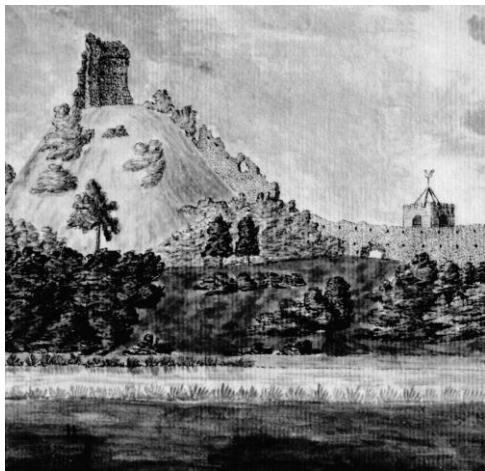




# Suffolk Records Society

Registered Charity No 1084279

You are warmly invited to attend the 52nd AGM of the Society and celebrate the launch of the 57th volume which will be introduced by the editor, Jennifer Ward on **Thursday 1st May 2014 at 7.30pm, at ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, HIGH STREET, CLARE.**



## **ELIZABETH DE BURGH, LADY OF CLARE (1295-1360) – Household and other Records**

**Edited by Jennifer Ward**

Noble widows were powerful figures in the later Middle Ages, running their own estates and exercising considerable influence. Elizabeth de Burgh (1295–1360), daughter of one of the most powerful earls in England and cousin of Edward II, lost her third husband at the age of twenty-six, and spent the rest of her life as a widow. In 1317, having inherited one-third of the lands of her brother, Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, she established herself at Clare, which became the main administrative centre for her estates in East Anglia, Dorset and South Wales. She enjoyed a noble lifestyle, was lavish in her hospitality to family and friends and entertained Edward III in

1340. She displayed her piety through her patronage of religious houses and her foundation of Clare College in Cambridge. Her life and activities are portrayed in vivid detail in her household accounts and her will, and over 100 accounts of various types survive from the years of her widowhood. The records chosen illustrate daily life in Clare Castle with its furnishings, religious practice, visitors, food and drink, livery and retainers, travel, and business. They paint a vivid picture of the life and work of a noble family in the fourteenth century.

**RSVP:** If you are coming to the AGM you may collect your book then; if you are unable to attend, it will be posted to you. Unless you already pay by Standing Order, members may pay their annual subscription to the Membership Secretary at the AGM or post it to SRS Membership Secretary, 8 Orchid Way, Needham Market, Ipswich, IP6 8JQ.

**Wine and light refreshments will be served and members are welcome to bring a guest**

**Please detach and return the slip below to me, or ring my mobile: 07876 496065, or email me at [claire@ejbarker.co.uk](mailto:claire@ejbarker.co.uk) Please also use this slip to update your membership details if necessary**

**Claire Barker, Hon Secretary, Westhorpe Lodge, Westhorpe, Stowmarket, IP14 4TA**



\* Delete where applicable \*

I am/We are\* able/unable\* to attend the AGM in Clare on Thursday 1st May 2014

Name(s).....

Address.....

Email address ..... Tel .....

I/WE\* WILL BE BRINGING A GUEST YES/NO\*

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# Suffolk Records Society

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**The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Records Society will be held in St Peter and St Paul Church, High Street, Clare on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at 7.30pm**

Claire Barker  
Hon Secretary

## A G E N D A

Apologies for absence

1. Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting (attached)
2. Trustees' Report for the year 2013-2014 (attached)
3. Financial Statements for 2012-2013 and Independent Examiner's Report (attached)
4. Resolution: ***It is proposed that all overseas subscriptions should be increased to £20 per annum and UK institutions to £17 per annum.***
5. Report on volumes in progress
6. Election of Chairman: *Mr Victor Gray*
7. Election of Officers: the following are eligible for re-election:  
Hon Membership Secretary: *Mrs Tanya Christian*  
Hon Treasurer: *Mr Eric Maule*      Co-ordinating Editor: *Mr David Sherlock*  
Hon Secretary: *Mrs Claire Barker*      Charter Series Editor: *Dr Nicholas Karn*
8. Election of Council Members: the following are eligible for re-election:  
*Dr David Allen*      *Dr Jane Fiske*      *Dr Nicholas Amor*  
*Rev Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Kt*      *Mr Bob Malster*      *Ms Kate Chantry*  
*Professor Richard Wilson*      *Dr Harvey Osborne*  
*Dr John Blatchly*      *Dr David Dymond [President]*
9. Election of Independent Examiner:  
*Mrs Rosemary Unthank is proposed as Independent Examiner*
10. Votes of thanks
11. Volume 57: ***Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare [1295-1360] – Household and other Records*** introduced by the Editor, Jennifer Ward.

