Sudborough Parish Council

Village Welcome Pack

Sudborough Welcomes You

If you are reading this you have most likely just moved to Sudborough, a truly idyllic village!

We hope this pack will help with your transition. It includes details of your Parish Councillors, local facilities plus services and a brief history of the village.

If you would like to be kept up-to-date on the latest information, sign up to our village email and the Parish Council email, or you can join the Sudborough Village Facebook group.

Village email: vickie.feather68@gmail.com
Tel: 07768 431904

Parish Council email: Clerk@SudboroughParishCouncil.gov.uk

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Sudborough Parish Council

Sudborough has had a parish council since 2000. The parish council has five seats, which are filled by members of the village serving as councillors. These positions are unpaid and they are supported by a clerk that is a paid role.

Parish councils in England and Wales have a number of responsibilities which make the lives of the people in their community more comfortable. They also have a role in making the views of their communities on important local issues known to the next tier of local authority, in our case the North Northamptonshire Council.

Meetings of the parish council are held in the village hall on the 3rd Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. On occasion, additional meetings are held in between. All meetings are open to the public therefore anyone is welcome to come along to have their say or to hear what is going on. The agenda and the minutes are available on the parish council's website and on the village notice board on the outside of the village hall.

In the first instance, please visit the Parish Council website for more information at www.sudboroughparishcouncil.org.uk

You might also like to contact the Clerk, Adam Fox, at clerk@SudboroughParishCouncil.gov.uk or on 074690184120. He is the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer of the council.

Your Parish Councillors and their emails are:

Chairman Robert Dixon: Robert.Dixon@SudboroughParishCouncil.gov.uk
Vice-Chair Simon Forde: Simon.Forde@SudboroughParishCouncil.gov.uk
Matthew Hunt: Matthew.Hunt@SudboroughParishCouncil.gov.uk
Sophie Whybrow: Sophie.Whybrow@SudboroughParishCouncil.gov.uk
Mary Gordon: Mary.Gordon@SudboroughParishCouncil.gov.uk

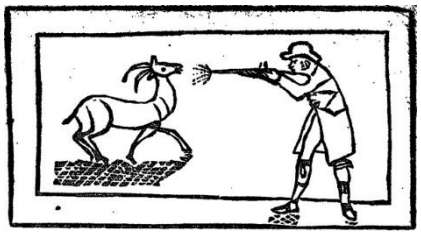
A Brief History of Sudborough

The origins of Sudborough can be traced back to Saxon times. Today's name derives from the earlier names of sudborow and sutburgh with sud/sut meaning south and borow/burgh meaning town.

The pinnacle tower of All Saints Church in the centre of the village dates back to the 13th century but there is evidence of a place of worship from the Saxon era on the same site.

Many of the houses in the village and the surrounding land were until the 1930s owned by Lord Barnard - that being the titled name of The Vane family who acquired the estate back in the middle-ages and held on to it until death duties and the great depression forced them to sell.

Prior to World War I, the village had been largely self-sufficient with most of the adult population working within the boundaries of the parish. Many were involved in agriculture. The village also had its own brickyard, a saw mill and a blacksmith as well as a general stores, a butcher's shop and a post office.



In the 18th and 19th centuries hunting was a popular local pastime and it seems Sudborough became something of a hot spot for poachers which explains the village's historic emblem.

The popularity of poaching did, however, diminish after an infamous incident in 1837 when a poacher from Sudborough was killed. This event is described in more detail in the final section of this pack.

For over 350 years there had been a brewery in what is now Brewery Yard; it was founded in the early 1500s and in its heyday, in the mid 19th century, the business employed 32 people and owned 7 public houses in the area. Sadly, it closed in 1889 although many of the brewery buildings still remain to this day.

There was a village school from about 1750 until its closure in 1963 due to falling numbers. There was a dramatic fall in the village population; it stood at 367 in 1851 but by 1961 it was down to just 154 residents. The number of residents now, according to the 2011 census, is 202.

There has been relatively little modern development in the village; many of the buildings are constructed of limestone or soft hand-made red bricks, some with thatch, Collyweston slate roofs, or red clay pantiles. The majority of the village is within a conservation area and a number of buildings are listed.

