

# NEWSJOURNAL

*Spring/ Summer 2018*

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charity no 265228

## At the March AGM we saw the election of the new Chair – Prof John French

John French lives in Sudbury and has a passionate interest in conservation of the built and natural environment, architecture, heritage, the arts and the creative industries. He is a Friend of Ely Cathedral and also of Gainsborough House and is a member of Sudbury Rotary Club and supports a number of charities and trusts.

Born in Watford he went to School at Queen's School Bushey Comprehensive and then went on to study at London University and Cambridge University, graduating with a BSc in Applied Biology and a PhD in Environmental Management from Wolfson College, Cambridge. He began his academic career as a lecturer at Homerton College, Cambridge. He was the first member of his family to go to university.

John was made Chair of Enterprise and Sustainability by the University of East Anglia in 2016. He is also very active in business and is a member of the Institute of Directors (IOD) and as such is an experienced company director, board chairman and non-executive director.

He has served the community in many ways over the years, as a Trustee of the Islay Natural History Trust and more recently as a Trustee of Centre 81 the Disability

Centre in Great Yarmouth, and now as Alumni Chair of Rotary District 1080 and a member of Sudbury Rotary Club. He has been a School Board Chair in Suffolk and in Scotland and has just been elected as a Director and Trustee of the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges.

Amongst his interests John is an avid photographer, working only in film, and collector of historic cameras as well as classic cars and bicycles, and is an active follower of the arts with an interest in contemporary and historic etchings and prints. He is a member of the Fine Art Committee of Wolfson College, Cambridge. He and his partner Sonia have built an eco-house in Scotland and are carefully restoring an ancient house here in Sudbury that backs onto the water meadows.

In his day job John is CEO of the Adapt Group at UEA, Norwich and more recently has been appointed as Director of the Sustainability and Business Hub at Cambridge University's Institute of Sustainability Leadership. In addition, he is Chairman of the London Fashion Fund a project to support entrepreneurs and drive regeneration in East London. He has had a career in research and teaching spanning thirty years at some ten



Colleges and Universities and has lectured in biological and environmental sciences, conservation and sustainability and the built environment.

John's specialism has become low carbon innovation and creative entrepreneurship. He was responsible for the new Enterprise Centre at UEA which since its completion in 2015 has received international recognition and 30 awards for its use of low energy and natural material approaches to an East Anglian architectural vision and has attracted a new green business cluster.

John will be writing about his vision for SudSoc in the next NewsJournal.

## CALL MY BLUFF

### Chairman's introduction to the evening

*Lorna said that December's meeting was probably the last time that the Sudbury Society would meet in Friars Hall for the hall, part of the United Reform Church, is to close in January. However, it may be, just may be, that the new owner will allow the hall to be used in future as the Society has been advised to leave in place the pull-down screen, sound system and induction loop that it recently had installed and paid for.*

It was, of course, in Friars Hall last year at this time, the Sudbury Society ran a very successful *Call my Bluff* evening. It was along the lines of the TV panel game which began in 1965 and continued for over 20 years. The TV original comprised two teams of three alternating between giving and guessing the meanings of obscure English words. The Sudbury Society version had six teams of six but was otherwise the same.

It had been the brainchild of Sue Ayres, Secretary of the Sudbury Society, and as it had been so popular last time, Sue was happy to repeat it.



Once again, it created much merriment - and groans! It really is more difficult than it looks! There are some remarkably good liars in SudSoc! Or perhaps I should say 'actors'! Everyone was so convincing in providing definitions, true and false, for unheard of words. How about a 'spuffler'? (Hint: what's Donald Trump like?) Or 'larrigan'? It's a knee-high boot of oiled leather with a moccasin foot, worn by lumbermen and



trappers. Just one word, 'cassowary', seemed familiar to most people, these aggressive, emu-like birds having often appeared on TV natural history documentaries.

It was all great fun and much enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to those members of the committee and others who helped in preparing the finger-food buffet and drinks, organising Christmas decorations, putting up tables and chairs, raffle-prize wrapping and other behind-the-scenes jobs: Lorna Hoey, Bob Andrews, Rosemary Woodward and Liz Fulcher. And, of course, extolment, laudation and ovation to Sue Ayres who once again, chose her words very well indeed.

