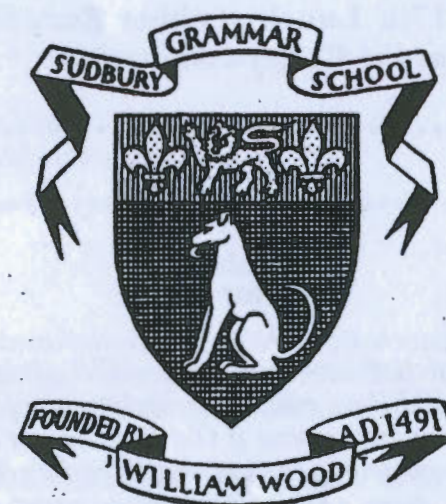


SUDBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER
January 2025

Important Dates for 2025

March 28th Light lunch at the Pheasant, Gestingthorpe. Followed by a talk given by Ashley Cooper; to be given in the nearby church.

October 17th Lunch at either Bury Farmers Club or at the Galleywood venue

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Editor Note

This Newsletter succeeds the OBA twice yearly magazine. Old Boys must be politely reminded that the Newsletter cannot survive if Old Boys do not contribute copy and comments. The current issue largely consists of material from ex-OBA Committee members, a sad state of affairs!

All contributions are welcome. RAF will compile as usual; Newsletter material will also appear on the OBA Website Members Room (WIP).

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SGS OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter #2

Following the closedown of the OBA in its normal form, members of the ex-committee are attempting to reproduce the essentials of the former OBA, under the heading of post close down activities. (PCA).

The PCA is based around the website and a newsletter, a compilation of Old Boys' news and articles; newsletter material will also be given on the website.

Inevitably, the newsletter will be intermittent and will only be issued when Old Boys have sent the Editor a reasonable amount of news and memories of the school. Since the last edition, widespread writers cramp has certainly occurred.

I can only encourage Old Boys, particularly those who have made interesting contributions in the past, to once again take up their pen or keyboard.

Robin Farbridge

[Important; see pages 4 & 9 for details of 2025 Old Boy activities]

OBA Lunch September 2024

A lunch gathering was held on September 27th at the Bury St Edmunds Farmers Club.

This get together was instigated by our former Chairman, Ian Brewster, as a part of what we hope will be an element in the continuation, albeit in a reduced and changed form, of the Old Boys Association and what we have called Post Closedown Activities.



Laflin & Wheeler digesting lunch



The President holding forth

Friday's visit to the Club was made possible through Mike Laflin's Club membership while other arrangements have been made by Dave Webb and John Turkentine.

Anxious to share recollections, and for sustenance, twenty one of us assembled at the Club. Lunch choices seemed to be biased towards some excellent roast beef, accompanied by enormous Yorkshire



The Snoozing Room

puddings; the apple & blackberry crumble was pretty tasty too. The Club would not perhaps be an ideal choice for a Vegan lunch!

The club has some most interesting generally wood panelled rooms. One in particular, recessed via a down step, is a high ceilinged wood panelled room with a gallery and lots of large sagging arm chairs. This room must have been arranged for long afternoon snoozes, perhaps

followed by music from the Gallery.

There is a car park at the rear of the Club, very convenient for the town centre. The club controls entry to this car park with a system of access codes, presumably to deter non-members. However, it was rather curious that the entry password had changed, certainly by 2.45pm. and before we were ready to leave. A cross bar with red lights led to several stuck cars and some confusion.

OBA 2025 Post Closedown Events

- March 28th light lunch at the Pheasant, Gestingthorpe, followed by a speaker
- October 17th lunch at either the Bury St Edmunds Farmers Club, or the Galleywood venue.

When the October venue has been decided, further details will be sent to all members' email

SGS OBA – Disposition of Assets

Following the Final AGM held in March 2024, it was discovered that one of the potential benefactors of a donation from SGS OBA assets, Sudbury Ormiston Academy, were planning to demolish their current premises and redevelop the site. The redevelopment we believe does not include provision for archive storage and display. This resulted in an urgent requirement for SGS OBA to remove all its archives from Ormiston. Removal was successfully carried out, with a major part of the archive removed and now in the care of the Sudbury Ephemera Archive; the remaining items of Sudbury historic interest are now in the care of Sudbury Museum Trust.

