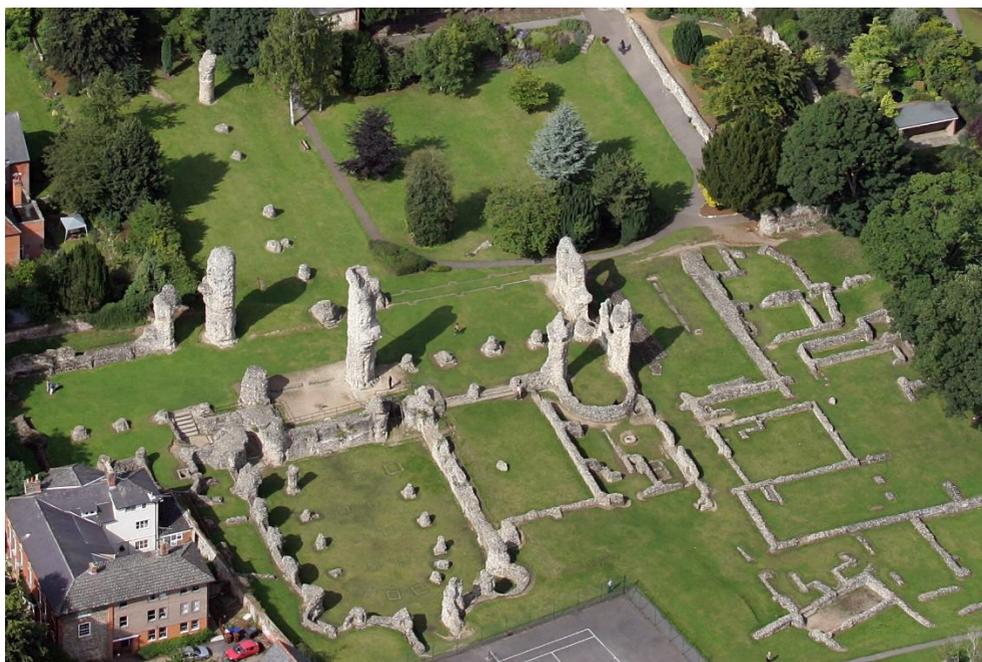


NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2022



**Benedictine Abbey remains Bury St. Edmunds
Spring Field Day Tour (see inside)**

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

Registered Charity No. 267047

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**As always, this Newsletter is also available on the Trust website
under the "Latest Newsletters" tab**

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I write this piece at a time of great dislocation & uncertainty - by now we had hoped covid would be far behind us & the fall out from Brexit settling. But both persist and are now joined by energy price hikes, the baleful reawakening of inflation and war in the east of Europe. For our church buildings all that adds up to higher works costs, fewer builders & in many cases congregations still impacted after the protracted church closures and falling church plate. So the work of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust remains ever more important.

The last time I wrote in the Autumn was on the eve of our September 11th annual fundraiser. Each year we fret that the days of the Bike Ride are passing, but 2021 saw us for the second year break all records. The combination of Ride & Stride, the sister Pedal & Drive vintage & classic car event and Gift Aid for the first time topped £200,000. So a huge thank you to all involved in this stupendous achievement. On top of that we received a couple of very generous legacies in 2021 adding over £65,000 to our funds.

Now we look forward to a period of celebration. This very week saw Her Majesty the Queen celebrate her 96th birthday and Suffolk intend to celebrate her 70th Platinum Jubilee in style through the Festival of Suffolk. Let's all redouble our efforts to make September 10th 2022 a right royal fundraiser. You will also have heard I hope that the Trustees have voted an extra £70,000 for a special Jubilee Grants fund this year (see inside).

And for us the celebrations continue next year as 2023 is the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Your Trustees are plotting a number of ways to make it a very special year. Of which more in our next Newsletter.

Last a request. In 2000 we received a very generous block grant from the national All Churches Trust (recently re-named Benefact Trust) to help fund the installation of roof alarms on the remaining unprotected churches. Lead theft has emphatically not gone away and we had a recent case in Suffolk of even a porch being stripped. Our records are far from complete on which church has how much lead so if you know of an unprotected church roof large or small do please encourage the Churchwardens to apply for our Alarm II scheme (see our SHCT Website). Last applications have to be in by end July 2022 when we have to hand any residual funds back, so time is of the essence.

