



Floodlit spire to disappear?

Sadly, the United Reformed Church is closing down and a new home for the Society must be found. Many venues have been viewed but as yet no permanent home has been found. In the meantime, our January meeting will be in All Saints Church Hall in Church Street.



An iconic part of our landscape

Cows. How much do we know about them? Ranger Adrian Walters is often asked questions about the cattle on the Common Lands such as: what breed are they? Where do they go in the winter? The Society learned much at his latest talk. *Read about it on page 8*

Under the apple tree

It was real sandals-and-sunhats weather on the day of the Garden Party. Local songsters The Chordettes boogie-woogied through a repertoire of Fifties music and the grounds of our President's house looked magnificent. *Story and pictures on page 7*

Halt! Who goes there?

There was much more than gunpowder, treason and plot, as we discovered on our visit to Parliament. Who knew that the cellars are searched by soldiers before the State Opening; that Black Rod is a person, not an object; that every year a Parliamentary hostage is taken? *Learn more on page 6*

Six basic strokes is all it takes

Sixty years ago, most shops proudly displayed a hand-written sign over the front door; now, in the age of digital transfer printing, they are rare indeed.

Wayne Tanswell tells how he became a signwriter by chance and never looked back. *See page 2*



Will it ever be the same again?

Move forward. Embrace change. But at what price?

Your Chairwoman discusses the implications of a new-look Sudbury and indeed, Sudbury Society itself. What will this mean for Sudburians, members and non-members? *Read her thoughts on page 3*

The writing's on the wall

The first talk of the new season on Friday 29 September was given by Wayne Tanswell, a traditional signwriter. Wayne began by outlining his less-than-illustrious schooldays and how he came into signwriting by accident just after he left school at 16 years old having hitched a lift with a signwriter.

He was fortunate to live in an area (Suffolk) where hand-painted signs are not only favoured but are often compulsory on many shops through planning laws. The shop's sign must fit in with the style of buildings around it. (Oh that this applied to every shop – no more nasty, in-your-face, plastic fascias in garish colours! (AG).

Computers ruined the signwriting business with their ability to churn out a variety of typefaces quickly and cheaply but at the same time they boosted the business. Computer-printed signs have no 'soul'! Hand-painted signs ooze character which contribute to 'a sense of place'. Computer signs don't – and people like 'character' and craftsmanship.

At first Wayne was not very business-savvy until someone told him that people will pay a premium rate for hand-painted signs. And not only locally. Wayne extended his range in Britain and now has commissions to paint signs in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The latter began at a safari park in Zambia.

Wayne discovered there was much interest in his signs and people wanted to learn the art of hand-lettering so he established day-courses which have proved very popular. It is recognised as an art form and has been the focus of an exhibition in Cambridge, appearances on television and in the national newspapers. He has also written books with sponsorship from his brush-makers; in turn, he gave them a free advert in the book.

More recently, the internet has meant that what began in a small way has now snowballed so that he has a website and a Facebook page. Wayne also loves music and has even had his own music played on Radio One. He is a great admirer of the signwriters of the past who painted their signs directly onto brick walls. These are now usually faded and hence called ghost signs. There are several examples around Sudbury. Two of these are AJ Beer, House Decorator, on Melford Road and AJ Lock on the wall of the blinds shop on the corner of Gainsborough Street and Gregory Street – this one mutilated by the insertion of a window.

Wayne frequently gives talks and demonstrations. Lettering is made up of six basic strokes which in various combinations can be used to form any letter of the alphabet. Within a few minutes he had painted a beautiful ornamental capital 'S' complete with 'shadows' and 'blending'. One vital tool of the trade, apart from special brushes, is a mahl stick on which he rests his 'brush hand' and then moves the stick, not the brush, with his other hand.

Watch out for Wayne Tanswell. There are several examples of his work around Sudbury. Watch him on this video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC09E_FG_YA and look at his website <http://waynetanswell-signwriter.co.uk/index.htm>



*Corner Gregory St/
Gainsborough St*

A. J. LOCK
DEALER IN HARDWARE
...[G]LASS ETC



Melford Road

A. J. BEER
HOUSE DECORATOR
PLUMBER GLAZIER
PAPER HANGER
WRITER GRAINER

Anne Grimshaw

From the Chairman's Desk

It would seem that I am a Slimby. This is not a comment on my personal silhouette - well, you knew that already - but merely identifies me as an individual who longs for Something-Logical-In-My-Backyard. It isn't so long since those Chilton proposals of last year meant I was leaning towards Nimbyism (Not-In-My-Backyard) but I must say I have never been, and do not intend to be, a Banana (Build-Absolutely-Nothing-Anywhere).

Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has described housing as the greatest social challenge of our time.* We might detest the idea of a huge extension on the 'urban-edge' of Sudbury but the fact remains that we need housing, particularly social housing and suitable dwellings for first-time buyers. Planners must realise however that opposition to a new development is not always a knee-jerk reaction, but often a reasonable response to something that isn't logical, attractive or affordable. Yet it would appear that our carefully-considered response to the Chilton proposals in March 2016 fell on deaf ears. As I write the Society is composing its response to the Joint Local Plan for Sudbury. Will the inevitable increase in cars be debated? Will there be an awareness of increased pollution levels? It is difficult to be hopeful that our response will even be read let alone considered.

