



SUDBURY'S TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

SUDBURY SOCIETY CALLS TWO OPEN TOWN MEETINGS

A newspaper article alerted us to the fact that decisions on the allocation of limited funds for traffic schemes in East Anglia would be decided at a meeting of the East of England Regional Assembly at the end of January. Your Society decided to request an information meeting with Suffolk County Council.

First town meeting

Councillor Guy McGregor, Portfolio Holder for Roads and Transport at Suffolk County Council, agreed to attend a Town Meeting, organized by the Sudbury Society on 22 January, where he and Peter Grimm, the Strategic Policy Manager Transport, would give a presentation outlining the present position and future possibilities. The town's residents would then have the opportunity to ask questions and make their opinions heard.

The meeting duly took place, chaired by Lord Phillips. Over 150 people attended. It became clear that the bypass was now ranked 96th out of 98

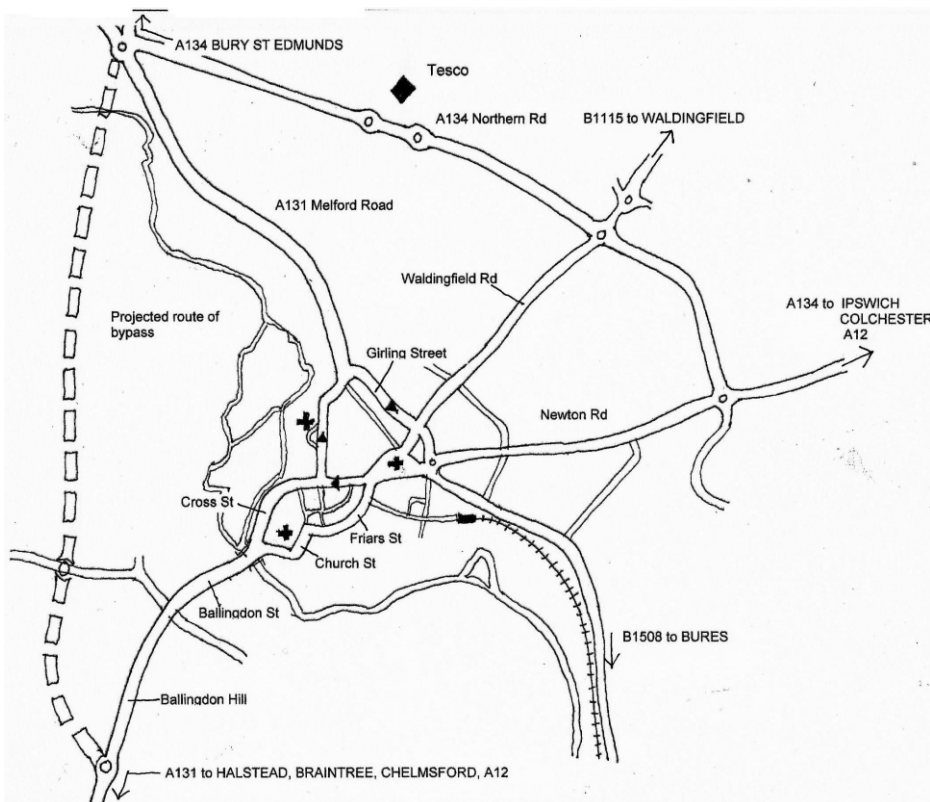
schemes and no funding could be considered until after 2013. When Ministers turned down the application in 2003 they said that consideration should be given to implement measures within the town centre to reduce and manage the impact of high traffic volumes. When the public asked what these measures were and whether they had been put in place, Peter Grimm explained that his responsibility was strategy and he could not answer questions of detail (!).

There was considerable dismay, as those present had expected to hear firm proposals. If the bypass was out of the question, what were the specific alternatives suggested by the Transport Manager?

Lord Phillips asked those attending if they would be prepared to come to another meeting where these matters could be discussed. The response was virtually unanimous.

Second town meeting

Suffolk County Council agreed to come back on 17 March. In the meantime the Mayor, Councillor John Sayers, asked through the Press for suggestions on measures to ease the traffic in the town centre. Eventually some 20 suggestions were received. This meeting was chaired by Major Hallidie, and again a large number of townspeople attended. As before, Councillor McGregor headed the Suffolk County Council team, augmented this time by Mr Andy Johnson (Highways Department). The presentation, full details of which can be seen on our web site (<http://www.sudburysociety.org.uk/>



Sudbury Town, main through routes
(with projected bypass shown at left of picture)

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

As a relative newcomer and devoid of any experience of civic matters, I appreciate the very wide range of expertise available within the Sudbury Society, a small sample of which is on show in this newsletter.

I would like to think that it is due to the actions of the Society that Bellevue has been saved from destruction and that Suffolk County Council has taken a renewed interest in the town's traffic problems. In reality our actions have been in tune with the feelings of the townspeople, to which they have hopefully added some impetus. In many meetings I have been impressed with the respect in which the Society is held.

So, where should we direct our energies this coming year? Clearly we must maintain pressure on Suffolk County Council to resolve the traffic problem. The question of the bypass is not dead. One of our members has a new view on the subject, and this we intend to publicise and promote.

Probably we should put our effort into the regeneration of the Bus Station/Francis Road area along the lines of the imaginative Civic Trust Report of 2006. Stephen Thorpe's suggested plan for replacing the bus station, described on page 11, has been supported in principle by the Town Council and the Market Town Partnership. We hope we will jointly persuade the decision makers to accept this as an alternative to their own proposals and so enable the Civic Trust's ideas to be realized to the benefit of our town.

Nick Hallidie

PLANNING MATTERS

We continue to comment on applications and our comments can be downloaded from the Society's website. We also enter the applications beforehand so if any particularly interest you let us know or even join us on a Friday morning.

