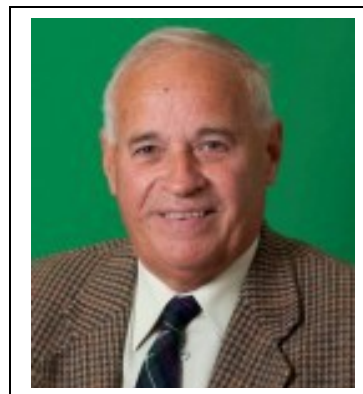


# Parish Report November 2015

## Councillor

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### Tributes paid to former Bishop of Dunwich Clive Young

Tributes have been paid to the “gentle, wise and delightful” former Bishop of Dunwich, who has died aged 67 after failing to recover from major surgery. The Right Reverend Clive Young, who served in Suffolk for 14 years, died on Wednesday.

As the Bishop of Dunwich, a title which dates from the 7th Century, he was the second most senior Anglican clergyman in the county before retiring two years ago. He devoted more than four decades of service to the Church of England and had retired to Herefordshire with his wife Sue.

The Rt Rev Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, said: “Although I have only recently arrived in Suffolk I have known Clive since 1996 when I became vicar of the Isle of Dogs and he was on the appointment panel as Archdeacon of Hackney. From then on I experienced his deep wisdom and care for which he is so widely known in Suffolk. His support became very personal when he helped Jutta and I in our plans to be married. I feel great sadness for Clive’s wife Sue too, that he has died so soon after his retirement.”

Bishop Clive went to school at King Edward VI Grammar, Chelmsford, and then St John’s College, Durham. He was ordained as a deacon in 1972 and served in London as rural dean of Tower Hamlets, vicar of St Andrew in Holborn and archdeacon of Hackney before coming to Suffolk in 1999. After his retirement service on May 12, 2013, he said he hoped to continue to be of service to the Church of England.

The Rt Rev Nigel Stock, a former bishop of the diocese and now bishop at Lambeth where he works closely with the Archbishop of Canterbury, said: “It was with immense sadness that I heard of the death of my gentle, wise and delightful colleague of six years. The loss to us all of Clive’s gifts of music, literary depth and sense of history is very great. These were the things that produced inspirational quiet days and retreats. Of course our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go out to Sue, who with Clive was so kind and hospitable to several generations of ordinands and readers in training and many others. I am sure that Clive is now bound up with the risen Lord Jesus whom he served so faithfully.”

### Fire and Rescue Service promotes home safety as part of national Older Person’s day

Firefighters, community safety teams and health colleagues will work together to protect older people from fire, and reduce excess deaths this winter. This effort is part of the Chief Fire Officer’s Association’s Home Safety Week, which is from 28 September to 4 October 2015.

During this week and as part of UN’s International Older Person’s Day on 1 October, the Fire Service’s Community Safety team are fitting even more smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, as part of their Safer Home visits in the county.

Last year, Suffolk Fire and Rescue carried out 2529 safer home visits. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service conduct safer home visits for those in need in the county on a risk based approach with age, physical abilities highlighted as factors.

Statistics from CFOA show that the risk of dying in a fire for those aged 65 and over is more than twice as high as the average risk for all ages.

With an ever-increasing older population - 23% of the UK will be aged 65 and over by 2035 – activities to help older people prevent fires and keep themselves safe are a growing part of the fire service's work.

**Councillor Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Public Protection said:**

"The Fire Service and health organisations play an important role in helping older people remain safe and well in their own homes. The NHS states that 11.6% more people died in the winter months compared to non-winter months in 2013/14 in the U.K. Some of these deaths are preventable and that is why this partnership is vital to the county. We know that older people are at highest risk of fire in the home and that is why that age group is targeted most keenly through our prevention work. A working smoke alarm can buy you and your family the valuable time you need to get out and call 999. You are four times more likely to survive a fire if you have a working smoke alarm. If you're worried about a relative or an elderly neighbour, I would encourage you to contact the Fire Service to arrange a Safer Home visit."

Last year, there were 816 primary fire incidents in Suffolk and 31 of those involved residents who were aged 60 and above. So far this year, older people have made up 41.25% of the total number of casualties in fire incidents.

A **safer home visit** is **free** and available to all residents in Suffolk to help them prevent a fire in their home. A visit can be booked by calling the Community Safety team on **01473 260588**.

This prevention work is particularly important as from 1 October 2015, every privately rented property will need to have a working smoke alarm on every floor as per the new regulation announced by Central Government. A working carbon monoxide alarm is also required in properties that use and burn solid fuels. Landlords must check the alarms are working at the start of every new tenancy with potential penalties of up to £5,000 if they don't comply

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service have over 4000 smoke alarms and 7000 carbon monoxide alarms to give out to local landlords.

### **A Million Reasons why the Women's Tour was good for Suffolk**

A report looking at the financial impact of Suffolk hosting Stage 1 of the Aviva Women's Tour shows the event provided an economic boost of £1.1 million.

2015 was the second year that Suffolk had hosted a stage of the Aviva Women's Cycling Tour in partnership with Adnams who continue to be instrumental in supporting and attracting stages of both the Women's Tour and Tour of Britain to Suffolk. An estimated 70,000 people watched the Grand Depart of the tour in Suffolk and while many local people embraced this event, almost half came into the region from other parts of the UK or overseas (42%). A survey has shown that among spectators that watched the Suffolk stages 88% said they had found the event very enjoyable with 69% being inspired to cycle more frequently as a result of watching the race.

