



Demolition for Corks Lane? Babergh's offices at Hadleigh sport an original front door of a Georgian townhouse, with a fine courtyard formed from the existing and new buildings. It was designed by internationally-renowned architects Arup, in partnership with a team from Babergh and its quality was recognised by a RIBA National Award, yet its future is uncertain. Stephen Thorpe tells us more on *page 2*



Remember the Flowerpot Men?

The Society's name is now proudly displayed on each of the three flower-troughs installed in the Old Market Place and they are planted up and maintained by members - but what happened to your Chair when she tried to do some weeding? See *page 3*

Gucci to your taste?

Or maybe a touch of buntine? Many people don't realise that Sudbury is the Silk Capital of the UK and possibly of Europe. Silk woven here is used by many top designers and worn by Royalty. But it is not the only cloth for which Sudbury is famous. 'A thin sort of woollen stuff, known as 'buntine' - very pliable though strong' was also woven in Sudbury - *page 13*



Know this lion?

If you missed Bob's Picture Quiz in April, well here's another chance to test yourself. Where does this handsome chap hang out? All Bob's pictures are features of buildings in Sudbury so it's quite possible that you've walked or driven past him. And if this one is too easy, there's another on *page 12*

Answers on the *back cover*



These boots were made for walking

and that's how Angie Jones spends much of her time. Angie doesn't just map routes, she meets characters along the way and hears their fascinating stories. Famous and infamous, she documents them all. Find out more *page 5*

DO YOU KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE?



SAM THORNTON



PAT LAITHWAITE



ANNE GRIMSHAW



IAN LIDDELL



CHAIR - LORNA HOEY



STEPHEN THORPE



AMANDA REAVELL



PATRICIA THORPE



SUE AYRES



LIZ FULCHER



ROSEMARY WOODWARD

From the Chairman's Desk

So, here we are at the beginning of a 'new year' for the Society. I have spent the last few months happily misleading people by telling those who were aware of my birthday that I was 'in my forty-fifth year' and not mentioning that these were Society years, my actual age being considerably greater.

Forty-five years ago the new Sudbury Society was discussing the traffic problem and the need for a bypass. (See our 'Archives' page.) So what has changed in the Society? A great deal. While those concerns are still with us, our plans and discussions at present centre around the promotion of a more positive outlook for Sudbury which is our *LoveSudbury* campaign.

Launched at Sudbury on Show, the campaign has been gathering momentum ever since. Members have happily taken on unadopted pieces of land (with advice from our Community Warden) and begun to 'make them better' as our Sudbury Society plaques proudly announce. These are awarded to individuals who have worked hard to make a difference to the appearance of the town, whether it be picking up three pieces of litter a day, dealing properly with the dog's-mess or simply bringing in their bin after it has been emptied.

The most interesting aspect of the campaign has been the realisation that there are already groups in Sudbury who have been beavering away at 'making the difference' for some time without shouting about their achievements. It is clear that without their input Sudbury would look very different. We were delighted to make contact with them, particularly Greener Sudbury and Green Belt Sudbury, and indeed work alongside them on planting projects. We are delighted that the town now has a horticulture specialist in Dan Wheals who is happy to help and advise us, particularly on what is a weed and what isn't. Dan works in Sudbury on Mondays and Thursdays and can lend gloves and gardening tools to anyone who is keen to get involved.

The on-going support we receive from Bradley Smith, Community Warden, continues to be invaluable. At a recent Sudbury Society talk Bradley advised us on what to plant in the unloved areas and informed us that litter-picks and blue bags can be supplied from the Town Hall; Bradley and his team will collect filled bags if informed.

I was amazed to read recently of the solution that a

Liverpool mayor proposed to combat their dog's-mess problem: he suggested that residents who report the offending dog owners should be spared from paying council tax for a year. Really? The average fine for dog fouling isn't anywhere near as much as my council tax. What if my neighbour 'let' me report them and I gave them half my waived tax bill? Even after paying the fine we'd still be in the money.

Hardly in the spirit of LoveSudbury, though. 'Grassing' on our neighbours is surely not the answer.

The *LoveSudbury* project will run until March 2018. We plan to evaluate it by compiling a map of all the Sudbury groups that work towards our ideal: everyone doing a little bit to take a pride in Sudbury. Our website, listing groups with contact details, will be available to all and in this way the positivity that *LoveSudbury* has already engendered should continue into the future.

A final note: this year saw the installation of three 'planters' in the Old Market Place, which are maintained by us and proudly bear the Society's name. While tending to some plants recently I was accosted by a neighbour: was I, she demanded, helping myself to a few free cuttings? While it took some time to convince her that I was in fact meant to be there, I was delighted at her vigilance and told her so. If we can encourage everyone in Sudbury to take a pride in their particular area of our lovely town, then LoveSudbury will have the desired effect.

Lorna Hoey

Lorna tidying the planters



AN EVENING AT THE MUSIC HALL

There was a disappointing turn out for the Sudbury Society's talk on music hall by Bryan Thurlow on 2 December. This was surprising as Bryan has been very popular at previous Sudbury Society meetings for he is full of enthusiasm for his subject. He sang extracts from the popular songs of the time and gave potted biographies of many artistes whose names are still familiar, Marie Lloyd probably being the best known. Her appeal was that her acts were somewhat risqué but it was more in the interpretation of the words than the actual words themselves which made her saucy reputation.

