scouts up to last August but now an Explorer Scout, Caitlin has been accepted into the World Scout Jamboree in 2015 in Japan, one of 36 Scouts from Suffolk, three of whom are from Sudbury. Caitlin explained, "There will be Scouts from 150 countries coming together as a celebration of peace. It will be the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima at the end of the Second World War. We will each stay with a Japanese family for some of the time".

Caitlin had made such a good impression on Sue Ayres during her 'shadowing' at Sudbury Town Council that, on hearing that the Scouts needed to raise £3,300 to cover travel expenses, visas and food, Sue immediately suggested to the Sudbury Society that it might make a donation. Just before Christmas, Caitlin was presented with a cheque for £250 for Suffolk Scouts by Peter Mills, Treasurer of the Sudbury Society. In addition to going to Japan, Caitlin has also been selected to fill one of only seven places for under-16s to take part in the Tall Ships' Race next July based on her sailing experience in the Sea Scouts.



Anne Grimshaw

PARTY TIME AGAIN!

Christmas seems to come round faster each year and so does the Sudbury Society seasonal social. This year, by kind permission of our Chairman, Peter Thorogood, it was held at the Masonic Hall. Between fifty and sixty members came to enjoy drink, nibbles and cheese and pate. Members were kept entertained by a variety of Quizzes during the evening.

For a change, members of the committee had put their thinking hats on and come up with the idea of each member presenting 10 questions - some themed and some general knowledge and one brain-teaser. It kept us all well occupied. Diana (Clifford) started off with general knowledge (some of which was quite obscure!) followed by Anne (Grimshaw) whose theme was horse related then Peter (Mills) taxed us all with sports questions - most of the women groaned and most of the men cheered!

Half way now and it was time to feed the brain a bit with the wonderful selection of cheeses, pates and salads that Diana and her helpers had laid out. When everyone had eaten their fill there was the final selection of questions about Sudbury and general knowledge posed by David Burnett, David Rayner and Caryl Knight. The Brainteaser, compiled by Rod Gray, which was on all the tables, had kept everyone occupied between eating and required very precise knowledge of Sudbury and its environs. When some of the answers were read out there were the inevitable groans that the obvious had not been thought of! I was lucky enough to be on the winning table so perhaps I am biased but it seemed that everyone had a very good evening and went off happily into the night and looking forward to Christmas.

Many thanks are due to the hard work of all the Committee and helpers and the Chairman for the use of the Masonic Hall.

Heather Coltman

BRECKLAND BUNNIES

An entertaining, lively and enthusiastic speaker, Anne Mason, spoke at October's meeting about the history of commercial rabbit warrening in the Breckland area around Thetford and how these large managed areas surrounded by warren banks and overseen by warren lodges have left an imprint on the landscape.

She began by explaining the research project she led in 2008 with English Heritage grant funding which has led to a greater understanding of the importance of warrening for the region. The geography (dry climate) and geology (light sandy soils) of the Brecklands suited the rabbit whose original habitat was in the Mediterranean area. Bred for their meat and fur, both luxury items in the 13th century, rabbits (then called 'coney') were valuable and hence belonged only to wealthy individuals such as Lords of the Manor or monasteries. The guardian of the rabbits, the warrener, lived in the warren lodge. This was a two-storey, almost square building of flint and stone or brick, built to a standardised design, with windows on each of the four sides on the upper floor, allowing him to oversee the warren. The rabbits were contained within the warren by banks built of turf and topped by gorse bushes, patrolled by 'security guards' to keep the rabbits in – and poachers out.



Warren Lodge, Mildenhall

But rabbits did not always breed 'like rabbits'. There were years of disease when they were wiped out and later fashions both in clothing and foods changed. Eventually, rabbits were no longer 'game', the preserve of the wealthy, but a pest that could be caught by anyone. Fur-trimmed

garments fell out of fashion, as did hats made from rabbit fur compressed into felt.

