



Salter's Hall

Salter's Hall, dating to around 1450, is the highest quality timber-frame structure in Sudbury and may have belonged to a local merchant or clothier. Standing near the Chantry on Stour Street, this impressive structure reflect the wealth of East Anglia's wool towns in medieval times. Salter's Hall features original wooden tracery on the windows, with a carved soffit (or underside) beneath the oriel window showing St James the Less, patron saint of fullers, between an elephant and a lion.

What's There? Now a private residence, Salter's Hall has an unparalleled view down towards Sudbury's famed Water Meadows.



All Saints Church

All Saints was built in Norman times to serve Sudbury's wool trade. On the north side of the churchyard, the Gainsborough family vault and box tomb can still be seen today. Thomas Gainsborough chose to be buried more modestly at St Anne's Church in Kew, London, along with his wife Margaret. However, Gainsborough would have attended this church as a boy, and included the spire of All Saints in the background of one of his most famous paintings: the double portrait of Mr and Mrs Andrews, shown at their estate near Sudbury, the Auberies, around 1750.

What's There? The Gainsborough tomb in All Saints churchyard features weathered inscriptions to important family members such as Gainsborough's influential uncle and namesake, Thomas.



Sudbury Grammar School

Sudbury Grammar School was founded in 1491 and run in Gainsborough's day by his uncle, the Reverend Humphry Burroughs. Thomas and his brothers were all educated at the school, but by the age of 13 Gainsborough had left Sudbury for London to study art.

What's There? The original building, pictured here, was replaced in 1858 by a more substantial brick structure, renovated in 1990 and now known as William Wood House.

Front: Thomas Gainsborough, Mr and Mrs Andrews, oil on canvas, ca. 1750 © The National Gallery, London



Water Meadows

Thomas Gainsborough much preferred painting landscapes to more lucrative genres such as portraiture. His love of the countryside was first discovered in the woods and fields surrounding Sudbury, where he spent time in the Water Meadows, an area of natural beauty first recorded in Sudbury chronicles around 1260 AD. Several members of Gainsborough's family were Freemen of the Commons, giving them the right to graze cattle and horses on these pastures.

What's There? Over 100 acres in size, Sudbury's Water Meadows are accessible via walks for all ages. Meander along the River Stour on the 3.5-mile Meadow Walk, and observe a rich vista of flowers, insects, birds and cattle.



Gainsborough's Sudbury

Other Places of Interest:
Sudbury Heritage Centre and Town Hall, Market Hill, Sudbury
Library (Corn Exchange) and Tourist Information Centre,
Market Hill, Sudbury

Gainsborough's House, 46 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2EU
Monday to Saturday 10.00–17.00
Sunday 11.00–17.00

Charity 214046

John Ellerman
Foundation

1 hour 20 minutes to Sudbury by train from
London Liverpool Street

www.gainsborough.org | 01787 372958



Gainsborough's House

Thomas Gainsborough, R.A. (1727–1788) was born in Sudbury, Suffolk to John and Mary Gainsborough. His childhood home was originally a Tudor timber-frame style, to which John Gainsborough added a Georgian brick façade in 1723. After his father's death in 1748, Gainsborough moved back with his wife Margaret to Sudbury, where daughters Mary and Margaret were born. Recognising the need for a national centre dedicated to the life and art of Thomas Gainsborough, one of England's greatest artists, this 500-year-old building was purchased by Gainsborough's House Society in 1958 and opened to the public as a museum in 1961.

What's There? Now open Mon–Sun, Gainsborough's House features six changing exhibitions per year; in addition to housing the most comprehensive collection of Gainsborough's art within a single setting.



Buzzards Hall

One of the most prominent buildings along Friars Street is Buzzards Hall, a 15th-century dwelling that became home to Gainsborough's uncle Thomas and his wife Elizabeth Fenn in 1709. Due to Elizabeth's wealth as a wool heiress and his own success as a cloth merchant, Thomas was a rich man when he passed away in 1739. In his will, Gainsborough's uncle left his nephew a legacy that would allow young Gainsborough to study art in London. At the age of 13, Gainsborough left Sudbury to train under the French illustrator and engraver, Hubert-François Gravelot, at the St Martins Lane Academy.

What's There? Now a private business premises, Buzzards Hall is just one of nearly 250 listed historic buildings in Sudbury.



St Gregory's Church

St Gregory's is one of three historic parish churches within Sudbury, a sign of the prosperity in the area during medieval times. Originally dating to around 1370, large-scale renovations were completed on the church in the 19th century by the architect William Butterfield. Although St Gregory's is best known as the church of Simon of Sudbury, Archbishop of Canterbury and famous casualty of the Peasants' Revolt in 1381, the Gainsboroughs also have history here. Thomas Gainsborough was born in this parish in 1727, and the churchyard is the burial place of his father, John.

What's There? St Gregory's features a host of important historic relics, including a 12-foot telescopic font cover; fine painted ceiling decorations in the chancel, and even the mummified head of Simon of Sudbury!



Statue of Thomas Gainsborough

Thomas Gainsborough was officially commemorated as Sudbury's most famous native son in 1913 with the unveiling of the artist's monumental 8' 6" bronze statue on Market Hill. Designed by Bertram Mackennal and presented by HRH Princess Louise, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, in Sudbury on 10th June, Gainsborough is depicted as an artist, palette in hand, standing on a base of Portland stone. A bronze relief below shows a woman playing a violin, an allusion to Gainsborough's own love of music. Standing in the shadow of St Peter's Church, the statue gazes down towards the artist's birthplace and Gainsborough's House museum.

What's There? Sudbury is still home to one of Suffolk's oldest local markets. Stop by Market Hill every Thursday and Saturday to find a variety of fresh, seasonal produce.