Vesta Tilley too caused quite a stir for she showed her legs in public (shock! horror!) but she was most famous as a male impersonator at a time when women did not wear trousers and certainly not in public! (What a turnaround now – virtually all the women in the audience were wearing trousers except those of us who had complied with the event's publicity inviting the audience to come in costume or at least wear a big hat – the ladies, anyway. But why did not the gentlemen sport fancy waistcoats, blazers, boaters or top hats?

But I digress. Another Vesta (both named after Vesta matches – shining lights?) was Vesta Victoria. One of her songs was *Now I have to call him father*:

*He used to come and court his little Mary Anne
I used to think that he was my young man
But Mother caught his eye and they got married on the sly
Now I 'ave to call him Father!*

Then there was Dan Leno, Little Tich, Harry Lauder, George Robey, Charlie Chaplin and Jessie Matthews and dozens of others, some of whom became stars of the silver screen or radio personalities or straight actors. Bryan set the scene of the late 19th and early 20th century: many people lived in drab houses, had miserable jobs, hard, difficult work, not much opportunity for fun and laughter but the theatre with its colour, light, music and entertainment was a welcome escape for many. And even if you didn't have such a miserable life, an evening at the music hall was simply fun: joining in a chorus of *My Old Man Says Follow the Van* or *Burlington Bertie* (as we did) and watching a pretty girl dancing or laughing at a comedian's jokes or marvelling at acrobats and jugglers – the music hall was 'of its time'.

The evening included nibbles and drinks and birthday cake (mine). All these music hall stars seemed to be from another era that was way, way back, long before my time. But they weren't. Many of them were still around when I was growing up – as I was reminded when I ate a piece of birthday cake...

Anne Grimshaw



Bryan Thurlow in action



Victorian Lorna



Anne's 'big hat'

Photos Kath Hedley

WALKING IN THE SLOW LANE



The first meeting of the year started disappointingly for the audience and infuriatingly for the speaker: the projector would not 'talk' to the laptop and even when another was brought there were technical problems which meant no pictures.

But what was lacking in technology was more than made up for by the enthusiasm of the speaker, Angie Jones, a retired teacher. She told us how she had managed to combine two loves of her life: writing and walking. It all began by her writing articles for local papers and magazines about walks she had undertaken in Suffolk and Essex. This eventually grew until a publisher suggested a book of these – not a guide-book with instructions on how to follow the route but 'jottings' about curiosities, the unusual and the downright quirky.

Before undertaking a walk, she would swot up the destination and its route, seek out or go off the path in search of other things. She would talk to the locals, especially old people who had lived in the area all their lives. People such as Michael Clark, the butcher in Hartest (picture above) who had had only two holidays in his life: one when he was 23 and the other when he was 58!

A visit to Charsfield resulted in interviewing Ronald Blythe who wrote *Akenfield*, then talking to a local man whose children had featured in the film of the book. In Chelsworth, Woodstock Cottages were supposed to be the site of hidden loot from a robbery. Thanks to someone who had had too much to drink and spilled the beans, it was found there in 1922.

Cavendish was the site of three wartime aeroplane crashes. After the one near Robbs Farm local man,

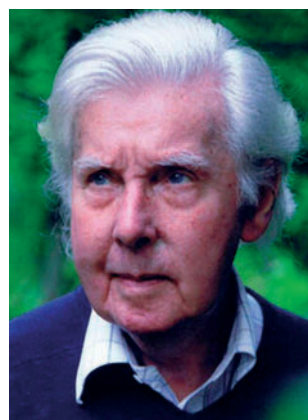
Tom Doe, walking over the debris-covered site, found a man's shoe. The next day he found its mate. They were almost new and they fitted him perfectly!

Angie delighted in snippets of 'useless' information, but the kind of information that adds interest to a place, a building, a farm or whatever, that would otherwise remain 'anonymous'. For instance, Dalham Hall was once owned by Cecil Rhodes, the founder of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe.) Edwardstone has an old school which is now a private house but the owner welcomed Angie inside and showed her around. Bildeston was where the Kray brothers used to live. The remains of a motte and bailey castle can be found at Groton.

Angie's enthusiasm was infectious because after she had finished her talk, she was besieged by members of the audience saying, "You really ought to go to..."

Her collection of walks will be published by Sigma Press and is due for publication in August this year. The title will be *Walking in the Slow Lane*.

Anne Grimshaw



Ronald Blythe

NO - CARS POLICY/CIVIC TOGETHERNESS?

February's Sudbury Society meeting was scheduled as a talk by **Dr Dennis Brogan** with the title *Is there a doctor in the house?* We were probably expecting reminiscences and anecdotes from the life of a Sudbury GP but Dr Brogan said he would not be talking about health and medicine. Instead, it would be a comparison of Sudbury and Venice!