Anne's research revealed an untapped source of original documents from soon after the Domesday Book (1086) that gave hitherto unknown facts about this valuable part of the region's economy both at home and abroad which continued until the early 20th century. It is rare that archaeological and documentary evidence have survived and reinforce each other.

Anne Grimshaw

SUFFOLK 1940: would Sudbury have survived a German invasion?

Jonathan Belsey spoke to a full house at the January meeting with the slide-talk chillingly titled *Suffolk 1940: would Sudbury have survived a German invasion?* He set the scene with what was happening in Europe during 1940: Dunkirk, fall of the Low Countries and France, the Battle of Britain, the start of the blitz on London and the real possibility of a German invasion. Men and materiel were in short supply. The coast from Land's End to Newcastle was to be heavily defended. Inland there were to be roughly parallel 'stop lines': physical barriers and armed defences ranging from massive gun emplacements to pillboxes to concrete and steel roadblocks. Each 'line' was intended to be a further delay to invading German troops expected to approach London from the east and north-east. Sudbury was on the Eastern Command Line which followed the natural obstacle of the River Stour.

The Battle of Britain deprived the Luftwaffe of domination of the air. But there were other factors too revealed in the 1970s when military experts, both German and British, set Operation Sealion in motion – in a 'modelling' exercise. The outcome? A unanimous agreement that it would have been a disaster – for the Germans.

The stop lines with their thousands of pillboxes, tank traps, machine guns, spigot mortars, Home Guard and 'Secret Army' men harrying the enemy would have bought valuable time while destroyers of the Royal Navy raced to obliterate the invading forces.

But, thank goodness, they were never needed. The bridges remained intact, concrete roadblocks now protect the bank of the River Stour or act as plant holders on village greens, the gun emplacement at Ballingdon is an outsize 'garden feature', the pillboxes on the water meadows are home to bats and swallows and sit amid a sea of buttercups... and long may they remain so.



Major Schofield, a Home Guard, on Market Hill

Anne Grimshaw

SUDBURY TRAFFIC

What follows is a statement on Sudbury's traffic problem. Your committee decided that the Society ought to set out its own views on this contentious subject and what you read is the result of a small sub group's discussions. We intend to make it known publicly but we feel the Society's membership should first have a chance to comment, state their own views, point out omissions etc. Please respond to me at stephenjthorpe@btinternet.com or drop a note in at 72 Friars Street, within the next four weeks. I did think further about speed limits after driving over the King Street hump comfortably at 20mph, the maximum speed at which traffic should be going through the centre of Sudbury. It may well take ages to get a statutory 20mph speed limit and there may be an alternative – installing further humps both to slow traffic and allow people to cross safely. I suggest one in Gainsborough Street at Weavers Lane and one halfway down Gregory Street where there are dropped kerbs. If you think this is a good idea perhaps you can suggest other places.

The guiding principle to all this is that the balance between vehicles and people needs to be altered so that neither dominates and we learn to share the town centre space safely.

Stephen Thorpe

SUDBURY TRAFFIC

A report prepared by a sub group of the Sudbury Society as a means of determining the Society's formal response to this issue.

The main issue is the amount of heavy goods traffic which passes through the historic part of the town, particularly Cross Street but also Friars Street, Church Street and Market Hill, but there are related issues such as pedestrian safety and ease of movement.

LONG TERM

Realisation of the western bypass is at best some years ahead and at worst very unlikely. Nevertheless we support the retention of the safeguarded route.

The survey undertaken some years back to determine how much traffic would use such a bypass, specifically heavy goods traffic whether originated by the town or only passing through, needs updating in reliable fashion. **The County Council would need to initiate a new survey** and publish it but the Society's members would be prepared to provide support, for instance noting the haulage firms and contacting them. Information as to why traffic passes through the town rather than following less disruptive routes is seriously lacking and should be gained from the survey. Similarly why does traffic serving the town, particularly its supermarkets and major businesses need to pass through the historic core to the South rather than using the approach roads to North and East?