Geoffrey Probert



GRANTS COMMITTEE NEWS

JUBILEE GRANTS

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust supports churches and places of worship of all denominations in Suffolk with grants to enable them to maintain the fabric of the building. Over the years the limitation of resources has restricted the nature and number of projects which the Trust has been able to support. On 15th March 2022 the Trust announced that it will be awarding an extra series of grants in 2022-23 in honour of HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The total value of the Jubilee Grants will be £70,000, an additional sum made available to the Grants Committee for this purpose.

In order that as many communities as possible will benefit individual grants will generally not exceed £5,000. It is hoped that applications will come from places of worship of all denominations from across the county. The work that will be considered will not include projects which come within the Trust's normal grant giving. Accordingly, a separate Jubilee Grant application form has been prepared and is available on the Trust's website.

The Trust encourages the making of original proposals for projects which will benefit congregations and the wider community and be a fitting tribute to Her Majesty's long reign. Examples of projects which may be considered include clocks, monuments, paintings, textiles, books, organs, stained glass and wooden objects. Specific examples given in the press release are: the painting in St Mary, Worlingworth celebrating the great feast in 1810 for King George III's Golden Jubilee. The painting was later paired with a painting by John Reay of the 2002 Worlingworth Jubilee Feast. The hour strike and quarter chimes added to the church clock in St Peter & St Paul, Lavenham celebrating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887; and a stained glass window in All Saints, Honington celebrating HM the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

For all the details about Jubilee Grants visit the SHCT website.

Main Grants 2021-22

The Grant Committee's quarterly budget was raised to £35,000 in April 2021. During the financial year 2021-22 thirty six grants totalling £127,500 were awarded : thirteen in April 2021; ten in July; ten in October; three in January 2022. Twenty six grants were in relation to repair work (category A), seven were in relation to re-ordering (B), and three were in relation to the provision of modern facilities (C).

In the Autumn 2021 Newsletter I commented that having seen fewer applications, particularly in April and October 2020, numbers had started to pick up again in January 2021. This trend continued during 2021 but has now gone into reverse with only three applications considered in January and three to be considered at the Committee's meeting in April.

John Devaux, Chairman Grants Committee



2002 Worlingworth Jubilee Feast by John Reay

Spring Field Day Saturday 21st May 2022

Bury St. Edmunds

Tour of: Abbey Ruins with Dr. Richard Hoggett FSA MCIfA

Followed by

Visit to St. Mary's Church with Clive Paine

The site of the Abbey of St Edmund has been a significant place on the regional, national and international stage since the 10th century and its story is intimately bound up with those of the royal martyr Edmund and the wider town of Bury St Edmunds. The year 2020 witnessed the millennial anniversary of the formal foundation of the abbey in AD 1020 and, following delays caused by Covid-19, this milestone is being celebrated during a series of events being held in and around Bury during the coming months. During this visit we will walk the ruins of the abbey with heritage consultant Dr Richard Hoggett, who has studied the abbey extensively, and explore why the site deserves its position as one of Suffolk's most important historic sites.

We are invited to St. Mary's Church to have our packed lunches. Tea and coffee will be available and there are WC facilities. After lunch Clive Paine would like to welcome us to his home church with an introduction to its history and the significance of its place adjacent to the Abbey precincts. There will be time for us to explore the building and Clive will be on hand to answer any questions.

We will meet at the Abbey Gate ready to start promptly at 10.30 and suggest the Ram Meadow Car Park.

Numbers are limited so early booking is advised using the enclosed reply slip. Please send with a cheque for £10 per person to the SHCT Office SHCT, Brinkleys, Hall Street, Long Melford CO10 9JR.

Music and Lunch at Ixworth Abbey
to celebrate the life of the late Joy Rowe
Saturday 25th June 2022, 12 noon

Do help us to celebrate the life and work of the late Joy Rowe and join us for lunch in the gardens of her family home, Ixworth Abbey, on Saturday 25th June at 12 noon.

