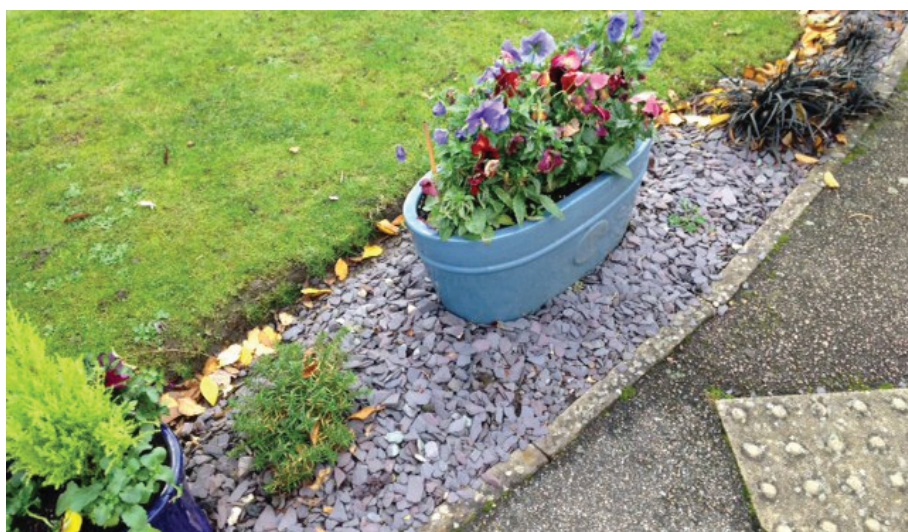




## Here is the night mail crossing the border...

What on earth did we do before Yodel, DHL and Hermes? Plenty, it would seem. Anne Grimshaw tracks the delivery services on offer at the turn of the last century and traces the journey of the Post Office itself on *page 10*



## Ask not what your town can do for you

How often have we heard the comments 'Sudbury's gone downhill...it's not what it was...it used to be a great place to live'. Val Herbert argues for a **Love Sudbury** campaign to encourage a new attitude to our town by taking more responsibility for our surroundings. It's surprising what a small effort can achieve, she writes, even if some people are physically unable to join in. Could it work in Sudbury? Val's thoughts are on *page 2*

## So you think you know Sudbury?

In the early part of last century Sudbury was a warren of small lanes and entries. Not many still exist, but those that remain often pose a puzzle for the postman. Test your extensive local knowledge with Rod Gray's quiz on *page 13*. Can you complete it without a map? Answers on *page 14* – no cheating now.



## What's a Corbel?

Ever wondered what a corbel is? You'll find at least one in Friars Street. Is a dentil string course a training programme involving string and dentistry? Is an oriel window built in the shape of an O? Retired architect Stephen Thorpe is familiar with all of them and gives us a break-down of those architectural features which we see every day but can't quite put a name to. See *page 5*



## Like what you see in the NewsJournal?

Want to know more about who we are and what we do? It's all on the back page, including an easy way to join us; just tear out the form and send it off. You'll get all the details on *page 15*

## SUDBURY NEEDS THAT LOVING FEELING

You would have to be very short sighted not to have noticed that things aren't how they used to be in our town. Outside the centre, street cleaning is noticeably below the usual standard with weeds growing on pavements and in gutters as well as plenty of litter. Planted areas are being neglected too. The town is suffering from 'grubbiness' as Robin Drury wrote in the summer NewsJournal.

However much we regret the effect of Government cutbacks it is no good using local authorities as whipping boys. They are doing what they can in difficult times and it could be years, if ever, before we can again afford all the services we have come to expect.

So let's have a *Love Sudbury* campaign in which we as individuals put effort into keeping the space around us as we would like to see it. To parody US President Jack Kennedy when he took office: 'Ask not what your town can do for you, ask what you can do for your town.' How about picking up litter in our own street for a start, cutting back our garden growth if it spills onto a footpath and clearing leaves from drain covers to prevent blockages? Neighbourhood communities could tackle weeds, report faulty street lamps and serious potholes.

This would fit well with Robin's suggestion that the Society should make a hit list of examples of inaction, neglect and poor maintenance and put them in the spotlight on our website to encourage both personal and council action. Hopefully we could create a climate in which we would automatically assume cosmetic responsibility for the street space around us.

It is surprising what a small effort can achieve if enough people make it, even allowing for the fact that some are physically unable to join in. The Society could help by keeping a register of loved Sudbury streets and spaces around schools, as well as providing stickers to mark success zones. This is likely to be more successful than petitions, angry letters to local newspapers or worse, apathetic shrugging of shoulders.

The climate for such an initiative is fertile in Sudbury; our mayors have regularly staged litter picks, and it is not unusual to see someone on the Market Hill putting a stranger's discarded rubbish into a litter bin. Then there is the admirable Sudbury in Bloom committee of volunteers that annually achieves so much. If you want to see what a individual can achieve, look at Bullocks Lane, a pathway that cuts through from

Friars Street to Meadow Lane and Friars Meadow. Over the space of two years or so Sarah Titford, who lives nearby, has made a bed of flowers and shrubs from a wilderness of weeds. Another couple tend the greenery and flowers that give railway passengers a colourful welcome, a task previously undertaken by Councillor John Sayers.