**Anne Grimshaw**



**The Happy Winners**

**Photos: Bob Andrews**

## AN INKY EVENING

with Sue Molineux, Technician at Gainsborough's House Print Workshop

The first meeting of the year in the new venue of the All Saints Hall on Church St (the old school) was something a little different. We have probably all walked past the Print Workshop at Gainsborough's House on Weavers Lane but few of us know much about it. What actually goes on there? Who uses it? Can anyone use it? What's it for?

Sue Molineux, Technician at the Print Workshop, enlightened us. It is a facility for fine art (handmade) printing of various kinds: etching, drypoint, screen printing, linocutting and pretty much anything else that can be used to make prints. What's more, it is one of the best such facilities in England.

It is used by Friends of GH, schoolchildren, private individuals and course attendees for the Print Workshop's short courses in printmaking. Ages range from 7 to 93 and come from all walks of life and from all over Britain and a few from abroad. Specialist tutors instruct on various techniques of printing.

Sue gave a demonstration of the simplest type of printing: inked fingers. A more sophisticated technique uses Perspex into which the design has been scratched or engraved (intaglio) so that the ink lodges in the groove of the 'scratch' and surplus wiped off. Paper is laid over the design and pressed/rubbed on to it using the back of a spoon. At the workshop one of the two printing presses is used with, as might be expected, better results!

Linocuts are, obviously, made from linoleum, warmed first to make it easier to work. The design is drawn or otherwise applied to the lino. Unlike intaglio, lino makes a relief print, in other words, the flat surface of the lino is inked and the parts between are cut away to form the design. There are variations on these two techniques using other materials such as wax-covered zinc where the wax is cut away and the



metal plate etched with weak acid.

Sue showed some of her work which ranged from using an inked mulberry leaf to a simplified version of Gainsborough's painting of his daughters which resembled a children's colouring book - sort of painting by numbers. Another print had been banned by London galleries... an outline of a woman in a niqab next to a woman with a Playboy bunny outfit - all drawn like a child's cut-out paper doll with cut-out clothes with tabs to 'dress' the doll. Many of her prints are quirky and clever.

Sue obviously loves her job and the people she meets, many of whom inspire her. And who are these people? Teenagers - young people with passion, ideas, enthusiasm, creativity - the ones who never make the negative headlines - they are an inspiration, says Sue.

Although born a Brummie and has lived in Essex, Sue loves Sudbury and now lives here.

**Anne Grimshaw**



## THE SILK ROAD TO SUDBURY

*Before the meeting on 23rd February the chairman updated the meeting on Planning and other matters she expressed. She expressed dismay that the new lamppost on the Croft was not a heritage style model. She commented that parking on the Croft is increasing and the area is being churned up. The Society has asked for some posts to be put in to protect this important part of Sudbury.*

*The chairman reported that two interested parties were looking at the vacant former Argos store in North Street although we do not know their identity.*

*The former Silkworm pub has been renamed the Weavers' Tap and the large graphic painted on the end gable has been done without planning permission.*

*Litter picking sessions have been organised by the Sudbury Community Wardens and members were encourage to do their bit along the lines of the Society's Love Sudbury campaign.*

*The chairman told members she was hoping to build an archive of past newsletters and asked members if they had any.*

*She then introduced the speaker for the evening, Richard Humphries, who entertained and informed with his history of how the silk industry came to our town.*

Apprenticed to a Sudbury weaving firm over 50 years ago, last year Richard took on the one-year role of Upper Bailiff of the Worshipful Company of Weavers – the 883<sup>rd</sup> person to hold the title and told the audience how he had attended more than 200 dinners during his 12 month tenure! As Upper Bailiff he also had the pleasure, on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Weavers handing out £1.6million to charities.

An ordinary looking bag in front of him held a wealth of treasures and told the story of the evolution of fabric from the early wool fabric of limited,



dull colours, to the opulent, exquisite and dazzling reds and golds favoured by the Prince Regent (later George IV).

Out came the glorious black damask worn as robes by the chancellors at the State Opening of Parliament, as well as the sunshine yellow loved by Queen Victoria who requested it for the Amber Room at Osborne House.

He harked back to the exodus of Huguenots from France in the late 1600s who set up in Spitalfields in London and plied their silken trade until the Spitalfields Act of 1790 taxed them and made them think about leaving the capital for smaller towns in order to evade the tax.

They chose places like Braintree, Halstead and Sudbury in order to harness the water power of the rivers that ran through the towns.