The essence of his talk was that a totally fresh outlook and attitude to motor transport (commercial and private) is needed if we are to reclaim our town centres – not just Sudbury. Radical ideas need radical solutions and less of the “We can't do that because...” type of thinking in favour of “How about...?”

Dennis was not offering solutions to many of his ideas which were often linked to what he had seen elsewhere, particularly Venice, which does actually have pavements and pedestrian areas as well as canals. But how, for instance, do they cope with cars? Simple: they ban them to parking areas on the northern outskirts and from there drivers become pedestrians or passengers on boats. This public transport is frequent, cheap, reliable and comfortable – and encourages social interaction in the way that cars do not. And this is one of the most important benefits to a car-less place.

But it requires a mindset that accepts the need for waiting and walking: times to ‘slow down’, speak to people, look at the scenery, admire the buildings – anything except pointless, self-inflicted rushing around. Small shops in a pleasant environment should be part of the fabric of living, encouraging civic togetherness and civic pride.

We have all seen pre-World War I photos of Market Hill – a wonderful open space uncluttered with motor vehicles – a bit like the Piazza San Marco. Who would suggest putting a car park in the middle of that? On a practical note though, Venetian household rubbish/recycling is put out in small quantities and collected every day by hand, then loaded onto a boat and taken for disposal. Deliveries are also done by boat and hand-cart. But it has to be said that bridges over canals and steps are not ideal for mobility scooters and buggies.

Of course, no one could have foreseen that the motor car would change our towns and our lives for better and worse. It crept up on us and solutions had to be found as we went along. However, it would take a brave local authority to ban or restrict motor transport (and bicycles) from Sudbury town centre. Probably

Venice City Council has more clout. But things are changing gradually with pedestrianised areas in many towns and cities (five underground car parks in Ostend alone), out-of-centre car parks and enforced traffic management in Bruges, the Venice of the North. Nearer home, there are car-free places: Shrewsbury, Canterbury, Cambridge, Lincoln, Tenby and others.

Will Sudbury follow their example and join the Great Slow Down as an escape from the tyranny of the motor car?

Anne Grimshaw



Piazza San Pietro, Sudbury?

Photo from Sudbury Museum Trust Photo Archive



Piazza San Marco, Venice — a good place for a car park?

SUDBURY SOCIETY TALKS AND VISITS 2017/18

Once again the Events Committee has been busy arranging the programme for the coming year. On Friday 16th June at 2.30pm we are meeting Ashley Cooper at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Gestingthorpe, to learn the history of this fascinating Church and afterwards take tea and biscuits at Hill Farm with Ashley.

Our final visit for this year is Friday 28th July when we go to the Visitor Centre at the Recycling Depot at Great Blakenham. Our tour is timed for 2.00pm and places are limited to 20.

On Saturday afternoon 26th August the Society will hold a Prosecco Cream Tea (venue to be confirmed). What better way to start the Bank Holiday weekend?

We are assured of an extremely interesting and unusual talk when Wayne Tanswell visits us on 29th September. He first learned to signwrite in 1980 after leaving school. Now his work takes him all over the United Kingdom, with mainly commissions for traditional sign-writing for pubs, hotels and holiday venues. But there is much more to his story as we shall hear.

Bringing in the Bombs with Robyn Lloyd Hughes, another first-time speaker for us, will be here on 27th October. Subtitled *Logistic Support to 8th USAAF bases in Sudbury and surrounding areas by Road, Rail, Sea and Air*. More memories of World War II in our area.

A change of time for November 24th when our favourite Ranger, Adrian Walters, will be with us at the earlier time of 1.30pm and bring us more fascinating facts and news about our wonderful Water Meadows.

Our last event at Friars Hall will be on December 15th for a Christmas "Call My Bluff" courtesy of our own Sue Ayres and, of course, a seasonal Buffet too.

2018

At the time of writing we are not sure where we will be holding our meetings in 2018, but of course will keep you up to date when we know!

Into the New Year and another first for the Society on 26th January, when we welcome Sue Molineux, Technician of the Gainsborough's House Print Workshop where professional artist members, newcomers to printmaking, schools and community groups all use its specialist facilities. Sue will tell some of their stories and make a print from scratch at the same time. If you'd like some hands on experience, you could make one too!

During 2018 Sudbury will be celebrating the silk weaving heritage of the town and on 23rd February

we welcome Richard Humphries who founded Humphries Weaving at just 20 years of age in 1972. Richard's journey within the textile manufacturing industry began in the 1960s. He has always had an artistic and creative spirit, interested in both design and style. Leaving school at an early age, he was apprenticed into the textile trade as a design trainee with the established and renowned firm of Warner and Son Ltd. We will hear about his long and interesting journey through the silk weaving industry.

March 23rd is our AGM and after the formal meeting, Committee Member and local Estate Agent Sam Thornton will be giving a talk based on Harry Turner, a well-known local personality of yester-year who was, amongst other notable achievements, responsible for saving the Quay Theatre.

We end our year on 27th April by welcoming back another favourite speaker of the Sudbury Society, our ever-popular Vice-President David Burnett, who will be telling us some of the long history of the parish of Chilton which we know may well become part of Sudbury in the future. This promises to be a most interesting and thought-provoking talk.