One of the by-products of a *Love Sudbury* campaign is the likelihood that it will encourage neighbourliness. People would likely meet, learn their neighbours' names, undertake projects together, take pride in their street and bingo! It's a win-win situation. I hope the Society's Executive Committee gives serious thought to this idea, or something like it. In the meantime: You can report faulty street lamps and potholes to the County Council either by phoning 0345 606 6171 or online at: [customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk). If you are reporting a faulty street lamp you will need to give its number.

Residents taking responsibility in the streets is not a new idea. In the winter of 2010/11 Sudbury Town Council handed out free grit bins to street communities so that they could clear snow and ice from footpaths. The initial scheme was oversubscribed and more were made available. There are now 62 of the yellow bins around the town, all being kept topped up by the town wardens.



This photo taken after a heavy snowfall shows what volunteers achieved early one morning along a busy pedestrian route between the Market Hill and St Gregory's School. Christopher Lane also serves William Wood House—a very sheltered housing scheme.

**Val Herbert**

**Below:** How a little loving transformed a weed patch opposite the entrance to the Mill Hotel in Walnuttree Lane.

**Photos: (Robin Drury)**





# From the Chairman's Desk

It's that time of year when, alongside the scratch cards and huge bars of chocolate, shop counters are sprouting 'Beautiful Suffolk' calendars, and I am constantly surprised and dismayed that none of them seem to feature Sudbury. Could it be that Daniel Defoe's recollection of our town lives on: 'I know nothing for which this town is remarkable except for being very populous and very poor.' Or the French traveller de la Rochefoucauld, who went a lot further: 'The town and its neighbourhood are inhabited only by people without any fortune, by smugglers, bankrupts and the like. It is a misfortune for which I cannot account, that there is not a decent man in the place.' Well, that may have been true in 1784 but surely things have looked up a bit since then. Come on, some of my best friends live in Sudbury.

Certainly it suffered with the other wool and weaving towns when Lancashire increasingly took over the trade in the nineteenth century and times must have been hard. But it had the benefit of the river as a trading link: barges could reach it from Manningtree. So instead of fossilising or fading away as did so many other small towns, Sudbury built wharves and basins and warehouses and diversified into other fields. This meant that its residents could afford to modernise their homes, but unfortunately modernisation in those days had much the same depressing result as it often has today. The old Tudor buildings were covered with brick Georgian frontages, and any exposed timber is now a rarity.

Did those nineteenth-century Sudburians worry that the character and heritage of their town might be lost forever? If that is the case, then surely nothing has changed. We concern ourselves now with the proposed development of Hamilton Road and what will become of Borehamgate and the surrounding area. But Sudbury has always moved with the times – however slowly – and adapted to its needs, and as a Society we have always welcomed development. Does the following sound familiar? *'The Society supports the Bus Station project because it is essential to the economic vitality and viability of Sudbury.'* That was written by Chairman David Burnett, now our Vice-President, in our newsletter of Summer 2007. It is true that any development must be carefully thought through and this takes time. But couldn't the people of Sudbury, not just council members, have a time-

scale on projects to give us hope for the future? Too often I have heard people in this town say 'No point in getting excited about a new bus station/cinema/bypass – it'll never happen in my lifetime.'

When the Society opposes any plans it does so not necessarily with a view to curtailing those plans but, often, that they might be reconsidered and a better solution found. This was the case with the siting of the bus station in Girling Street which we deemed unacceptable. It is the case still with BelleVue House – nobody wants to lose this iconic building but proper use must be found for it or it will moulder away. We are now told that Babergh is interested. What happened to the hotel chain who seemed keen? Certainly we need more accommodation if we are to seriously attract tourism, but above all, we need something to happen.

The Chairman's Desk is always open to suggestions and comments, and recent offerings have been particularly interesting. It would seem that a new spirit of positivity is trying to break through the mist of uncertainty and pessimism that has prevailed in recent times. Several members have phoned or written, or spoken to me at our meetings, about the need for some community action to make Sudbury a better place, and to celebrate what we have. I was delighted when Val Herbert sent in her article, elsewhere in this issue, which sets out some ideas to take this forward. She considers compiling a 'hit list' of examples of in-action. I would extend that by highlighting examples of a 'pride in Sudbury': some excellent restoration, perhaps, or a piece of waste ground transformed into a colourful and pleasant place. Your Committee will be debating *Love Sudbury* and will keep you informed as to how we can all take part – and of course all of your ideas will be most welcome. With apologies to Val, and to parody a President-elect: 'Let's make Sudbury great again!' Then perhaps next year we'll be on the calendars.

**Lorna Hoey**

*We wish all our members and readers a very merry Sudbury Christmas. May we see careful conservation alongside sensitive development of our fine heritage in 2017.*



## PLANNING MATTERS

Firstly two bits of good news –

### **Gainsborough House.**

The successful lottery bid raises the prospect of many tourists and art lovers being attracted to the town and gives weight and urgency to our efforts to transform Market Hill, the heart of our town. The House has two years to raise £2m but is confident of doing so.

### **Walnuttree Hospital site.**

Despite our fears this fine building is to be preserved and converted to provide some 60 dwellings. Demolition is currently underway, a mammoth task which will see the original building freed of the numerous additions and the detached buildings.

The developers are the Manchester based P J Livesey Group who seem to have a good track record of such conversions. Their architects have revised the plans we saw some while back. The number of apartments in the original building has been increased from 42 to 45. They are a mixture of single and two storey which ensures that all entrances other than those at ground level can be reached from the floor served by a new lift. The East elevation will be largely unaltered but the West one which was much altered by the more recent additions will be more adventurous with steel and glass fronted balconies and increased glazing.

