



SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SUDBURY & DISTRICT GROUP

Update

May 2026

TODAY'S SPEAKER

After our AGM this afternoon we welcome Neil Dickinson with his talk entitled Arsenic's Toxic Legacy: People, Places, Pests and Peppermints

SNIPPETS FROM NEWSPAPERS

Found by Liz Cole

1955 SUFFOLK FREE PRESS:

Night The Jokers Went to Town

Anecdotes told by Mr Leggett.

One dark night, when no lamps were lit as the moon was supposed to be shining, but wasn't, some jokers hung jam jars on every lamp post in Sudbury, each containing a night-light. This brought the old borough into the sort of publicity it did not want.

Another joke played in the town was of a 'prehistoric' animal's skeleton said to have been found on the Nonsuch Meadow. The rumour spread and hundreds of people went to see the monster, only to find that they had been hoaxed.

Annoyed Sudbury's Women

For many years past many of the inhabitants of Sudbury have been accustomed to enjoy aquatic excursions down the river in boats, while others have enjoyed pleasant walks on the banks, says a report of 1858.

These recreations have, since the warm weather commenced, been stopped, especially to females, by the assemblage of young men in Friar's Meadow, the practice being for a few of them to take off their clothes and dabble about in the water, whilst others exhibit themselves in a state of nudity.

Such nuisances as these ought to be immediately put to stop to by ordering the police to apprehend the offenders and put in force the law against such indecencies.

There are plenty of bathing places in various other parts of the river, without offending the eyes or ears of Modest Females.

He Was Afraid To Mention It

When the tower of Thurston Church fell down in 1860 it demolished most of the rest of the building. A labourer who saw the collapse was afraid to mention it in case he was accused of pushing the tower over!

BURY FREE PRESS 1888:

Salvation Army Persecuted

On Sunday morning whilst the Salvation Army were on the Croft, Sudbury, arranging for their usual procession, a regular affray took place between a gang of 'roughs' and the principal members, resulting in several being violently assaulted. Some of both parties showed bloody noses, blackened eyes and scratched faces, while a most determined attempt was made to rescue a cornet from the custody of one of the officers. On the route to the barracks in Station Road the Army were further molested. At the service during the day reference was made by the various speakers to the shameful persecution to which the Army was subjected in the town.

We really appreciate you helping to put chairs away after the meeting – thank you

NEXT MEETINGS:

30 Jun	QUIZ – General questions ALL WELCOME Teams up to 6 refreshments included Raffle	
28 Jul	Suffolk Smugglers	<i>Pip Wright</i>
Aug	No Meeting	
29 Sept	A Country Full of 'Notorious Witches' Witch-Trials of 16 th & 17 th Century Essex	<i>Alison Rowlands</i>
27 Oct	Suffolk Villages	<i>Peter Tatam</i>
24 Nov	The Most Secret Place on Earth	<i>Roger Pugh</i>
Dec	No Meeting	

If you have any contributions for Update please email me - Helen

If a meeting needs to be cancelled at short notice (ie due to bad weather) we will put it on our Group Website page.

suffolkfhs.co.uk - Sudbury Group

PLEASE TAKE A POSTER TO DISPLAY

NEED TO GET IN TOUCH?

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