We must accept, and indeed welcome, the fact that Sudbury is at the beginning of a period of change. Change can be a force for good, for progress, as long as we continue to remind the decision makers of our Society principles: to conserve what is of value and to try to ensure that new-builds enhance our heritage while providing the best outcomes for the people of Sudbury. And not the best outcomes for the developers.

While change has come upon our town, it has also reached the Society. I will be standing down at our AGM in March, along with my Vice-Chair, Stephen Thorpe, and three other members of the Committee, making us very thin on the ground. Without replacements we would barely meet the requirements of the Charities Commission and could face closure. This is unthinkable. We were founded as a Civic Society to promote the needs of the local community in campaigning for high standards of planning and conservation. Sudbury needs our voice. Our hope now is that like-minded individuals will understand the urgent need for our presence and will step forward to fill the gaps.

As if this did not give us enough cause for concern, we learn that the United Reformed Church in School Street is to close in January and with it our meeting place, Friars Hall. Since spending the last few weeks in searching out a new home, it is clear that Sudbury desperately needs a community hub. The URC could fill that space perfectly; central, not too vast, no steps, with a well-respected organ to boot. Not to mention the attached Friars Hall which boasts all the 'usual offices' plus a sound system installed three years ago by the Society. The search continues.

On a positive note: not to be confused with the Local Plan, the Babergh Local List is being documented and updated by three of our members. This is a record of buildings in Sudbury which are not listed but considered to be of architectural or historical merit. Rather than publish in book form, the Society decided to place the information on-line where it can easily be updated in years to come. A work in progress at the moment, it will be accessible via our website during the coming year.

Our LoveSudbury campaign continues to grow: members have planted up the area under trees outside Ballingdon Valley Indian Restaurant and have donated 200 daffodil bulbs to be planted in Siam Gardens. The campaign has extended its feelers into Blackfriars where a Gardening Club has been formed, and Dan Wheals from *Activlives: Grow Your Community/Sudbury* has been working with our volunteers to 'spruce up Sudbury' at the Train Station, BelleVue Park, Sandringham Court and First Avenue. Like all projects of this nature, however, it needs funding to continue. Hopefully the token-voting system in Tesco and Waitrose over the last few weeks will have secured some funding to keep up their good work through 2018.

**source: The Times 'Bricks and Mortar' section: 6 October 2017.*

The logo for LoveSudbury features the word "Sudbury" in a large, red, cursive script font. A small red heart is positioned above the letter 'u'. Below the word "Sudbury" is the website address "lovesudbury.co.uk" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font.

BUZZARDS HALL

17 Friars St, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2AA

Grade II* Listed Building (one of 240 Listed buildings in Sudbury)

Buzzards Hall, one of Sudbury's most attractive and charming buildings, is a timber-framed, originally two-storey, building on a brick sill, with plastered panels, much studwork and a tiled roof. It was built to a U-shape pattern with the base of the U fronting on to Friars Street. Only the left-hand side of the U-shape remains and is the oldest part of the building dating from the early 1500s when it was a guildhall. Extensive alterations were undertaken in the late 1500s. At some stage, the roof was heightened to become a mansard roof which offered more interior space.

The most striking feature on the ground floor is a large open fireplace with a heavy beam above it. Facing the fireplace is a Tudor doorway leading to a wooden staircase. Immediately to the left of the front door is a cloakroom in which is a very curious corner 'fireplace' with cupboard above.

On the first floor, now a restaurant, is more studwork and many timber beams, trusses and braces some bearing carved decoration possibly from previous use in another building as well as iron clamps and pegs holding the timbers together.

The frontage on Friars Street shows what would have been two doors, both flanked by carved open supporting brackets underneath the jetty. Upper floor windows are small-paned and the two that flank the large right-hand window have curved frames.

In the 17th century the building was occupied by a series of wealthy clothiers. In the early 18th century one of these was Thomas Gainsborough, uncle to Sudbury's most famous son, artist Thomas Gainsborough (1727-88) whose house is on Gainsborough Street. Through his profitable wool business he was able to help his nephew in his career as a landscape and portrait painter. In the 18th century it was named Buzzards and later had a somewhat chequered career. During the 20th century it has been a shop and a café. In the 1990s it became the offices of the finance company Somerville Group who undertook a major restoration. It is now a restaurant, part of the Secret Garden.

Anne Grimshaw



Tudor doorway



Beams and braces studwork



Original door latch



Repairs and clamps on ceiling



Carving, Friars Street

WARTIME RAILWAYS AND AIR BASES IN SUFFOLK

Robyn Lloyd Hughes Sudbury Society meeting 27 October 2017

A talk on World War II military logistics could have been as dry as dust but it wasn't! For a start, it began with Robyn playing a Glenn Miller tune on the piano while a photo of an American aircrew under the heading of 'The Friendly Invasion' smiled down at us followed by the words "How we won the war with a little help from our friends" which could be appreciated by both the British and the Americans.

Naturally enough, Robyn focused on Sudbury airfield, home to the 486th Bomb Group which was operational from March 1944 to August 1945. He told us how air bases in the area were supplied during conflict. Under the cover of darkness during the war Britain's railway network kept American bomber bases in East Anglia supplied with bombs and fuel. Sudbury and Long Melford stations played vital roles in handling the dangerous cargo bound for local bases. (There were 27 airfields within 25 miles of Sudbury.)

