

BREWERY GUTTED BY FIRE

February 2020

The derelict **Tolly Cobbold Cliff Brewery** was ravished by flames on Sunday 23rd February. Some 15 fire crews from Suffolk and Essex were called to get the fire under control. The building, re-developed in 1896, was one of the best-known and much-loved structures in Ipswich. Built in 1746, when **Thomas Cobbold (1708-1767)** #44 on the web family tree moved his business from Harwich, it was listed Grade II in 1989 and in 2015 it was included in The Victorian Society's list as one of the most endangered buildings in the country.

After brewing ceased in 2002 the building came into the ownership of Pigeon Developments of Bury St. Edmunds. Two or three redevelopment schemes were proposed but even those which secured a planning consent were never carried out. It is understood that the building was sold by Pigeon in the summer of 2019 to an undisclosed buyer for an undisclosed sum. Even enquiries at the Land Registry have failed to reveal the present owner. Reports claim that three men have been taken into Police Custody in connection with the fire so clearly arson is suspected and one source thought that an insurance scam was a real possibility.

The Trust has received a number of messages of sympathy and condolence and shares the deep regret that a viable alternative use for the building has not been found.



Brewery in 2012