Richard's amusing take, complete with Norfolk accent, on the rebel weavers of Norwich who did not obey the City of London (unlike the more successful weavers of Lavenham who did) and therefore fell behind in advances in silk production, was a joy to listen to.

Local names we now know so well such as Vanner and Walters cropped up as people who left Spitalfields to avoid the tax and made their way out of London into Sudbury's direction and to places like Kettering and Haverhill.

Silk woven by Richard hangs in such illustrious places as Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Scotland's Dumfries House, saved and restored in part thanks to HRH The Prince of Wales.

Richard told of the time the Prince was very particular about which shade of red he wanted some curtains to be, the top of the ones hanging at the time was too dark and the bottom of the shabby pair was too light so Richard suggested popping a post it note on the shade the Prince wanted and that was the shade that was woven.

After refreshments, Richard was happy to answer questions from members. Have a look at Richard's website: <https://www.humphriesweaving.co.uk/>

**Nicki Dixon**

## SUDBURY SOCIETY AGM

### followed by a talk by Sam Thornton

Members were welcomed by outgoing chairman, Lorna Hoey who read apologies for absence and asked for the adoption of the minutes from the AGM of Friday March 24 2017. The minutes were adopted.

Treasurer Ian Liddell gave his finance report and Lorna Hoey gave her chairman's report before announcing the committee had stepped down in order for new members to be selected.

Chairman - Professor John French was proposed and seconded and took over from Lorna Hoey, who he thanked for her hard work.

Ian Liddell will continue as treasurer and committee members were confirmed as Liz Fulcher, Sue Ayres, Pat Laithwaite Amanda Reavell, Sam Thornton and Stephen Thorpe

Following the official business of the AGM, members enjoyed a short refreshment break before new chairman, John French introduced society member, Sam Thornton with his talk entitled Sudbury's Unsung Hero.

The unsung hero he was referring to was Harry Turner, a man who had suffered four years hard labour on the Burma Railway at the hands of his Japanese captors before setting up as an estate agent in Sudbury.

Sam, also an estate agent recalled how tidy Harry's desk always was compared to his own which was "a shambles."

#### **HARRY TURNER, SUDBURY'S UNSUNG HERO**

Clearly referring to his time as a PoW, Harry had said to him that his belief was to live for the day, if you don't know tomorrow is going to happen you organise yourself.

It was in the late 1960s that the building in Quay Lane we now know as the town's theatre was to be sold and demolished. Harry Turner was adamant the building was not going to be lost so he bought it and Sam recalled the story of Harry using dynamite to try and dislodge a submarine engine which had been used to generate power in the building!

In 1977 the building was sold to Sudbury Dramatic Society and still thrives today as our Quay Theatre. Without his spark, Sudbury would certainly not have this building to enjoy today.

Harry then turned his attention to Friars Street and the demolition of an old chapel. Determined not to have

the gap filled by another Sulby House, he bought the land and much more sympathetic development was subsequently built.

His last project for Sudbury summed up the man. The area of land known as Friars Meadow came up for sale and Harry was concerned about development so he bought it.

He cut the grass himself (was familiar with grass cutting as he did it at Sudbury Cricket Club where he played for several years) and cleared brambles. He then sold part of it to the Guilford Kapwood factory as a sports field.

Eventually he sold the meadow to the council for the princely sum of £1 with the promise that it must always be open space.

Sam revealed that three weeks before he died, Harry still had the £1 council cheque in his wallet.

Sam painted a portrait of Harry Turner, a man who didn't do these things for recognition, and said he personally looks on him as a person who realised he could do good, and there are ways to achieve the same results with that vision in mind.

As he wrapped up his talk, Sam suggested Sudbury needs to recognise the efforts of this man as well as thinking about how we today can contribute to the town of Sudbury.

He was thanked by John French and a few members spoke of their memories of Harry, including Society president, Lord Phillips who helped Harry secure the purchase of the Quay Lane building.

*Nicki Dixon*



## CHURCH AND CREAM TEA ...

Nearly 40 members descended on Gestingthorpe Church in late May for a talk on its history by Ashley



Cooper. He's well known to the Sudbury Society for his lectures and books on the local history of the village where he was born and has lived all his life.

He began with the outside of the church which is, unusually, built almost entirely of brick made locally and mortared with lime and sand also from the area. There are some areas of flint which as Ashley pointed out, are millions of years old and date from the time the River Thames flowed across East Anglia. His emotional attachment to his local area is very evident in great enthusiasm. The square tower which is very ornate with 'blind' arches and tall pinnacles dates to the time of Henry VIIIth and the South Porch is even earlier.