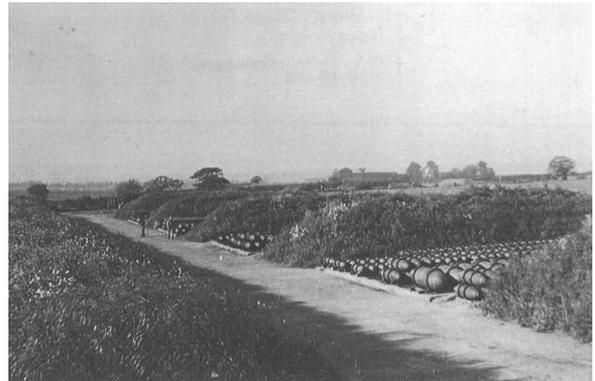
Robyn explained the big picture: how the United States Army Air Force was organised (the Air Force was part of the Army then) and how this area of East Anglia was dominated by 'The Mighty Eighth' [Air Force]. Each airfield had about 3,000 people when fully operational.

The airfields were built by civilian contractors such as Wimpey and Laing. Their hard core bases were rubble from bombed sites in London and brought to East Anglia by lorry. Railway locomotives built in the USA were brought over in trans-Atlantic convoys that desperately tried to avoid U-boat attacks. Each airfield had Nissen huts and other uninsulated buildings for accommodation, offices and the like. Bombs, ammunition and aviation fuel and oil were stored some distance from the operational part of the airfield – just in case of accidents. Finally, stores and supplies were brought in by American and British army transport for the personnel on the base. Then, of course, there were the bombers themselves: four-engined B24 Liberators and B17 Flying Fortresses. It was a massive, massive undertaking.

Next time you go along the road to Lavenham and pass the small roadside memorial by an entrance to Sudbury airfield, spare a thought for those young Americans who not only flew the bombers but maintained them out on the airfield in all weathers. And don't forget the Irish navvies who built the runways, the lorry drivers, the

train drivers and firemen, the nurses in the hospital at Acton Place not far away – their patients, injured and frostbitten bomber boys, were just a tiny part of the giant war machine that has now almost totally disappeared into the soft Suffolk landscape.

Anne Grimshaw



Bomb store: earth walls isolate sections to protect against blast



A B-17 bomber could consume up to 3,000 gallons on a mission

Photos from the Sudbury Heritage Museum

A FABULOUS TOUR!

Houses of Parliament Trip, May 2017

It must be about 50 years since I last went around the Houses of Parliament. Since then I have learned much about British history and can make much more sense of what I saw and was being told by our excellent guide, John. We began in Westminster Hall, over 900 years old, where, amongst other roles, it has seen the lying-in-state of various monarchs and one politician, Winston Churchill. It is a fantastic building with a hammer beam roof commissioned in 1393 by Richard II.

From there it was into the Houses of Parliament designed in the mid 19th century by architect Charles Barry, in the Gothic Revival style of the 14th to 16th centuries. Augustus Pugin designed the interior. The works of these two men offer the wow factor in spades. And I am not the only one to think so. Pop singer Michael Jackson thought so too: he wanted to buy the gold throne used by the monarch in the House of Lords during the State Opening of Parliament so people could bow to him ... he was told it wasn't for sale.

John told us about the paintings and the stories behind them: not only what they depict such as the death of Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and the Allied victory at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, but the details in the portraits such as the crowns that the Queen wears for the Opening of Parliament. And the sculptures too: when the statue of Churchill was installed, it did rather dwarf that of Lloyd George. However, that was easily remedied: they stood Lloyd George on a double plinth.

It was so interesting to not only see but also actually be inside rooms and have explained the procedure for the Opening of Parliament. First is the searching of the cellars by soldiers (since the Gunpowder Plot in 1605). Then comes the assembly of Peers and Commons in their respective Houses, then the delivery of a Parliamentary hostage (yes, really!) The royal regalia then arrives followed by the monarch (who dresses in a special robing room) before going to her throne in the House of Lords. The Queen then sends her representative to summon the MPs from the House of Commons (green benches) to hear her speech from her throne in the House of Lords (red benches). It is at this point that Black Rod knocks on the door of the Commons to symbolise the

Common's independence from Royal influence. The Queen then delivers her speech and leaves. The speech is then debated. The whole building is, in fact, designed around this one event.

(On a personal note, I was sorry we could not see the broom cupboard where Suffragette Emily Wilding Davison hid in protest on the night of the 1911 census: no vote, no name on census!)

Anne Grimshaw



Why don't YOU write something?

I recently heard that someone had complained that the items in the Sudbury Society NewsJournal was always written by the same people. There is a very good reason for that: it is because no one else volunteers to write anything. It is not because we fancy ourselves as journalists or because we like seeing our names in print. It is not because we want to keep ourselves in a cosy little writers' clique. It is because we try to support the Society in every way possible and one way is to contribute to the NewsJournal. Quite frankly, if we did not contribute on a regular basis, there would be lots of blank pages in the NewsJournal.

So, if you are fed up with the same names appearing each time then write something yourself. We would love you to! We too would like to see some new names. So what are you waiting for?

[\[Any more complaints and we will take it that complainant is happy to contribute on a regular basis.\]](#)

Anne Grimshaw

Come into the garden...