The new 3 storey houses along the mill stream are now smaller and are increased in number from 7 to 10. The second floor is incorporated in the roof thus reducing the ridge height which was of concern to us in the original proposals. They are now entered from the east off a new service road and no longer have integral garages. Furthermore the gardens now stop well short of the tree lined mill stream to protect its ecological qualities and the waterside path originally proposed is omitted.

The old outpatients building is to be converted to 4 two storey houses. The frontage to Walnuttree Lane is maintained with the original entrance and one further down to serve the new access road.

To access the developer's website go to - [pjlivesey-group/portfolio](http://pjlivesey-group/portfolio).

The implications of adding some 150 people and 60 cars to this part of town will similarly give weight and urgency to the task of encouraging pedestrian

movement within the town in preference to car use. What route would you suggest should be followed from Walnuttree to enable the new residents to reach the town centre safely and conveniently on foot and how would you improve it?

Two recent applications caused us concern –

### **Victoria Hall and the former Conservative Club.**

This is a revised application but the proposals still seem problematic to us. Conversion of the Club to three flats is improved but the proposals for the Hall are quite bizarre – the rear portion is to be left standing and untouched which results in two large apartments seriously lacking in daylighting. The remodelling of the façade to Prince Street which warrants its local listing is to be significantly altered, for the worse. There are no proposals for New Hall, included within the application boundary. This building, also locally listed, has historical connections with the town (see the description in David Burnett's book – *Sudbury, the Unlisted Heritage*).

We understand that the ownership of the land includes the single storey shops fronting North Street. We could imagine a larger development which replaced these shops with a substantial building which served to balance the Masonic Hall and provided more of a gateway to the town centre down North Street, and serving also to animate its northern end. Dream on!

**Crown building, Newton Road** (the former tax office site).

Also a revised application for development for housing. The previous one was withdrawn to allow promotion of the site for business uses but this fresh application seems unchanged. It is overdevelopment of the site and it lacks any architectural merit. Internal corridors are proposed and kitchens back onto them and consequently lack daylight. Common entrances are mean, all flats are reached by at least one flight of stairs and we could not find the passenger lift which justifies the developer's claim that the flats are accessible. We strongly support residential provision within walking distance of the town centre but any development here would have to contend with the lack of safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle routes across the Belle Vue intersection.

**Eyes and ears.** Some members have responded to my call for them to be aware of developments which

concern them and let me know. Trees also are sometimes a concern. Some trees are protected from poor surgery or felling by tree preservation orders (TPO's), others by being within the Conservation Area (TCA's). We have a contact- David Pizzey – who also calls for eyes and ears. You can contact him direct - [david-pizzey@baberghmid.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:david-pizzey@baberghmid.suffolk.gov.uk)

**Stephen Thorpe**  
*Chair of the Society's Planning Group*

## I LIKE THIS BUILDING: 10-12 Friars St

In the years since moving into the centre of the town I have come to appreciate this fine building for its quiet virtues.

It makes an interesting contrast with the late lamented Mattingleys. Whereas the facade of the latter was centralised facing on to the lower part of Market Hill, 10-12 Friars Street (Kestrel Bookshop) was carefully designed as a street building to be viewed close up or when walking along the opposite pavement.

The buff brickwork is enlivened by dentil string courses and by an elaborate decorative strip at second floor level and also by decorative window arches at first and second floor levels with corbels below the eaves and decorative chimney stacks. The woodwork in white and dark green complements the brickwork whether these were the original colours or not. Their appropriateness contrasts with the unfortunate (and temporary?) smothering of the right hand shopfront in salmon pink.



**Kestrel Bookshop**

The first floor oriel windows enliven the street scene and provide views along the street from inside.

The shopfronts are original and incorporate attractive and still functioning awnings – their value will continue to be demonstrated as our climate becomes wetter and warmer. And the slightly ramped inset doorways ensure accessible entrances. A sad comparison with the Mattinglys building where the superb full width Victorian shopfront was replaced years ago by crass and separate shopfronts.

Who designed it? We would love to know.

I would be interested to see which buildings you like.

**Stephen Thorpe**



## GLOSSARY

<i>corbels</i>	<i>supports for roof where it projects over the building</i>
<i>dentil string courses</i>	<i>decorative brick courses, single or several together</i>
<i>oriel windows</i>	<i>bay windows above ground floor</i>
<i>lintels</i>	<i>above windows, flat or arched like these</i>

**Stephen Thorpe**

## DID YOU HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY AND YOUR TOWN?

September's meeting was a members' forum, chaired by Lorna Hoey, for pooling of questions, thoughts, ideas and suggestions about the Sudbury Society and the town itself. Members had been asked in advance for questions and comments but the turnout of members was disappointingly poor.

The first half was about the Sudbury Society and what members liked and did not like. The second part concerned Sudbury and what was going on. Committee members answered specific questions when possible or 'took on board' various suggestions. The following questions were discussed.

Should the membership fee be increased, perhaps substantially, but offset by having no entrance fee on the night. Treasurer Ian Liddell said this was a balancing act which had to cover the basic costs of the hall rental and speakers' fees which were expensive, plus any incidentals. The Wheeler legacy to the Society was to be used for special reasons, not the day-to-day running of the Society.

How to increase membership numbers - for instance, is Friday evening the best day/time? Anne Grimshaw pointed out that the Sudbury History Society met on a weekday morning and had a waiting list for would-be members. (This would, admittedly, cut out people who worked, but few 'workers' come anyway.)