After the restrictions of the last two years we think it would be liberating to meet friends and, while enjoying a meal, have the opportunity to share memories of Joy's long life. Musical interludes will be provided by cellist Yalda Davis (daughter of the late Sir Colin Davis), French horn player Kay Dawson and friends, and the Blackbourne Singers. Joy and her husband, Alan, were keen musicians and the music to be played will be music of which they were especially fond, including a selection of Mozart's horn concertos.

Joy and Alan acquired Ixworth Abbey in 1962 and started a restoration project which is still continuing under the guidance of their eldest son, John, and his wife Judith, who along with members of Joy's family will be our hosts on the 25th June. Although the house has been known as Ixworth Abbey since the Reformation, it was in fact a Priory and has an intriguing history; the buildings comprise some of the original 12th century house with many additions during the following centuries.

John has kindly offered to lead a tour of the house for a group of up to 25 people. Those wishing to join the tour must apply for a 'House Tour' ticket **in addition to** a 'Music and Lunch' ticket.

Joy Rowe was involved with the work of SHCT for many years and always strove to uphold and promote its aims. She is greatly missed and will be remembered for her wise counsel on the Grants Committee and her inspiring Field and Study days.

You are encouraged to bring friends and, as numbers will be strictly limited, you must apply for tickets (**see enclosed reply slip**) to our office at SHCT, Brinkleys, Hall Street, Long Melford CO10 9JR.

Ride and Stride

What another great year of support we had for the Ride & Stride. The event again well attended and reached yet another record. Cyclists, walkers and motor enthusiasts were only too ready to embrace the freedom of being able to enjoy the town and countryside and away from COVID restrictions. We were also graced with fine weather.

After Gift Aid, over £205,000 was raised from our churches, riders and sponsors. This includes funds donated through Just Giving, an increasingly popular method of donation to charities. 400 churches were involved – an increase from the previous year which was 383. Suffolk remains the leading county in the United Kingdom for fundraising for Ride & Stride.

Our thanks must go to Patrick Grieve and his team of Area Organisers and Local Organisers for their fantastic efforts over the years and who have contributed so much to the success of Suffolk's fundraising. I have taken over this year and have a challenge to maintain and increase the momentum of this event. 2022 will be a busy year. The Queen's Jubilee, the 40th Anniversary of the Suffolk Ride & Stride, and the Festival of Suffolk through the summer.

Between now and September 10th, we will be organising a series of events to raise the profile and engage with as many supporters, and potential new supporters as possible. We look forward to and are grateful for your continued support.

Keep well and keep fit!

Simon Ronan Ride & Stride Committee Chairman



Ride and Stride and Pedal and Drive meet at Denston Church

A Riveting Ride and Stride 2021

What a fascinating day we had! Setting off by car from Benhall and Sternfield Churches, whilst wearing our walking shoes ready for the day ahead, we made our way via Yoxford and Darsham Churches, moving on to Bramfield, with its unique (for Suffolk) detached round tower and perfectly thatched roof, then on to the local United Reformed Chapel.

Travelling along winding single track roads to Thorington (another round tower), where we noted the first of several battlefield wooden crosses seen during the day, commemorating a World War 1 tragedy. Onward to the two churches in Wenhasston, St Peter's with its extraordinary Doom painting, dating back to the 15th Century, and then walking to the immaculate Methodist Church, tucked in between the lovely old cottages of this pretty Suffolk village. Further meanderings took us on to Blyford, and Holton.

We walked around Halesworth, visiting each of the three churches, St Marys C of E, St Edmunds King and Martyr Catholic and the United Reformed Church, receiving a warm welcome at each. We then drove to the beautifully maintained church at Wissett, which was bathed with light and positively filled with the love of those who care for this building. More exploration along the winding lanes brought us to Chediston and Linstead Parva, churches set in the most glorious countryside. Our afternoon neared its end with a visit to St Mary the Virgin, Huntingfield, with its incredibly detailed and decorative ceiling, painted by Mildred, wife of the Rector William Holland between 1859 and 1866, whilst thought to be lying on her back on suitably constructed scaffold boards! Finally, on to Heveningham Church, which we found standing upon an 'island of high ground' at the edge of this tiny hamlet.