Bank Holiday weekends and sunshine do not always go together but they did on Saturday 27 August, the day of the Sudbury Society's garden party at Andrew Phillips' house on The Croft. The weather was perfect: not too hot, not cold, not raining and not even enough wind to blow away a paper napkin!

There were over ninety people enjoying the food, drink, company and music from the swing singers Three Chordettes in their delightful matching red and white dresses and 1940s hairstyles. They entertained us with foot-tapping songs as 'Don't sit under the apple tree with anyone else but me' (and, for some people, there really was an apple tree to sit under) and 'The boogie-woogie bugle boy of Company B'.*

It was so lovely to see people in pretty summer dresses, sandals and sun hats and some gentlemen in striped blazers and panamas. What makes it especially nice is that most people know most other people, and if they don't, now is the chance to chat to new people. (We even had one or two people join SudSoc there and then!). Scones, cream, jam, cakes, Prosecco or soft drinks – there was plenty of choice. Most of it was home-made – there are some very good bakers in Sud-Soc! The raffle had a wide variety of prizes – the 'star' prize being a wicker picnic hamper complete with cutlery, plates, mugs, thermos flasks, sandwich boxes and cushions.

A big thank you to Andrew Phillips for inviting us to use his garden that backs on to the Water Meadows. Thank you too to the church next door for the loan of tables and chairs. These events don't just happen and a lot of thought and hard work goes into the preparation and setting up. So, a huge thanks to Lorna Hoey and committee members (and their husbands) for all their efforts behind the scenes in making this such a success.

*(Unfortunately, some tables had to be placed near the loud speakers simply because of the lie of the land, the trees and the need to allow enough space around each table for chairs and movement. In setting up the event, we spent a frustrating time trying to arrange the tables and chairs so that no one was very near to the speakers but we could not. Simply turning the volume down does not seem to be an option these days... So, apologies to those people who found themselves too close for comfort.)

Anne Grimshaw



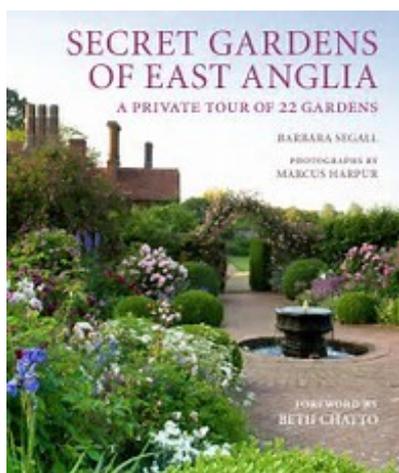
The Chordettes



Photos: Bob Andrews

Book Review: a new publication by a Society member

There are few things I enjoy more than visiting a glorious garden. The tea and cake that often follow might come in at a close second, but generally speaking, I believe there is really nothing nicer than wandering round a series of beautiful spaces, not quite knowing what lies around the next corner. As I write, however, winter is almost upon us and the those so-relaxing days of Open Gardens are almost at an end. Instead,



it's time to make plans for next year while tucked up at the fireside with a glass in one hand and a glossy garden book in the other. The pre-Christmas season brings these books flooding onto the market with a certain predictability, which is why I was particularly intrigued by a new

publication, on two counts, as it happens.

One, because it is written by Sudbury Society member Barbara Segall, and two, because its title is *Secret Gardens of East Anglia: A private tour of 22 gardens*. Barbara and her photographer friend Marcus Harpur (now sadly deceased) have visited gardens large and small across the four counties of our region, and have dug deep into unearthing (all right, I'll stop there) the 'secret' stories that lie behind these enchanting areas.

To add to the intrigue, most of the gardens are open to the public only 'on selected dates' or 'by appointment' and one is not open at all, so they are truly

quite secret. Who knows quite how secret they will be after perusing this book, however, remains to be seen.

Barbara writes: 'Each garden is an example not only of how to meet the physical challenges a site presents, but how to turn them to advantage.' And my word, how those owners have succeeded, and not just against wind and weather. Fights have been won against 35 Leyland cypresses (a footbridge was built from the felled trees), a completely overgrown area which when weeded and cleared filled four skips, sloping gardens, dark wooded places where nothing would grow, and even pylons on the landscape: when one was taken down the garden owner recycled it to form a sculpture which announces a welcome — in binary code.

Also fascinating is the way in which the owners have incorporated their homes into the garden designs: viewpoints have been carefully considered in the planning, and the many splendid photographs - close-ups, long-shots and in some cases aerial views - testify to a close marriage between house and garden. It's good to see pictures of the owners too, making their accounts that much more personal.

The 22 gardens vary in size from cottage and farmhouse to grand estate – taking in a lighthouse on the way. There are plenty of ideas here, and to know that many of the gardens featured have to cope with similar weather and soil conditions to ours here in Sudbury is truly inspiring.

This handsome hardback is available at The Kestrel Bookshop and would make a lovely present for any garden enthusiast. I know who I will be buying it for anyway. That's right, glass in hand at the fireside

Lorna Hoey

Cattle on the Sudbury Common Lands and Riverside: a year of management

Back by popular request for November's meeting was Adrian Walters, Ranger of the Sudbury Common Lands – more popularly known as the water meadows. This slide-talk focused on the South Devon cattle and their place in the meadows ecology. Cattle have been grazing here since the 12th century and probably before, and are integral to maintaining the meadows. The land cannot simply be left to Nature; grazing prevents dominant plants from taking over and the meadows becoming scrubland.

