

SUDBURY FREEMEN'S SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT

2019 -

Sudbury Freeman's Society

COMMITTEE: - C A Grimwood (Chairman), R P Alston (Clerk) B L Hibble (Treasurer)

M E J Wheeler, Mrs S M Prior, A Shelley, M Offord, M Batty, C J R Wheeler.

The above were elected at the Quinquennial meeting on 2nd July 2019.

The Chairman wishes to express his thanks and admiration for the work and support, carried out with diligence and good humour, by all the committee members without exception on behalf of the Freeman of Sudbury. Particular thanks as always go to the Clerk and Treasurer.

The committee (which does have the powers to “co-opt under the constitution) is always keen to recruit more help, both to provide continuity and to understudy any of the current roles.

Any Freeman or Widow who wishes to be involved in any way, however small, should please contact the Chairman, Clerk or any other committee member. The assistance and input is always greatly appreciated.

Admissions

Historical Over-view

The administration of the admissions process to the Freeman of Sudbury was transferred back to Sudbury Town Council in 2014. The Local Government Act 1972 made Babergh District Council responsible for maintaining the register of Sudbury's Freeman, but it was agreed by both councils to devolve the task back to Sudbury Town Council. Matters concerning the Sudbury Freeman are conducted through the council. The point of contact with the council being the Town Clerk.

Application for admission by descent should be made in the first instance to The Town Clerk, Sudbury Town Council, The Town Hall, Old Market Place, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 1TL

The Town Council also has the powers to admit Honorary Freeman, which is exercised on rare occasions.

Service as an apprentice to a Freeman in the town of Sudbury has always been a route for admission to the Freeman of Sudbury. However, the changing socio-economic landscape within the town over the past thirty years has seen a reduction in the number of Freeman admitted via this route.

The current criteria for admission was reviewed at our committee meeting in March. It was agreed to make a request to the town council for the removal of

what has previously been referred to as the “Grandfather” rule which only allows hereditary claims to go back two generations.

By removing this criteria, local families such as those of Thomas Gainsborough or Nathaniel King, whose histories are intertwined with that of Sudbury, could reclaim their family rights as Freemen of Sudbury.

Once this amendment has been approved, a publicity campaign and membership drive can be undertaken to encourage new applications.

There have been no new admissions to the Freedom of Sudbury since the last report.

Deaths of Society Members

I regret to have to inform the society of the following known deaths of Freemen since the publication of the last annual report: -

French, Robert William

Grimwood, Robert Martin

Parsonson, Geoffrey John

Tufnell, Yvonne Frances

Macebearers

Honorary mace bearers were provided for the following civic events:

Remembrance Day Parade

Sudbury Civic Service

Mace bearing duties are carried out at the request of the Town Clerk and have traditionally been performed by the Freemen of Sudbury providing a visual display of the important role we have played in the town’s past. It is a rewarding role, often with a front row seat at some of Sudbury’s biggest gatherings throughout the year. We are always in need of more mace bearers so if you are interested, and can spare the time, please do volunteer.

SUDBURY FREEMEN’S TRUST
Established 1986
Registered Charity No. 295764

Trustees: M E J Wheeler (Chairman) Mrs S M Prior, Mrs I Gregory,
A. Shelley, R Alston, C A Grimwood (from 2nd July 2019). Mrs F M
Wheeler (Hon Secretary)

The current trustees, unless otherwise stated served during the year. All were elected or re-elected at the Quinquennial Meeting on 2nd July 2019, to serve until the next Quinquennial Meeting on 2nd July 2024.

The Trust offers its support for elderly Freemen and Widows to help them meet the cost of Local Authority 'Contact Care Line' emergency assistance and monitoring services. Applications by or on behalf of eligible Freemen and Widows are always welcome, our grants are not 'means tested'.

The Trustees express their sincere thanks again to Fiona Wheeler for her considerable work as Honorary Secretary to the Trust.

The Trustees note with regret the death in January 2020 on the very day of her 91st birthday, of Mrs Pamela ('Pam') Filer, wife of Freeman Edward G Filer. Pam was the very first Secretary of The Trust and held that office continuously for 28 years. An appreciation of her role and contribution to the Trust can be found in our report published in 2014. Pam remained a source of advice and historical knowledge to all the Trustees and the new Secretary for many years after her official retirement and we will sincerely miss her cheerful responses to our queries and ever helpful wisdom.

Grants paid:

Several 'Contact Care Line' payments to Freemen and Widows of Freemen.
Restoration of the Gainsborough family graves headstone in Sudbury Cemetery

Funding for the Sudbury Freemen's Society 'website' which also includes information about the projects supported by The Trust.

There are several pending projects that the Trust is supporting with funding commitments and advice – though most of these are 'on hold' given the current situation of the country.