Once inside and all seated Ashley then described and explained many features and memorials in the church. These included a



funeral hatchment divided into black and white backgrounds indicating that only one person had died while the other still lived; useful information before the age of mass communication for visitors arriving not knowing that one of their hosts at the Big House had died while they were on their way...

**Photos David Burnett**



One of the other memorials was to the Oates family and in particular Captain Oates of 'I'm just going outside and may be some time' fame on the ill fated South Polar Scott expedition. The Oates lived in Gestingthorpe Hall at one time.



Another notable feature is the double hammer-beam roof – unusual for a rural village church. Ashley speculated on where all the money could have come from to pay for such embellishments. His hour long talk soon passed leaving us with the feeling that there was a lot more interesting information still to be discovered.

Afterwards many of the party drove in convoy (to the astonishment of some of the local people) to Spencer's Farm Shop and cafe. There we were cheerfully served with (mainly) cream teas and had the opportunity to be tempted by the local produce and preserves in the shop. Altogether a very enlightening and enjoyable afternoon.



**Photo Ian Liddell**

**Heather Coltman**



## CHAIR'S REPORT GIVEN AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUDBURY SOCIETY ON 23 MARCH 2018

This has been a very busy year for both Committee and Members. We have worked on 'going public' with the Society, heard talks on everything from sign-writing to the silk industry and had one of our most successful summer visits – to the Houses of Parliament.

And of course, we had to find a new home. Your Chair looked at 22 possible venues and we are grateful to All Saints Church for accommodating both our Committee meetings and our monthly sessions.

At the beginning of the year we had our best ever Sudbury on Show stand, with 5 new members signed up on one day. Our membership remains strong, with 175 members and 46 Life Members, not including 12 new members in the last few weeks.

This year has been all about heightening our profile within Sudbury and surrounding areas and I believe we have been successful. I have been interviewed twice on Radio Suffolk regarding the new-build to replace the 'old-build' in Friars Street – namely the Mattingly's Building. We had requested that the replacement should conform to the existing buildings in terms of roof line and building materials and we were pleased to note that this was taken into account. The façade, as we now know, will be a replica of the previous building complete with some of the brick decoration saved from the old structure. Some of us however felt that a golden opportunity had been lost in that a really interesting modern building could have been designed – after all, the Corn Exchange was once a modern building which wouldn't have fitted in with its surroundings.

We continue to keep up a Press presence and have a regular column written by Committee member Stephen Thorpe. My most recent letter to the Suffolk Free Press concerned the bypass. We recognise as a Society that plans and proposals will inevitably take many months, and because of this, discussed 'what to do in the meantime'. The letter outlined some creative solutions and prompted a number of positive responses. Our NewsJournal now goes out to all Councillors, the main retail businesses in Sudbury and also several independent businesses, as well as doctors' surgeries and Sudbury Health Centre, and of course it is now online. Our stories have been 'lifted' by the local papers and the print run has risen to 400.

Small successes: thanks to a member's persistent pleading, cajoling and threats, Ballingdon Bridge was at last cleaned. The handrail however was not sanded and treated as we asked – the reason? – 'it isn't recognised as a handrail'. Prado Lounge in the Market Hill changed their signage from a neon – lit sign to one which 'fits in' much better with the existing buildings. Alaz (The Old Bull) in Cross Street, changed their purple-painted window-frames on our insistence and re-sited their ducting tube from the kitchen area round the back of

the building, rather than siting it at the front where it was clearly obvious above the 15<sup>th</sup> century roof.

We supported a local resident whose garden would have been severely affected by a neighbour's proposed new-build. The Conservation Officer listened and planning permission was rejected.

While we learn from Press reports that market-town retail is dying in favour of on-line shopping, we are told by Sudbury Town Council members that 'Sudbury bucks the trend'. It does indeed seem as though when one shop closes another opens. We were certainly pleased when Bazaar in Gainsborough Street was taken over by the Bridge Project.

For the Society, though, it has also been a year of frustration. So many empty buildings and dismal areas of town where nothing seems to happen – and when it does, it isn't right. Why put a modern light-coloured steel lamp-post in one of our most attractive areas of town – the Croft – when there are heritage lampposts to be had, and which we made a strong case for?

We were so sorry to lose our 'home' at Friars Hall but slightly optimistic when we read in last week's SFP that the organisation HIVE (which supports community groups through networking opportunities) has been given a new breath. We know what public consultations can lead to ... nothing.