After consultation between the ex-Committee members, it was decided that Ormiston should now be excluded from the OBA asset distribution, which is now as follows:

To Sudbury Ephemera Archive	- £700
To Thomas Gainsborough School	- £700
To Sudbury Museum Trust	- £100
Remaining Assets	- £600

To reduce banking costs, the remaining assets are currently held in the personal account of the ex-OBA Registrar.

John Turkentine

Old Boys Deceased

Richard English (SGS 1953-60)

Died 12th July 2024. He was a distinguished sportsman with a real talent for cricket which he played at SGS, for Suffolk in Minor County Cricket and for the University of Loughborough; on graduation, he taught in both Essex and Suffolk schools.

Dick started the annual SGS Old Boys fixture against Sudbury in their cricket week; the OBs also had fixtures against Hadleigh & Melford. When playing got too much for his body, Peter Cutmore took that task on of getting a team out & now it is still running. Dick was a regular at Old Boys cricket games, and at the Sausage Supper / September Lunches.

His funeral, for which Dick had even suggested the music, was held at the parish church of St Mary and included a celebration of his life with music played by his son in law and friend; it included 'Somewhere over the Rainbow'

The funeral was attended by many old and very old cricketers, including John Stuck, David Webb and Bob Halls; as many opponents and those who played with him. For Hadleigh CC, he made the 2nd highest score ever, and was the highest wicket taker and took the highest number of catches (over 400). And he took the wicket of Colin Cowdrey while playing for Suffolk against Kent.

Neil Salmon (SGS 1944 - 51)

Died mid 2024 in Ipswich, a community he served powerfully as a teacher and long-time editor of an Ipswich Society Newsletter.

At SGS, he was captain of cricket and football as well as Suffolk junior sprint record holder. He won a state scholarship to Cambridge University.

As a teacher he influenced the careers of Sir Quentin Blake and Sir Trevor Nunn who remained his close friends. He was long associated with administration of the Northgate School in Ipswich where he had taught. Charlie Barber thinks that his wife was brought up by Bernard Brown's parents

Colin Cracknell (SGS 1938-43)

Died Dec 2024 aged 97. He spent much of his life farming, in Great Henny. Until his mid eighties, he was a regular at OBA Sausage Suppers and other gatherings.

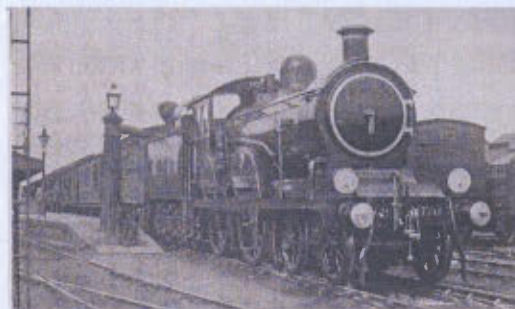
Steam engines I have known on the Sudbury Branch Line

I was born in Diss, Norfolk but grew up living in No 42 Waldingfield Road, Sudbury some 400m, as the crow flies, from Sudbury Railway Station. My earliest memories of the railway is around late 1941, walking or being pushed by my Mum and Dad, who was a Forman Linesman for the East Anglian Electric Light Company and later the Eastern Electricity Board (EEB). He had to monitor the electricity substation in Edgworth Road, from which we could see the trains clearly and even walk across the line to the river. As I grew up I often accompanied my Dad to the EEB stores in the old Quay building. My Grandparents lived at No 2 Orchard Place and from their short rear garden, we often could see, hear and smell and even feel the trains passing over an iron bridge. My Grandfather first retired in 1936 after 32 years working for the Sudbury Gas and Coke Ltd, but he was called back during the War and carried on as a stoker in the original Gas Works, until it was replaced by a modern gas plant. This of course has long been demolished and the area redeveloped.