Finances

The Trust was established in 1986 primarily to form part of the 1987 settlement with The Sudbury Common Lands Charity following the sale of Harp Close Meadow. At its foundation, the only material source of income of The Trust was a share of the net income of the Sudbury Common Lands Charity. In recent years, as more land was purchased, costs have increased in real terms and higher standards of conservation were sought, the net surplus of The Common Lands declined to the extent that this Charity now depends to some extent on financial support from external bodies and the timing of the receipt of payments, particularly from state 'quangos', are unpredictable.

The Capital of The Trust, mostly 'The A R Wheeler Fund', is invested by professional fund managers, appointed by the trustees, with a medium remit to produce a modest but sustainable income over the longer term. It is expected that the income

from the A R Wheeler Fund will be more stable than that from the Sudbury Common Lands Charity over the long term

The Trustees intend to distribute the net income after expenses in grants over the medium term but need to maintain prudent reserves for contingencies and the Trust's regular commitments.

Freemen and their families are invited to include The Sudbury Freemen's Trust amongst charities they support with their generosity.

SUDBURY COMMON LANDS CHARITY

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 212222

Chairman:- Peter Whiteley

Acting Chairman: - Peter Fulcher

Freemen Nominative Trustees: - C A Grimwood, C J Wheeler, N Eley and M J Wheeler.

Elected at Quinquennial Meeting 2019

The Sudbury Common Lands are among the oldest recorded grazing pastures in England. It is because of the Freemen of Sudbury that the Sudbury Common Lands exist today, and the charity was set up to manage those lands. Four Freemen are elected to serve a five-year term on the committee. Some have also served on sub-committees at various time to assist on a range of charity matters.

In spite of the restrictions imposed over the past few months of lockdown the rangers have continued to maintain the jewel in Sudbury's crown; the Sudbury water meadows. Each year a programme of farming and conservation works is put in place in order to sympathetically manage the land and allow nature to flourish. This vital work is on occasion supported by volunteers from the Riverside Project team. Part of the farming project is the annual grazing on the meadows which, thanks to John Coleman, has again taken place albeit at a reduced capacity.

After thirty years of excellent stewardship in the role of head ranger, Adrian Walters has passed the baton over to Nick Shimwell, who we wish well in his new role. As well as being available to offer support to Nick, Adrian will continue in his role as clerk to the charity.

Christopher Wheeler has stepped aside from his role as the chairman of the finance sub-committee. Chris has always had a firm hand in overseeing the finances of the charity thus ensuring that monies are available to be dispersed wisely and we thank him for his work.

The role of chairman of the financial sub-committee has been taken up by Michael Wheeler.

We pass our thanks to all rangers, voluntary rangers and various working parties whose work allows us to continue to enjoy the beautiful riverside and water meadows.

Freemen of England and Wales

Communication from the Freemen of England and Wales came via the spring journal (No 195) which included news from other guilds around the country. It was interesting to read that the Derby guild is also planning to change their admission process along similar lines to ourselves.

Due to the ongoing pandemic most guild events over the summer have been postponed. However, according to their website, the AGM, which is due to take place from the 20th to 22nd September, is still going ahead.

The Freemen's Society and Data Protection Regulations

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is an EU law effective from 25th May 2018 to replace the current Data Protection Act. Under the GDPR the charity has to explain why it collects personal data and how it intends to use it. If you do not give your consent the society may not be able to contact you again.

The primary purpose of holding this information is for the society to be able to provide Freemen with information relating to agendas, minutes, society matters and other information.

The society holds the following information: names, physical address, email address and telephone numbers

The society will use the data in the following ways: to make contact by email, mail and telephone.

The Society does not store 'sensitive personal data' as defined by the GDPR.

The Society does not buy and will never sell data or use records other than to contact the relevant individual.

The Freemen data is held on the one computer under the control of the Chairman of the society.

Society data is only available to the Chairman and Clerk of the Society.

Changes to personal information must be advised in writing. This may require further proof of identity such as providing an old address or by forwarding new details by the email address that is held by the Society.

Deletion of Personal Data: When there has been a reported death of a Freeman, the details of the individual will be removed from the Freeman's role prior to the next annual report. A valid request can be made at any time to delete individual details. This must be made in writing to the Chairman which who will action the request immediately.