How could young people (i.e. those under 60!) be attracted? The present format of talks was unlikely to appeal to many teenagers! This 'image problem' is something that most civic societies face. Indeed, many people do not know what a civic society is – it *sounds* boring... (see page 7)

Should talks and events relate solely to Sudbury or could they be extended to include surrounding areas? Opinion was very divided over this.

What do members want? Enjoyment, information, entertainment, socialising. This is a tall order for the Events Sub-committee to achieve at every meeting! It was agreed that there should be a balance between the number of social/entertaining events and more serious ones.

There needs to be more communication between the committee and membership. Members could be on an emailing list and updated as frequently as necessary but many members have stated that

they do not want 'bombarding' with emails or did not have email. Perhaps the best way would be to devote the beginning of each meeting to reporting on current developments both in the Society and in the town and have time for questions and answers.

What do members think of the NewsJournal? Despite many pleas over the years for contributions from members, they are rarely forthcoming and the content is inevitably provided by the same people.

The second half of the evening was devoted to Sudbury matters. These ranged from why had the ancient hedge alongside what was People's Park been (illegally?) destroyed, to what is going to be done about the state of the boating lake near The Croft, to how long will the guard rails be around the Town Hall? Committee member Sue Ayres was able to answer several questions through her role as Mayor. (Re the rails – because public money will be spent on roof repairs, the job had to go out to tender and this takes a long time.)

It was felt that Sudbury has looked decidedly tatty and litter-strewn recently despite the cleaning truck going around three times a day. Shopkeepers no longer sweep the pavement outside their premises – perhaps this could be encouraged. Local authorities are strapped for cash and likely to be so for the foreseeable future – perhaps it is time for more citizen involvement to co-operatively combat litter and weeds on their 'patch'.

Inevitably, the proposed re-siting of the bus station to Girling Street cropped up and attention was drawn to the dates of the public consultations in the Town Hall in October which had been advertised in the press.

The best news of the evening was about Walnuttree Hospital. There were rumours only last week that it was to be totally flattened. However, like many rumours this one proved totally unfounded. Stephen Thorpe of the Sudbury Society Planning Group explained what the Planning Group does and said Walnuttree is being developed by a Manchester company, P J Livesey, who will retain the Victorian core, most 'wings' and what used to be the Out-Patients building. (See *Planning Matters* page 4). However, estate agent Sam Thornton announced that St Leonards on Newton Road is now back on the market, the developers having had second thoughts about taking on both

St Leonards and Walnuttree.

Stephen also said that *everyone* should be alert to what was happening and to tell him if they saw anything untoward such as timber beams being ripped out and thrown into skips. It may be deliberate or it may be unawareness of a building's status and importance.

Lorna thanked everyone for coming to what had been an interesting and useful session. Perhaps it is a format that could be repeated in future and more people will come and have their say.

*It's YOUR Society – YOU do something! Write a piece for the NewsJournal, tell everyone at a meeting about something you have been involved with, like or don't like about Sudbury. Maybe you have heard a good speaker elsewhere. Tell the Committee so he/she can be booked for a future meeting. Don't leave it all to the Committee then grumble. You could even join the Committee and improve/change things you don't like. You had a chance to air things at this Forum and make a difference – but only 30 people did so. Were YOU there?*

**Anne Grimshaw**

#### **ANNE GRIMSHAW**

Born in Lancashire, raised in Yorkshire! By profession a librarian but ended up as a magazine editor. Started writing when a child (when also keen on local history). Always mad on horses but hopeless rider – prefer carriage driving. Interest in American Civil War expanded to British military history; also family history – anybody's not just mine. Seven books published.



#### **WHAT IS A CIVIC SOCIETY?**

*A Civic Society is a group of people who are interested in and concerned about their town, and who come together to share and increase their awareness of their town's history and character and who seek by various initiatives to influence positively the way it is being developed. We are a civic society and along with similar societies across the country are members of the national body, Civic Voice.*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Our December event is slightly earlier this year on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and, as a change, we will be entertained by Brian Thurlow and *The Good Old Days* - an evening of Music Hall – please feel free to dress-up! We will provide a buffet and wine will be available, but do bring some of your own drinks too! Tickets at £10 each will be available at the November meeting or please email:

[events@sudburysociety.org.uk](mailto:events@sudburysociety.org.uk) to book your place.

The New Year begins and we will enjoy a talk by retired local teacher, Angie Jones, who will share with us her *Suffolk Trails* on 27th January.

On 24th February we welcome retired local GP Dr Dennis Brogan who answers the call of "*Is There a Doctor in the House?*"

March 24th is our AGM and after the formal meeting our President Andrew Philips will be giving a talk.

We end our Winter Programme with *Bob's Picture Quiz* on 28<sup>th</sup> April, followed by a fish and chip supper.

We do hope you will enjoy these events. If you have any ideas for 2017-18 please let us know!

**Rosemary Woodward Events Committee**

#### **Planning STEPHEN THORPE**

Moved here from S.E London in 1980; since 2000 I have lived in the centre of town, within easy reach of Market Hill and the meadows - Sudbury's prize assets. Retired architect and consultant on accessibility, no longer practising but still very interested in both. Trained for the London Marathon on local roads and footpaths and completed it in 1983, 1984, 1985. (Best time 3 hr 32 mins).