Notes

Were the bypass to be built would through traffic use it to get round the town rather than following the present route and would traffic delivering to the town enter via Melford Road rather than as now?

We note that other Suffolk bypass submissions have failed the criteria of economic viability and environmental impact.

MEDIUM TERM

The Town's pressing need is to resolve the issue in a manner that would be cost effective and environmentally acceptable in the medium term, and also in the longer term should the bypass prove to be "undeliverable".

We read that Halstead have accepted that a bypass for the town, although desirable is undeliverable. Since both Halstead and Sudbury suffer from heavy traffic using the A131 it makes sense for the two Councils to work together and we strongly support our Town Council's decision to do this. There is the added advantage that Essex and Suffolk County Councils would be involved in any proposals jointly arrived at.

Such a working together would have to address some possible solutions which we set out below.

- 1. The planned continuation of the A120 upgrade – a new route from the Braintree bypass to the A12**
- 2. The remodelling of the A120/A134 junction on the Braintree bypass to encourage heavy goods traffic to continue on the A120 rather than turn off on to the A131**
- 3. The removal of signs on the A12 and A120 directing heavy goods traffic towards Halstead and Sudbury**

A more contentious issue is a direct connection between the A12 (Colchester Bypass) and the A134 where the latter passes under the A12 and where there seems to be space safeguarded for an intersection. We understand that Colchester are unwilling to contemplate such an intersection because of the impact on communities along the A134 as far as the county boundary. Also that the planned intersection a little further to the North will better serve the planned northern development of the town. Would a roundabout on the A134 and a spur road to the proposed intersection be acceptable? The joint involvement of the two County Councils may lead to a compromise solution. There is informal evidence that some HGV's choose to follow the A134 out of Sudbury, negotiating the junction at Colchester North Station and travelling down Remembrance Way to the A12.

SHORT TERM

There are possible solutions within Sudbury itself which need to be addressed without further delay. They all involve compromises but we do have to state that the Society's mission is to care for the town's past and its future. The historic core of the town is badly affected by traffic, particularly Cross Street, Friars Street, Gainsborough Street and Market Hill, and any traffic solutions must respect this and avoid further damage. They must also be viable in the medium term, although temporary arrangements may be appropriate in arriving at generally acceptable solutions.

One way traffic in Cross Street and Friars Street/Church Street – The lower end of Friars Street and Church Street itself are not suitable for heavy goods vehicles, there are two right angled bends, one combined with a school crossing. Traffic coming out of Blackfriars/Catesby Meadow will need to turn left into Friars Street and right into Cross Street, (similarly traffic out of Quay Lane?), will this be compatible with large vehicles turning left out of Church Street and on to Ballingdon Bridge? There is the risk of traffic using Straw Lane and School Street as a rat run – there is heavy pedestrian school traffic in this area during the morning rush hour.

Alternate flow along Cross Street – controlled by traffic lights at each end (their location and efficacy might need to be experimented with by temporary set ups and the junction with

Church Street resolved. The benefits would be - steadily moving traffic along the street and less pollution, a single carriageway width enabling wider pavements and parking bays.

There are good reasons why Friars Street should be closed to heavy through traffic given its high urban quality. Perhaps a "gateway" similar to that in Bury St Edmunds might be considered. The high quality of Gainsborough Street would also be protected by extending the widened pavements for its full length and reducing the carriageway to a single width.

(A short term solution to the traffic generated by the recycling and fuel oil sites off Bulmer Road and the lorry park adjoining Waitrose would be to end the prevaricating and relocate all three to the Northern side of the town).

SAFETY

The strategy set out above should embrace ease and safety of movement by pedestrians and cyclists. At present they lose out in priority to traffic at Belle Vue, Great Eastern Road/Station Road, the lower end of Market Hill down to Station Road and at the extremely hazardous junction at the far end of Gainsborough Street. The Town Council should counter the County Council's wavering on the issue and demand a 20mph speed limit throughout the centre at least. It should also push for shared space type solutions at these junctions. It may be argued without convincing evidence that this would slow traffic but the perception of a town difficult to pass through, and best avoided, might be a valuable one.