The joy that we felt during this wonderful day is hard to explain. The privilege of visiting such an array of different Christian churches, observing the historical artefacts and period pieces alongside the obvious care and nurture being given by local people, some of whom we met as they awaited visitors during the day, We marvelled that history is so close and so visible. We would urge everyone to visit a church or two and to spend time in contemplation of the creativity and skill of those who have gone before.

Elaine Hawes and Clare Secret – ably assisted by Percy



David Dymond. MA, PhD, Hon DLitt, FSA, FRHistS. 1933-2021
A personal appreciation

With the death of David Dymond in August 2021 we lost the father figure of local history in Suffolk. David was one of the country's most prolific, influential and respected local historians, writing 24 books and 60 articles on the subject. His pioneering work *Writing local history, a practical guide* (1981), revised as *Researching and Writing History: a guide for local historians* (1999) has been continuously in print as a standard text.



David was Vice President of the British Association for Local History, and editor of "The Local Historian" (1976-83). Locally he was General Editor of the Suffolk Record Society (1992-2007) and President from 2012, Vice President of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and an honorary fellow of the University of East Anglia. In 2017 Geoffrey Probert, as High Sheriff of Suffolk awarded him a "Certificate of Recognition" for his contribution to the County.

I first met David, Mary and their young family in 1965, when they moved to Bury St Edmunds, for David's new role as Resident Tutor in Suffolk for the Cambridge University Department of Extra Mural Studies. I was about to enter the sixth form hoping to take an A level in archaeology and in need of a teacher. David generously offered to take on that role, in exchange for baby sitting duties. Thus began a personal and academic friendship that was to last for nearly six decades.

David was an inspirational, passionate and charismatic teacher and lecturer. He taught adult evening classes in local history in Suffolk and greater East Anglia. Many of these classes developed, with his encouragement and support into local history societies, which published the results of their research. For example: Westleton in the east, Mendlesham and Wortham in the north and Long Melford in the south-west of Suffolk.

David always emphasised a multi-disciplined approach to archaeology and history, advocated the "reading" of the landscape, the use of primary archival sources and the study of buildings in the landscape, especially churches, in

David always emphasised a multi-disciplined approach to archaeology and history, advocated the “reading” of the landscape, the use of primary archival sources and the study of buildings in the landscape, especially churches, in researching and writing local history. Many of us will have started our local history journey as a result of the classes he conducted or organised.

David’s abiding interest was in church buildings and ecclesiastical history. In 1976 he contributed a chapter “The landscape setting” to the Trust’s earliest publication *Suffolk Churches*. In 1977 he researched and published a guide book to *The churches of Stanton* (where the family were living at Grundle House). The same year he published *Writing a Church Guide*, revised through several editions, and still a standard guide for church historians. Two important works, which are essential to the understanding of Suffolk’s past followed in the 1980s *The History of Suffolk*, with Peter Northeast (1985 revised 1995) and *An Historical Atlas of Suffolk* which he edited with Edward Martin (1988 revised 1999). This drew together the work of 40 researchers, by means of a map and page of explanatory text. Sections by David were on churchyards, church livings and camping closes. Other ecclesiastical sections were Domesday churches, Religious Houses, Parish Guilds, Recusancy, Nonconformity, Bury Abbey and medieval church roofs.

David always used transcripts of original documents as a focus for his lectures, in the form of parish accounts or wills. He transcribed the *Register of Thetford Priory 1482-1517* for the Norfolk Record Society, *The Church wardens’ Book of Bassingbourn, 1496-1540* for the Cambridgeshire Record Society, and *The Charters of Stanton, 1215-1678* for the Suffolk Record Society. He was also very keen to publish original records in a form more easily accessible to the historian and general reader.

Long Melford church has one of the best series of reformation church wardens accounts in the country, and a unique description of a parish church before the reformation by Roger Martin of Melford Place.