For the visits to Gestingthorpe and Great Blakenham we suggest car-sharing.

We do hope you will enjoy these events. If you have any ideas for 2018-19 please let us know!

Rosemary Woodward



Silk tassels produced at Humphries Weaving

RESPONSES TO THE LOVE SUDBURY CAMPAIGN

From Sarah Bennett

I have just received my NewsJournal and was really thrilled to read Val's article.

I am a constant litter-picker and I am so keen to spruce Sudbury up, and Val's words echoed my own. I recently met with Bradley, our town warden, about possible initiatives, and I suggested an 'I love Sudbury' (S♥DBURY) campaign, so Val's words are uncanny. As you mention, resources are now scarce and there is plenty volunteers can do; many people pick up litter around the meadows and lorry parks, and I wonder if I am the person seen picking up litter on Market Hill. I have my various circuits which I do regularly, and recently cleaned out the Roy's hedge of cans (I have to go back and do the bottles) and also the small shrubbery by the steps up to Borehamgate (a real eyesore) and the two shrubberies with the seats opposite. This is particularly important if Sudbury wants to become a tourist destination, particularly with the developments at Gainsborough's House, and if the authorities want to extend the AONB area so that it borders Sudbury. I am passionate about making the most of Sudbury and seeing it shine. I feel we must really raise awareness.

From Rosemary Buffham

Spurred on by Val Herbert's excellent article in the NewsJournal and Lorna's comments at the last meeting, my own resolve to do something about the rubbish littering the footpaths that I traverse on my way to town and on my occasional walks round the block was realised. (New Year's resolution for walks to be more than occasional!) I stuffed a pair of Marigolds and a bin bag in my pocket and on my last leg of my walk today, through the footpath leading from the top of Constitution Hill to the Delphi entrance, I donned my rubber gloves and proceeded to pick up the rubbish strewn either side of the pathways, in the hedges and behind the rusting wire fence. Urged on by local dog walkers - "carry on with the good work", "why don't people take their rubbish home", and "you're doing a good job", I filled a large black bin bag with the usual delightful 'offerings' - crisp packets, a baby's dummy, various cans, beer bottles, flower wrappings (why leave the cellophane wrapping on?), cigarette packets, dog poo bags with contents, tins stuffed in

the hedges and various other unmentionables, (my back it doth protest!) - remind me to use a litter picker-upper next time.

As Val and Lorna said, if everyone picks up litter in their own street, perhaps it will hopefully encourage others to stop dropping litter if they see a clean street or footpath. I hope that this missive will encourage others to do 'their bit', so get out there litter pickers and smarten up your area—only saying!



Sarah Titford receiving a LoveSudbury plaque for her planting work in Bullocks Lane

From Ian Liddell

Since it seems time to boast about one's contribution to making Sudbury beautiful here's my contribution in my bit of the old graveyard at All Saints Church.



The nearest tree is a "King James" Mulberry, *Morus Nigra*, The taller one behind is a Tulip tree, *Liriodendron Tulipifera*, an American forest tree that will compete with those sycamores behind, and the reddish one is a, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, American sweet gum It should be redder than it has been so far. The Mulberry is now producing fruit in the summer. To the right of these is an Acer bush that had not turned at this time. I hope the passers-by enjoy them.

SUDBURY ON SHOW MARCH 2017

Sudbury on Show this year was hugely successful for the Sudbury Society. Our stand looked marvellous. In fact, some of us thought it was the best one there! We certainly had a lot more visitors than last time, and plenty of people who engaged us in conversation, wanting to know more about our work and our opinions on the various topics that we have struggled with over the last year. As you can imagine, the bus station cropped up frequently.

Many thanks to all of you who helped or offered to, or even just popped past to see how we were getting on. Particular thanks must go to Rosemary Woodward, who stayed at her post all day; to Anne Grimshaw, who split herself between Sudbury Ephemera Archive and the Sudbury Society; to Stephen Thorpe, who did the afternoon slot, and to members Peter Woodward and Bob Andrews who helped to pick-up display panels, boxes and various other paraphernalia from Friars' Hall and, having brought it all to St Peter's, wrestled with the display stands - no easy task.

Robin Drury deserves special thanks for a specialist job: designing and ordering the beautiful roller-posters which stand about six feet high and announced the Society's presence in no uncertain terms! Badges and fridge-magnets were a new venture for the Society and proved to be eye-catching and effective.

We signed up *five* new members and generated a lot of interest. We had our photographs taken (several times!) including by the *Suffolk Free Press* and had a visit from - among many others - James Cartlidge MP, Dan Wheals, the new Horticulture Project Co-ordinator for Sudbury, and the Tidy Town Team from Hadleigh who were keen to talk us through their work.

Several of us handed out Andrew Phillips' questionnaire asking what people liked and disliked about Sudbury. He himself stood outside the Church door for the best part of the afternoon in a bitter wind, handing out as many as possible. A heroic effort so let's hope there are plenty of constructive replies.