Cattle welfare is all important: preventing disease early is vital. Each animal is regularly checked. The cattle are turned out on the Common Lands in late April or May. Calves born on the farm in winter are turned out with their mothers on the parts of the Common Lands that have no public access. Come autumn, it's back to the farm to allow the grasslands to recover and for the cows to become pregnant again. In spring, the yearlings (the previous year's calves) are turned out on the 'public' meadows to mature. Then again the following year.

Sudbury is almost unique in having these ancient meadows on the edge of the town, but they would not be as we see them were it not for the annual grazing cycle by our cattle. Long may they remain so.

Anne Grimshaw

CORN EXCHANGE / LIBRARY: HAPPY 175TH BIRTHDAY!



*The Corn Exchange,
redecorated in cream
and white*

This year, 2017, is the 175th anniversary of the opening of the corn exchange, now the library. You will all, no doubt, have seen the commemorative stone inside the library, high above the front door: 'H.E. Kendall 1841'.

H.E. Kendall was a highly respected architect who lived in (coincidentally) Suffolk Street, London. He made nine visits to Sudbury in the course of the construction of the building for which he submitted his travelling expenses to the Corn Exchange Committee: stagecoach fare was £1 6s 6d each way.



As often happens with building projects, unforeseen changes had sometimes to be made – and quickly.

One such urgent change required Mr Kendall to submit his adjusted plans to the Committee ASAP. With plans redrawn and readied for shipment, Mr Kendall set off with them to the nearest stagecoach office to send them on the 5 o'clock coach to Sudbury - but he missed it! He then hastily wrote a letter to the committee and enclosed it with the altered plans apologising profusely for having missed the 5 o'clock coach and immediately hastened to another stagecoach office where he managed to get the plans on the 6 o'clock coach to Sudbury. Phew! (Anyone who has ever had building work done with recognise this scenario!)

However, all was well and the Corn Exchange was officially opened for business in 1842. On 13 October, a celebratory public dinner was held at the Rose and Crown (now Winch and Blatch). Publicity for this event was through the Town Crier on Market Hill – his fee was one shilling!

Anne Grimshaw

PLANNING NOTES

APPLICATIONS

Tax Office site - yet another application and still not a satisfactory solution for this important site. Four stories and a flat roof. As Suffolk Preservation Society suggested in response to the previous application a Design Review might help to unlock the process and achieve an appropriate solution. Unfortunately despite the Town Council's objection Babergh have approved it.

Mattingly's – work is about to start.

Burtons site – the hoarding has been removed – are they having second thoughts about the frontage in response to criticism by us and others? Apparently not, the frontage is now in place.

BYPASS

Contentious as ever. Two petitions are in circulation for and against. What is not being seriously discussed is what we do in the meantime? Is there an alternative solution which would work now but also in the future should the bypass not get the go-ahead. It has been an issue since 1972 when the Sudbury Society was first formed. *See the next two pages.*

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK LOCAL PLAN

2016—2036

We are at an early stage in the process – adoption of the agreed Plan will be in Spring 2019. I have replied to this first consultation on the Society's behalf. The Society's main concern should be the increasing impact on the historic centre of yet more housing. In addition to Chilton Woods there is a large designated area for development to the east of Newton Road and extending along Shawlands Avenue as far as Sheepshead Hill. Does this mean increased demand for parking space and more traffic down Acton Lane/Waldingfield Road and Newton Road adding to pressure on Belle Vue, increasingly a congestion hotspot? Is part of the solution frequent and accessible town buses subsidised by parking charges?

You can see the full text on the website.

Stephen Thorpe

planning@sudburysociety.org.uk

THE BYPASS/RELIEF ROAD: FOR OR AGAINST?

That is the big question for 2017/18, although as I type this I am looking at the Babergh Local Plan Inquiry dated 1989, where one of the recommendations is to 'construct a Western Bypass as soon as possible'.

So what happened? Priorities changed, it would seem. Essex County Council proved a stumbling block. And, far from the overwhelming support the planners might have expected, there was serious opposition from many residents of Sudbury.

Now the Bypass Question has reared its head again, and this time it seems as though there could be not just the support but the money to provide a 'relief road' to give us all respite from those thundering HGVs and choking pollution levels.

On 22 September 2017 James Cartlidge MP launched his 'We're backing the Sudbury Bypass' petition in the Town Hall to show government the strength of feeling amongst the townspeople for a Sudbury bypass. He welcomed Councillors from Babergh District Council, Suffolk County Council, Sudbury Town Council and representatives from The Sudbury History Society, The Market Town Partnership, commercial enterprises, and of course ourselves. We were told how the petition was organised and that this was not a political gathering but an 'across-the-board' meeting for the ultimate benefit of Sudbury and beyond.

We learned that in previous years a bypass had been 'demanded' but no official submission had ever been made. The process had now started, with the backing of the various Town, District and County Councils. It seems that the government has now actually earmarked money specifically for bypasses for small rural towns; welcome news indeed.