At Infants school and later at the North Street Junior School, friends and I found that an early interest in electricity, coal and steam would lead initially to local railway engine spotting, first by standing on a public pedestrian bridge over the railway lines between the platform ends and the signal box. We then decided to actually visit Sudbury Station, and use our pocket money to purchase 1d platform tickets from a seemingly monster size vending machine. Eventually, on subsequently visits, we went to the platform W H Smith stall and purchased an Ian Allan train spotters book; we would then spend hours just waiting and talking about which engines we had seen and guessing which ones we would see each day.

At last, a **Claud Hamilton Class D16 4-4-0** approached! This engine was often seen on the down line service to Cambridge and was always my personal favourite, a real main line monster on our Branch Line! On another day I was a lone spotter on the down line platform when a

Claud pulled in with around three carriages. The driver recognised me and, as he had to await the up line train, he invited me to see inside the



A brand new Claud Hamilton class 4-4-0 No 1870 takes on water at Cambridge in 1902. With some rebuild, the class worked in East Anglia until 1960

cab where he explained that because of the many sharp curves on this line, he needed to use a hand wheel to steer. I must have thought that this was a bit odd as the 4 wheeled bogies are there just follow the curves and the four driving wheels just provided the traction.

The passing train, drawn by an elderly E4 eventually pulled into the upline platform, and the Claud fireman was handed the token, the signal indicated all clear and off we went. What a ride, on the footplate of a D16, but that is another story.....! Latterly the Claud and other steam locos were replaced by BR Standard Class 2-6-0 locos, until the eventual introduction of the rail bus service and the termination of the line beyond Sudbury.

The **Sandringham Class B17 4-6-0**, a classic express engine, was my second favourite. It ran on Sunday mornings during the Summer,



as a through holiday express service from Cambridge to Colchester and onwards to Clacton and/or Walton-on-the-Naze. The 'Sandy' was a sight to behold from the water meadows. A green painted dragon, gingerly snaking its way following the many tight reversing curves, crossing the iron bridge in front of the Quay and Boathouse, then along the

embankment, through the Station, to pass the signal box on its way up to Bures Bank and onwards.

My 3rd choice is the **WD Austerity Class 07 2-8-0** These Heavy freight engines ran during the latter part of War II, often in the late evening and during the night; they could pull 50 or more goods wagons carrying bombs and explosives, which were being supplied to the many airfields in Suffolk. These heavy engines could be heard over much of the



Sudbury area and beyond. The 8 driving wheels on these engines were only around 4ft diameter, resulted in their low speed and a continual metallic squealing as the engine negotiated the tight bends through the station.

Common Engines Classes passing through Sudbury

Class E4 2-4-0 An old workhorse even in the 1940s, usually on the up line and often travelling tender first. It was not unknown for this class to struggle up Bures bank; it needed to obtain clearance to reverse and take a long run.

Class J16 0-6-0 A common visitor to Sudbury on both up and down lines. A more capable engine and one of the two engine classes which stopped overnight in Sudbury on Saturdays. The carriages were shunted on to the siding behind the down platform and the engine was then shedded overnight in the far corner of the goods yard. On Sunday afternoons, I would sometimes go and watch and help the crew clean out the firebox ashes and laydown a new fire. Once steamed, I would have a short ride on the footplate.

Class J17 0-6-0 This was a goods yard shunting engine which was also use to pick up/deliver wagons downline to Glemsford etc.. The goods yard occupied all of the area now occupied by Roys Supermarket with a number of sidings across Great Eastern road (the metals are

still in place but flush with the road surface), to warehouses now occupied by the bus station and other commercial premises. Another siding continued through Wheelers Saw Mill and continued across Kings Street.

Looking back, Sudbury was fortunate in having a railway station which is still working, and a goods yard which was situated in the middle of town.

John Turkentine

OBA Event Friday 28th March 2025

There will be a 'Soup and Sandwich' lunch at the Pheasant Public house, Gestingthorpe CO9 3AU. 12.00 midday for 12.30 lunch.

This will be followed by a talk, to be given in Gestingthorpe Church by historian Ashley Cooper. He will describe the equipment on show in the Church which was used by Capt. Titus Oates, Captain Scott and others on their ill-fated journey to the South Pole.