We continue to try to influence better design, sometimes with success but often we are frustrated by the general unwillingness to employ a good architect or designer and by Babergh's apparent reluctance to insist on good design. A sad example was the proposal for flats on the corner of **Croft Road and New Street**, approved despite our efforts to achieve something better.

More encouraging was a proposal to convert and extend **Wellesley House**, opposite the Silkworm, for a bar/restaurant where the architects sought our advice and support for a good solution which was approved.

We opposed forcefully an application to develop for housing the land in **Bulmer Road**, currently a semi-derelict industrial site, not for the principle but for the very poor quality of the layout and design of the houses. It was refused outline permission and we hope to see a reapplication far better suited to the site.

Winch and Blatch submitted an interesting proposal to convert and extend their two properties either side of the passageway from Market Hill down towards the bus station with a glass bridge spanning between the two first floors. There were to be rear entrances into the

extensions. We strongly supported this as it was very much as the Civic Trust envisaged – the start of an interesting route through a mixed use development towards Roys, Kingfisher, the Rail Station and Waitrose.

Sadly this exciting prospect seems doomed as the combined forces of Suffolk and Babergh are set on reinstating **the bus station** on or near its present site. There is to be preliminary consultation, with among other 'stakeholders' the Society, prior to public consultation. We have prepared an alternative (see page 11 in this Newsletter) which would allow the Civic Trust scheme to be realised and are lobbying officers and councillors to have it accepted as one of the options. Both the Town Council and the Market Town Partnership are in support. You can view our proposals in detail on the website and we will keep you informed of progress.

Belle Vue House may have a brighter future possibly as a community resource for the town – McCarthy and Stone pulled out and an attempt by Apollo, owners of Hardwicke House surgery, to take over the site was rejected by Babergh's strategy committee.

The former **Armes site** in Cornard Road lies empty following demolition. Outline permission for housing runs out in August and there are rumours of potential uses other than housing. Again keep an eye on the website for updates.

Stephen Thorpe and the planning group

Town traffic - *continued from p. 1*

gave details of works planned over the next few years, involving an expenditure of about £1 million. The presentation was followed by some lively discussion. Although not included in the presentation, the representatives of Suffolk CC did feel that a detailed traffic survey was now needed to discover the real destination of heavy goods vehicles entering the historic centre.

Progress

These two meetings have ensured that those interested are now very much better informed and Suffolk County Council is aware of the strength of feeling in Sudbury. The only concrete advantages would appear to be a willingness to spend up to £1 million over the next few years in making improvements to the traffic management within the town. However, most of the actions mentioned have not even reached the planning stage.

It is a pity that the Government insists on an 'integrated' approach to the resolution of traffic problems. The single most serious aspect is heavy goods vehicles transiting the historic centre of the town, which, in the view of experts, is causing serious damage to ancient buildings. Let us consider this aspect on its own. These vehicles approach from the south-west along Ballingdon Street, from the north-west along the Melford Road, and from the east along the Newton Road. They all converge on the historic centre of the town, but do any of them have this as their final destination or even as a major drop-off point? The answer must be very few, if any. They have no need to go through the historic centre, but without a bypass, they have no option.

Sadly, within the town and within the Society, there are a considerable number of people who oppose a bypass in any shape or form. These people must ask themselves if they wish 40-ton trucks to continue to rumble forever through Market Hill, Gainsborough Street, Stour Street, and Cross Street, because this is what is going to happen.

Nick Hallidie

Jewel in the Crown

One of mine is Friars Meadow. Looking westwards from the Lady Island end the space appears limitless – the river acts like that 18th century device, the ha-ha, so that the meadow seems to flow seamlessly into the landscape beyond.

Stephen Thorpe

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2008

The Act which came into effect in November is the unlikely outcome of a Private Member's Bill, supported by over 90 community and political organizations, and represents to its optimistic supporters a welcome shift in power from central to local government.

To date Suffolk has opted in and Babergh is considering whether to do so. The Society will collaborate with the Town Council and others to put forward proposals and nominate a representative to the panels. Proposals could include local control of car parking, payment of local domestic rates by out-of-town supermarkets on their car parks and effective control of the route information provided on the satnavs used by HGV drivers.

Local authorities can, by 'opting in' to the Secretary of State's invitation which has already been sent out to all of them, prepare proposals which they consider would contribute to promoting the sustainability of local communities.

The Act incorporates a by-no-means exclusive or exhaustive list of such proposals which range from local production of goods and services and local jobs through measures to produce energy locally and to reduce the level of road traffic up to provision of affordable housing and use of local waste materials.

Once they have opted in local authorities must set up a citizens' panel which represents local people and try to reach agreement with them on the proposals to be submitted. They may well collaborate with similarly placed authorities on shared concerns. The government has appointed the Local Government Association to shortlist the proposals which it is bound under the Act to support, although it may well find that they conflict with government policy or expose gaps in it.

An important provision in the Act requires the Secretary of State to arrange for publication of local spending reports (from April 2009), which will provide information on how public money is spent locally. This would enable panels to recommend that some functions carried out by central government bodies could be better undertaken by local bodies with access to the allocated funds.

Stephen Thorpe

To educate yourself more thoroughly log on to localworks.org or unlockdemocracy.org.uk

THE MILL LANE SCHOOLS – 1846 to 2009

The last school on the Mill Lane site to take its pupils through to the end of their school careers was Sudbury Secondary Modern School, closed in 1972, but there has been a school on the site since mid Victorian times.

The first school to be built there was the Sudbury 'British School'. In 1846 wealthy Quakers subscribed to build a school in the town that was free and non-denominational, coming into existence just before All Saints Church School nearby, which opened in 1850. The British School catered for boys, girls, and infants, and it immediately flourished in its fine new building.

Its first headmaster of note was Mr J. Leonard, who kept a meticulous log book. The school received a state grant and was inspected regularly to see that this annual grant was properly used. In 1864 Mr Leonard records a report by the poet Matthew Arnold, who had become an inspector of schools: 'I found the school, which I had not seen for some ten years, very efficient and prosperous. The master, an old pupil teacher of mine at Leicester, came here about two years since; he found the school a good one and he has kept it so. He has great energy and activity.'