If enough signatures are obtained, government money will be released to enable the first stage to proceed. This involves building a strong business case including a feasibility study and looking at factors such as environment, health and safety, etc. At the same time a possible route would be planned so that it is ready to roll out when the next lot of money is available from the government.

James Cartlidge recognised that despite much public support there would inevitably be opposition to a bypass. This was one of the reasons to hold a petition: it is a way of demonstrating the level of support.

The main reason for opposition to the bypass, he believed, would very likely be its effect on the environ-

ment, particularly the water meadows. He was anxious to stress that at this stage no route has yet been decided. People may say that they cannot sign a petition to support a bypass if they don't know the route, but no route can be planned without some government money, and that money will not be released until the government is satisfied that there is enough local support for a bypass.

So - the more signatures and the higher the level of support, the more notice is taken by government and money will be released. Some of that money, we were told, will go towards devising a route that will hopefully safeguard the water meadows. We note the word 'hopefully' because no route has been decided but the Society believes that if the water meadows were to be threatened, the opposition would be fierce, not least from our own members.

There was an opportunity for questions and suggestions from the floor. There was no shortage of these! It was suggested that a dedicated website should be set up devoted to the bypass and all its aspects. Barry Wall of the Sudbury History Society stated that a possible route for the bypass could be in 'cuttings' well away from the water meadows and 'emerging' at the Melford Road roundabout – but that is for future examination.

The petition was signed by everyone who attended the meeting. There were stalls explaining the proposal and petition forms to sign on Market Hill on 7 and 21 October. There are paper forms to sign in various locations in Sudbury including shops, the Library, and other meeting places as well as an online version.

Any bypass/relief road will of course be some years in planning and construction. Let's face it, the bypass question doesn't have a great record of speedy decision-making, so it could be a long time yet before we see any real development of ideas let alone action. In the meantime we are destined to suffer the HGVs and the pollution. Surely there must be something that can be done in the meantime? Vice-Chair Stephen Thorpe has some ideas: read his article, including his thoughts on bypass alternatives, on page 11.

Support the bypass? You can sign on-line at www.sudburybypass.org.uk Not a supporter? You can sign at www.change.org/sudbury/relief_road.

Anne Grimshaw/Lorna Hoey

ALTERNATIVES TO A BYPASS

There was a proposal submitted with a planning application in 1996. It was rejected by Ministers – “the positive economic benefits are outweighed by the adverse environmental impact” and who also said that “measures should be implemented in the town centre to reduce and manage the impact of high traffic volume” The 1996 case was further weakened by the relatively low volume of traffic (about 7%) transferring from the A131 to the A134.

The route was the current safeguarded route, starting at the Melford bypass roundabout and running through to a junction around the top of Ballingdon Hill. It would cut across the meadow and the river between the Melford Road and Borley Hall, cut across the valley walk where it crosses Belchamp Brook, run clear of the Bulmer Road industrial estate, sewage treatment plant and the “water meadows”, cross Kitchen Hill, below Batt Hall, with a roundabout, then climb Ballingdon Hill to join the present A131. Some of this route is in Essex whose Council is backing it, together with Braintree, but we don’t know about Halstead who also have traffic problems. It is difficult to think of an alternative route for a full length bypass.

There is a counter petition opposing the current proposal which you can access at change.org/sudbury/relief/road.

There is already a business case worth looking at online - [Sudbury/Relief/Road/Strategic/Outline/Business/Case](#), in particular 3.9.13 to 3.9.21. This was published by Suffolk County Council in March 2017 although “outline” looks pretty detailed to me. The parts I have highlighted deal with potential developments along the A131 starting with a development area around Ballingdon Hill. Though partly in Essex it would presumably result in traffic down the Hill and into the town.

Suffolk Country Council have now reconsidered the case for a western bypass and have come out in favour of a southern route which they feel might be a better route for Sudbury than the commonly-touted western route which they favoured in March 2017. In its first response to Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s Joint Local Plan it says that “further assessments and consultations on the so called ‘Sudbury Western Relief Road ‘ may show a southern route as more advantageous”. (Suffolk Free Press 23 November 2017).

They also added: “Options for public transport to reduce traffic levels and impacts on communities should

be considered before physical highways mitigation”. This reflects the ministerial advice given when the 1996 application was rejected.

There is no detail as to the route proposed or even if it been considered other than the hint that it would somehow connect with the A134 Colchester road. Rather than support a fresh bypass application should we not take the measures suggested back in 1996 and manage heavy goods traffic with the town?

PLAN OF ACTION

Undertake full survey of large vehicle movements through and within the town –

A - generated by Sudbury area as destination and departure point

B - through traffic, include continental vehicles

Identify routes followed by A and B –

via A134 Bury road

via A134 Colchester road

via A131 Braintree road

along Northern Road/Springlands Way

OPTIONS

NOW – investigate possibilities of removing on-street parking from Cross Street.

IN SHORT TERM - prioritise use of A134 in/from Colchester direction. (Would a further intersection with the A12 where it crosses the A134, as originally allowed for, be justified as more convenient than the recently constructed one?)

IN LONG TERM – prioritise Bury to Braintree via A14, A12 and A120. This last is due for upgrading and re-routing.