(The church is a short drive from the Pheasant; there is parking alongside the road by the church).

Cost will be £15 per person, payable on booking to - David Webb, 6 Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 1LS
Email dave.webbafc@gmail.com 07885 327510
Please advise as soon as possible, to enable David to advise pub re-numbers.

Cheques: Sudbury Grammar School Old Boys Association

BACS: Sort Code 30-98-31 Account No. 00088209

Dave Webb

Membership & Website

Membership

Recent new members, not listed in pages 12-14 because of space problems, are as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>School Years</i>	<i>lived at</i>
Blakey Peter Andrew	SGS 1961-69	Edwardstone
Peddar Malcolm Richard	SGS 1961-64	Clare
<i>Omission</i>		
Cooper Peter Handley M	SGS 1950-56	Great Cornard

The total number of members stands at 112; many newer members have joined through contact in the SGS OBA website/Facebook and JT's personal LinkedIn account. 23 members have no email on file. The administrator JT notes that on the website, the 'users & permissions' section has 69 members listed in total, of which at least 66 have signed up for full access to the website; the remaining 30 have no idea what is available to them!.

We get very little, if any, comment on the value and their usage of the OBA website. We do need feedback, good or bad! We have no idea who the 315 unique visitors to our website in December 2024 and the 1,533 in the first 22 days of January 2025!

Therefore, it would be appreciated if Old Boys with email, could tell us about their use of the website by answering these questions:

- 1 Have you visited the website recently and for what reason
- 2 Have you yet signed up to join the website
- 3 Would you like a reminder for newsletters

How to join the OBA Website

Enter website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/sgsoba>

This takes you to SGS OBA Home page. And then:

Click the **Globe**

Click the **Bust** in the drop down menu

Click '**Register now for your login to Voice Online community**', then complete all mandatory details in drop down form

Click **next**

JT Website Administrator

Sudbury News: OBA hon. Archivist at Work

Our Hon. Archivist Fiona Wheeler taught at the St Gregory's School nursery in Sudbury from 1991 until her retirement. The nursery play equipment at the school was broken and



worn out, condemned as unsafe and had to be destroyed. Fiona (a trustee of The Sudbury Ephemera Archive), in her capacity of Secretary of The Sudbury Freeman's Trust, gave valuable assistance in a successful fundraising campaign to install new equipment, a great improvement on the old, being of a new design, safer and better suited to three and four year olds.

In recognition of her involvement in the successful fundraising, she was asked to 'cut the ribbon' on opening day of the new play area of the school; the children were demonstrably happy to be let loose at last in their refurbished playground. The picture shows the 'ribbon cutting' by Fiona, along with John Sayers (a former Town Councillor). So, a good news story from Sudbury to set against the current pervasive gloom.