In 1870 the first Education Act was passed, compelling all children over the age of 5 to attend school, and this increased school numbers. Truanting children were rounded up by school attendance officers. All Saints Church School meanwhile was struggling to maintain its numbers. In January 1871 Mr Leonard recorded: 'Church people have been busy canvassing our boys in the holiday. They managed to get some half-dozen'. Later, 'Managed to get two of them back!'

Each child had a slate and slate pencil to write with, not pen and paper. In 1871 the log book reads, 'Worst feature of the week has been the destruction of slates; not a day has passed except one or more has suffered

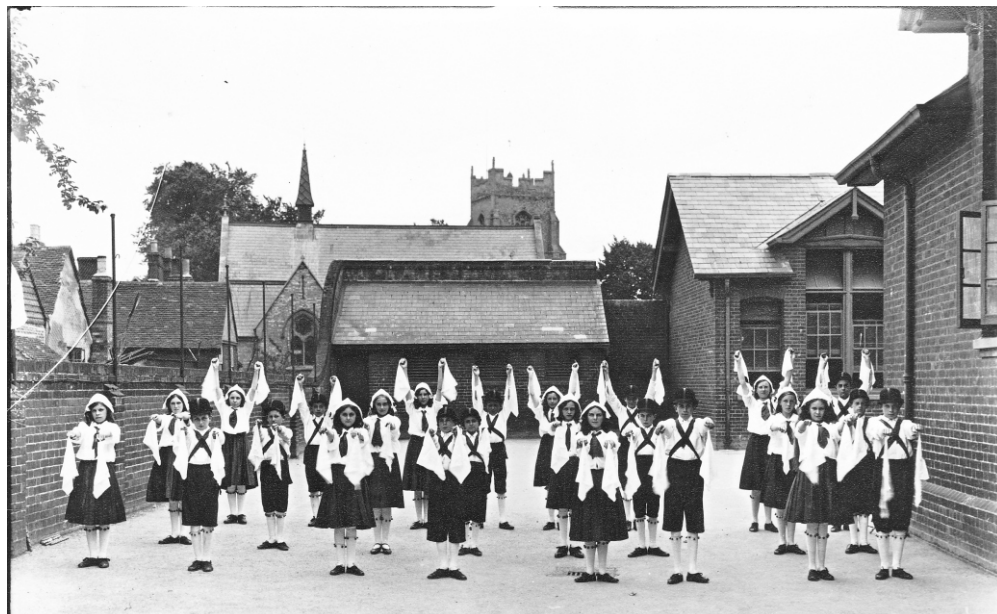
loss, the parents generally refusing to replace it – a number of boys unable to join in the regular lesson....Dictation requires not only correct spelling but nicely ruled slates and good writing.' Next month he writes, 'Slate breaking continues. Wanton mischief somewhere.'

Leonard resigned in 1881 and was succeeded by Walter Marshall, who remained in post for 41 years. In 1888 the school was transferred to a local Board of Management and became known as the Sudbury Board School. Numbers increased with the closure of the All Saints schools in 1894. In 1903, as a result of the Education Act of 1902 which abolished school boards and set up Local Education Authorities, the school was taken over by the newly formed West Suffolk Education Committee and became known as the Council School.

The brighter children sat the Free Place examination for Sudbury Grammar School, and Walter Marshall proudly records the names of his successful old boys who subsequently went on to pass the Cambridge Local Examinations. In 1914 the old boys of the school held a gathering reported in the *Free Press*. Mr Leonard's boys evidently had felt in retrospect that he had been strict but good for them; Mr Marshall's boys spoke of him with real affection. One even referred to his 54" bicycle!

When in 1918 British Summer Time was introduced, Marshall noted: 'On the whole the alteration in time has been an advantage to the boys, although in some cases there has been a certain amount of lassitude in the afternoon...the younger and delicate boys rose by Summer Time, but were not sent to bed until the normal time, thus losing one hour's rest.'

On his retirement in 1922 Walter Marshall received long eulogies in the press and leading citizens made glowing speeches in his praise. At the final assembly he said that every boy who had left school while he had been headmaster had left with a friendly spirit, and during that time 2,500 boys had passed through the school. They were scattered all over the world and many had fought in the Great War. Some had laid down their lives for their country and others had come home maimed. He also mentioned that the school had a unique record in that there



Morris Dancers, Council School 1914. Photo courtesy of Andrew Phillips

had been only two headmasters in 55 years. (Older members of the Sudbury Society will remember his son Dick Marshall, who was a solicitor at Steed and Steed's for many years.)

The 1918 Fisher Act had raised the school-leaving age to 14 and distinguished between the two stages in elementary education, junior and senior. In 1936 new land was acquired next to the new girls' High School, a Practical Instruction block was erected, the existing building was much altered, and in 1937 Sudbury Senior School was opened, catering for boys and girls aged 11 to 14, with 116 boys and 124 girls on the roll.

The first head was Mr Finch. Games were taken in Belle Vue Park and gardening was available on the new site. There were four houses: Leonard, Marshall, Alston (after the headmistress of the infant School, 1906-29) and Tripp (headmistress of the Council School for Girls 1914-23). The school had six rooms and the Hall; the head recorded that the only serious inconvenience was the lack of a separate playground for the girls. The lavatory block was still outside and remained so until the building was finally demolished. This could cause problems: on one occasion the head wrote, 'Caretaker very ill and headmaster only person available to deal with frozen lavatories and to stoke the boiler. I therefore closed the school.'

When war broke out in 1939 numbers rose to 316 with children evacuated to the area.

In 1947 the 1944 Education Act, dividing education into three stages, Primary, Secondary and Further, was implemented. The girls departed for Sudbury High School, which became bi-lateral, and Sudbury Secondary Modern School, catering for boys aged 11 to 15 from Sudbury, Long Melford and surrounding villages was born, opening with 447 boys on the roll.