### What's happening elsewhere:

The Tax Office: The Society initially rejected the plans but they were passed by Babergh District Council. The site was then sold again by auction and we are told work is soon to start on the building of 22 flats with parking.

The Bypass: A business case is being drawn up by the Council and a public consultation is due to be launched later this year. Councillor Jane Storey, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Highways, Transport and Rural Matters, said:

**'I want to make it clear that we are not promoting any specific route, this includes the westerly route which local people have voiced concerns about. All route options are being explored and we are looking at all the potential issues that the local community feel need to be considered with a project of this scale. This is a transport infrastructure project, we are not proposing any sites for housing.'**

Walnuttree: Sadly, we believe that the retained and redeveloped 'Workhouse Building' looks like - a workhouse. We suggested names for the site and the roads to encompass the history of the area eg. Simon of Sudbury. We particularly didn't want to lose 'Walnuttree'. What do we get - 'St Gregory's Place'. The developers are a Manchester firm - and what do we find in Manchester? St Gregory's Place. Clearly no initiative – and no imagination either. St Leonard's is a different

story. This is a well-thought through development which we liked from the beginning. We must hope that the proposed development of the Tax Office and BelleVue House can do it justice.

BelleVue House and surroundings: Nobody is saying, but it looks like a hotel chain will be moving in, trying to retain the house, or at least some of it, and hoping to re-energise the surroundings. We look forward to the retention of an iconic building, but more than that: a smartening-up of the area plus an opportunity for employment.

I have kept the most positive news till last: It looks as though that little bridge between the end of the Cornard Riverside Path and Baker's Mill will be rebuilt and reopened, possibly around May. This would give us a real tourist asset. To extend the walk to The Stour Valley Visitor Centre and Cornard Lock (and a pub) could lead to some interesting development - encouragingly, the Mill Tye Art Gallery opened there earlier this year.

A real achievement was to finally get our information boards up in the Library. The 'red-tape' was phenomenal and we had to wait weeks to find out whether we could screw into the wall in case there was asbestos present - nineteenth-century asbestos must be a first! - but eventually the letter arrived bearing those three magic words: no asbestos present. The boards have been admired by many but more importantly the boxes which contain membership forms and NewsJournals require constant refilling. Great news, as it means more people are finding out about the Society.

One of the main undertakings this year by Society members (a select three, in fact, and one in particular, our Vice-President) has been the establishing of The Local List - a database of buildings in Sudbury which contribute to the unique interest and variety of the local townscape, some having local historical interest too. (These were first compiled in the Society's publication 'Sudbury Suffolk - The Unlisted Heritage' again by Vice-President David Burnett.) The Local List is up and running on our website - do have a look. Our initiative for this year - continuing our theme of outreach - has been our LoveSudbury project. In January 2017 we discussed in Committee how there seemed to be an increase in litter, and how we had many muddy patches of ground which could be beautified easily and cheaply. We were also aware that the Town Council's budget had been severely cut and there simply were not the resources to keep up appearances.

We learned that there were several volunteer groups in town, working hard to make Sudbury a pleasanter place, but no-one really knew who they were and they didn't know each other either. We decided to form an umbrella group which would publicise everybody and build communication with the groups as well as the Community Wardens and Activlives Community Gardening Group.

The decision to spend money on promotional material was not taken lightly but in order to get our message across, it was necessary. Having obtained 3 quotes we chose one - and it happened to be cheapest by a long way - whom we thought would

Our publicity material went to all groups in the town, plus several schools and we promoted the project where we could: St George's Day Fair, for example, where we held a very successful Plant Stall.

The Town Council supported us and paid to set up a digital map with our information of which groups are working where. We felt however that this was not directly accessible to the public and we wanted to produce our own map, instantly accessible and easily consulted, and interactive in that it can be added to. We are hoping that it can be displayed in the Library and this month I am meeting the organisers of Sudbury in Bloom who are interested in the information it will display. It may even form part of Sudbury's entry for this year's Sudbury in Bloom Competition.

And of course, LoveSudbury won't stop just because it's the end of our 'year'. Plants don't stop growing and people won't stop tending them. Bradley Smith, our Community Warden, and Dan Wheals, horticulture expert from Activlives, will continue to work with the volunteers whose details you will see on our map. And I should say that the Society hasn't just compiled data - Society members themselves have been busy litter-picking and planting-up unloved spaces in Sudbury - and before I finish I want to show you just a few pictures of what's been done.

