



SUTTON NOW & THEN

The Newsletter of the Sutton Historical Society

Founded 1985

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Summer 2022

Community Variety Show is a Hit

Sutton Historical Society

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HELP WANTED!

Volunteer. Join the SHS Board. Sign up for a committee. Become a member. Bake cookies. Organize historical archives. Donate in-kind.

THANK YOU!

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The South Meetinghouse looked particularly spectacular with all its newly restored windows propped open to let the breezes flow through on a hot summer afternoon, as SHS hosted a Community Variety Show on Sunday, July 24. The free event was organized by Sutton born native Kathy Lowe, who coordinated a team of volunteers to recruit talent, spiff up the meetinghouse and produce a very special show. Kathy also served as MC, a role she was clearly born to fill.

Sutton (and our surrounding towns) surely have talent, as close to 20 individuals sang, played, entertained, and made the audience laugh. SHS Board Member Andy Jeffrey kicked off the show with a heartfelt song about "Goin' down to Sut-

ton to find my friends" that had the audience singing along from the start. Musical acts included Jake O'Neil, who not only sang but did a superb job operating the soundboard for the entire show, the Lowe Profiles - sisters Susie, Kathy and Kim - singing an original Tom Lowe Casablanca-esque song from a 1976 show, a Greg Gutzgell and Kim Lowe duet, the glorious harmony of Bob and Maria Bishop with Nina Kozain, and a hint of Christmas in July from Brick Moltz and David Swords. We also welcomed Jon Marshall, Ian Pollard and Tom Megan and their respective guitars to the stage.



Local headliners for the Community Variety Show

Other performances included readings from Jody Wells, Caroline Fairless and Deb Perkins, plus a comic skit complete with a lilting Irish brogue from Judy Lowe. Wally Borgen performed a wonderfully humorous monologue, and she also organized the highly successful basket raffle. The afternoon concluded with all performers leading the audience in an uplifting

Continued on Page 3

Schoolhouse Restoration on Deck

The District No. 9 Schoolhouse is the next priority on the SHS historic restoration list. The schoolhouse is the sole remaining one-room schoolhouse in Sutton that remains unaltered and available to the public. As demonstrated in the recently

updated Sutton Master Plan, the community has spoken loudly that historic preservation is very important. SHS is committed to executing the sorely needed renovations in 2023 to prevent further deterioration. The slated work includes repair or

replacement of deteriorated features like the roof, sill/supports/joists foundation, trim boards, clapboard siding, windows and perimeter grade and trees, plus interior walls, ceilings, and electrical service.

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President's Notes



Bob sporting Old Home Day attire

It is hard to keep up; I feel like the 'White Rabbit.' I have to run as fast as I can to stay in one

place, and if I want to go anywhere, I have to run twice as fast! We have yet to paint the outside of our Meetinghouse yet already the almost newly restored building is being used. On July 24th SHS hosted an excellent variety show organized by Kathy Lowe with at least 14 different presentations: songs, poetry and prose. It was a two-hour event, that seemed to be over in one hour; it went that fast. Our board and our members sure have talent.

On August 6th, Paul Wainwright gave a talk on the history, the nature and the purpose of New England Meetinghouses and their importance in those early communities. Paul used a slide presentation to show some of the old meetinghouses, how they were constructed and their many uses: town meeting, services, meetings and plays. In his

presentation was a picture of our own special South Sutton Meetinghouse. Both programs were well attended: over 100 for the variety show and over 80 for Paul Wainwright.

Repair and painting the exterior of the Meetinghouse should begin just after Labor Day. Relative to the Meetinghouse is the contribution sign funding the renovation of the One Room Schoolhouse. The immediate focus of the schoolhouse is a new roof and anything else vital to the integrity of the building. Gary

"It has been a privilege to serve as your president and I will do all I can to assist the new president, other officers and members of the board in the ensuing year."

Dellert is heading up this enterprise and has put together a program for full completion within the next three years. Like the Meetinghouse, the Board (thank you, Dorothy Jeffrey) has applied for an LCHIP grant dedicated to the repair and renovation of the schoolhouse.

Old Home Day was once again celebrated in the Meetinghouse. Dick Sutton led the service, with Donald Cox on the organ, Kim Lowe led the

singing of New Hampshire Sunday Morn, Jody Wells served as tithing man and I welcomed all and read the Governor's Proclamation. It was a pleasure to once again enjoy this longstanding tradition in our historic meetinghouse. Other events may be planned later this fall, but most certainly we will also celebrate Christmas together in December.