Under a succession of enlightened headmasters, further subjects were added to the curriculum, including French, and school trips abroad were organized. Some rooms in Hardwicke House were taken into use in 1960 for remedial classes for slow learners, and a course in car maintenance, as part of



The Hall of All Saints Middle School, 1980s. Photo courtesy of Isobel Hebden

which boys learned to drive a car round the playground, was introduced.

Boys who entered the Secondary Modern School did not need to feel they had 'failed'. There was a flexible transfer to the Grammar School for those who had slipped through the net, and the 'Mill Lane Academy' (as it is called by its old boys) could be proud of having provided a good education in both practical and academic subjects.

In 1972 comprehensive education was introduced to Sudbury and the Secondary Modern School was disbanded, the younger boys remaining in the building, which became All Saints Middle School, and the older ones going to the new Sudbury Upper School.

The building remained a middle school until 1987 when All Saints moved to its new site in Acton Lane and the old building was finally demolished. The splendid new building of St Gregory and St Peter's First School now stands on the corner of Mill Lane, and continues the old tradition.

Lorna Hewett

(Bob and Lorna Hewett have been members of the Sudbury Society since its foundation. Ed.)



School logo, showing hand and book



Sudbury Modern Secondary School for Boys, 1961

This is the central portion of a panoramic photograph of all the staff and children in the school.

The headmaster, in the middle, is Bob Hewett, who was head from 1960 to 1972. He was honoured with a term's Schoolmaster's Fellowship to Oxford University in 1969

Sudbury pub now again features Mauldons' Ales

In 1795 the Mauldon family of Sudbury first became involved in brewing, for in that year Anna Maria Mauldon began brewing at the Bull Hotel in Ballingdon on the outskirts of Sudbury. At first the ales were brewed purely for the hotel, then as business prospered additional pubs and hotels were purchased and in the early 1800s the brewery moved to larger premises in Ballingdon Street. Eventually the business consisted of a brewery with some 30 tied public houses, a wine and spirit business and a small farm. In 1960 it was sold to Messrs Greene King. Memories of the old business still linger on and the etched glass windows with the Mauldon name may still be found in some pubs in and around Sudbury.

In 1981 Peter Mauldon, Anna Maria's great-grandson, decided to reestablish the family tradition and start a brewery in Sudbury once again. Peter had been too young to be involved in the original family business and had previously pursued a career with Messrs Watney where he progressed to Head Brewer at the company's large Mortlake Brewery. In 1982 premises on the Chilton Industrial Estate in Sudbury were acquired, the brewery was constructed and in December of that year, after a gap of twenty-two years, the first barrels of beer were being brewed again in Sudbury by a Mauldon.

The brewery is now well established and, using only traditional methods and quality materials, supplies a range of premium real ales throughout East Anglia, having won many awards for their beers at festivals, including CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain in 1991/1992 for Black Adder.

On Peter and Jane Mauldon's retirement, Steve and Alison Sims purchased the Sudbury-based brewery in March 2000. In tribute to Charles Dickens's christening of Sudbury as Eatanswill in *Pickwick Papers*, they brew a range of beers on a Dickensian theme. Following ancient craft methods, Mauldon's traditional beers are brewed only from the finest East Anglian malted barley, English hops, water and brewing yeast. The Tap public house in East Street now serves Mauldon's beers. Several Society members recently enjoyed a tasting and song fest there!

Michael Lewis

Leaflets about Visions of Sudbury 2009 can be obtained from the Sudbury Town Information Centre

Sudbury on Show – February 2009

The trumpet's fanfare soared into the echoing spaces of St Peter's church and the sunshine streamed through the windows on St Valentine's Day when the Sudbury Town Mayor, John Sayers, opened *Sudbury on Show* following a similar ceremony in the Town Hall.

Our President, Andrew Phillips, conceived the first *Sudbury on Show* in 2005. Since then the event has increased in popularity and shows just how many of us of all ages and interests contribute their time and energy to the health and vitality of Sudbury.

The Sudbury Society was one of 254 local community organisations that set out their stalls for the many visitors who poured in from the Market Square. It was good to greet so many Society members and hear about their concerns as well as welcoming people who were finding out about us for the first time.

We invited visitors to our stand to mark on a map either their home or the road that they travelled into Sudbury. This drew much discussion about the problems caused by lorries driving through the historic narrow streets of our market town as well as the need for appropriate routes to parking spaces for visitors who come to enjoy the many facilities that Sudbury offers. The one common theme that was echoed by everyone was that Sudbury is a delightful and lively town in which to live and this was something that we did not want to lose as new developments and constraints are placed upon us.

Vice Chairman of the Society, Stephen Thorpe, designed a new leaflet especially for *Sudbury on Show* and we were pleased that most were picked up. Some visitors selected the ever-popular *Sudbury Town Trail* booklet to find out more about our historic town. Copies of this are still available at the Tourist Information Centre. We also used the day to launch the *Visions of Sudbury 09* (see details opposite).

Sally Freer

Members' e-mail addresses

If you are willing to be contacted from time to time via e-mail by officers of the Society, please e-mail our address: sudsoc@yahoo.co.uk with your permission. This would be a great help to us. No personal details are ever passed on by us to other organizations.

Maria Mills



SUDBURY ON SHOW

Sudbury Society members Sally Freer and Anne Grimshaw with our President Andrew Phillips and the Mayor of Sudbury John Sayers at the Sudbury Society stand at the exhibition

VISIONS OF SUDBURY 09

The next *Visions of Sudbury 09* exhibition will be at St Peter's church from 12–18 October. This exhibition is open to everyone to submit paintings, drawings, textiles, ceramics, photographs and suchlike in response to either the built environment of Sudbury or the River Stour and the water meadows beyond.