Mains electricity came to the village in the 1920s and mains water eventually arrived in the 1950s. The villagers then no longer had the chore of drawing water from the various wells dotted around the village.

High speed broadband reached the village in 2018 bringing the residents into the 21st century. Nevertheless, the village still remains much the same as it did several centuries ago.

Local Facilities and Services

Public House

The Vane Arms - temporarily closed

Francis Giffen Memorial Hall

The hall is currently run by a charitable trust, the trustees all being members of the community.

There is a village notice board which hangs on the wall outside the village hall, on Main Street. One end of the board is for the Parish Council, the other end is for the village hall and the middle section is open to anyone who wants to post something relevant to the village.

If you would like to hire the village hall, it is £12.00 an hour for residents of Sudborough and £15 an hour for non-residents. Please note that these fees are subject to change.

Tables, chairs and crockery etc are also available for hire; please enquire by email: Sudboroughfgmh@outlook.com

Various events are organised by the trustees for which dates are published via email, Facebook and the notice board.

Defibrillator

We have a village defibrillator, which is mounted on the right hand side of the village hall. No training is needed to use it, you open it when required and it has an audio guide that talks you through what you need to do.

Should you ever have to use it, please contact the telephone number given. The appropriate organisation will come and collect it, reset it and put it back in place at the village hall. This is a free service.

Refuse Collections

Bins are collected from outside your property early on Thursday mornings and it is advisable to put your bins out on a Wednesday evening. You can go on the local East Northamptonshire website to find out which bins are collected which week – www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

Household Recycling

The nearest household recycling centre is located on Kettering Road, Weldon.

Garden Waste Club

East Northamptonshire Council offer the Green Waste Club, for garden waste. This is a subscription service which is taken out for a year at a time.

Contact: customerservices@east-nothamptonshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01832 742000

Allotments

There are no allotments in Sudborough. Allotments are available to rent in the nearby village of Islip. There may be a waiting list but if you call the site manager, Jana Davidson, she will be able to answer all your questions.
Tel: 07850 969037

Dog Walking

We have two dog waste bins located at different ends of the village. There is a nice loop walk in the village going through the fields and back onto Main Street. It takes about 20 to 30 minutes depending on how fast you walk – or just ask a fellow village dog walker for help.

Local Attractions

Fermyn Woods Country Park

Lyveden Rd, Brigstock, Kettering NN14 3HS
Open all day, every day (free admission)
Tel: 0300 126 5933
See website for parking fees, café and toilets opening times.
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/service-finder/groups-clubs-and-activities/1212-fermyn-woods-country-park

Lyveden | National Trust

Lyveden New Bield, Lyveden PE8 5AT
Open every day – 10am to 5pm (11am to 4pm during winter)
Tel: 01832 205259
For entry fees and amenities go to the website - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyveden

Phone Box

No longer a working phone box, it was taken over and renovated in 2019/20 by the Parish Council. It previously been use as a gallery and is now a book exchange.

Post Box

The village post box is on the house opposite the church.

Collection Times: Monday to Friday 9am and Saturday 7am

Local Post Office

10 High Street, Thrapston NN14 4JH
Monday to Friday – 9am to 5.30pm (closed for lunch 1pm to 1:30pm)
Saturday – 9am to 12:30pm
Tel: 01832 731133
Last post Monday to Friday inside leaves at 4:45pm outside 5pm
Last post on a Saturday inside is 11.45am outside 12 noon

Local Library

15 High Street, Thrapston NN14 4JH
Tuesday, Friday and Saturday – 10am to 1pm
Thursday – 2pm to 5pm
Monday, Wednesday and Sunday – closed

Local Shops

Brigstock Co-op
1 High Street, Brigstock NN14 3HA
Tel: 01536 373223
Monday to Saturday – 7am to 9pm
Sunday – 8am to 9pm

Local Pharmacy

Thrapston Pharmacy
46 High Street, Thrapston NN14 4JH
Tel: 01832 732444
Open Monday to Friday – 9am to 6pm (closed for lunch 1-2pm)
Saturday – 9am to 1pm
Sunday – closed

There are many other shops to be found in Thrapston, including petrol stations, convenience stores, Fish and Chips, Pizza, Chinese and Indian takeaways etc.