Michael Wheeler

Members List early 2025

Surname	First Name	Mid. Name	Title	Lived At	Start SGS	Left SGS
Argent	Bryan	Barry	Mr	Glemsford	1953	1960
Armstrong	Noel		Mr	Sudbury	1958	1964
Avis	Keith	Edwin	Mr	Whatfield	1949	1954
Baber	Richard	James C	Mr	Long Melford	1936	1942
Bacon	Christopher	Roy	Mr	Hadleigh	1953	1960
Baker	Michael	Anthony	Mr	Ballingdon	1954	1961
Balls	Brian	William	Mr	Nayland	1948	1953
Barber	Charles	William	Mr	Elmsett	1948	1953
Barnard	Richard	John	Mr	Boxted	1964	1971
Beadle	Stephen		Mr	Sudbury	1966	1970
Beaumont	Brian	Raymond	Mr	Bures	1955	1962
Bettridge	Gerald	Arthur C	Mr	Sudbury	1946	1954
Bishop	Malcolm	John	Mr	Hundon	1946	1953
Botwright	Colin	Michael	Mr	Hadleigh	1946	1954
Brampton	David	Geoffrey W	Mr	Sudbury	1949	1954
Brent	Michael	Edward	Mr	Long Melford	1955	1962
Brewster	Ian	Clive	Mr	Haverhill	1955	1962
Brown	Bernard	John	Mr	Hadleigh	1945	1952
Brown	Robin	George	Mr	Great Cornard	1963	1968
Buckledee	Stephen	John	Mr	Newton Green	1965	1972
Buckley	Christopher	Paul	Prof.	Haverhill	1961	1965
Buxton	Stephen		Mr	Nayland	1967	1972
Cavey	Stewart	John	Mr	Sudbury	1962	1968
Chaplin	William	Henry	Mr	Hadleigh	1936	1942
Chaplin	Roger	William	Mr	Sudbury	1962	1969
Chenery	Brian	Raymond	Mr	Hadleigh	1951	1956
Colmer	Anthony	David	Mr	Haverhill	1963	1970
Conneely	James		Mr	Kedington	1969	1972
Conroy	Richard		Mr	Boxford; Sudbury	1945	1951
Cracknell	John	Colin	Mr	Great Henny	1938	1943
Cutmore	Peter	John	Mr	Great Cornard	1954	1961
Cutmore	Martyn	Clifford	Mr	Great Cornard	1959	1967
Cutter	Graham	Arthur	Mr	Stoke-by-Nayland	1961	1966
D'Alton	Roger		Mr	Sudbury	1958	1963
Daniel	Terry	Emlyn	Mr	Sudbury	1945	1950
Davey	John	Henry H	Mr	Acton	1950	1955

Surname	First Name	Mid. Name	Title	Lived At	Start SGS	Left SGS
Diggins, OBE	Terence	Robert	Mr	Sudbury	1949	1956
Dinnie	Lester		Mr	Sudbury	1964	1966
Dossett	Richard		Mr	Kedington	1965	1972
Farbridge	Robin	Ainsley	Mr	Haverhill	1953	1960
Farrant	Michael	Charles	Mr	Haverhill	1955	1960
Frost	Keith		Mr	Sudbury	1960	1965
Garrard	Paul	Richard	Mr	Lavenham	1964	1972
Gaskin	John	Henry	Mr	Sudbury	1943	1949
Gocher	Matthew	J W	Mr	Sudbury	1966	1972
Goodman	Michael	Jack	Dr	Great Cornard	1941	1949
Grant	Ian	Charles	Mr	Layham	1950	1956
Griffiths	Graham	Allan	Mr	Elmsett	1957	1964
Halls	Robert	Winston	Mr	Bildeston	1952	1959
Hammond	Raymond	Kenneth	Mr	Haverhill	1957	1962
Haynes	Geoffrey	Michael	Mr	Sudbury	1949	1954
Herbert	Geoffrey	Ernest	Mr	Haverhill	1942	1948
Higgs	James	Llewellyn	Mr	Layham	1963	1971
Ives	Patrick		Mr	Haverhill	1954	1966
Jodan	Mark		Mr	Sudbury	1970	1972
Kemp	Robert	William	Mr	Long Melford	1941	1946
Kiddy	Colin	Olmsted	Mr	Castle Camps	1942	1947
Kiddy	Andrew	James	Mr	Castle Camps	1945	1949
King	Colin	Charles K	Mr	Whatfield	1947	1954
Laflin	Michael	John	Mr	Boxted	1953	1960
Lefley	Raymond	Leonard	Mr	Sudbury	1939	1945
Lingley	John	Robert	Mr	Sudbury	1963	1968
Lord	Peter	John	Mr	Polstead	1951	1958
Loshak	Jonathan		Mr	Boxford	1955	1963
Marshall	Roger	Arthur	Mr	Acton	1953	1959
McLellan	Duncan	Gillis	Mr	Sudbury	1955	1962
Mears	John	Leslie	Mr	Ipswich	1963	1971
Mizon	Keith	David	Mr	Haverhill	1966	1972
Moody	Eric	John	Mr	RAF Stradishall	1953	1955
Osborne	John	Louis	Mr	Hadleigh	1952	1959
Pannell	Robert	William	Mr	Haverhill	1965	1972
Parkin	Robert	Clark	Mr	Kedington	1965	1972
Parr	Colin		Mr	Boxford	1955	1962