Together we spent over a year transcribing and researching the copious footnotes. This was published as *The Spoil of Melford Church* (1989 revised in 1992). The finished text look very much like a Biblical commentary, with a few lines of text followed by masses of footnotes. and soon became a University text. The Spoil was expanded from 16 to 34 transcripts covering 1495-1887, as *Five Centuries of an English Parish Church* (2012). In the foreword to David’s last book *The Business of the Suffolk Parish 1558-1685* (2018) Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch wrote that “David was the acknowledged authority, over more than half a century, on the subject of church wardens accounts”.

David was fascinated by the significance of the chancel arch, in or under which stood the rood screen, loft, beam, figures and tympanum. In the 1970s he proposed a new area of research, that we should undertake a survey, to be published as *The Archaeology of the Chancel Arch in Suffolk*. But after attempting to measure, from scaffolding, the rebates, grooves and notches cut into a sample arch, we soon realised this was too dangerous even for academic fame! Anyway, we had not told our wives what we were up to.

However, the chancel arch and its furniture remained part of our lives. When I married Dorothy in 1973 at Lavenham, David was my Best Man, and to distract a nervous groom he began a discussion about the marks over the arch, where a canopy of honour, as at Woolpit had been fixed. When I married Christine at St Mary's Bury in 2004, he was our chief witness, and prior to the day we had been examining the twin rood stairs, with external turrets, a rare feature found only at Little Waldingfield and Clare.

David helped to lead our first field day in 1980, was a Trustee 1982-97, a member of the grants committee 1983-87, a Vice President from 1997, and a frequent speaker at our study days and Friends' evenings.

He died peacefully, aged 88, at his home, next door to the Bury Record Office on 20th of August 2021. David is survived by Mary, their three children and four grandchildren.

David was my friend and mentor, and I was privileged and honoured to have been his pupil for 56 years.

Clive Paine



Little Waldingfield

THE KNOWLEDGE

As members of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, we are, of course, interested in preserving the wonderful churches and chapels of the County. Often, that interest extends to a deeper curiosity about our churches and their history. But to where do we turn to find that more detailed information? I imagine that many will have had the privilege of being guided around a church by Clive Paine or Roy Tricker and we have marvelled at their comprehensive knowledge built over a lifetime of experience and diligent reading and research. Understandably, as the years catch up, these two stalwarts have stood back from the front line and others such as Dr David Dymond, Peter Northeast, Dr. John Blatchly and George Pipe have sadly passed on.

Thankfully, in his comprehensive web site www.suffolkchurches.co.uk, Simon Knott has given us a wonderful introduction to almost all our churches, and he continues to add to and update his record. What a wonderful service he provides, and not just for Suffolk, for he has covered much across the 'border' in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire and even many in the City of London. His short, well-illustrated pieces provide an entry point, highlighting the key things to be seen and hinting at some of the hidden history. (I hope that those who use his site regularly have been able to make the small contribution he requests to help cover web site and travel costs.) And so, with your appetite whetted, where can you find out more?

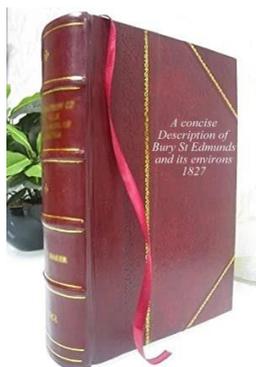
Individual church guides can be good, especially when written by the 'Paines' and 'Trickers' of this world, but others are somewhat superficial, and to be fair, the detailed history cannot be covered in a small, modestly priced pamphlet. To acquire a copy of the guide usually means a visit to the church and it can be frustrating on arrival to find the church locked or if open, that no guide is available. We need to know more before we travel. When times permit, more detailed information can be found at the Suffolk Record Office, including the extensive notes made by David Davy in the nineteenth century. The notes are held on microfiche and give much detail on the state of each church a century and a half ago; but be warned, this was before the days of the word processor or computer and some palaeographic skill may be needed! Also in the Record Office, you will find the 'Proceedings of the Bury and West Suffolk Archaeological Institutes' dating back to 1848 and the papers of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History to the present day.