This concludes my report for 2017-18. As I stand down at this AGM, this report will be my last for the Society. I would like to thank all those who made my years in office so very enjoyable, especially the Sudbury Society Committee. I have sat on many Committees over the years, but never one as supportive and enthusiastic as this one. It is with very mixed feelings that I stand down today.

**Lorna Hoey**

### **Standing down, but not leaving...**

*It's time to go.*

*I have been Chair of The Sudbury Society for almost four years and I now know a great deal more about Sudbury than when I started. I've thoroughly enjoyed meeting people from all walks of life and learning something new every day (and not just from the speakers at our monthly meetings) about our unique market town. It's been a privilege to participate in discussions about the future of Sudbury and to lead campaigns on conserving the best of our historic heritage, while recognising that it is not always sensible to preserve buildings just because they are 'heritage'.*

*One of my goals has been to publicise the Society more so that our name and purpose is known throughout Sudbury. Since our membership has risen steadily this year to well over 200 members, that's a good sign. If you haven't heard of us, take a look at the information boards on the staircase in the Library - the old Corn Exchange - or our website: [www.sudburysociety.org.uk](http://www.sudburysociety.org.uk)*

*Although it was formed in 1974 after a successful campaign to preserve the Corn Exchange (a worthy cause indeed) the Society does not always look backwards with nostalgia, and,*



particularly in the light of the proposed development for Sudbury and surroundings, spends much of its time working to try to ensure that the inevitable new-builds enhance our town and conserve – improve even – our lifestyle.

*So, with interesting times ahead, why stand down? I must be clear: I am not leaving the Society but will remain a staunch member. I believe the Society now needs a new, dynamic leader with a fresh approach and plenty of ideas. A Civic Society such as ours is vitally important for Sudbury especially when the town is beginning a lengthy period of change and will face planning decisions which, increasingly, are no longer made in Sudbury.*

*As I write, the Society is welcoming a new Chairperson, a local resident who has extensive experience in leadership and project management and above all, great enthusiasm for our market town - surely the most important quality in taking forward the work of The Sudbury Society.*

*So although I'm going, it isn't goodbye.*

**Lorna Hoey, Ex-Chair, The Sudbury Society**

**(also published in the Suffolk Free Press 5 April 2018)**

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## PLANNING

David Burnett, Robin Drury and I recently met Simon Bailey, Heritage Team Leader at Babergh to discuss whether our revised Local List could be adopted by Babergh as the original List was. It was a good meeting and we hope for a positive response before too long.

You can find our revised list on the Society's website – [sudburysociety.org.com](http://sudburysociety.org.com). Go to the homepage, click on Local List, and follow instructions.

**Stephen Thorpe**

## LoveSudbury Map

Dear Supporters of the LoveSudbury Map.

This large map, which shows the locations of work being done by the main groups of volunteers in Sudbury, and also by individual volunteers, is now on display in the Library.

On entering the library, turn left and go up the staircase to the first landing. The map is on the wall in front of you. We are grateful to Gareth Lewry from the library who helped with the necessary bureaucracy required to hang the map on the library wall, and to Robin Drury who did the practical work with ladders and screws to actually get it in place.

Although no longer Chair of the Sudbury Society, I have agreed to monitor the map for one year until March 2019, but this should not be an arduous task (!) as the map is interactive.

I'll explain.

The locations where groups are working are indicated by a different coloured sticker for each group. As work progresses, groups can add more of their stickers to the outside of the map. It is faced with Perspex, not glass, and stickers will stick - I've tried it. You can buy stickers of 'your' colour at Sudbury Office Supplies, or I can supply them if you wish.

The Society is well aware that the Town Hall now has a digital map which members of the public can readily consult, which will provide information on many aspects of services in Sudbury, including information on the volunteer groups, and will be monitored by Community Warden Bradley Smith. As you add stickers to the Library's LoveSudbury map, please let me know. I'll undertake to pass that information to Bradley Smith to update the digital one.

The purpose of two maps?

The LoveSudbury one can be added to easily (Bradley is very busy and won't have much time to update the Town Hall map on a regular basis) and is accessible to all users/visitors to the Library, where it should be clear just how much work to improve our town is being done by our wonderful volunteers.

