

## Senior Profile: Colin Warwick

By Caleb Cochran, Sudbury Senior Center volunteer

Colin Warwick is a problem solver. After retiring in early 2021 following a distinguished career in the technology industry, Colin turned his attention toward volunteering. He serves on the board of trustees at First Parish of Sudbury, is secretary of the Sudbury Democratic Town Committee, has served on the Council on Aging, and provides tech support to seniors through the Senior Center.

His volunteering with the Tech Support at the Senior Center, he says, made it clear that there is a “digital divide.”

“A lot of seniors are left out because everything today is on the computer,” he says, noting that he was born in 1958, which he calls “barely on the right side of the digital divide. For anybody older than me, computers were completely out of it.”

Computers and technology are now so ingrained in daily life that some degree of fluency is required to complete even basic tasks such as paying for a parking space or buying a movie ticket. Colin cites the example of the Sudbury Food Pantry, which moved to the website SignUpGenius to reserve slots for food pickup, increasing efficiency but also frustrating some users who weren’t familiar with the platform.

After a nearly 40-year career in the semiconductor industry, Colin felt “pretty tech-savvy on almost all the devices that are out there,” and was an obvious fit to help local seniors with technology issues. He works one-on-one with seniors, almost always in person at the Senior Center.

A native of Huddersfield, England, Colin first came to the U.S. in 1988, accepting a position at AT&T Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, where he met his wife, Helen Kim. After eight years at Bell Labs, Colin moved on to Lucent Microelectronics, Agere Systems, and Taloma Corporation before landing in Massachusetts with The Mathworks in 2002. It was then that Colin and his family settled in Sudbury.

“The Mathworks hooked us up with a realtor,” Colin recalls, “and they showed us various towns. We liked the vista of Sudbury—you go into town and see the First Parish church, Town Hall, and Grange Hall, and the educational system was highly rated, so that’s how we ended up in Sudbury. Helen got a job at [MIT’s] Lincoln Lab, so it was kind of equidistant between Natick and Lexington.”

After six years at The Mathworks, Colin moved on to Keysight Technologies, where he worked from 2008 until his retirement in January 2021. Before it became trendy, Colin worked remotely for the entirety of his tenure at Keysight, whose headquarters are in Santa Rosa, California.

Since retiring, in addition to his volunteer work with the town and the church, Colin has focused on sustainability and the environment. He joined the environmental group 350 Mass, a nonviolent organization that “uses an all-of-the-above approach to organizing to bring sufficient pressure to address the urgency of our climate crisis and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a just transition off of fossil fuels.” 350 Mass mobilizes for marches and demonstrations, lobbies legislators, writes ballot initiatives, and hosts public forums and webinars, among other activities. The “350” in the name comes from 350 parts per million, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere considered safe by Dr. James Hansen, formerly of NASA, and other climate scientists.

“I was concerned for my children,” Colin says of his interest in climate change and his affiliation with 350 Mass. “We burned through the planet and trashed it, basically. I felt that the problem can’t be solved at the individual level. You can recycle and put solar panels on, but I’ve just felt that it is a governmental issue.”

While Colin says that “we’re not living in a sustainable society,” he does have hope that “humans are very innovative,” noting the speed at which a COVID-19 vaccine was developed.

With all of his volunteer interests, Colin doesn’t have a lot of time for leisure, but he does enjoy reading—usually biographies. At the time we spoke, he was immersed in Yo-Yo Ma’s *Beginner’s Mind*, and prior to that he polished off Walter Isaacson’s *Leonardo Da Vinci*—perhaps an appropriate choice for this modern-day Renaissance man.