At our annual meeting in October, I will be stepping down as your president and assuming an ex officio role. I have been extremely fortunate with the work ethic and professionalism of all the board members. That said, the expression 'nothing lasts forever' is a fact. New board members are always needed and welcomed; it is an assurance that we do not get complacent nor lose our focus. It has been a privilege to serve as your president and I will do all I can to assist the new president, other officers and members of the board in the ensuing year.

Respectfully,
Robert W. Wright, Jr.

Please Join Us!

Are you interested in Sutton history? Would you like to see your town's historic records and buildings maintained and accessible to the public? Do you want to allow traditional events like Old Home Day, the Children's Christmas Pageant and the Cookie Walk to continue for all to enjoy? The Historical Society needs you. October is the end of our fiscal year and we are in search of new board members and officers. No experience necessary.

SHS meets once a month. [Please contact us](#) if you are interested in helping continue this tradition.



SHS NEEDS YOU!

It takes a village to maintain many villages! SHS operates only because people like you become involved. We have numerous opportunities and welcome your support.

- Seeking new board members. SHS meets monthly.
- Join a committee and help insure the care of historical structures, artifacts, heritage and legacy of Sutton's rich cultural history for current and future generations. INTERNS WELCOME!
- Sign up for a specific event to bake, sell boutique items, set up, organize and more.

Contact us today at:

suttonnhhistory@gmail.com

Schoolhouse Restoration *from Page 1*



New roof and site grading are among planned repairs.

SHS is actively fundraising to meet the renovation costs. We are grateful to all who contributed to the successful NH

Gives campaign in June, where SHS tripled donations from the prior year NH Gives. We were invited to submit another LCHIP grant application targeting the schoolhouse and hope it is favorably received. [Donations to the Stewardship Fund](#) for the schoolhouse are most welcome.

Donations don't necessarily need to be in the form of money. SHS is also accepting other contributions to the restoration efforts. Local contractor Kevin Rowe of Rowe Brothers Excavation is donating in-kind his time, equipment, and materials to lower the grade in front of the schoolhouse, create a swale on the upper side of the building and excavate an

electrical line from the meetinghouse. [Please contact us](#) if you can donate your time, materials or expertise to any of the slated schoolhouse restoration projects.



Schoolroom in need of repairs and paint.

Variety Show a Hit *from Page 1*

version of "This Little Light of Mine" as they marched out onto the meetinghouse lawn. While the afternoon was planned by SHS to thank the community for their wonderful support of SHS historical restoration projects, the event raised close to \$1,000 for the Stewardship Fund between the fabulous basket raffle and additional donations.



MC Kathy Lowe



Enjoying Marilou's flowers through newly restored windows



Thanks to Wally for organizing a wonderful Basket Raffle



Kate Cochran

2022 SHS Scholarship Recipient

SHS is pleased to award the 2022 Barrows and Jane B. Pratt Memorial Scholarship to Kate Cochran, KRHS '22. Kate will attend Colby-Sawyer College this fall.

How has living in Sutton shaped my life? This question is one that cannot be answered with a sentence or two. Living in Sutton, New Hampshire is a special opportunity that only so many people can be fortunate enough to experience. I happen to be one of the very lucky ones. Since I was raised in Sutton, I have been able to know just about every name and face that I come across while in town. Sutton is my home, where all my family is, where all of my “happy” places are, and where I feel the most comfortable.

Muster Field Farm has always been a special place to me, whether it's because I always get to see my family on farm days, get to feed the cows some grass, purchase delicious vegetables from the farm stand, or because the views are irreplaceable, it will forever be my favorite special place that I get to go to, and let all of my biggest worries disappear.

Living in the town of Sutton has taught me multiple lessons. As an avid athlete, I am constantly training and working out. One of my favorite lessons that Sutton has allowed me to learn is to have trust in others. I have learned this through Sutton since my parents allowed and trusted the town enough to let me go on my weekly runs around the lake alone, and bike all over the town with friends

in the summer, trusting that I will be just fine.