Doctors

Brigstock Surgery
9 Bridge Street Brigstock NN143ET
Tel: 01536 373283 – for out of hours ring 111

They are part of a group including two others in Corby
Lakeside: 01536 204154
Forest Gate: 01536 206789

Nene Valley Surgery
Green Lane, Thrapston NN14 4QL
Tel: 01832 732456

The Meadows Surgery
Meadow Lane, Thrapston NN14 4GD

Tel: 01832 734444

Accident & Emergency Dept

Kettering General Hospital
Rothwell Road, Kettering NN16 8UZ
Tel: 01536 492000

Schools

Brigstock Latham's CE Primary School
Latham Street, Brigstock NN14 3HD
Tel: 01536 373282

Trinity C.E. Primary School
Main Street, Aldwincle NN14 3EL
Tel: 01832 720239

Prince William Secondary School and Sixth Form
Herne Road, Oundle PE84BS
Tel: 01832 272881

All Saints Church

Main Street, Sudborough NN14 3BX
Service Times: 3rd Sunday of each month at 9.30am - Holy Communion

Rector: Revd. Heather Lowe
Tel: 01536 263550
Please contact for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals.

Associate Minister: Captain Alan Lowe
Tel: 01536 263550

Church Warden: Jeremy Crouch – jcrouch@jcrouch.me.uk

If you would like to join the churchyard mowing and/or clock winding rota, please contact John Davies – jrd210769@gmail.com

For the church flower rota please contact Sara Dixon - sarajdixon@aol.com

For the church cleaning rota, contact Louise Davies - lmd210769@gmail.com

An interesting piece of Sudborough history…

A Poaching Incident at Sudborough, 1837

By F. J. MAYES

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On Monday the ninth of January 1837 at about eight o'clock in the evening, acting on a tip-off, John Bushnell, a keeper on Lord Cardigan's estate, and fourteen assistants lay in wait for poachers in Deenethorpe Wood. Eventually at about one in the morning they discovered a gang of about twenty five who, judging by the haul of eighteen dozen rabbits and a hare which were recovered later, were well advanced in the act of snaring game. When the two groups met there was a fierce fight which lasted for about half an hour before most of the poachers made off leaving their spoils and over 600 yards of rabbit netting behind them. Three of the poachers were apprehended. They were John Newton and Robert Lee, both aged 40, and Samuel Swann, aged 25.

Both of the Northampton newspapers, the Mercury and the Herald, gave accounts of both the incident and the subsequent trial of the three accused. Interesting differences appeared in the two reports. The Mercury gave a description of the affray with the byline of the Lincolnshire Chronicle. The Herald has exactly the same account except that it has been shortened by the omission of several phrases or sentences. One phrase however may or may not have been omitted for reason of lack of space. This stated that the poaching "had for some time been meditated by a desperate set of men residing at Sudborough (a notorious harbour of these gentry)".[1]

The trial took place on February 27th, 1837. The defence's case seemed to rest on the question of exact identity, for according to the newspaper reports all three defendants admitted they were present on the night in question but Swann and Lee denied being where the fighting took place. The defence also produced two character witnesses; Mr. Jonas Tebbutt and a Mr. Southam who stated that he had "never heard that they were poachers". If the newspaper reports about Sudborough being notorious for poaching and the prisoners admitting they were in the woods at one in the morning were true, it seems very likely that the entire village would know who were the poachers.

The judge summed up at great length and he concluded "it would be destructive to the interests of this great country, if the feeling got abroad, that this offence might be committed without moral wrong. It is true, the law is severe," – (up to 14 years transportation) – "but it acted the same for the rich as for the poor. The crime of poaching often led to the most serious offences, and therefore, it ought to be marked with due punishment." It sounds very much as if the judge is anxious to defend this law against a general feeling that it was not morally wrong. The three were found guilty but recommended to mercy on account of good character, and having large families (Newton had seven children, Swann two, and Lee eight).