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE MEETING**

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# Suffolk Records Society

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## **MINUTES OF THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK RECORDS SOCIETY IN ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, LOWESTOFT ON THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2013 AT 7.30PM**

The Chairman welcomed the Society's guests: Mr David Butcher, General Editor of volume 56 and his wife; Mr Stuart Jones, Treasurer of the Port of Lowestoft Research Society, and his wife; Mr and Mrs Kim Gibson-Wynes who contribute so generously to the Society's publishing costs every year.

He also welcomed Mr Peter Clifford, Managing Director of Boydell & Brewer, the Society's publishers, Mr Cliff Evans who was Secretary of the Society from 1993-2003 and 38 members of Council and the Society.

Apologies had been received from Professor Richard Wilson, Dr Nicholas Karn, Mr Norman Scarfe and 127 other members of the Society.

### **1413 Minutes**

The minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 19th July 2012 at Bury St Edmunds which had already been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

### **1414 Trustees' Report for the year 2012-2013**

The Chairman introduced the Report which had previously been circulated. There were no questions on the Report and it was received unanimously.

### **1415 Financial Statement**

The Hon Treasurer introduced the Statements of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2012. These had previously been circulated and had been audited by Mrs Rosemary Unthank. The payment to Boydell & Brewer was for last year's volume, The Diary of Winifred Challis. Sundries included the first payment towards designing new membership leaflets. Grants had again been received from the Gibson-Wynes Trust and Suffolk County Council. A further donation had been received for the Nesta Evans Fund after last year's AGM increasing it to £953. There had been a small loss on the investments but over the year they had recovered and increased. The society invested its money because a better income was received. On average 5.6% interest has been received on our investments compared with 0.5% from the bank. A Virgin Money postal account had also been opened which paid 2.6%. In the Charters Series royalties income was £985 as a result of good sales of the Bohun of Fressingfield Cartulary. The Chairman thanked Mr Maule for his excellent management of the Society's financial affairs.

Mr Victor Gray proposed the adoption of the accounts, seconded by David Sherlock, carried unanimously.

### **1416 Report on volumes in progress**

David Sherlock announced that the next volume about Lady Elizabeth de Burgh of Clare and edited by Jennifer Ward was due to be delivered to Boydells later in May. The volume for 2015 would be the Wills of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk, 1627-1628. This had been prepared in draft some years ago by Marion Allen, but Dr Blatchly was now editing it for publication. The money from the Nesta Evans Fund would go towards the publishing costs, and it would be a fitting memorial.

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## **1417 Election of Chairman**

The Chairman recommended Mr Victor Gray as Chairman. Mr Gray had been Senior Assistant Archivist at Suffolk Record Office, then County Archivist in Essex and then Director of The Rothschild Archive. He could think of no-one better to carry forward the Society's work of bringing Suffolk's archives and records to the general public.

Dr David Dymond proposed Mr Gray, seconded by Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, carried unanimously. Dr Blatchly then vacated the Chair.

## **1418 Election of Vice-President**

The Chairman, Mr Victor Gray recommended that Dr Blatchly be appointed a Vice President. Dr Blatchly would then be co-opted onto Council so that his knowledge, advice and skills would not be lost to the Society.

Dr Harvey Osborne proposed Dr Blatchly, seconded by Mr Robert Malster, carried unanimously.

## **1419 Election of Membership Secretary**

Mrs Tanya Christian had taken over from Roger Wolfe on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 and members were asked to ratify her appointment.

Proposed by Dr Blatchly, seconded by Dr Osborne and carried unanimously.

## **1420 Election of Officers**

The Chairman read a list of Officers prepared to stand for re-election:

Hon Treasurer: Mr Eric Maule; Hon Secretary: Mrs Claire Barker; Co-ordinating Editor: Mr David Sherlock; Charters Series Editor: Dr Nicholas Karn.

Their election was proposed en bloc by Professor MacCulloch, seconded by Dr Dymond and carried unanimously.

## **1421 Election of Council Members**

The Chairman read a list of Council members prepared to stand for re-election: Dr David Allen, Dr Jane Fiske, Dr David Dymond, Dr Nick Amor, Professor Richard Wilson, Mr Bob Malster, Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Dr Harvey Osborne, Ms Kate Chantry.

Their election was proposed en bloc by Revd Roger Job, seconded by Dr Blatchly and carried unanimously.

## **1422 Election of Independent Examiner**

Mrs Rosemary Unthank was proposed as Independent Examiner by Mrs Tanya Christian, seconded by Dr Amor and carried unanimously.