Sutton Elementary school was where I began learning all of my writing, reading, math, and social skills. I went through all six years learning about the trees and wildlife at Muster Field, from Mrs. Stowell, and what the farm was used for one hundred years ago. Seven years later, I returned back to this school in my senior year to complete an internship with Mrs. Dean. This opportunity in Sutton has allowed me to see what teaching is like, what a second-grade classroom environment is like, and what I can expect to experience once I become an educator. This experience has contributed to my future plans in a way that no other school could. When I had to pick a school to complete this opportunity in, I had four choices. Was I going to go to a bigger school such as Bradford or Simonds, or the biggest one in the district, New London? Or was I going to pick Sutton? After thinking about this choice for a very short time I knew what my decision was. I was going to the place I call home, where I grew and learned all of my basic life skills and where I felt the most comfortable.

Many people may think that living in a small town cannot teach you anything, however, I have learned many things from living in Sutton. One thing I have learned is that it is very important to give back to your community. I have learned this



through many people such as my grandparents. One of my favorite traditions with my grandparents has always been roadside clean-up when we picked up as much trash as possible from the side of the roads in town to help make it cleaner. One other experience I have and always will cherish is being able to mark graves with American and service flags, honoring the lives of Sutton residents. I have grown to realize that giving back and helping others can make you feel much better and is so beneficial to the world! One other thing that I have learned from the town is how important traditions are. A few of my favorite traditions are all of the Muster Field Farm events, Strut in Sutton 5k, Christmas services at the church, and Memorial Day services. All of these traditions are a must-attend for me, not because I live here but because they are important and positively impactful to me. The last lesson that living in Sutton has taught me is that you don't always have to face challenges

Kate Cochran Essay *from Page 4*

alone. This may sound silly, to begin with, yet I have experienced many obstacles in my life which I have received help that I didn't even know were available. One of the most touching moments was in January 2021, when my family and I all struggled through catching the Coronavirus. As we were all very sick and unable to get out to get food or necessities, we had multiple community members show up on our doorstep with food essentials, flowers, comfort gifts, and get-well cards. These people may have felt like they were just doing something small, but to my

family and me, it meant the world. As I got in bed that night I thought about how much our small town meant to us and how if I lived anywhere else, I wouldn't feel this connection and love for one tiny town, in a world of a million places. Sutton is my home and forever will be, even when life takes me on new adventures.

SHS Committee Chairs

Membership	Rob O'Neil	938-5325
Newsletter	Dorothy Jeffrey	938-2457
Publicity	Marilou Steblai	938-2300
Scholarships	Karla Salathe	927-4325
Town History	Jack Noon	456-3426
Buildings & Grounds	Bruno Steblai	938-2300
Archives	Don Davis	927-4925
Community Outreach		
Finance		

OFFICERS

2022 SHS Board

Bob Wright	President	938-5504	2022	Peggy Ford	927-4614 lapeg3@gmail.com	2022
Sue Esposito	Vice President	927-4946 wilderness20@tds.net	2022	Jenny Menning	252-7337 jennymenning60@gmail.com	2022
Rob O'Neil	Treasurer	938-5325 r_oneil@mcttelecom.com	2023	Andy Jeffrey	938-2457 andy@proactivegrowth.co	2023
Dorothy Jeffrey	Clerk	938-2457 djeffrey@comcast.net	2022	Judy Lowe	927-4247 judylowe@tds.net	2024
Don Davis	Ex-Officio	927-4925 grampad@tds.net	2022	Gary Dellert	207-838-0321 dellert.gary@gmail.com	2024

Spread the Love and the Frosting

The SHS Bakery is back in business! Covid shut down our local operation for the past couple of years, but demand has spiked. There are plenty of hangry Suttoners out there waiting to pay dearly for your home baked goodies. We need your help to meet this demand!

SHS is seeking volunteers to bake finger foods, sweets, treats and snacks for several events. The dates include NH Primary elections on September 13, the General elections on November 8, and Harvest Day at Muster Field Farm Museum on October 2. Also bookmark the return of the amazingly popular

Cookie Walk in December! If you want to bake, please call Sue Esposito at 603-927-4946. Many thanks!



Old Home Day Traditions

Old Home Day returned to the South Meetinghouse on a quiet Sunday in August. Those familiar with the Sutton tradition of donning nineteenth century garb assembled to enjoy a reprise of the service that hasn't been held in the meetinghouse since 2019. This year's celebration was low key but joyful. With restoration efforts at the meetinghouse and schoolhouse still underway, SHS was unable to schedule access to adjoining its historic facilities.