Visions of Sudbury was conceived in 2005 by the Sudbury Society to encourage people to look again and appreciate anew the rich and varied buildings and the landscape beyond that so inspired Thomas Gainsborough and still makes Sudbury the very special place that it is.

This tradition of artists responding to the locality continues and one might occasionally see someone painting or sketching or photographing the historic buildings or the beautiful meadows.

Collectors who bought pictures of Sudbury from previous *Visions of Sudbury* exhibitions should now be building interesting collections.

Visions 09 will provide an opportunity to augment further their collections.

Sponsorship to the Sudbury Society for *Visions of Sudbury 09* has been generous. The Freeman's Trust has again been responsive to our request and we are also grateful to Radius Design and Travel and Leisure for their positive support. This sponsorship highlights that activities such as *Visions of Sudbury 09* are part of the community life of Sudbury, thus ensuring that our town does not lose the special qualities that this exhibition seeks to promote.

Sally Freer

Member of the Executive of the Sudbury Society

Sally Freer is a member of the team organising Visions of Sudbury 09 together with David Burnett, Diana Clifford, Heather Coltman, Maria Mills, Peter Mills, David Raynor, John Taylor and Stephen Thorpe

EVENTS PAST

From birth to work – growing up in Sudbury.

A talk by John Middleditch

On a wet and dreary night at the end of November members and guests were held spellbound by the fluid and entertaining story of John Middleditch's early life. Speaking without notes in a most entertaining way John took us from his birth in Walnut Tree Hospital in 1944 (in itself an unusual occurrence) to the inevitable parental arguments over the naming of the first son after two daughters. Life was very difficult for a poor but hard-working family. John's father worked at Brundon Hall farm and his mother made sure that discipline and structure ruled their home life. Each day of the week was given over to its allotted tasks – shopping in the market on Thursdays and ordering the weekend joint for collection on Saturdays, for example, and perhaps a visit to the livestock market in Birketts Lane. Patronage of local shops such as the butcher's, greengrocer's and fishmonger's could be subject to change following minor disagreements, especially in North Street where provision shops were opposite each other! Great emphasis was placed on the children's being home on time for meal times and bed time but the children were able to amuse themselves playing football, swimming or going on long walks. Later, helping his father at the farm became a source of pocket money as did a paper round. The high-light of the year was the annual Co-op outing by train from Sudbury to Walton on the Naze. Needless to say the threat of exclusion generated some very good behaviour before the day.

Two months before he left school he started to look for a job. Being an early 'baby boomer' John had to compete with many other youngsters. After thirty-two applications he landed a job at Percy Brown the builders and began work as a decorator just three days after leaving school. He has been a decorator ever since.

Karen Lee

(It is with great sadness that we report that Karen died suddenly after she submitted this article. Ed.)

Christmas cheese and wine evening

It really doesn't seem a year since I went to my first Sudbury Society Christmas cheese and wine evening in 2007 soon after joining the Society. My first impression this year was that there weren't as many people as last year which was a shame as it was, like last year, a most enjoyable hour or two.

Perhaps members were otherwise booked up with the hectic social round in Sudbury or the very cold weather during preceding days put people off turning out and, I heard on the grapevine, at least four people forgot! (Senior moments – we all have them, don't we?)

Diana Clifford and Maria Mills-Farinas had laid out a wonderful buffet of bread, paté, a variety of cheeses, grapes, celery and other goodies as well as wine and soft drinks. Decorated candle-lit tables set for six had a variety of 'nibbles' and carols and Christmas music played throughout the evening.

In addition on each table was a sheet of 'dingbat' puzzles to keep us occupied during the evening and to act as ice-breakers for any newcomers. A few people hadn't done these before – indeed, I had only come across them the previous evening at another Christmas 'do' – but everyone quickly got the hang of them and worked on them throughout the evening, now and then groaning when someone deciphered the answer. And quite clever some of them were too.

The quiz was very ably set and organised by Roger Bawden who 'managed' it expertly with the questions pitched just right: not so easy as to be boring and unchallenging but not so difficult you needed to be Einstein to answer them, yet light-hearted enough for a laugh. I forget whose team/table won but as always at these events, it doesn't matter – it's the fun of taking part and having an enjoyable time that's the main the thing.

Our thanks go to Ruth Bawden for collecting and marking the answers and coming up with some quick arithmetic having incorporated who played their jokers for which round to work out the winners.

Thanks also go to Audrey Wardman for selling raffle tickets for the splendid array of prizes, to our treasurer John Taylor and Jean King for taking 'money on the door (over £100) and everyone who helped clear up and wash up. Apologies to anyone who I've missed who also contributed to making the evening a success.

Anne Grimshaw

Shops and shopping in the middle ages

What a title! The Sudbury Society talk on 30th January was given by Leigh Alston, an expert on mediaeval timber frame buildings, and hugely interesting and entertaining it was too. He began with slides showing the traces of old shops and doorways on a 15th C. house in Saffron Walden,

(now the Youth Hostel). He explained that shop openings were usually arched, had no trace of mullions and the nearby doorways were very narrow. The openings had shutters which would be pulled up from inside, not let down from outside as suggested by the Lavenham example on the Guildhall with which many people will be familiar.

Mr Alston has spent many years examining often much altered timber-frame houses and buildings to ascertain where original joints, joists and tenons are located. With his enviable knowledge he is able to 'read' a building. We were shown many examples of where shop openings have been filled in and cut about over the years. Lavenham is particularly rich in such buildings but it suffered a severe decline of the broadcloth industry in the 14th C. from which it took centuries to recover. Mr Alston also explained that as it relied so heavily on that industry it was not able to flourish in the same way that Sudbury did which had a more diverse economy. The downside of this is that Sudbury houses and shops have been more heavily adapted and altered (or pulled down) and evidence is either missing or hidden. He urged everyone to keep a sharp eye out for any current alterations taking place and to record any exposed mediaeval timbers.