Sudbury Freeman's Society

ROLE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY July 2020

FREEMEN

Adams Family: Dalton, Helen Mary Holme

Alston, Roy Phillip

Amey, John Fulcher

Amey Family: Jackson, Margaret Isabel

Berry, John Alan

Berry, Jonathan Mark

Berry, Keith

Berry, Michael

Berry Family:

- Atkins, Jill Rosemary
- Bell, Margaret Caroline
- Bell, Sarah Frances
- Bottrell, Helen
- Edynbry, Dorian
- Edynbry Mark Charles Ryes
- Gabb, Carolyn
- Hughes, Suzanne Elizabeth
- Page, Charles Henry Desmond
- Page, Janet Elizabeth
- Stockford, Joanne Christina
- Tait, Diana
- Taylor, Jayne
- West, Susan Elizabeth

Bitten, Angela Carol

Bitten, Brian

Bitten Family:

- Bartrop, Jeanette Barbara
- Grime, Betty Ann
- Grime, Kenneth Paul
- Southernwood, Jennifer Esther
- Whymark, Patricia Mary

Bonney Family: Chaplin, David Albert
Chaplin, David John
Gair, Lisa Bonnie

Brown Family: Batty, Charlotte Emma
Batty, Malcolm Ralph
Blundell, Linda Joan
Moule, Anthony Eric Barry
Moule, Colin Mervyn Clement
Moule, Jean Florence
Offord, Dominic Malcolm Nicholas
Offord, Malcolm Hugh
Offord, Martyn Clive
Offord, Simon Matthew Guy
Wilson, Jennifer Pearl Rosina

Cook, David Peter
Cook, Roger Gerald

Cook Family: Fowkes, Bridget Anne
Henderson, Sarah Elizabeth
King, Bridget Valerie

Filer, Edward Gerald

French, Andrew Stephen
French, Andrew G.
French, Eleanor Margaret
French, Keith John
French, Jack David
French, Matthew Zen
French, Ruth Zeny

French Family: Blenkhorn, Caroline S.
Blenkhorn, Sheila J.
Kershaw, Christopher John
Kershaw, Tessa Louise
Winger, Julie Frances

Grimwood, Alexander
Grimwood, Charles Andrew
Grimwood, Charles Michael

Herbert, Robin Francis
Herbert, Timothy Alexander

Hibble, Adrian Barry
Hibble, Barry Leonard

Hibble Family: King, Merle Anita
Morris, Debra Merle
Popplewell, Nicola Jane
Robinson, Hazel Marie
Webb, Mark Andrew
Webb, Roger Charles

Mills, Craig Daniel
Mills, Mark Brian

Murrells, Barry Keith

Murrells Family: Prosser, Gwendoline Hannah
Wyeth, Pamela Irene

Parsonson, Andrew Philip
Parsonson, Andrew William
Parsonson, Christopher James
Parsonson, Daniel James
Parsonson, Derek John
Parsonson, Dominic Christopher
Parsonson, Michael
Parsonson, Nichola Lyn
Parsonson, Nicholas Ken
Parsonson, Robert John
Parsonson, Simon Charles
Parsonson, Stephano Ivan
Parsonson, Timothy John
Parsonson, William Woodlow

Parsonson Family: Browning, Robin Malcolm
Dunsmore, Stella Elizabeth
Edmeads, Brenda Joan
Edmeads, Karl Michael
Edmeads, Lincoln Michael
Eley, Ann
Eley, Nigel Robert
King, Sheila Ann
Roberts, Rachel Louise Parsonson

Scott, Garry

Scott Family: Gordon, Jacqueline Lesley
Hunt, Lynn
Palmer-Hunt, Sarah Louise
Rowland, Patricia

Shelley, Alan
Shelley, Alan James
Shelley, Caroline Michelle
Shelley, John William

Shelley Family: Brown, Anna Louise Elizabeth
McClellan, Angela Louise
Gregory, Isabelle Shelley
Moscrop, Jean Margaret
Nurser, Aylmer John George
Nurser, John Shelley

Smith, Edward Cecil William

Smith Family: King, Olive Mary

Walters, Adrian Charles

Wheeler, Christopher John R
Wheeler, Christopher Paul
Wheeler, David Robert
Wheeler, Eileen Violet
Wheeler, Margaret Heather
Wheeler, Michael Edward John
Wheeler, Patrick Austin
Wheeler, Peter Edmund Gross
Wheeler, Rosemary Anne
Wheeler, Robert Carr-Ellison
Wheeler, Selwyn Austin
Wheeler, Stephen

Wheeler Family: Boak, Susan Kemball
 Newton, Lucy Roberta
 Palmer, Rachel Mary
 Prior, Cody Roger Finbarr
 Prior, Simonie Mary
 Rowe, Martina Rose
 Seager, Margaret Lysbeth
 Wheeler-Brand, Emma Jane

Wright Family: Noonan, Dorothy Muriel
 Noonan, Paul John

WIDOWS/WIDOWERS OF FREEMEN

Berry, Betty Josephine (WD)

Cook, Stella (GG)

Edynbry Genevieve (LD)

Scott Betty (WJ)

Smith, Mary (AWJC)

Smith, Daphne (PS)

Webb Peter (SM)

Wheeler, Pamela (T Carr-E)

Williams- Hempstead, B. (JN)

We have 'lost touch' with a number of Freeman & Widows over time. If you can't see a relative's name here or they don't receive an annual report please enquire.

E&OE! Please report any errors to the Chairman
chairman.sudburyfreemen@gmail.com