Kim Lowe-Beaton and choir director husband George Beaton



The program included old standards like the reading of the Governor's Proclamation, Kim Lowe's rendition the quintessential song New Hampshire Morn written by Kim's uncle Tom Lowe, Jody Wells as the tithing man and Dick Dutton leading a twist on the traditional sermon.

Twist indeed, as the audience witnessed near nonagenarian Dick getting to his knees to wash his neighbor's feet and speak so eloquently about breaking bread with community. An ice cream social followed the service on the meetinghouse



Dick Dutton washing Bob Wright's feet



Rick Stockwell on the dias



Meetinghouse Use and Rental

The South Sutton Meetinghouse is available for memorial services, weddings, private gatherings and organizational programs and performances. SHS is working on terms and fees for private rentals.



Idyllic setting for private events.

Use of the space is seasonal (with the exception of the Christmas Pageant). Please note that food and drink may not be served inside the building. If you are interested in using the meetinghouse for an event or service, [please contact us](#).



Meetinghouse Restoration Update

What a difference a year makes. Quite a contrast between last year and this year regarding activity at the meetinghouse restoration site. Last year we saw major equipment on site throughout the summer, the top tier of the meetinghouse on the ground, lots of scurrying around. This year's restoration is much less obvious. But that doesn't mean SHS isn't hard at work



Beautifully restored windows that function!

making restoration progress! The meetinghouse shutters have been taken offsite to our contractor to be repaired and painted. The bulk of the restoration will be done onsite in September, starting with exterior clapboard and sill repair and then final painting. The entire meetinghouse exterior restoration is scheduled to be complete this fall.

It's been a long road to progress, and we clearly could not have done this without your support! The bills are still coming in, so if you'd like to continue to support the meetinghouse restoration and contribute to the schoolhouse restoration, your [donation to the Stewardship Fund](#) would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support of SHS historic restoration efforts.

New England Colonial Meetinghouses Program

SHS presented the long-overdue presentation by Paul Wainwright, *New England Colonial Meetinghouses and Their Impact on Society* on Saturday, August 6 at the South Meetinghouse. It was a very humid day with temperatures well over 90 degrees and a passing downpour that likely persuaded a few folks to stay closer to their air-conditioned living room couches.

Those who gathered in the meetinghouse were treated to a lovely visual presentation of other NH and New England meetinghouses, that included our very own South Sutton Meetinghouse. The program was based on Wainwright's 2010 book, "A Space for Faith: The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England." Using photographs of the few surviving mint condition meetinghouses, Paul Wainwright told the story of the society that built and used them, and the lasting impact they have had on American culture. What a treat to learn this history while sitting in our very own historic New England meetinghouse!

The program was underwritten by a grant from New Hampshire Humanities and was originally scheduled for 2020 but was delayed by the pandemic and our meetinghouse restoration efforts.

Paul Wainwright is a photographer based in Atkinson, New Hampshire, who works in a traditional manner utilizing sheet film, a large-format camera, and silver gelatin printing. His work has appeared in numerous juried competitions and solo exhibitions. He is a mostly self-taught photographer who brings to his images an eye for space and light, subtle details, and an appreciation of history.



SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 457
South Sutton, NH 03273



Please support the SHS Stewardship
Fund with a donation today

Join us!

We invite you to join the Sutton Historical Society or renew your membership. Please mail the form below with your dues and/or additional contribution to the Stewardship Fund. Be sure to include your email address. We welcome volunteers to help SHS preserve our Sutton heritage and contribute to ongoing projects. Volunteers are needed for the Meetinghouse and Schoolhouse restoration efforts and much more.

Name

Email

Address

Phone

Please select: New Member Renewal

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Volunteers are needed to help restore the schoolhouse, bake for fundraising events, catalog historical records and much more.

SHS 2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

ANNUAL DUES

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Member | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Individual | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Couple | \$400 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution | \$ _____ |

Mail this form with your check to:

Sutton Historical Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible. Membership includes a subscription to *Now and Then*, the newsletter of the Sutton Historical Society. Members are eligible for the Barrows and Jane B. Pratt Memorial Scholarship.

Thank you for your support!