



# Sutton Coldfield Civic Society

www.suttoncoldfieldcivicsociety.com

Charity No. 243252

## Chairman's Report for 2024 - 2025

Welcome to the 68<sup>th</sup> year of our Society. We were again able to draw up a very interesting series of speakers for our Winter Programme. As part of the Sutton Heritage Week programme in September we had a talk on the Ebrook from its source to the sea. Other talks included the History of Horse Racing in Sutton Coldfield, the famous centre of Glassmaking in Stourbridge, the History of Pub Signs, the History of the Fire Service with speakers from the West Midlands Fire Service Museum, new insights into the Origin of Sutton Park, the leather industry in Walsall by a speaker from Walsall Leather Museum and finally in April an illustrated talk on the Voynich Manuscript and other so far unsolvable historic events.

Our three Summer Outings followed on from three of our Winter speakers. We had well supported visits to the West Midlands Fire Brigade Museum in Aston in May, in June the Leather Museum in Walsall and in July the Red Glass Cone and Glass Museum at Stourbridge.

We have kept up our inspection of local planning applications which could affect conservation areas, as well as the proposed Langley Sustainable Urban Development of 6000 houses and, of course, our own Town Centre redevelopment.

Our committee have liaised with other groups such as FOSPA, Holy Trinity and Sutton Coldfield Heritage Network and Sutton Coldfield Archaeological Society.

I must thank our hardworking committee for their support during the year. They each bring their own special talents to the committee and work together as a great team. One new member in January was Angela Grove whose planning experience added greatly to our application response work. Mike Haynes, who was instrumental in sourcing and booking speakers, sadly left during the year. Our hardworking secretary Caroline, although incapacitated for three months, was before long able to carry on working from home. Ann Snell is still our rep on the Sutton Park Advisory Committee.

Can I ask that members seriously consider the option of joining the committee, you would be more than welcome and many hands make light labour. For this purpose, a Nomination Form is included.

Robert Cheshire

Chairman

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Sutton Coldfield Civic Society - 2025

I wish to nominate.....

Who is willing to stand as Committee Member / Chairman / Secretary / Treasurer

Name ..... Signature.....