Other stand-out statistics from the report include:

- An estimated 15,000 spectators attended the Grand Depart in Bury St Edmunds with an estimated 20,000 attending the finish in Aldeburgh.
- 268,000 tuned in to watch the Bury St Edmunds to Aldeburgh stage on TV.

Suffolk County Councillor Tony Goldson, cabinet member for Health said:

"The Women's Tour was a fantastic event for Suffolk. It not only brought thousands of visitors to the area, but showcased our region to a global audience and brought many different communities together. The report confirms what a huge success the weekend was especially for those working in tourism, hospitality and cycling."

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf with responsibility for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said:

"Suffolk Coastal were delighted to be a part of the Women's Tour for the second year running. The Tour provided a fantastic platform for us to showcase the wonderful place we live in and gave a great boost to our tourism over the summer. I was really pleased to see people of all ages showing their support for this exceptional event. I'd like to thank everyone who came out in Aldeburgh as well as those who lined the

route through the district. I hope most importantly it has encouraged more of us to get out and on our bikes.”

Cllr Joanna Rayner, St Edmundsbury Borough Council Cabinet member for Leisure and culture said: “The lasting feel-good factor from these inspirational occasions is a valuable legacy, and I am delighted that Bury St Edmunds continues to host such high quality events.”

The positive outcomes for Suffolk from the Women’s Tour come soon after hosting the finish of the penultimate stage of the Tour of Britain in the county, which also attracted tens of thousands of spectators across the route and is anticipated to provide an equally positive picture when the figures are released.

## **Stop cuts to our vital community transport**

### **A Cuts to community transport could spell the end for many voluntary groups and charities including one of the largest in the Sudbury area.**

That was the warning from a community transport chairman this week, in response to proposals from Suffolk County Council for community transport funding to be cut by 10 per cent a year for the next five years. The council currently spends £1.4million on subsidising community transport services across the county and is looking to halve this.

There are also plans for just one tender to be given in each district, the successful bidder taking on all community transport in that area. Registered charity Go START currently has five vehicles, working with charities and providing transport for elderly and disabled people in the area. However, chairman of trustees John Phillips warned Go START may be forced to withdraw its services if the changes go ahead.

“They will give an amount of money to one operator in each district. That person’s going to be dealing with all the other community transport operators. I can’t see for the life of me how that’s going to work. The last time they did this sort of thing it fell flat and got withdrawn.”

A spokesman for Suffolk County Council said: “There is no need for a single organisation to cover the whole area and the council has always made clear that it may mean several organisations working in partnership with each other to meet a common goal.”

For Mr Phillips the cuts and the changes are too much.

“I’m not even putting in a tender, I’ve no idea what will happen with Go Start. We get £18,000 a year to run all the services we operate. We won’t be here basically. There will be an awful lot of people that will have no transport. A lot of disabled kids, elderly people, schools and nurseries will have no transport. All these organisations will be damaged.”

In a report on the proposals Suffolk County Council’s cabinet said successful groups could replace lost funds by taking on more commercial work, such as school and hospital runs. Both Mr Phillips and John Stock, chairman of Hadleigh Community Transport, said this was something they were already heavily involved in.

“We already do work with the schools and voluntary groups,” said Mr Phillips. “It’s nothing new. We have been doing it since we first started. We’ve got five vehicles on the road. Last month we did 2,700 miles, tell me when our buses are standing empty? This is pure political dogma.”

Mr Phillips also rejected the idea that the services could become more efficient.

“We are all volunteers. There are no paid staff on the road. We have one paid member of staff on the phones. You don’t get rid of fat by getting rid of volunteers.”

He added: “We are in a strong position as we own our own vehicles. Many of the groups don’t, but county want them to buy their vehicles. Where will they find the money to do this? I can see nothing positive in what they are doing whatsoever.”

In response, the council said: “We do believe that in many cases better use could be made of the vehicles that are currently provided, there are often restrictions on their use depending on the type of service and the new contract will remove these. We fully recognise the contribution made by volunteers

and are trying to remove the barriers that prevent them from giving a better service to their local communities. Some excellent local organisations already run their own vehicles with little financial help and no restrictions on their use. They have shown us that this can be done and we are hoping to give other organisations the same freedom.”

Mr Stock questioned why “the most important group”, passengers, had not been consulted. The council spokesman said that several of the organisations were consulting with passengers themselves. He added that the tender was designed to allow the organisations to use their experience to design the detail of the services provided.

The proposals for community transport have been called in to the scrutiny committee by Labour councillors and on Tuesday Suffolk County Council cabinet members will be asked to reconsider the plans. In the meeting agenda it asks: “Will the new model for rural transport meet the requirements to provide customers with a better service, at a lower cost to the council, whilst increasing the supply of home to school transport providers in Suffolk?”

Jane Basham, vice chairman of South Suffolk Labour Party, is campaigning against the cuts. She said: “Whatever the council spin on ‘efficiency’, there is no fat in community transport operators. I’ve met those that give up their free time to drive, engage with vulnerable older people - who clean and maintain vehicles and operate manage and govern for free. Shame on those who are pushing this through and on our local elected representatives for sitting on their hands watching it happen.”