We were also told about the 'courtyard' layout of many buildings, particularly in Long Melford, which accommodated shops, workrooms and warehouses. Old documents often list the astonishing number and variety of goods available for purchase. One such listed cloth, laces, hose, buttons, twist and mousetraps! The last were very necessary as there were numerous holes for rodents to get into stock and potentially ruin it. Most of the shops sold what might be termed 'dry goods', food would be bought from the street markets which were heavily regulated by the burghers. Many of these were specialized, with butter markets, butchers (shambles) and haymarkets, all often housed in



buildings which had open spaces to let below and covered storage space above. We were shown several examples which are still standing, a particularly fine one being in Oakham.

Finally we were given a graphic idea of the mediaeval 'shopping experience'. With the streets piled high with ordure of both animal and human origin, heaps of offal outside butchers, a ditch down the side or middle of the street carrying everything from flushing rainwater to various excreta, it was an unhealthy environment. In the summer, when there might not be much rain the stinks can only be imagined! Garde-ropes were often built onto the jettied fronts of houses with the hole above the street, making a stroll along it a hazardous undertaking. These intimate details of our forefathers habits, of course, drew sounds of horror and disgust and amusement from the audience and at question time later heartfelt relief was expressed that some things *have* improved.

Heather Coltman

February quiz night

February's meeting was the annual quiz and nibbles evening although, thanks to Diana Clifford and Maria Mills, the 'nibbles' were considerably more than that: delicious baked potatoes followed by dessert with wine or fruit juice.

Almost sixty people sat down at tables set for eight, thus forming themselves into teams for the quiz. First, after getting something to drink, were the 'ice-breakers' on the tables: the '7 D(ays) in a W(eek)'-type of questions. I'd had the job of compiling them; some were easy, some not so easy! And apologies for a mistake – I'd typed '7 D A' instead of '7 D S' (Deadly Sins) which ensured that no one got that one right.

The plan for the evening: five quiz rounds of ten questions each on different subjects, then eat, then the remaining five rounds. Each table chose a name, and very imaginative some of them were too. Our chairman, Nick Hallidie, was the only man on a table of women so his team was called Amongst the Roses. Another was, topically, RBS Pensioners and another Venus in Blue Jeans – the title of a 1962 pop song sung by Mark Wynter (lyrics of which we all remembered!).

After the first session, we broke for food. For the next forty-five minutes much chatter ensued while brains were nourished with baked potatoes, Bolognese sauce topping, tuna and sweet corn, cheese and butter, salad and trifle so there wasn't much left. It was all eaten much more quickly than it was made! Diana and Maria had done a terrific job and their panic early in the evening that there may not be enough food proved unfounded.

After plates were cleared it was back to the quiz. The winning team was Venus in Blue Jeans (86 correct out of 100). They went away with bottles of wine as prizes. A tie-breaker question for second place (83) resulted in boxes of chocolates. There was also a tie-breaker for last place (76) as there was a sort of

booby prize although even that was quite acceptable: Cadbury chocolate eggs.

At last I could relax! Compiling a quiz isn't quite as easy as it seems. However, with only ten between the winners and the losers, I liked to think it was about right. So far, I've had no complaints...

Anne Grimshaw

A Victorian Village by Monica Place and AGM

In a change to the usual pattern, and as a courtesy to the speaker, March's meeting began with the talk and ended with the Annual General Meeting.

Monica Place began by describing the village of Wortham on the Bury/Diss road, a scattered settlement of about 1,000 people and how its life had been documented, with illustrations by its rector, the Revd Richard Cobbold, in the mid 19th century. His over one hundred small paintings, no bigger than a postcard, depicted his humbler parishioners (as opposed to the gentry or aristocracy) along with a few words and anecdotes about each, giving a wonderful social portrait not only of the individuals but also of the village itself. They were painted in their homes, in their places of work, or simply in the village showing houses, pubs and farms.

There was Billy Rose, 67, in his 'worst attire'; George Minter, a vagrant who slept rough and his brother, William, an agricultural labourer; Moll King, a nurse aged 88, in her spick-and-span house with her cat and little black dog; John Mattox, born in 1780 to a father who kept a pub in Stradbroke, a black servant, huntsman and horseman who drank too much (a common failing in the village!) but was honest and kind; 'Soldier' Smith who had fought at the battle of Waterloo in 1815 but who had died suddenly and collapsed into his wheelbarrow – a dog, having sensed his death, alerted the locals by barking; Judy Fuller of 'nervous disorganization' aged 25 who took to her four-posted bed for sixteen years from which she held court but refused to clear it of cobwebs, not wishing to kill any spiders... and many, many more.

Cobbold also painted the public buildings of the village and the homes of his parishioners: the manor house; a farm house; the police house; a tiny shop barely large enough to hold two customers; an ale house; the windmill; the Queen's Head pub and the Dolphin Inn that served as a coach stop and parcel pick-up and drop-off.

Richard Cobbold had been born in 1797, married in 1822 and fetched up in Wortham as his father had bought him the living. Like other clergy he was in something of a limbo: below the aristocracy and gentry and above his often-illiterate flock. Cobbold was also a writer himself, being the author of *Mary Catchpole*, a 19th-century bestseller.

Very kind, if somewhat pompous and inclined to lose his temper, Cobbold had the welfare of his parishioners at heart, buying cottages for the aged and infirm couples of the village to keep them out of the workhouse. His writings and charming paintings, albeit 'primitive', provided us with a vivid social

Visit to the Suffolk Punch Trust, 23 June

The visit to the Suffolk Punch Trust is 1.30 p.m. to 4.30, meeting beforehand at 12 noon for a ploughman's lunch at the Wilford Bridge Pub, which is on the A1152.

Directions to the stud (we use our own cars – contact Diana Clifford if you need transport):

Travel to Woodbridge on the A12, but do not go into the town. Leave the A12 on the A1152 at the roundabout where you see brown tourist signs to Sutton Hoo. Follow these signs; after leaving the A12 you will go over a set of traffic lights and then a level crossing, after which you turn right at the mini roundabout.