## WHO LIVED THERE?

The August meeting was a walk-and-talk around the town by Robin Drury using as a basis for the 'talk' stories he had been told about people who lived in various Listed buildings in Sudbury. Robin has been working on a book about some of Sudbury's Listed buildings, not from an architectural point of view but from a 'human interest' view. Most of the stories are not well known, and all the more intriguing for that.

The walk began at The Stone on the corner of School Street and Stour Street. When excavating the cellars skeletons have been found but just exactly who they were has opinion divided. Less well known is that farmer and author Adrian Bell lived there – one of his claims to fame was that he contributed to setting the distinctive cryptic clue style for *The Times*.

We then moved on to Salters Hall (15<sup>th</sup> c) with the carving under the first floor window of an elephant, a lion and St James the Less, patron saint of fullers. This was, apparently, carved by Philip Wood. However, in order to marry the daughter of the house's owner, a Mr Harbittle, Philip had to agree to change his name to her name, Harbittle!

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Salters Hall was the home of much liked and well-respected William Langdon. He shot himself but was it accident or suicide? The locals thought he had been driven to suicide by his allegedly adulterous wife, Edith. Effigies were made of her and her supposed lover and only police intervention prevented them being burned on The Croft.

A short walk to Plough Lane brought us to the house where Maria Marten (she who was murdered in the Red Barn) gave birth to the child of her lover (and murderer) William Corder.

On Friars Street is Old Prospect House whose lands, once part of the Dominican Priory, stretched down to the river and back into the town. It was leased to landscape gardener Humphry Repton in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was a doctors' surgery for many years and in the 1880s was leased to Dr Sinclair Holden who was responsible for diverting water from a local artesian well to supply the town – it is still in operation today.

Further along Friars Street is Greyfriars. Here lived Leander Starr Jameson, a friend of Cecil Rhodes who 'caused' the Boer War (1899-1902). Jameson led a disastrous raid into Boer Territory hoping to overthrow the Boer Transvaal Government. (Sudbury Society talk in January 2012 by Val Herbert).

Number 35 Friars Street was the home of the notorious Henry Cronin Pratt, a highly respected public figure in the town – until he absconded with money from the bank and faked his own suicide!

Then it was back into Market Hill for a look at what used to be E W King, a 'proper' grocer's shop which closed down ten years ago and became yet another clothes shop bearing the unattractive name of Fat Face. Who in Sudbury now will leave their 'stories' in their houses or workplaces?  
**Anne Grimshaw**



*The Stone, Stour St*

*Salters Hall with carving*



*Salters Hall  
from Stour St*

*Jameson's house  
on Friars St*





## DISCOVERIES IN SUFFOLK GRAVEYARDS

It has been said that Sudbury Society meetings should inform, educate, interest and entertain. That's a tall order but I endeavoured to fulfil all of these for the October meeting. As it was nearly Hallowe'en I thought a slide-talk about gravestones would be seasonal followed by a somewhat spooky story of Sudbury airfield.

Spending hours in a graveyard or cemetery probably isn't most people's idea of fun but it's what several members (and non-members) of the Suffolk Family History Society do every fortnight on summer Saturday mornings (if it's fine). Words on gravestones, or more correctly, monumental inscriptions, are just as valuable as parchment and paper documents for they can hold information not recorded elsewhere, particularly before the days of civil registration of births, deaths and marriages in 1837.

Transcribing these memorials is sometimes a bit like doing a crossword: W-blank-blank-L-blank-A-blank. It doesn't take a genius to work out that is very likely to be WILLIAM! Less obvious is "L-blank-blank-blank-H but once you have grasped the context and the phrases and quotations used in the past, you know it will be LYETH, as in "Here lyeth the Body of...". Sometimes we need to enhance the lettering and we do this in various ways (brushing, water spray, chalk, shaving foam) but also image-editing computer software to increase contrast, sharpen up, darken or lighten a digital photo of the memorial.

As well as word puzzles comes getting the 'feel' for memorials and how they differ from century to century – the earliest are the 1600s. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century there was no shortage of hourglasses, skulls, skeletons and bones – all reminding us that man is not immortal and sooner or later each will have "departed this life". Later on in the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a fashion for angels and open books. The 20<sup>th</sup> century has perhaps the dullerest memorials with the least interesting inscriptions. It is also noticeable that in the 20<sup>th</sup> century people rarely die: they 'pass away' or 'fall asleep' after which they are "gone but not forgotten" and are "reunited". Sometimes people's occupations are given: admiral, soldier, mayor, vicar, tailor, mason – and even an employee of HM Inland Revenue! (We had a giggle over that one!). A graveyard or cemetery is a microcosm of a village or town through the years: history from a totally different angle taking in people, design, religion, attitudes, tastes, events, health... All

human life (or rather death) is there... If you would like to join in please contact: [sudbury@suffolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:sudbury@suffolkfhs.org.uk)

After the break, I told a curious tale of Sudbury's American wartime airfield, about a horse, an airman, a photograph and an identity dog-tag... Was it fact? Was it fiction? Whether it's true I'll leave to you!



*A beautiful gravestone in Nayland churchyard. Note the skull (and possibly bone) symbolic of the mortality of man and the hourglass for the passage of time. I cannot identify other symbols – maybe two spoked wheels at the top?*

**Anne Grimshaw**



**St Gregory's graveyard**

## THE PERAMBULATING POST OFFICE

So, the Post Office in Sudbury is closing – shock! horror! But, of course, it isn't closing as such although that makes better headlines. If the proposals go according to plan, it will move across the road about 100 yards away from the present building probably by the end of November. Like many Post Offices these days, it is having to adapt to changes (loss of income and fewer users although the latter doesn't seem that way when you're standing in a queue). It now occupies an area at the back of WH Smith's bookshop on Market Hill.