SATNAVS – are followed in preference to signs. Truck satnavs allow a large vehicle’s dimensions to be entered to avoid low bridges, unsuitable roads and junctions, and if fitted would avoid the use of Church Street, Friars Street and Station Road, whereas car satnavs do not.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Needs to be considered very seriously not just as suggested above but to ensure that the town centre is not overwhelmed by traffic and demands for parking provision generated by the additional developments of Chilton Woods and the further ones suggested by the Local Plan. Bus companies will need to be subsidised but where will the funds be found? From long resisted parking charges?

Stephen Thorpe

I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE AND IT'S SOONER THAN YOU THINK!

The following is the outline of a talk given to the Wakefield Civic Society by its President of 15 years, Kevin Trickett. Although relating to a far larger town than Sudbury, much of what he says is equally applicable to the Sudbury Society. Something to think about? AG

Civic societies were established out of a concern for the built environment. In the 1950s and 60s, post-war planners and developers stood accused of tearing the hearts out of our historic towns and cities. Many fine and much-loved old buildings were being swept away in pursuit of a modernising agenda. Meanwhile population trends and technological developments meant that the ways in which we lived our lives were changing – and rapidly – changes at least in part exemplified by the rise in car ownership. Such lifestyle and technological changes continue today and, if anything, the pace of change is quickening: who in the 1960s could have foreseen the huge changes that would be brought about by our use of the internet? And what are the implications of driverless cars?

Back in 1964, when Wakefield Civic Society was first set up by a group of 'concerned citizens' to debate what was happening in the city, buildings such as the old Corn Exchange in Westgate and many other examples of Tudor, Georgian and Victorian architecture had already been lost or were under threat, including in the latter category, parts of [Georgian] St John's Square which the Society helped to save from the wrecking ball.

The Society still continues to campaign to conserve the best of our historic heritage but recognises that it is neither feasible nor indeed desirable to preserve everything just because it is old: there needs to be a public debate about what to keep and what to let go and, where something is to be

demolished, what should take its place. That debate is something that civic societies are well placed to stimulate and to participate in: we can act as 'honest brokers' between developers, land owners and planners.

However, to participate in any discussion about the future of our town and city centres, it is vital that civic societies and their committees stay on top of their game. Committee members in particular need to be aware of the changes that are happening around us from demographic and technological change through to political and legal changes being proposed by government at national, regional and even local level. Yet many civic societies struggle to find committee members willing to serve and some civic societies have closed down.

Although Wakefield Civic Society has an active and lively committee we too need to find the people who will take over as existing committee members step down. Who will be the committee members of the future, not just here in Wakefield but at other civic societies across the country? Are the young still concerned about their built environment and is there still such pride? If so, how do we tap into that interest and identify the people willing to serve on committees in the years ahead?



Whether or not you are a member of a civic society, this talk should get you thinking about some of the issues facing society at large, the changes that will affect us all and encourage you to reflect on what's to come.

Reprinted by kind permission of Kevin Trickett

S.O.S (SAVE OUR SOCIETY)

The Sudbury Society has achieved great things over the years, mainly through the commitment, dedication and sheer hard work of a small percentage of faithful members. However we will soon be facing a time of crisis. Five of these members will not be standing for election at the next AGM. Lorna, our excellent Chairman has had four very hard but fulfilling years in taking the Society forward and now needs a break. Stephen, our Vice Chairman, has spent more years than he cares to think of in the service of the Society and also feels it is time to take a back seat. Likewise Anne, our hardworking Press Officer, needs to spend time on her other interests so she too is stepping down. Rosemary, who, as Events organiser, has arranged so many varied and excellent outings, now has a new interest so will have no time to continue with the time consuming job of finding interesting places for us to visit. Lastly we will also need someone to edit and produce the NewsJournal, or something similar, as Pat no longer feels comfortable working on a computer or carrying the responsibility for the content.

This is not to say that these officers will be leaving the Society, just the posts they occupy. These posts are very fulfilling and often enjoyable but there does come a time when enough is enough and it is time for others to take over.

Please think about whether you could fulfill one of these posts or suggest someone who could. Otherwise the Society can't continue and that doesn't bear thinking about. The AGM is not until March so there is time to think about it, but it is a matter of some urgency. If you don't know what is involved, those stepping down will be more than willing to help you decide.

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU AND SUDBURY NEEDS OUR SOCIETY.

Patricia Thorpe

I LIKE THIS BUILDING

1, FRIARS STREET - Stephen Thorpe

Having passed this building on the corner of Station Road and Friars Street umpteen times I looked at it recently with fresh eyes and realised for the first time what a fine building it is. Though it would benefit from a careful cleaning of the brickwork and repainting the window frames it struck me recently for the first time what a tour de force of decorative brickwork it is. The corner site is very well handled and it was quite daring to put the entrance on the curved angle itself. Probably it once had curved doors rather than the present basic aluminium one but the shopfront surround is still intact despite its unity being lost since it was split into two disparate parts.

Does anyone know about its origin and who designed it so carefully?

And attached to it are two original street signs. Since they have survived so long are they worthy of being specifically protected by local listing?



Carried out with careful attention to detail, it can highlight good proportions and interesting details. This is the case with 49 Gaol Lane. Here we have an end-of-terrace building, thought to date from the 1840s* where the famous Sudbury white bricks (actually silvery-grey in colour) have been restored to their former glory. The original small-paned sash windows and sills have been repainted in white, while the front door is now painted black as it might have been in its heyday when colours were not generally used on front doors. The bricks above the fanlight however have not been restored, and this contrast serves to draw attention to the beautifully-balanced design of door, windows and fanlight.