The Society's *LoveSudbury* campaign was officially launched at Sudbury on Show. *LoveSudbury* is an initiative by the Sudbury Society to bring awareness to the growing need to combat lack of care in our town. Some of this is due to government cuts to local authorities which means there is less to spend on cleaning and tidying. Some of it is anti-social littering. If we take pride in where we live by paying attention to

small details – litter, plants, cleanliness – and doing something about it, it will make a tremendous difference. Making our environment pleasant reflects on what we are as a community so that we benefit both visitors to Sudbury and ultimately ourselves.

The Society's stand at Sudbury on Show was 'buzzing' all day. There was a really positive 'feel' about our LoveSudbury project and the work of the Society, so let's push forward!

Lorna Hoey, Chair

Hard at work on the stall



So what does the Society actually do?



BABERGH'S OFFICES AT HADLEIGH

Two years ago at a meeting at the Hadleigh offices the need to have the new building listed was raised. The original buildings on the site which were incorporated into the new complex are themselves listed but this was not felt to be sufficient protection for the new work.

Two years later and I have just submitted an application to Historic England for listing on behalf of the Sudbury, Hadleigh and Ipswich Societies.

In the meantime things have changed which put the whole complex at risk, that is for the Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils to merge and to move into Suffolk County Council's fairly mundane offices in Ipswich and for the respective headquarters to be put up for redevelopment and/or partial alteration/demolition.

The Hadleigh building is a fine example of incorporating historic buildings into a modern development. The architects selected were Arups who were already known in the region for their fine conversion of the maltings at Snape into a world class concert hall. Their chief architect, the late Sir Philip Dowson, has also designed two fine houses close to Sudbury and Monks Eleigh. The design for Babergh was the outcome of an intensive discussion between Arups and a team from Babergh led by their then architect, Chris Chestnutt, who has designed several buildings in Sudbury. It is therefore a solution carefully tailored to Babergh's needs. It was completed in early 1982 and its quality was acknowledged by a Civic Trust Award and an RIBA National Award.

Our application for listing is supported by the 20th Century Society, set up in the 1930'S to protect fine inter-war buildings from demolition. It is currently campaigning to save fine post-war buildings, particularly from the 1960's and 70's, from demolition.

So you have a short time to visit this building if you haven't done so yet, and appreciate its qualities. You can walk all round the outside, but you ought to see inside. Its public entrance (I love this), is not a bit of local authority pretentiousness but the original front door of a Georgian townhouse. Once inside you should follow the route to the Planning Reception which will give you a flavour of the building's qualities, particularly the hard wearing materials and the fine courtyard formed from the existing and new buildings.

That this building should be at risk is unforgivable, and Babergh councillors in the main do not seem to appreciate what they've got.

Are there lessons for current and future developments here in Sudbury?

If you would like to see the text of the application email me and I will send it to you.

Stephen Thorpe



The Hadleigh building



LIVING ABOVE THE SHOP?

A key current application is to transform the former Burtons shop into a restaurant with a flat at ground floor level to the rear and three flats at first floor level. Some years ago the concept of "living above the shop" was promoted as a way to enliven town centres. It seems to be becoming a reality in Sudbury – to the existing flats above the original Javelin should be added planned flats above the new Javelin, six in the replacement Mattinglys, the four already mentioned and one above the current Holland and Barrett. This is a positive development given some dire predictions for the future of retailing. Should it be encouraged as a key element in the Town Plan? There is a need to resolve issues like attractive rear access, refuse collection and of course parking. Except that we still don't have a Town Plan to update. If we did it could guide proposals and developments of all types and sizes and respond to such developments. The exciting development and expansion of Gainsborough House, making it the national centre for our Sudbury born artist, will certainly specifically encourage visitors to the town but we seem blissfully unprepared to welcome them.

Stephen Thorpe

SUDBURY SOCIETY AGM 24 March 2017

The Chair, Lorna Hoey, welcomed members (approximately 50) to the meeting and explained the format of the evening. There followed apologies for absence and signing off the minutes of the 2016 AGM.

Lorna then gave the Chair/Executive Committee Report which covered the main achievements, events, concerns and business undertaken by the Committee and Society during the past very busy year. These included:

Bus station – in view of huge opposition in the town to moving the bus station to Girling St, Babergh District Council is “looking again” at plans and alternatives.

Belle Vue House – this has been boarded up since it was vacated by the CAB last July. Unsurprisingly, it has been vandalised and Lorna wrote to the press immediately after the damage was discovered to reiterate the Society’s view that the building is a prime target for wilful damage and needs to be permanently supervised.

Walnuttree – demolition has begun and the site is being cleared except for the Victorian core which is to be retained, thanks in part to the Sudbury Society.

St Leonards – demolition has also begun there with, again, the original main building retained. The plans for the proposed new buildings were viewed by Committee members and look very promising.

Sudbury on Show (February 2017) was particularly successful in that visitors to the show seemed to be much more aware of what the Society stands for and actually does. Five new members were enrolled.