[1] *Northampton Mercury 21 January 1837*

The prisoners were sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labour. Had the story ended there it would have been of interest but by no means unusual. There were an average of 281 commitments for poaching each year between 1826-1829 for example.[2] However one part of the trial, as reported in the press was slightly mysterious. The defence cross-examined three of the keepers and their questions were mainly about the weapons used that night. One stated that the poachers had bludgeons, or long staffs. He claimed the keepers were armed with bludgeons, staves and guns which were not discharged. All three keepers were however asked whether their side had spears. The first keeper said "I heard that some had spears, but I did not know that". The other two denied that they saw any spears that night.

The Face of a Northamptonshire Poacher
James "Socket" Elmore, a Kettering Shoemaker. who boasted in old age that he had had many a Christmas dinner in the County goal. The photograph dates from the 1870s. (F. A. Moore)

The implication seems to be that the keepers played a more aggressive role than their evidence at the trial suggested, whereas they stated that they were attacked by the poachers whilst trying to apprehend them. Once again the local newspapers can throw some light on this. Both papers, at the end of their accounts of the fight, state that: "On Tuesday morning the body of one of the poachers was found lying dead in a field, about 80 yards from the scene of the conflict. On examination of the corpse, no wound or contusion was discovered that could account for this fatal result. On Wednesday an inquest was held on the body of the poacher, who was recognised as William Mays, of Sudborough, the brother of a man in Lord Cardigan's employ as a carrier to London. On a post-mortem examination, the surgeon gave it as his opinion that the deceased died from over-exertion, and a verdict of 'found dead' was re-turned." [3]

So perhaps this was the reason for all the questions about spears? Was William Mays killed by the keepers or did he really die of "over exertion"? Before we attempt to answer these questions another becomes apparent if the Sudborough parish registers are examined. Was the body really that of William Mays? The registers contain an entry for the burial of a Samuel Mayes (sic) on January 13th 1837 (aged about 37 the registers would suggest). Was Samuel the poacher and William just a newspaper's misprint?

[2] E. J. Hobsbawm and G. Rudé Captain Swing, 1973, P. 57.

[3] Northampton Mercury, op. cit.

The answers to these questions lies amongst a bundle of papers in the Northamptonshire Record Office. The papers of Canon Lawson, Rector of Sudborough 1889-1919, contains the (apparently poorly remembered) words of a song entitled "The Sudborough Poacher".[4]

The words are reproduced below but they seem to confirm the following: the dead poacher's name was Samuel, not William. Newspapers seemed to be just as prone 150 years ago as they are now to getting people's names wrong. Possibly William was the name of the brother who worked for Lord Cardigan?

The poachers, at least, maintain that Samuel was stabbed to death. Hence, perhaps, all the questions about spears at the trial?

Samuel seems to have obtained posthumous fame at least locally, becoming a kind of folk-hero despite the newspapers having got his name wrong!

Sudborough Poachers Song

In 1837 it plainly doth appear
A bloody scene was felt most keen
Until death did draw near

Poor Samuel Mayes of Sudborough town
A lad of well known fame
Who took delight both day and night
To hunt the lofty game

Chorus

Mourn all you gallant Poacher men
Poor Mayes is dead and gone
Whilst our hero brave lies in his grave
As ever the sun shone on

With nets so strong we marched along
Unto brave Deenethorpe town
With nut brown ale that never will fail
Was many a health drunk round

Brave lunar light did shine that night
As we to the woods repaired
True as the sun the dogs did run
To chase the timorous hare

Then to (injure) the Poachers
The keepers they did start
And in that strife took poor Mays' life
They stabbed him to the heart

For help he cried but was denied
There was no one that by him stood
And there he lay till break of day
Dogs licking his dear blood

Brave Jim Stevens never will fail
To praise poor Mayes' name
His courage as displayed is known
It travelled through the plain

With dog and gun he n'er will run
Although the law does not maintain
Poor Mayes' blood, split to the wood
Was vengeance's crimson blood

Farewell dear heart for I must part
From my wife and children dear
Pity my doom it was too soon
That ever I came here

Farewell dear heart for I must part
From my wife and children dear
Pity my doom it was too soon
That ever I came here

Farewell those dear brave lads
What'ere revenge they held
(on) That cruel man with murderous hand
Which caused me for to yield

[4] N.R.O. 308 P/15/9.