Sudbury Post Office has a history of moving around the town. It also has a history of sharing retail premises. From about 1870 Joseph Francis Hills was already a Postmaster in premises at 73-74 Friars Street which was shared with his other occupation as watchmaker. You can still see the name Hills high up on the gable end of what had been 74 Friars Street next to the Anchor pub as shown in the photo.



*Hill's shop Friars St, 1850*

By 1897 the Post Office occupied 3-4 Market Hill (as shown in the 1901 census), what is now Dorothy Perkins. It was the first dedicated Post Office and was run by Postmaster Hills and his staff, several of whom were family members.



*Hill's family Post Office,  
Market Hill, 1897*



*Horse drawn Post  
Office parcels van,  
1897 parcels*

[postalheritage.wordpress.com](http://postalheritage.wordpress.com)

### Kelly's Directory 1912 Sudbury Post Office

Post, Money Orders, Telephone & Telephonic Express Delivery Office, Station Road

Letters are dispatched at the following times:-  
Cavendish, Clare, Glemsford, Lavenham, Long Melford, 3.30am; Glemsford & Lavenham 9.25am; London, South of England, Midlands & Scotland, 10am; Cavendish 11.25am.

Day mail for London, Colchester, Ipswich, Suffolk & Norfolk, 11.40am; Bury St. Edmunds, Norfolk & Cambridgeshire 1.15pm; London & all England (except Eastern counties), 3pm;

Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge, Clare, Haverhill, Tuesday & Friday at 11am; Hertford, Lincoln & Long Melford 4.10pm; Colchester & Ipswich 4.30pm; London and forward, 6.10pm; Bury St. Edmunds, 6.50pm; night mail to all parts, 8.10pm

Money orders issued & paid daily 8am to 8pm.

#### DELIVERY

Rural district, 6am; town 7 & 9.10am & 2 & 5.15pm  
Delivery suspended on Wed. early closing day.

Sunday delivery at 7.30am;

Despatched to London all parts 8.10pm

Town Sub-Post & Money Orders Office, 39 & 40 Melford Road—George Wheeler, sub-postmaster.  
Letter box cleared at 9.30 & 10.30am & 2.30, 4 & 7pm; Sundays, 7 pm.

Sub-Post & Money Orders Office, Ballingdon—  
Napoleon Aprile. \*

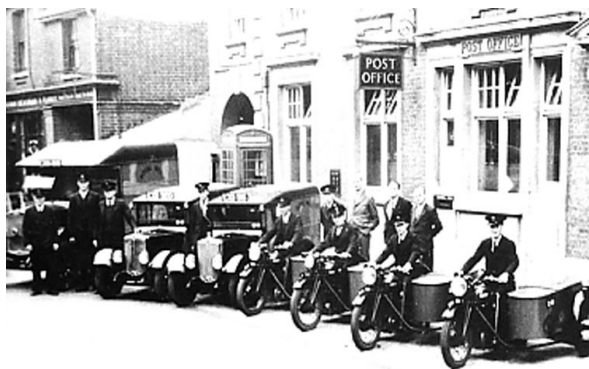
*\*This Napoleon Aprile was born in 1838. His father, a British Subject, was born in Switzerland in 1798 to (presumably) pro-Napoleon Bonaparte parents during the French Revolutionary Wars and became a silversmith and clock/watchmaker. The 1911 census shows Napoleon Aprile, aged 73, as a jeweller and sub-postmaster – the same combination of occupations as the Hills family in Sudbury Post Office. Had they known each other or is it just coincidence?)*



In 1912 the new purpose-built Post Office was opened on Station Road. It is now Jehovah's Witnesses' Kingdom Hall. The Post Office remained in this elegant building for just over 60 years.

It was a busy place with constant comings and goings: collection and despatch of mail both locally and further afield, the latter going by train from Sudbury station taken there by horse and cart or horse-drawn vans to outlying areas.

By 1940 postmen were using motor vans and motorcycle and sidecars.



But by 1974 a new Post Office was deemed necessary. The chosen site was on East Street. To make way for it the Georgian East House was demolished and the present Post Office was built on the site. (Is it any wonder that some of us get very twitchy indeed at the mention of an old building being replaced by a new one...)

So, Sudbury Post Office is returning to Market Hill. This move and sharing premises is simply the latest in an almost 150-year history of the Post Office moving around the town. The new Post Office will have longer opening hours (including Sundays) and better accessibility. Services and products will remain the same. And, as it's in a bookshop there will be something to look at while you're waiting.

**Anne Grimshaw**

*The historic photos are from the Sudbury Archive*

**Note:**

*Since this article was written the Post Office has, in fact, moved to its new home.*



**Post Office, East House , 2013**

**Photo Adrian Cable**

**NOV 2016**





## THE BUS STATION AND THE HAMILTON ROAD QUARTER

*Below is the Society's response to Babergh/MidSuffolk D.C. on the proposal to move the Bus Station to Girling Street and develop the Hamilton Road Quarter.*

### **EVIDENCE**

The information sheet provided at the consultation in Sudbury Town Hall (3-25 October 2016) states that a new bus station would provide a more efficient bus operation and indicates a commitment to providing sustainable public transport for Sudbury 'for years to come'. Are planners aware of Sudbury's substantial increase in expansion over 'the years to come' - and indeed-bus users? In short, we feel that there is distinct lack of evidence to back the proposals, and there appears to be no concern about the importance of increasing bus use in preference to using the car with consequent pressure on parking provision.