Owner Shaun Wells bought the house relatively recently and soon set to work with a 'traditional' form of sandpaper, to gently remove the dust and dirt of decades. After 'taking advice from a friend in the know' he then covered the bricks with a matt sealant to preserve their porous surfaces. He insists the work, done in chunks when he wasn't engaged with his own business, didn't really take that long, but admits it was pretty 'mind-numbing' at times. When the project was completed however, he was seemingly unable to stop: he then built a wall to the side of the house in matching Sudbury brick.

Undoubtedly an attractive building then, which certainly enhances this corner of Gaol Lane.

*source: *The Unlisted Heritage* by David Burnett, The Sudbury Society, 2002.



Before



After

49 GAOL LANE - Lorna Hoey

Conservation is a tricky subject as we in the Society know only too well. Should we clean up our buildings in order to enhance their features, or do we retain their 'characterful' grime built up from an earlier age of smoke and soot?

Conservation, though, is not necessarily preservation.

RENEWAL FORM FOR THE SUDBURY SOCIETY – 2018

Please complete the sections below and return to The Membership Secretary The Sudbury Society c/o The Christopher Centre 10 Gainsborough Street Sudbury CO10 2EU or email the completed form to: gozna@waitrose.com

The Subscription is £10 per person.

You may pay by **Bankers' Order** (please complete the Bankers' Order Form if you do **NOT** already pay by this method and return with this Renewal Slip); **BACS** (see details below); **Cheque** (payable to The Sudbury Society) or **Cash**.

I wish to pay by (please tick) BANKERS' ORDER [] CHEQUE [] CASH []

[] If you wish to pay by BACS: HSBC Sort Code 404323 Account No.01001779

Name and Title

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Telephone No.....

E-Mail address (if applicable)

PLEASE UNDERLINE RELEVANT SECTION IF YOU OFFER CAN OCCASIONAL HELP WITH:

Local Survey Work; Newsletter Delivery; Monitoring Planning Applications;
Secretarial Work; Public Relations; Organising and running activities/Social Events.

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

To pay by Standing Order Mandate (BCG) please complete this form and return to the Membership Secretary: Mrs. Liz Fulcher c/o The Christopher Centre 10 Gainsborough Street Sudbury CO10 2EU

The Subscription is £10 per person.

To: The Manager of.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Name of Account Holders

.....

Branch Sort Code...../...../.....

Bank/Building Society A/C No:.....

I/We wish to pay £.....annually until further notice

Commencing on 1st January 2018 until further notice

Information if you wish to pay by BACS:

To HSBC, 46 Market Hill, Sudbury, CO10 2ES Sort Code: 40-43-23 A/c No. 01001779

Please pay Sudbury Society from the account detailed in this instruction. **Please cancel any previous standing orders to this account.**

Signature(s).....

I understand this instruction will be forwarded to my/our Bank by the Sudbury Society

.....

Charity Gift Aid Scheme

You can boost your subscription by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you pay. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

If you are interested in this scheme, Forms are available from:
The Membership Secretary, Mrs Liz Fulcher,
The Sudbury Society, c/o The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street,
Sudbury, CO10 2EU

EVENTS & NOTICES

COMING EVENTS

Friday 15th December 7.30pm ***

Friars Hall

Call my Bluff and Christmas Party

£10 per person. Bring your own glasses.

2018

Friday 26th January 7.30pm

An Inky Evening

Talk & demonstration by Sue Molineux,
Technician at Gainsborough's House
Print Workshop

**NOTE: THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN ALL
SAINTS HALL, CHURCH STREET. You will
need to wear warm clothing!**

Friday 23rd February 7.30pm

Silkmaking in Sudbury

A talk by Richard Humphries. *

Friday 23rd March 7.30pm

Sudbury Society AGM

Followed by

Harry Turner,

Saviour of the Quay Theatre

A talk by Sam Thornton

Free admission

Friday 24th April 7.30pm

The story of Chilton - the lost village

A talk by David Burnett

* Sudbury will now be celebrating the Silk
Making Heritage of the Town in 2019. It
has been postponed from 2018.

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

Please note that, owing to the closure of Friars Hall, venues are unknown after the January meeting. (See Chairman's letter on page 3) We will try to keep you up to date on our web site

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Peter Gray

Mrs Jenny Compson

Mrs Judith Glover

*We send you all best wishes
for a Happy Christmas and
New Year*



HOW TO CONTACT US

Lorna Hoey

Chairman

379598

Stephen Thorpe

Vice-Chairman

881661

Sue Ayres

Minutes Secretary

310219

Ian Liddell

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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

Membership Renewal 2018

For the Membership Renewal for 2018 and thereafter I am keen to encourage Members to consider paying their Subscription by Bankers' Order or by the BACS system. This will then reduce the need to process cash or cheques which then have to be paid in to the Bank.

Please consider paying by either of these methods and return the Bankers' Order Form to me as soon as possible to enable me to forward to your bank in time for payment on 1st January 2018.

Please complete the Forms on pages 14—15 of the NewsJournal with your remittance if NOT paying by Bankers' Order or BACS.

Liz Fulcher