Surname	First Name	Mid. Name	Title	Lived At	Start SGS	Left SGS
Peachey	Graham	Alfred	Mr	Boxford	1939	1943
Phillpotts	Barrie	John	Mr	Stoke-by-Nayland	1961	1968
Phillpotts	Roger	Michael	Mr	Stoke-By-Nayland	1958	1965
Plumb	Stephen	Albert	Mr	Glemsford	1964	1970
Poole	Anthony	Keith	Mr	Sudbury	1956	1963
Postle	Peter	Horace	Mr	Sudbury	1955	1961
Radford	Ian	Peter	Mr	Haverhill	1967	1972
Radford	Alan		Mr	Haverhill	1964	1972
Rippingale	David	Ian S	Mr	Sudbury	1953	1958
Rowe	Robin	William	Mr	Bulmer	1956	1957
Scrivener	Colin	Frank	Mr	Sudbury	1939	1947
Self	Malcolm	John	Mr	Hadleigh	1949	1953
Shearer	Michael	James C	Mr	Kedington	1967	1972
Simpson	John	Gary	Mr	Sudbury	1951	1956
Skipsey	Michael	Robert	Mr	Great Cornard	1951	1957
Spackman	Stanley	Harry	Col.	Withersfield	1948	1953
Steed	John	Robert	Mr	Gt Waldingfield	1952	1957
Stuck	John	Peter	Mr	Bures	1954	1957
Taylor	Barrie	Walter	Mr	Ballingdon	1952	1957
Theobald	Alan	Eric F	Mr	Long Melford	1946	1951
Tribe	Neville	Linden	Mr	Long Melford	1944	1951
Turkentine	John	Henry	Mr	Sudbury	1949	1955
Turvey	Graham		Mr	Sudbury	1962	1966
Vince	Michael	Eric J	Mr	Hahleigh	1951	1958
Warner	David	Ronald	Mr	Hadleigh	1958	1965
Watson	Michael	Frederick	Mr	Clare	1960	1967
Wayland	Clive	Philip	Mr	Nayland	1965	1970
Webb	David	Alan	Mr	Great Cornard	1952	1957
Weightman	Derek	Andrew	Mr	Semer	1963	1971
Wheeler	Fiona		Mrs			
Wheeler	Michael	Edward J	Mr	Sudbury	1970	1972
Wickerson	John		Mr	Sudbury	1956	1963
Wiffen	David	Albert	Mr	Haverhill	1952	1959
Wiseman	Nicolas	Brindley	Mr	Sudbury	1954	1959
Woodhouse	Colin	Laurence	Mr	Long Melford	1963	1963
Wordley	Geoffrey	John	Mr	Sudbury	1965	1972
Younger	Michael	Robert	Prof	Long Melford	1959	1966

A School Photograph 1938

The photograph from February 1938, shows T A Amos (Cassy) with Form Va. Our Old Boy membership will perhaps be able to name most of the boys.



The Headmaster's House; 1854



This photograph shows our ancestors, gardening with watering can; there also seem to be window boxes in the Headmaster's House.

Could these activities have been part of the school curriculum at that time?

Ballington Hall; 1593

Ballington Hall is a sixteenth-century Elizabethan pile, built in 1593 by Thomas Eden II MP for Sudbury.

It has been host to ghosts, modified many times and even been moved up Ballington Hill at huge cost. For the move, the house was encased in a steel frame, lifted it off its foundations and dragged up hill by a caterpillar tractor. This audacious move, supposed to take a week, took almost a year of very slow, very cautious manoeuvres.



Ballington Hall, now described as 'quintessentially beautiful' now offers luxury events and spiritual retreats and has an aesthetic clinic with treatments to combat acne, rosacea, ageing and hyperpigmentation.

A Note on the Membership

A list of current members is given in the Newsletter. If you wish to seek telephone or email of a former SGS pupil who is listed, please contact John Turkentine (john.turkentine@gmail.com). This will enable him to make the initial contact on your behalf.