It is important that as many people know about it as possible. We are also hoping that it will form part of 'evidence' of on-going environmental work for the Sudbury in Bloom entry this year.

**Lorna Hoey Former Chair, The Sudbury Society**



## Here's to the next 3,000 years...

April 26th saw the first event at our new meeting date - 7pm on the last Thursday of the month. David Burnett, Society vice-president and well-known local historian, gave an illustrated talk on *Chilton: the first 3,000 years*. Clearly, he could only select a number of significant events in that long story but began with the earliest evidence of occupation and the excavation of a late Bronze/early Iron Age farming settlement west of the church, surrounded by a ditch and bank, possibly defensive but more likely to protect their cattle and sheep at night time.



The name Chilton comes from its Saxon name, Ciltona, and David suggested that the discovery of a beautiful 7<sup>th</sup> century copper alloy bowl in a Victorian excavation might have come from the grave of an important Saxon nobleman. The Domesday Book of 1086 records the presence of a small settlement around a church in Chilton but the settlement was tiny and disappeared entirely



at some point in the later Medieval period.

The Crane family became the lords of the manor in the mid 1400s and their wonderful memorials dominate the east

end of the church. Virtually all white alabaster now, the recumbent effigies of Robert Cranell, his wife and son show small traces of colour giving a hint of how gorgeous they must have been. David told the story of the serious disturbance in the church in December 1541 when armed men entered the building and seized and made off with John Methwold, the 14-year old ward of Robert Crane III.

After the Cranes died out, the estate was owned by various absentee landlords, such as the Windhams of Felbrigg, who rented out the Hall and land to local

tenant farmers. By Victorian times the Chilton parish boundaries stretched over the Cornard Road and down to the River Stour at Ladies bridge. This meant that accident or suicide victims on that stretch of the river were brought ashore on the Chilton bank with inquests held at the Maldon Grey Public House, which lay half in Chilton and half in Great Cornard!

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century industries such as lime burning, brick-making, malting, flour milling and then mat-making, had grown up on the Cornard Road. Today the whole site is occupied by the Sainsbury's supermarket.



**Mat-making**

David brought his fascinating talk to a conclusion by exploring the fate of the two Armes brothers who went off to fight in WW1 and the impact of the building of the airfield in WWII – not least on little Billy Huggins, the local evacuee who fell face down into a patch of quick drying cement!

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David's book, *Chilton: the first 3,000 years*, published by the Sudbury Museum Trust in 2015, is still available from the Tourist Information Centre and the Kestrel Bookshop in Sudbury and from Beckham Books ([www.beckhambooksonline.com](http://www.beckhambooksonline.com))

**Anne Grimshaw**

## THERE COULD BE HISTORY IN THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

Sudbury has added lots of new street names to the map, or rather it will when the existing one is revised. You don't have to wait that long, new names that refer to nuggets of local history feature in a new edition of *What's in a Name?* the Sudbury Museum Trust history of street names.

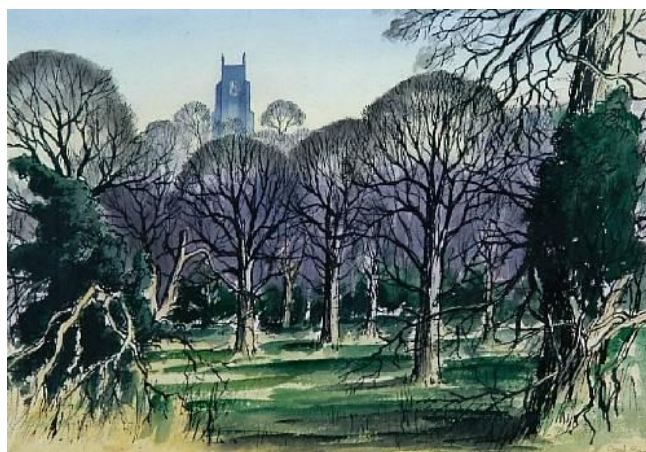
Pages of interesting new ones have been added to the first edition published in 2012 that explained the historic connections of more than 100 streets. Among the additions are streets on the three major new redevelopment sites in the centre of the town. These are the sites of the former Walnuttree and St Leonard's hospitals and Harps Close Meadow best known as People's Park. Among those on this last site is Paul Earee Parkway named in honour of the prolific local artist and architect. He ranks with Gainsborough in having more than one street named after him. His earlier alter ego is Paul Airey Mews on Newton Road. This spelling mistake seems to have been caused by an error in transmission between authorities first time around.