I am sure that the revised 'Buildings of England' (James Bettley and Nikolaus Pevsner) and the 'Guide to Suffolk Churches' (D.P. Mortlock) will be on the bookshelves of many of you, as will 'Suffolk Churches and Their Treasures' (H. Munro Cautley). Sometimes useful snippets can be found in the nineteenth century 'White's Suffolk Directory' and 'Kelly's Directory', both available at the Record Office and occasionally seen in second-hand book shops.

But there is another wonderful resource if, as the old Yellow Pages strapline went, you are prepared to let your fingers do the walking. Many of the older books on Suffolk, which are so difficult to find nowadays, have been scanned by a number of American universities and are available online and often as free downloads. For instance from the Harvard library you can find 'A Concise Description of Bury St Edmunds and its Environs within the Distance of Ten Miles, illustrated by Engravings and Woodcuts of over Forty Churches'. (Longman & Co, Paternoster Row, London, 1827). The book describes each parish and includes some excellent illustrations many years before David Davy. Another excellent source is 'A Supplement to The Suffolk Traveller' (Joshua Page, Ipswich 1844) covering hundred by hundred a description and history of each parish, the key personalities and the churches.

The Canadians are also in on the scene and from the University of Toronto you will find many excellently scanned books such as 'West Stow Parish Registers 1558 to 1850 and Wordwell Parish Registers 1580 to 1850' (George Booth, Woodbridge, 1903). In a short article like this, it is only possible to scratch the surface, but with patience and imaginative searching it is amazing what there is to find. Good hunting!

"Eheu fugaces anni" (Horace – alas, the fleeting years)



THE FESTIVAL OF SUFFOLK COMES TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU



Many churches and chapels will be arranging special services and fetes to mark the occasion of the Jubilee, and many will also be on the route of the Festival Torch Relay that starts on 13th May from Brandon, taking a 550 mile route crisscrossing across Suffolk to 250 towns and villages, carried by nominated local heroes riding on a rickshaw. It is a cross between the BBC Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge and the Olympic Torch Relay, and the route is

available on www.festivalofsuffolk.org. To nominate a 'local hero' (and they can be any age) to ride in the rickshaw and carry the torch when it comes your way, contact your parish or town clerk or kate.paul@suffolkcf.org.uk.

As well as the special events for the Festival of Suffolk, such as a Festival of the Sea, Business Expos, a Suffolk Community Games, and a Rock Festival, the regular major events such as Suffolk Day and the Suffolk Show, that have been paused because of Covid, are being held once again as part of the Festival.

The third aspect to the Festival of Suffolk are the hundreds of fetes and community events, such as those organised in Redlingfield, Haughley and Clopton, that have registered details onto the Festival website.

The Festival proper begins as the Torch ends its journey in the Grand Ring at the Suffolk Show on 1st June at around 4pm where it will be welcomed with a pageant of a 250 strong parade of bands, the military, the emergency services and youth organisations. The Suffolk Show will also have a two acre site, 'Suffolk, the Platinum Years', with outdoor exhibits and marquees of displays covering the last 70 years.

The owners of the Aldeburgh Bookshop Mary and John James have, with fellow editors Elizabeth Burke and Dan Franklin, have compiled a "A New Suffolk Garland" which is an anthology of Suffolk writing and art, with contributions from ninety authors and forty-five artists and photographers.

With the support of many organisations and sponsors, such as Tru7Group, along with Chassis Cab, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Associated British Ports, Suffolk councils and Suffolk Community Foundation and others, the Festival of Suffolk has the goal of building a Festival Fund of £5m by 2025, to be given in grants to help charities, community groups and social enterprises working in six areas: Opportunity and Education, Health and Well-being, Community Enterprise, the Environment and Culture and Tourism. These are also the Festival themes

As the bunting is raised, cakes are baked for church fetes, the national anthem is sung, and Jubilee Beacons are lit, let's all plan a wonderful summer of Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

For more details of the events mentioned, and many others go to

www.festivalofsuffolk.org





ERECTED BY THE PEOPLES OF HONINGTON
DURING THE THIRD MILLENNIUM AND THE

AND SAPISTON IN CELEBRATION OF THE
GOLDEN JUBILEE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**Golden Jubilee Window
Honington, All Saints**