### **PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE**

We are most concerned that Suffolk County Council feels that the proposed Girling Street bus station site can be developed before any definite plans for the old bus station site in Hamilton Road, whereas there are no proposals for freeing the space occupied by Carpet Warehouse. Why has there been no consultation and creative dialogue with potential developers? No reasons have been given for NOT placing a new bus station where the current one is now—we are simply told that it is not possible. Could buses not sit happily with retail and a small cinema—which Sudbury residents would like to see? A cinema needs convenient transport which adjacent buses would then provide?

The Girling Street site is proving extremely controversial with Sudbury residents—but an attractive plan for Hamilton Road could have 'sold' the idea of Girling Street. Who wants to vote for Girling Street when there are NO plans in place for the Hamilton Road site?

### **GIRLING STREET IS THE WRONG PLACE FOR A BUS STATION**

The Council made a commitment to an integrated transport system: Girling Street is as far away from the train station as possible;

Train users will have to walk uphill for at least 10 minutes—especially if elderly (and more likely to use the

buses) to reach the bus station.

The location is already a very busy main road which serves major establishments (Aldi, Iceland, The Silkworm to name three) and buses moving on and off the site will have a disastrous effect on an already congested area;

The location will force some buses to make two circuits of the town's one-way system, thus adding to already high pollution levels and traffic noise;

The buses will deliver people to the Market Hill and Hamilton Road area;

It will mean the loss of more than 70 parking places, a devastating loss in the face of the already tight parking facilities and a planned increase in population.

### **ON OR NEAR THE CURRENT BUS STATION COULD WORK**

The advantages would be:

Close to Market Hill, the centre of Sudbury with its restaurants/pubs/cafes/library/banks/marketplace;

Close to two supermarkets;

Within reasonable distance of the train station, due to upgrading with a direct link into Colchester shopping areas which should enhance the Water Meadows/Gainsborough's House and other heritage sites for tourism;

No increase in traffic congestion and related pollution levels/noise;

Provides a safe and relaxed area for users to alight/board buses;

Girling Street Car Park leads easily off the one-way system.

### **THE HAMILTON ROAD SITE**

We understand that Babergh D.C. Has purchased large areas of land surrounding the current bus station site. This must surely have an impact on the proposals for Girling Street, yet the plans show no evidence of this.

We are concerned that the developers may not be aware that Hamilton Road is an adopted highway, with all of the implications that this brings.

### **WE SUGGESTED:**

1. is a 'bus station' really necessary? What we need are bus stops around the town with real-time information and proper bus shelters. A great deal of money could be saved and used to provide toilet facilities in Hamilton Road— at the opposite end of town from the currently woefully inadequate toilets.
2. Great Eastern Road is a gateway into town and at present an eyesore. A bus 'hub' with bus stops on either side would set people down much nearer to the centre of town, and provide scope for transferring between buses. It could be incorporated in the development to provide an attractive frontage including shops, a café and toilets. The much-needed junction redevelopment at Station Road/Great Eastern Road would be part of this scheme. We provided detailed drawings of this scheme and made a presentation to the Sudbury Steering Group.
3. A solution which does not involve a major loss of parking spaces is to site a 'bus station' near the Health Centre on Churchfield Road. This would help to resolve the current poor provision of bus services to and from the Health Centre and would provide easy access to the many elderly people who frequently use the Centre.

We are aware that there are many details to be ironed out but we remain convinced that there is a better option than the one preferred. We would urge the planners to 'go back to the drawing board' and think again.

Chair

#### **LORNA HOEY**

has taught Art and English in N. Ireland, Germany, Switzerland and London and been part of education management for many years. In Sudbury she paints, runs a creative writing group and is a Volunteer Ranger on the Common Land. Favourite occupation: walking across Sudbury's water-meadows in the early morning – a magical place in all weathers'.



## **QUIZ !!!**

### **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SUDBURY STREETS**

*Below is a list of less well known places in Sudbury, all within 3/4 miles of St Peter's — they are all on roads most of which are used regularly, and are all usually inhabited. Can you identify where they are? If you have to resort to the town map, they are all shown there with two exceptions. (Question 12 is stinker!)*

1. Orchard Place
2. Garden Place
3. Salisbury Terrace
4. Bridge Terrace
5. Ellistons Yard
6. Olivers Yard
7. The Close
8. Chilton Mount
9. Laundry Gardens
10. Globe Yard

*The following two have no visible street sign:*

11. Medcalf Terrace
12. Hawk Lane

*Compiled by Rod Gray*

*Happy hunting!*

*Answers on next page*

## ANSWERS TO STREETS QUIZ on page 13

1. Off Church St.
2. Off Cross St.
3. Between Gainsborough Rd & Beaconsfield Rd.
4. Off East St.
5. Off Ballingdon St.
6. Off North St.
7. Off Waldingfield Rd & Banham Drive.
8. Off Newton Rd.
9. Behind and parallel to Cross St.
10. Off New St.
11. Off East St (passage on left between Girling St & Newman's Rd).
12. Off Ballingdon St (not signed or on map—single house on left just before railway bridge, going out of town.  
See Tony Wheeler's book, *What's in a Name*, for details; existence of official address confirmed by householder).