The first edition of *What's in a Name?* was written by local historian Anthony Wheeler in collaboration with retired journalist and fellow historian Val Herbert who edited it. At the time he had terminal cancer and died in May 2012 three weeks after publication. The book embodies his research for a talk he gave for decades on the origins of Sudbury Street names. It sold out by the end of that year.

Sudbury Society President Andrew Phillips launched the new, enlarged edition of *What's in a Name?* at the Heritage Centre on May 26. 'I hope this book will be a standard piece of town history updated every few years,' he told the gathering. His father Alan Phillips is newly remembered by a street on the Walnuttree hospital site. Museum Trust chairman Peter Minter also welcomed Michael Wheeler, chairman of the Sudbury Freeman's Charity which has sponsored the new edition enabling the price to be pegged at £5.

One town centre street name that has not appeared in either edition is Chestnut Mews off Friars Street named after the beautiful specimen on the site. 'It will not last forever and deserves to have a place in history,' observes Rev. Richard Titford who lives in the mews. Quite so. Where is the Walnut Tree which gave its name to the one-time Mill Lane.



**PAUL EAREE** (and his alter ego Paul Airey)

Paul Earee painted St Mary's Church in Chilton when it was surrounded by mature elm trees, obviously before Dutch Elm disease erupted in the 1960s. They were among the 20m that died in that decade, changing the face of the English countryside forever. The Forestry Commission reported that by the 1990s 25m had been killed by the fungus transmitted by the Dutch elm beetle and apparently imported into England in an infected log. The Chilton elms still regenerate from the roots but the beetle attacks again once the new growth reaches a height of about 10-12m.

*What's in a Name?* is on sale at £5 at the Kestrel bookshop in Friars Street and the Tourist Information Office in the town library.

**Val Herbert**



## EVENTS & NOTICES

### COMING EVENTS

**Thursday 28th June 7pm**

**A Vision for Sudbury**

A talk by Robin Drury

**Sunday 15th July. \*\*\***

**Afternoon Garden Party 3.30 - 6pm**

To be held at the Old Vicarage, Church Street, CO10 2BL

Hosted by Ian & Suzie Liddell.

Cream tea, £5 per head

**Friday 31st August 2pm. \*\*\***

**Tour of SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd**

Car sharing where possible

Mobility and access restrictions apply to this visit.

**Thursday 27th September 7pm**

**Domes in Architecture**

Ian Liddell, Structural Engineer Rt'd

**Thursday 25th October 7pm**

**Witches: when and why was the last witch burned in Sudbury?**

Prof Alison Rowlands, Dept of History, University of Essex

**Thursday 22nd November 7pm**

**The Universe from Sudbury: a beginners guide to the sky at night**

Julie Franklin, Royal Institute of Chemistry

**Friday 14th December 7pm**

**Christmas Buffet and Band**

Featuring 'The Accidentals'

### BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Please note that booking is essential for events marked

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Contact:

[events@sudburysociety.org.uk](mailto:events@sudburysociety.org.uk)

### MEETINGS

£3 members

£5 non members

Meetings are held on **Thursdays** at All Saints Church Hall, Church Street, unless otherwise stated.

### Thursday or Friday?

The Committee apologises for any confusion caused.

We have been unable to change every meeting to Thursday because some prior Friday bookings could not be changed as their speakers were unable to come on that day.

### THE COMMITTEE

*Prof John French*

**Chairman**

07775 991256

*Ian Liddell*

**Vice Chairman**

**Treasurer**

372400

*Angie Kearney*

**Minutes Secretary**

**Press**

07905 957608

*Liz Fulcher*

**Membership Secretary**

269935

*Stephen Thorpe*

**Planning**

881661

*Debo Adams*

**Events**

468579

*Pat and Roy Laithwaite*

**Catering**

377697

*Amanda Reavell*

**Finance**

370935

*Sam Thornton*

**Buildings**

375646

*Patricia Thorpe and*

*Sonia Virdee*

**NewsJournal**

372979

### MEMBERSHIP

It is encouraging that we have 18 new members since January. The Sudbury Society leaflet is distributed around Sudbury ie Library; Heritage Centre; The Christopher Centre and Homes and Hills Solicitors. I check on these and replenish where necessary. If anyone knows of other places where these leaflets may be displayed please let me know. Some membership fees are still outstanding.

*Liz Fulcher*

**Membership Secretary**