The **LoveSudbury** campaign was launched at Sudbury on Show and has already attracted much attention, support and press coverage. Society member Val Herbert is handling the LoveSudbury publicity and press. The Society has already awarded a plaque to Sarah Titford for her planting on Bullocks Lane. More plaques will be awarded in future for similar ‘adoption’ of land. Bradley Smith, Community Warden, will be at the next Society meeting to advise on plants, planting, litter and land use.

It was decided that the Society would have a plant sale stand at the **St George’s Day** event on 23 April.

The Society has been asked by individuals to lend its support in various ways particularly in relation to planning and conservation and has done so where it was felt appropriate. We have also been asked to partici-

pate in the **Sudbury Summer of Silk** in 2018. Lorna is a member of its working party; because of her on-going interest in education and involving young people in Society work, she has agreed to go into schools to promote the Society.

We will not be running the *Visions of Sudbury* art exhibition in 2017 due to so many other commitments resulting in a lack of Committee support. An event such as this requires a great deal of time and organisation and the Committee felt that it would be better to wait until a more appropriate time and then to do a really good job. It is hoped to run it in 2018.

As the URC church and its adjoining Friars Hall will possibly close in December 2017, the Society will have to find another meeting place. The Committee has been investigating alternative venues.

Accounts: Treasurer, Ian Liddell, gave his report. A copy of the accounts was provided to all members attending the meeting. There were several queries from members regarding various accounts. Lorna confirmed that the Wheeler legacy money was to be used only for ‘special purposes’ (e.g. the Stephen Binks’ painting now in the Heritage Centre, the projector, screen and sound system, etc. and not for the everyday running of the Society.) Andrew asked for more ‘specificity’ in next year’s accounts (e.g. naming and defining Society projects) and an easier to read layout. There was some concern that the accounts had not been audited. Ian stated that this was not required by the Charities Commission if under a certain amount. The accounts were accepted as true as they stand, but Lorna noted members’ concerns that (1) the accounts sheet was difficult to understand and (2) the need for clarification on whether auditing the accounts was needed, and members were told that this would be re-visited and the outcome reported to members.

Then followed the **Election of Officers and Committee**. Andrew Phillips, Lord Phillips of Sudbury, kindly agreed to continue as President of the Society. David Burnett has also agreed to be our Vice-President for another year. Both were thanked for their continuing support throughout the year and their constant willingness to give advice and help where necessary.

Any Other Business : Members were asked for comments: Several members were concerned about the

old Tax Office site on Newton Road which is very untidy and asked what could be done about it. The Committee response was that not much can be done except perhaps, a personal letter to the company requesting that it be tidied up.

What of the possibility of a plaque on the house in Cross Street where the bunting for the US flag had been made in the 19th century? This flag was the inspiration for the national anthem of the USA. The Committee agreed that this should be public knowledge and is working on an idea for plaques on buildings of historic importance.

The subject of the bypass has recently be revived but members felt that although they supported the idea, they were not hopeful that progress would be made in the near future.

The AGM closed at 8.30pm.

It was followed by an inspiring talk by Lord Phillips on Sudbury and its character, with the changes that have affected it and are present now. He reminded us what a privilege it is to live in this lovely town.

There was good support for the AGM



Photo: Bob Andrews

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

April's meeting was the annual fish and chip supper combined with Bob's picture quiz. Also there were Bradley Smith, Sudbury Town Council's Community Head Warden and Mel Edwards, Tesco's 'Community Champion', who explained their joint efforts to create a 'better Sudbury' through volunteer litter picks, charity support and generally getting 'the community' to take a pride in the place. This, of course, complements the Sudbury Society's *LoveSudbury* Campaign with its emphasis on smartening up unloved corners of the

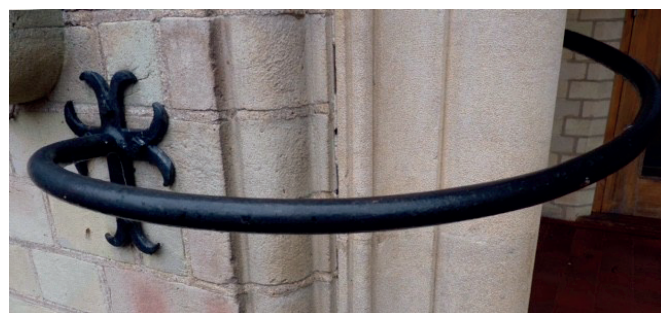
town by tidying, planting appropriate plants and removing litter.

Litter is a perennial problem: do some people think that chucking down litter is some sort of job-creation scheme? Dog fouling is another problem although, of course, many responsible dog owners do clear up after their dogs and use the dog poo bins provided. Others choose to hang the bags and their contents on tree branches and fence posts... do they think this funny or what? (It's not the dog's fault that it has a moron for an owner.)

But the evening wasn't all 'depressing' by any means! Bob Andrews had compiled a testing picture quiz that consisted of 28 photos of architectural and other details to be seen around the town – but where? Sometimes, of course, you'd swear you'd never seen it in your life. There were groans aplenty when Bob gave the answers.