Pass the entrance to Sutton Hoo (on your right) and take the next turning left. Go past the Sutton Heath Estate through a 40 mph stretch of road, then across an area of heathland. Take the next turning which is signposted to Butley, Boyton and Hollesley Bay Colony. Keep right at the next junction and go to the crossroads with the water tower. Cross this and go down the hill, taking the next right-hand turning which has a Suffolk Punch Trust sign at the entrance to the road, leading to the stud which is at the end of this short road.

Cost £12.50, including ploughman's lunch (but you have to buy your own drink), at Wilford Bridge Pub on A1152, on the way to the Suffolk Punch Stud.

Stout shoes and sensible clothing essential!

record put across by Monica Place with much enthusiasm; her love for her subject shone through. (For more information see *Parson and people in a Suffolk village: Richard Cobbold of Wortham 1824-77* ed. by David Dymond.)

The Annual General Meeting

Following the talk and refreshments, the AGM began with the adoption of the minutes of last year's meeting and a report of the Executive Committee which looked at committee matters and the election of a new chairman (Nick Hallidie), support for other organisations, planning, Belle Vue, the bypass and traffic matters, events, membership, website and health. Comments were raised and a short discussion ensued about the perennial problem of traffic in Sudbury and the steps that were being taken to reduce it. The Treasurer John Taylor gave his report and attributed the Society's healthy financial state to the publication of David Burnett's book *Sudbury: the Unlisted Heritage* which was published in 2002. The election of officers and committee was done en bloc and remained the same except that Jean King has stepped down as Membership Secretary, her place taken by Caryl Knight. The committee gained a new member, Dr Christopher Starr. Val Herbert proposed a vote of thanks to officers and committee for their work over the past year.

Anne Grimshaw

Town Centre and Bus Station Site

We prepared this as an alternative to the schemes prepared by the joint Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council technical group working on this site. We had sight of the schemes through the Society's representation on the Market Town Partnership whose Project Officer was a member of the group.

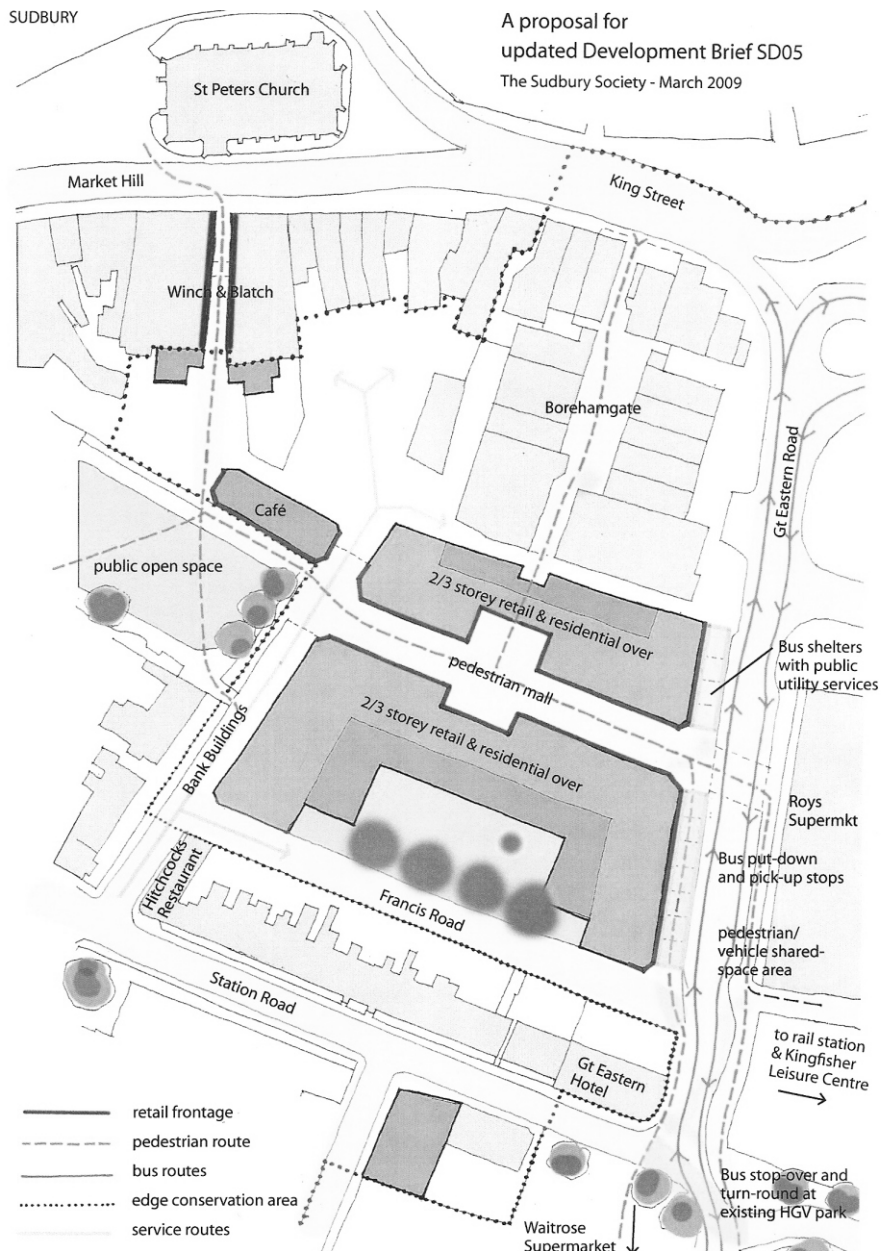
All three schemes prepared so far retain the bus station where it is now or site it a little further down Great Eastern Road. All of them retain bus movement through the site much as now and would make realisation of the proposed Civic Trust scheme impossible.