Vanners Silk Weavers

For the last 200 years, Sudbury has been one of the most important centres of silk production in England. It is now home to three working silk mills – Vanners, Stephen Walters & Company and Gainsborough Silks. In the 1700s, several members of the Gainsborough family were important weavers and clothiers in the area, including Thomas Gainsborough's father and uncle. His father John was a 'Crepe & Shroud Maker' and his uncle Thomas a wealthy merchant and clothier.

What's There? Both Vanners and Stephen Walters operate retail mill shops, selling items such as bolts of fabric and silk ties.

(Vanners Mill Shop, Gregory Street, 10.00–16.00 Mon to Fri; Stephen Walters Mill Shop, Cornard Road, 01787 372266 for opening times).



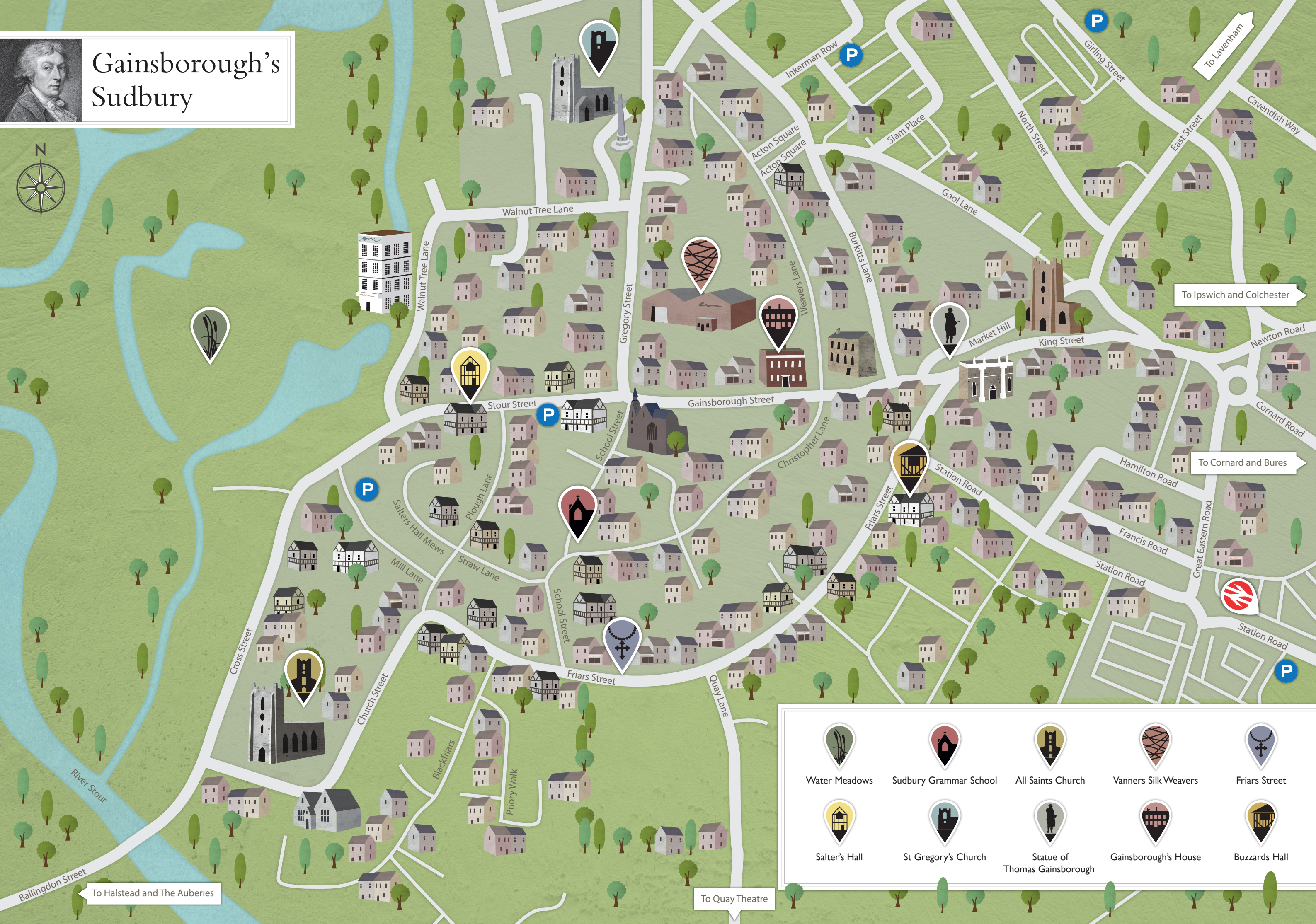
Friars Street

Friars Street in Sudbury is an ancient thoroughfare dating to the 1300s, when Dominican Friars kept a Priory House in the vicinity. In Gainsborough's era, one of the most important buildings here was the Independent Meeting House (no longer extant), built in 1709 for 'Dissenters' from the Church of England. Thomas Gainsborough was baptised at the Meeting House in 1727 and his mother, Mary, buried here in 1769. When he moved back to Sudbury in 1749 following the death of his father, tradition says Gainsborough and his family lived on Friars Street.

What's There? Friars Street is still home to a wide range of shops, pubs and restaurants, in addition to a number of important Georgian houses.



Gainsborough's Sudbury



Water Meadows



Sudbury Grammar School



All Saints Church



Vanners Silk Weavers



Friars Street



Salter's Hall



St Gregory's Church



Statue of Thomas Gainsborough



Gainsborough's House



Buzzards Hall

To Halstead and The Auberies

To Quay Theatre

To Ipswich and Colchester

To Cornard and Bures

Station Road

To Lavenham

Cavendish Way

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