So, in readiness for next year's picture quiz if there is one (or even if there isn't) don't go around looking at the ground or at shop windows – look up above the awful plastic shop fascia boards – that's where the interest lies. Look at the roofs and walls (what are they made of?), the chimneys (why are some so tall?), the gables (some slope more than others – why?), the corbels (decorative and plain), the windows and their frames (cringe at the inappropriate uPVC in old cottages), the brickwork (look for patterns of different coloured and moulded bricks), the decorations over doors and windows (the flower motif is very popular), the stained glass in top windows, the stone plaques (date of building, name of house or terrace and sometimes builder's initials)... there is just so much to look at – and remember where you've seen it! The more you look, the more you will come to love the town's buildings, In fact, you'll LoveSudbury! **Anne Grimshaw**

TEST YOURSELF : WHERE IS THIS?



Answer on back cover

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER – FROM SUDBURY

Next time you walk down Cross Street towards Ballingdon have a look at the cottages on your right - specifically numbers 75-78. They might look fairly nondescript now - modest terraced houses - but they have a hidden history that is valued more across the Atlantic than here. But it was here that bunting was made. Bunting? Yes, both large and small flags much used in the Navy. The small sort could be assembled to make a message such as that at the battle of Trafalgar "England expects every man will do his duty". But what has that got to do with America?

To step back in time a little: the demand for heavy woollen broadcloth such as had been woven in Sudbury declined in the 16th/17th centuries and so weavers turned to lighter-weight fabric such as bays & says (a fine cloth), crepes and bunting. The latter became a branch of the textile industry almost unique to Sudbury and, because of its lighter weight, was mainly woven by women.

What exactly is bunting - or as it was known at the time - buntine? Described in 1826 as: "a thin sort of woollen stuff, very pliable though strong; it is wove in strips, blue, white, red, etc. which strips are afterwards sewed together, into the form needed for the specific flag." Being loosely woven its edges were tightly double-hemmed (by hand) for strength and to prevent them unravelling in the wind.

In 1814 Britain was at war (again – the War of 1812) with the newly established United States of America. Fort McHenry near Baltimore had no Stars and Stripes flag and so one was ordered. Living in Baltimore was fervent patriot Mary Pickersgill, a flag-maker, who was commissioned to produce a 30 x 42-foot garrison flag for the fort. This was a massive undertaking. Much bunting had to be acquired and even though Britain was at war with the US, ships arrived in American ports, some of them carrying bunting from Sudbury.

Mary calculated how much bunting would be needed in red, white and blue. Bunting was woven in 18-inch wide strips. The red and white stripes of the American flag needed to be 2 feet wide so this required careful cutting and sewing by Mary's patriotic female relatives who worked on the flag mostly for no pay. The blue section was also made up of sewn-together strips of 18-inch bunting. The white stars were cotton fabric, possibly also woven in England. After about six weeks, the flag was assembled and taken to Fort McHenry. It was flying over the fort when 5,000 British soldiers and 19 Royal Navy ships attacked Baltimore on 13 September

1814. The firing went on until nightfall. Was it still there the following morning? (*"Oh, say, can you see by the dawn's early light...?"*) It was! Fort McHenry had resisted the British bombardment (*"Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight..."*)

The war (which some regarded as America's Second War of Independence) ended in February 1815. (We lost - again.) It is, therefore, somewhat ironic that the Stars and Stripes which flew over that Baltimore fort in defiance of the British and was the inspiration for the American national anthem, had begun life in Cross Street, Sudbury.

Acknowledgements:

Sally Johnston. *Mary Young Pickersgill Flag Maker of the Star-Spangled Banner*, 2014

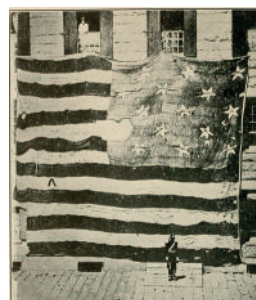
Isaac Taylor. *Scenes of Wealth or Views and Illustrations of Trades, Manufactures, Produce and Commerce*, 1826

Barry Wall. *Sudbury*, 2004

75—78 Cross Street



The house on the right and the next three cottages belonged to Abraham Griggs, a say maker, from 1695. He also used the premises for making bunting for the Royal Navy and for export, including the US, and it was here that the fabric for the Stars and Stripes was made in 1813.



The flag that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814



The original Star Spangled Banner, the flag that inspired Francis Key Scott to write the song that would become the national anthem of the USA, is among the treasured artefacts in the collections of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Anne Grimshaw

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE USA

*"Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"*

Sung to the tune of an old English drinking song, 'The Anacreontic Song', the official song of the Anacreontic Society, an 18th-century gentlemen's club of amateur musicians in London. (Sorry, can't find a Sudbury connection with that – but maybe Gainsborough was a member of it!)