Stephen Thorpe
Chairman of sub group

PLANNING MATTERS

The town centre the half day workshop in September concentrated on the Belle Vue traffic layout and the impossible situation where Great Eastern Road meets Station Road. We seem to be waiting for ever for ideas from Suffolk Highways, they are both places where vehicles and people need to be able to move safely and easily, preferably without lots more signs and traffic lights. What may happen on the "Bus Station site" seems to be as uncertain as ever. And we are nowhere near sorting out the Station Road/Friars Street junction.

Carson Drive, Great Cornard Along with Great and Little Cornard parishes we expressed our opposition to this development. Babergh agreed and refused permission. The developers appealed but lost at a public inquiry. They vowed to try again. The land needs to be removed from the Local Development Plan but a previous inspector put it there!

The Anchor The owners of Javelin have restored this frontage very well but now want to remove the fine old inn sign. We may soon wake up to find it gone. The Town Council agreed with us to keep it but now seem to have changed their minds.

Waggon and Horses The locally based Growler Brewery have taken this over from Greene King and have attractively restored it. They now plan to turn the adjoining barn into a venue for a range of activities. One more boost to what seemed to have become a depressing pub scene.

Stephen Thorpe

HORSE PAINTER PAR EXCELLENCE

Sudbury Society visit to Munnings' House, Dedham, 30 August 2013



General Seely and Warrior
(National Gallery, Ottawa)



My wife, my horse and myself
(Castle House Trust)

It was a perfect summer's day for the Sudbury Society's visit to the delightful and elegant Castle House and garden with its mature trees and sweeping lawns at Dedham, the home for forty years of equestrian artist Sir Alfred Munnings (1878-1959). His widow, Violet, established the house as a museum in 1961 to display pictures still in her possession. It is now run by the Castle House Trust.

Being 'mad on horses' I had known of Munnings most of my life and was thrilled to see the originals of pictures that I had seen only in books or as prints such as *My Wife, My Horse and Myself* which was on sale in my local Boots when I was about ten years old.

On arrival we were given a brief introduction to Munnings' life and works then were free to wander around the house which was, of course, filled with his paintings and sketches – not all of horses. Some were landscapes, several of which had been displayed recently at Gainsborough's House.

Munnings was perhaps something of an odd ball in many respects but his skill as a painter of horses is, for me, unsurpassed. He is remembered for his outspoken opinions on 'modern art' (which were probably held but unspoken by many people) at a Royal Academy banquet in 1949. The house was furnished as it had been in Munnings' day. There was something interesting and beautiful in every room. Or curious – like the stuffed Pekingese dog (a family pet) in a glass case.



Munnings' studio

During the First World War Munnings was an official war artist. His painting *General J. E. B. Seely on his charger Warrior* (above) was the subject of a TV documentary following the recent success of the theatre production and cinema film *Warhorse*.

After exploring the house, studio and garden and watching a 40-minute film about Munnings' life, several of us finished our visit with cream teas in the garden.

I have mentioned my visit to a few people who had visited Munnings' house some time ago. Almost without exception they said to me, "Is the stuffed dog still there?" Hmmm.... Not quite the 'legacy' of Munnings I'd have expected!

Ann Grimshaw

Note from the Editor. You may wonder why the *Coming Events and Contacts List* have been moved from this page, where they sat very happily and conveniently, to page 2. The reason is that we pay extra to have colour on the front cover, and, by default, on the back one as well. It was felt by the Committee that it was a waste of money to use the back cover for just plain text. Of course, it would be much better if all the photos and images could be in colour but this would be too expensive. Apologies to all those who send in lovely colour photos only to find them reproduced in black and white. Perhaps one day a fairy godmother or godfather will appear who will provide the extra money needed for an all-colour publication—who knows?