



# SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SUDBURY & DISTRICT GROUP

## Update

October 2019

### TONIGHT'S SPEAKER

We welcome this evening's speaker Martin Stuchfield with his talk entitled Church Brasses and Brass Rubbing

### UNUSUAL HEADSTONE

This photo was passed on to me by Isobel Clark one of our MI 'team'.



(Patrick Caulfield)

## **SUDBURY HERITAGE CENTRE - FRIENDS BULLETIN - October 2019**

Sudbury Silk Festival last month was a big success. The town was buzzing and visitors jostled for space in St Peter's to see weaving in progress, the latest silk designs and products and to meet people skilled in the craft as well as designers and others associated with textiles. There is talk of the festival becoming biennial two-day event, but it will need financing and a new organiser. Artist Ruth Philo, who organised this one, is standing down to follow other interests. She says: 'Hopefully this day has created a base from which the festival can continue to grow and develop. It has demonstrated that people have a real interest in Sudbury's Silk heritage.'

The Heritage Centre was crowded too with more than 400 visitors checked in and that was not counting audiences on the way to the lectures upstairs which were sold out. We showed our on-screen presentation on silk weaving continuously and also featured a lavish new display of Sudbury silk and its history. This was set up by a team from Stephen Walters, one of the four silk mills in Sudbury. It gives visitors the opportunity to handle silk in a swatch of contemporary and traditional silk fabrics. All this silk history remains on show in the Heritage Centre.

Local fossils and archaeology finds were on show for the annual national Heritage open event two weeks later. Visitors handled mammoth remains found locally and the horn of an auroch, an extinct species of cattle. Star exhibit was a quern used to grind grain by those who lived here about 2,500 years ago. It had been fashioned from a volcanic lava stone studded with flint pebbles and looks like a plum duff pud hence the name pudding stone. It was found by a farmer in Little Waldingfield. John Nunn, founder of Long Melford Museum showed Roman artefacts.

The Heritage Centre continues to reach out to local schools. On the first day of this month Trustee Phyllis Felton hosted three groups visiting from Great Waldingfield Primary School. The children also walked the Victorian town trail devised by Peter Rednall and an outreach visit to Long Melford primary is being fixed. We want to develop this work further and facilities have been offered to Ormiston Academy and Thomas Gainsborough, the two Sudbury Upper Schools.

We also welcome those at the other end of life. A few days later 97-year-old Eric Beavis who lives in Sudbury paid us a visit. We were able to show him a mini-biography of his uncle Percy Beavis who died in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. It is in one of the memorial books to the 300 Sudbury men who died in the two World Wars. These have been compiled by Royal British Legion member Shirley Smith and are permanently available to view alongside the narrative panels which give graphic accounts of some of the war deaths.

Eric has his own war history in the Royal Navy. On D-Day he manned a landing craft ship that survived bombs and shells to deliver troops and heavy equipment to the Normandy beaches. He is still active but uses a walking aid. A British Legion friend escorted Eric around the Heritage Centre and his enjoyment of the many memories it sparked was plain to see. We hope to welcome more visits from veterans who are part of the history we show.

Best wishes to you all

Val Herbert Co-ordinator  
Friends of Sudbury Heritage Centre

## **SNIPPETS FROM THE SUFFOLK FREE PRESS**

June 8th 1910 ~ The formation of the British Scout Movement in Sudbury with Scout Master E. F. Sore, also assistant scout masters A. J. Pilgrim and F. Earee.

The Mechanics and Literary Institute changed their name to the Sudbury Institute Club. According to F. J. Hills " Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin was the only work of fiction allowed in the library." The club had moved on from the original aspirations to improve education for the working man (including literature!) It became more of a social club providing drinks in new bar and cafe in their headquarters. (now annexed to Barclay's bank). Currently in old Free Press office in Station Road?

December 21st. 1910 Soup kitchen ~ 160 poor people and neighbours were served a well cooked dinner, provided by donations provided by various ladies and gentlemen for their poorer brethren, five huge joints of prime beef with vegetables. Each recipient was presented with a piece of plum pudding. Seven ladies attended the soup kitchen in Gaol Lane and assisted in the carving. The cooking was carried out by Mr. James Hostler. Satisfaction was expressed by all.

June 12th 1912 ~ Cartoon published in SFP. "Pa, what's a playwright?"

"A man who writes stuff to go with the scenery, my son."

*Liz Cole*

## **QUIZ NIGHTS**

Bury Group are holding their Quiz Night on Wednesday 20th November at 7.30 and Haverhill Group are holding theirs on Thursday 12th December at 7.30. For full details see the SFHS website

## **WILLS**

It is now possible to order post 1858 wills from the GRO for £1.50 instead of £10. Quite a drop.

*Sheila Piper*

## **OUR LIBRARY**

We have a number of books in our library which we are happy to loan out to members. We have set up a book for you to fill in the details of the book/s you are borrowing; Name; Tel No; Membership Number. Just return them at one of the meetings you attend.

## **OUR GROUP RESEARCH DAY AT SUDBURY LIBRARY**

Sunday 3 November 11.00 - 3.00

Come along for free advice and help with researching your family history