Our proposal which, of course, needs to be worked out in detail gives the bus station a linear form and integrates it with the new development. This allows for realisation of the main elements of the Civic Trust scheme which are shown here, a key element of which is a lively pedestrian link from Market Hill through the site to Roy's, Kingfisher and Waitrose.

It would also help to reinvigorate Great Eastern Road as a lively street and thereby, we feel, do more to encourage bus use than the usual bleak space common to most bus stations. It will also have more inbuilt flexibility to cope with increasing bus use than the fixed space of a conventional bus station.

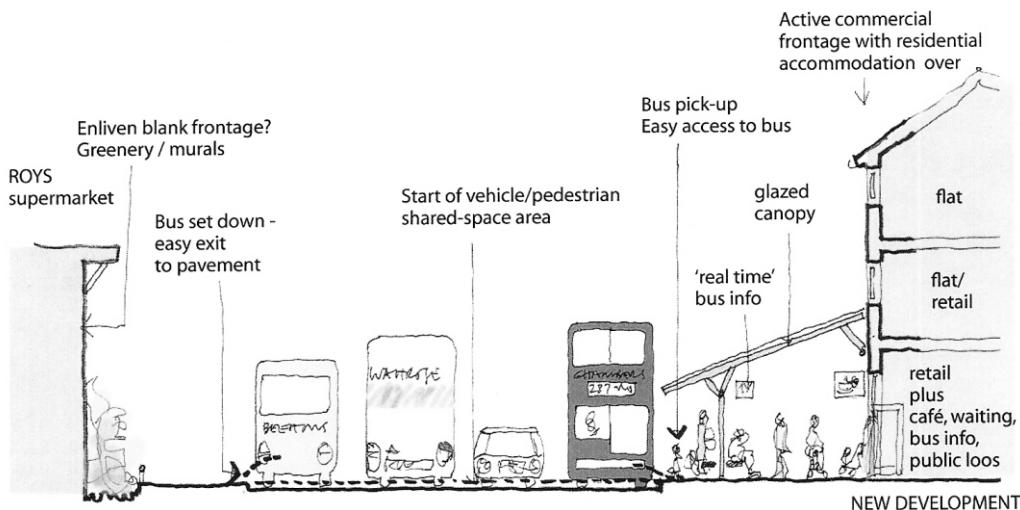
Buses would need to turn round beyond Station Road and be parked when necessary in the lorry park (as they are now) but they would be kept right out of the development site.

Stephen Thorpe



A proposal for updated Development Brief SD05
The Sudbury Society - March 2009

Above:
Plan of proposal in relation to Market Hill



Left:
Cross section through Great Eastern Road, looking south

The Sudbury Society
March 2009

COMING EVENTS SPRING-SUMMER 2009

Friday 24 April 7.30 p.m. Friars Hall, School Street

'Blue Plaques in Sudbury' A talk by Anthony Wheeler, with photographs by David Everitt. Members £2.00, non-members £3.00

Friday 29 May 7 p.m. The Croft

'The History, Management and Wild Life on the Sudbury Commons Lands'. A walk and talk by Adrian Walters. Meet on the Croft at 7 o'clock by the bridge (stout shoes required). Charge of £3.00

* Tuesday 23 June. Meet at 12 noon, Wilford Bridge Pub

A visit to the Suffolk Punch Trust at Hollesley Bay nr Woodbridge. Cost, £12.50 to include lunch. **Please see directions in advert in this Newsletter.**

Saturday 11 July 11 a.m. Coffee Morning at Coach House Christopher Lane

Courtesy of Mr & Mrs V. Herbert. Entrance £1.00

Friday 24th July 7.30pm, Friars Hall, School Street

'Sudbury Conservation Area'. A talk By Mr Patrick Taylor from Babergh Council. Members £2.00, non-members £3.00

*Sunday 9th August, 12.30, All Saints Church Hall, Church Street

Summer Lunch to be held in the church, with coffee/tea afterwards in the garden at 'Cygnet's', courtesy of Mrs Marion Hopps.

Please bring one dish of food with you for the meal, but **discuss choice with Diana Clifford beforehand on 379499.** Tickets £3.00

***NB: items marked with an asterisk must be booked beforehand with Diana Clifford (tel: 379499)**

AS OTHERS SEE US

[In post-Roman Suffolk] 'Only the mention of 'Suthbyrig' (Sudbury) in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (for 798) suggests a definite township, though Ipswich had become an important trading centre'.

'Suffolk possesses some of the finest and giddiest [font-covers] of England, canopies of great height and intricacy. Ufford need not fear comparison with anything abroad, St Gregory Sudbury is nearly as bold'.

'Leonard Stokes, one of the best and most original architects of the end of the [19th] century [built] the small RC church at Sudbury'.

'The hub of the town is the church of St Peter; large and convincingly expressing the wealth of a prosperous wool-manufacturing

town. West tower of c. 1460-85 with a pretty copper spirelet of 1810 that tells much in distant views. There is nothing of architectural interest to the NE. Below the church an even run of houses. Only a few are memorable.'

'The Corn Exchange deserves a glance, if only to meditate on the Early Victorian sense of security, superiority, and prosperity; 1841 by H.E.Kendall. A scrolly top line with wheat-sheaves instead of urns. ...Stour St.... before the climax comes ... with the Chantry and Salter's Hall side by side. Salter's Hall is yet finer. Built c 1450. The Red House, the stateliest Georgian house in Sudbury.'

(Nikolaus Pevsner *The Buildings of England: Suffolk*. Penguin 1961)

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society: Mr Charles Aldous, Mr and Mrs J. Bridges, Mr R. Brewer, Ms Frances C. Butler, Mr N. Emms, Mr and Mrs A. Galer, Mr D. Holland, Mr and Mrs Roy Laithwaite, Mr. R. Milne, Ms Lyn Searle, and Canon David Stranack. We hope they will enjoy our programme and participate in our activities.

Jean King, Membership Secretary

Charity no. 265228. Registered with Civic Trust

Disclaimer: Views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society

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