## **1423 Votes of thanks**

The Chairman thanked Rev Michael Asquith, rector of St Margaret's for allowing the Society to use the Church and the verger for organising the microphones and sound system. He also thanked the Society's guests and those residents of Lowestoft who had attended. He then introduced Revd Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch Kt who gave a speech in tribute to Dr Blatchly, his life and achievements and his tenure as Chairman of the Society over the past 25 years. He presented Dr Blatchly with six bottles of Louis Roederer Champagne on behalf of the Society. Dr Blatchly replied with his thanks to all Council members, Officers and members of the Society who had supported him over the last 25 years.

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## **1424 Volume 56**

David Sherlock introduced Mr Robert Malster, the editor of Volume 56 *The Minute Books of the Suffolk Humane Society, A Pioneer Lifesaving Organisation and the World's First Sailing Lifeboat, 1806-1892*. He spoke of how he had come to discover the Minute Books in the first place, the purpose of the Humane Society and how it came to take on responsibility for the lifeboat the *Frances Ann*. He ended by returning the Minute Books to Mr Hugh Sims, Secretary of the Lowestoft Fishermen's and Seafarers' Benevolent Society. Mr Sims, in turn, donated the books to the Lowestoft branch of Suffolk Record Office. Mr Malster was thanked by the Chairman for producing another fine volume in the Records Society canon.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013/14

1. Trustees and Council members for the year were Mr Victor Gray (Chairman), Dr David H Allen, Dr Nicholas Amor, Mrs Claire Barker, Dr John M Blatchly (co-opted 2013), Ms Kate Chantry, Dr David P Dymond, Dr Jane Fiske, Dr Nicholas Karn, Prof Diarmaid N J MacCulloch, Mr Robert W Malster, Mr Eric Maule, Dr Harvey Osborne, Mr David Sherlock, Professor Richard G Wilson. Council consisted of six Honorary Officers, nine elected and one co-opted members
2. At the 2013 AGM, held in St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft, Volume 56, *The Minute Books of the Suffolk Humane Society, A Pioneer Lifesaving Organisation and the World's First Sailing Lifeboat, 1806-1892* was launched with a talk by the Editor, Robert Malster.
3. As of the 1st January 2014, there were a total of 377 members. There are 297 individual members (including 5 life members) and 80 institutional members. A new membership leaflet has been designed and printed in order to attract new members.
4. An investment profit of over £3,000 increased the amount added to the Society's funds by £4,700. The year's surplus was boosted by a special donation of £500 and by several grants towards the cost of the 2014 volume. An account was opened at Virgin Money in order to obtain a better interest rate. Since the year end, cash has been invested in M & G Charifund for a better spread of investments coupled with a good income.  
With no Charters volume published during the year, there is a small excess of receipts in the Charters account.
5. As in previous years, Council registers its gratitude to Suffolk County Council and to the Gibson-Wynes Charitable Trust for their grants towards the Society's publication costs.
6. GENERAL SERIES: Editorial work on several future volumes is well in hand. The next to appear is likely to be the Nesta Evans memorial volume, edited by Marion Allen under the general editorship of John Blatchly, and filling an important gap in the published series of the Wills of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk, 1620-1640, begun in 1986. During the year, the Council accepted proposals for two further volumes: 'The Crown Pleas of the Suffolk Eyre Roll of 1240' edited by Eric Gallagher and 'The Household Inventories of Helmingham Hall: 1597, 1626 and 1707', to be edited by Moira Coleman.
7. CHARTERS SERIES: While no volume was published this year, work is progressing steadily on Dr David Allen's forthcoming edition of the charters of the Priory of St Peter and St Paul in Ipswich. The considerable body of charters scattered among a number of archives and libraries has largely been copied and the tasks of transcribing and dating are now well under way.  
Meanwhile Dr Vivien Brown's work on the charters of the town of Bury St Edmunds is moving towards completion, the General Editor, Dr Nicholas Karn, is collecting material for an edition of the charters of Rumburgh Priory, and the prospect has opened up of an edition of Dunwich charters, to be part of a multi-disciplinary research project on coastal erosion.
8. The Society meets on Thursday 1 May 2014 in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Clare for the AGM, at which we shall launch volume 57, Dr Jennifer Ward's edition of *'Elizabeth de Burgh Lady of Clare (1295-1360): Household and Other Records'*.

Victor Gray  
Chairman April 2014

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## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SUFFOLK RECORDS SOCIETY**

I report on the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rosemary Unthank

Chartered Accountant  
Felixstowe

1st March 2014