RESTORATION

Another claim to Sudbury's fame was to be found on Channel 4 recently in the restoration of Mount Stewart, Northern Ireland, in the Great British Buildings series. The yellow silk curtains in the grand room were very drab and stained. In order to restore them a sample was sent to a silk firm for analysis and restoration. It was found that the curtains were originally golden yellow, shot through with pink to make a shimmer. The silk firm who analysed and restored them to their original glory was Humphries Weaving in Cornard Road, Sudbury. **Ed.**



Lady Londonderry's Sitting Room



Richard Humphries MBE

Continued from page 10

STOP PRESS PLANNING

*Two planning applications have recently been submitted for the conversion of Sulby House into 33 flats, and for the conversion of Easterns into 15 flats. Whereas Sulby House has good parking provision, Easterns is proposed to be "car free" given that it is close to public car parking and the station. **SJT***

FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES

Copy of article in Suffolk Free Press of 20 January 1972

Society will be watchdog for Sudbury

Over 60 people attended the first meeting of the Sudbury Society at Salters Hall last week.

Main speakers at the meeting were the Mayor of Sudbury Mr W. R. Barker, Mr Keith Stainton MP, Lord Abinger and Mr John Gorst, the Chief Planning Officer for West Suffolk County Council.

Mrs L. Hoare opened the meeting by expressing her delight at such a large audience. She went on to explain that the Society had been founded by the 'By Pass Society', because it felt that it was not large enough to face the growing problems of Sudbury.

Mr Barker spoke of the pride and affection that all the residents of the town held for Sudbury. He stressed that even after the local government reforms of 1974, "we must ensure that Sudbury does not lose its soul, even if it loses its identity."

Local MP, Mr Keith Stainton, said: "One of the biggest problems facing Sudbury is, of course, the traffic problem."

He said that the new one-way traffic system in the town was a step in the right direction, but the Society should press on with its fight for a by-pass for the town.

Mr Stainton pointed out that the Department of the Environment had no plans to build any more major roads in this area for at least five years, and he added "more and more lorries are coming through the town on their way to not only Ipswich and Felixstowe but also ports like Harwich."

SWITCH TO RAIL

Lord Abinger, Chairman of the Colne Stour Countryside Association said: "I cannot understand why the railways are being shut down when so much of the freight traffic on our roads could be carried by rail."

Mr Gorst pledged the county planning committee's co-operation with the newly formed society, and stressed the importance of consultation between both sides.

After a short discussion, the name 'Sudbury Society' was adopted by a very close margin. 'The Sudbury and District Society' was the other proposal but it was defeated by 27 votes to 26.

An annual subscription rate of 50 pence was fixed and the following officers were elected: President, Mr Barker; Chairman, Mr Alan Phillips; Vice Chairman, Mrs Hoare; Treasurer, Mr Phillip Richardson; Secretary, Mrs Green.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

COMING EVENTS 2017/18

Friday 19th May ***

Members' Tour of the Palace of Westminster. £25 per person

Friday 16th June 2.30pm

Visit to St Mary the Virgin Church, Gestingthorpe with Ashley Cooper, followed by tea and biscuits at Hill Farm.

Friday 28th July ***

Visit and tour of Visitor Centre, Recycling Depot, Great Blakenham. Tour starts at 3pm. (20 places only)

Saturday 26th August ***

Prosecco Cream Tea

Luxury cream tea . £5 per person.
(Venue as yet undecided)

Friday 29th September 7.30

A Sign-writer's Tale

A talk by Wayne Tanswell.

Friday 27th October 7.30

Wartime Railways & Airbases in Suffolk

A talk by Robin Lloyd Hughes.

Friday November 24th 1.30pm

News from the Water Meadows

A talk by the Ranger Adrian Walters .

Friday December 15th ***

Call my Bluff and Christmas Buffet

£10 per person. Bring your own glasses.

Fuller details of visits and talks can be found on page 10.

We are pleased to have received responses from two new contributors (see page 8), but we need many more. Don't leave it all to our faithful few. Someone remarked that it is always the same few names appearing. I wonder why?

Copy Date : 21 October 2017

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Please note that booking is essential for events marked

Contact:

events@sudburysociety.org.uk
or call Rosemary on 01787 372186 for more details

MEETINGS

£3 members

£5 non members

Meetings are held at Friars Hall, School Street, unless otherwise stated

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members who have joined us since the last NewsJournal:

Mrs. J. Antill

Mr. G. Broadbent

Mr. & Mrs. G. Cole

Ms N. Dixon

Mrs. M. Dunt

Miss A. Jones

Mrs. A. Kazimirski

Ms T. Lawes

Mr. & Mrs. P. Pentney

Mrs. A. Reavell

Mr. A. Wickens

Mr. & Mrs. R. Bentley

Answers to Picture Quiz

On the cover: Old Dairy entrance, Weavers Lane

Pg 12: Baptist Church handrail, Church Street

PRESIDENT

Andrew Phillips

(Lord Phillips of Sudbury)

VICE PRESIDENT

David Burnett

COMMITTEE:

Lorna Hoey

Chairman

379598

Stephen Thorpe

Vice – Chairman

881661

Sue Ayres

Minutes Secretary

310219

Ian Liddell

Treasurer

372400

Liz Fulcher

Membership Secretary

269935

Stephen Thorpe

Planning

881661

Anne Grimshaw

Press Officer

375736

Rosemary Woodward

Events

372186

Patricia Thorpe

NewsJournal

881661

Pat and Roy Laithwaite

Catering

377697

Amanda Reavell

Finance

370935

Sam Thornton

Buildings

375646