## SUDBURY SOCIETY UP TO DATE

One of the issues raised at our Open Forum on September 30<sup>th</sup> was the importance of members being kept up to date. We can and will do this in the News-Journal and at our meetings in Friars Hall. But we could keep you up to date more immediately on Society news, developments in the town, etc. by email. We have email addresses of many members but if we do not have yours and you would like to be included please confirm it to our new Membership Secretary Liz Fulcher on [gozna@waitrose.com](mailto:gozna@waitrose.com)

We will include your address as a blind copy and will not pass it to anyone else.

**Stephen Thorpe**

## STOP PRESS

With reference to the article on page 6 regarding the situation with the development of St Leonards: it appears that a reputable buyer has been found and we look forward to a sensitive development in line with proposals already submitted. No details have yet been released.

Watch this space!

**Copy date : 6 March 2017**

If possible please email your contribution in Calibri 11 pt and justified to:  
[patricia.thorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:patricia.thorpe@btinternet.com)

## LIKED WHAT YOU SAW IN THIS NEWSJOURNAL?

Come and join us. We are a non-political Civic Society which aims to conserve what is of value in Sudbury and surrounding area.

We also try to ensure that new builds enhance our heritage while providing the best possible outcomes for the people of Sudbury.

We have over 200 members and have a strong presence in Sudbury: we are represented on various Committees and our opinion is often sought on matters of planning and design.

Our Winter Meetings take place in Friars Hall, School Street, Sudbury, on the last Friday of the month and comprise up-to-date information for Members followed by a speaker and refreshments. Talks can either be informative or provide light entertainment and we try to have a mixture throughout the year.

Our Summer meetings take the form of visits to places of interest or walking tours (our annual Walking Quiz is popular) and we hold a Garden Party in July each year.

We will always welcome new members – the more the merrier! – and details of our membership fees are on the facing page. Tear out (or photocopy) the page and post it to the Christopher Centre with your remittance or simply hand it in.

Prefer to do things on-line? No problem. Just go to our website: [sudburiesociety.org.uk](http://sudburiesociety.org.uk). Fill in the form and in return you'll receive a Membership card and an Events card.

Editor

**PATRICIA THORPE**

Wife, mother of 3 children & 5 grand-children. Former Chartered Librarian, primary school teacher, Samaritan, Gt Cornard councillor. Hobbies: reading, gardening, Loves everything Italian and can just about 'get by' in the language. Has now embraced technology.

Guilty secret: I am in love with my iPad.





**APPLICATION FORM TO JOIN THE SUDBURY SOCIETY**

Cheques should be made to The Sudbury Society.

**Section A**

**NB All sections of the form which you complete should be returned to The Membership Secretary:  
c/o The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, CO10 2EU**

We enclose my/our subscription(s) of £10 per person: £.....

Name(s) and title(s).....

Address.....

Tel no /e-mail.....

Details of any relevant technical/professional expertise or special interests:

.....

Signature(s).....Date.....

**Section B: Instruction to your Bank or Building Society**

To pay by Standing Order Mandate (BCG) please complete this form and return to the Membership Secretary:

To: The Manager of.....

Address.....

Name of Account Holders.....

Branch Sort Code...../...../..... Bank/Building Society A/c no:.....

I/We wish to pay £.....annually

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

Commencing on ...../...../.....

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.

**Section C: Gift Aid Declaration**

To: The Treasurer of the Sudbury Society

Registered Charity No. 265228

I/We .....of.....

would like the Sudbury Society to reclaim Tax on all payments I/we will make in tax years 2015/2016 and on all payments I/we make in the future and that the payments be treated as Gift Aid donations.

I/We have paid at least as much income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax you are claiming on my/our payments.

Signed.....

Name(s) in capitals.....Dated...../...../.....

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### COMING EVENTS 2016/17

**Friday 2nd December 7.30pm \*\*\***

#### **The Good Old Days**

Entertainment with Bryan Thurlow.  
Canapés. Bring your own drinks.  
Feel free to come in costume or perhaps just a big hat!

**Friday 27th January 7.30pm**

#### **Suffolk Village Trails**

a talk by retired head teacher Angie Jones

**Friday 24th February 7.30pm**

A talk by retired GP Dr Denis Brogan

**Friday 24th March 7.30pm**

#### **AGM**

Followed by a talk by our President Andrew Phillips

**Friday 28th April**

**7.30pm \*\*\***

#### **Bob Andrew's Picture Quiz**

Fish and Chip Supper. Bring your own drinks. £12 per person.

### BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Please note that booking is essential for events marked \*\*\*

Contact:

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

Mr & Mrs R Pullan

Mr & Mrs B Knewstubb

Mr & Mrs P Crisp

### PRESIDENT

**Andrew Phillips**  
(Lord Phillips of Sudbury)

### VICE PRESIDENT

**David Burnett**

### COMMITTEE:

#### **Chairman**

Lorna Hoey  
379598

#### **Vice – Chairman**

Stephen Thorpe  
881661

#### **Minutes Secretary**

Sue Ayres  
310219

#### **Treasurer**

Ian Liddell  
372400

#### **Membership Secretary**

Liz Fulcher  
01787 269935

#### **Planning**

Stephen Thorpe  
881661  
Sam Thornton  
375646

#### **Press Officer**

Anne Grimshaw  
375736

#### **Events**

Rosemary Woodward  
372186

#### **NewsJournal**

Patricia Thorpe  
881661

#### **Catering**

Pat and Roy Laithwaite  
377697

*Thinking of joining the Society?*

*A Membership Form is on the back of this page*