



Suffolk Records Society

Registered Charity No 1084279

You are warmly invited to attend the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Society and celebrate the launch of the 60th volume which will be introduced by the editor, Alan Mackley, on

Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, Blythburgh, IP19 9LP

THE RESTORATION OF BLYTHBURGH CHURCH 1881-1906 Edited by Alan Mackley

In 1881, after decades of mouldering into ruin, the grand 15th-century church of Blythburgh, 'The Cathedral of the Marshes' was closed as unsafe. This might have marked the end of what, for centuries, had been a Suffolk landmark and is today a much-loved icon of this beautiful corner of the county.

In the end the church was saved, but only after a bitter quarter-century of dispute, involving Blythburgh vicars, local committees and, most importantly, William Morris, through his recently formed Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The arguments became rancorous and were fought out at national as well as local level. Blythburgh was, for a time, the focus of debate about what was reasonable, proper and sensible in preserving historical buildings.

Dr Alan Mackley has spent many years researching the history of Blythburgh and the surrounding area and will introduce and launch his latest book which brings to life the characters, events and arguments at the centre of the debate.

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 at the AGM or post it to the SRS Membership Secretary, 8 Orchid Way, Needham Market, Ipswich, IP6 8JQ.

NB If you elected to receive this invitation by email then AGM papers are now available to download from the website www.suffolkrecordsociety.com

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

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



* Please delete where applicable *

I am/We are* able/unable* to attend the AGM at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh on Thursday 11th May 2017

Name[s]

Address/Email for changes or corrections.....

.....

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

Registered Address: Westhorpe Lodge, Westhorpe, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4TA

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The 55th Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Records Society will be held in Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, Blythburgh IP19 9LP on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.30pm.

Claire Barker
Hon Secretary

AGENDA

Apologies for absence

1. Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting (attached)
2. Trustees' Report for the year 2016-2017 (attached)
3. Financial Statements for 2015-2016 and Independent Examiner's Report (attached)
4. Report on volumes in progress: *Mr David Sherlock*
5. Election of Chairman: *Mr Victor Gray*
6. Election of Hon Treasurer: *Mr Clive Mees*
7. Election of Officers: the following are eligible for re-election:

Hon Membership Secretary: *Mrs Tanya Christian* Hon Secretary: *Mrs Claire Barker*
Hon Co-ordinating Editor: *Mr David Sherlock* Hon Charter Series Editor: *Dr Nicholas Karn*

8. Election of new Council Member: *Mr Clive Paine*
9. Election of Council Members: the following are eligible for re-election:

<i>Dr David Dymond [President]</i>	<i>Rev Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Kt</i>
<i>Dr David Allen</i>	<i>Dr Jane Fiske</i> <i>Dr Nicholas Amor</i>
<i>Mr Bob Malster</i>	<i>Ms Kate Chantry</i> <i>Professor Richard Wilson</i>
<i>Dr Harvey Osborne</i>	

8. Election of Independent Examiner:

Mrs Rosemary Unthank is proposed as Independent Examiner

9. Votes of thanks

10. Volume 60: **THE RESTORATION OF BLYTHBURGH CHURCH 1881-1906**, will be introduced by the editor, Dr Alan Mackley

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE MEETING

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**MINUTES OF THE 54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK RECORDS SOCIETY IN THE
CRYPT OF ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 21 WESTGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS, IP33
1QG ON THURSDAY 12TH MAY 201 AT 7.30PM**

The Chairman welcomed all members of the Society and its guests: Mr Patrick Chung, Mayor of St Edmundsbury and Mrs Chung, John Saunders, Chairman of St Edmund's History Society, Alex McWhirter, curator of Moyses Hall Museum and three generations of the Young family.

Apologies had been received from the Rev Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Dr Nicholas Karn, Dr Jane Fiske, Dr Nicholas Amor, Dr Harvey Osborne, Mr and Mrs K K Gibson-Wynes, Fr Mark Hackeson, Cllr Sarah Stamp, Mrs Joy Rowe and 137 members of the Society.

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Dr John Blatchly who had died suddenly in September and said there was a short tribute to him in this year's volume, which was complemented by a much fuller one written by Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch on Dr Blatchly's retirement as the Society's Chairman in volume 58. The Chairman also announced the sad news of the very recent death of Mr Derek Charman, County Archivist for East Suffolk and founder member and Secretary of the Society from 1957 to 1970.

1447 Minutes

The minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2015 at University Campus Suffolk which had already been circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

1448 Trustees' Report for the year 2015-2016

The Chairman introduced the Report which had previously been circulated. Membership was falling very gradually and there was a continuing need to encourage new members but finances were very healthy and there was a strong list of excellent proposed volumes in the pipeline. There were no questions on the Report. The report was proposed by Eric Maule and seconded by Tanya Christian and carried unanimously.

1449 Financial Statement

The Treasurer introduced the Statements of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2015. These had previously been circulated and had been examined by Mrs Rosemary Unthank. A grant of £250 had again been received from Suffolk County Council and the Gibson-Wynes Trust had increased their grant to £300 to go towards publishing costs. £1043 was the final sum received in memory of Nesta Evans which had been put towards the publishing costs of volume 58. Other costs included the website and its upkeep and more membership leaflets. For the Charters Series, although the £3 per month payment from Miss Begum had been resolved with the bank and a repayment had been made, the payments were still continuing. Though there had been no volume published, income was still accumulating. The Treasurer proposed the adoption of the accounts, seconded by Richard Smith and carried unanimously. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his continuing valuable work in securing the financial well-being of the Society through wise and informed investments.

1450 Report on volumes in progress

David Sherlock, the Co-ordinating Editor, announced that Volume 60 in 2017 would be on the subject of the restoration of Blythburgh Church at the beginning of the 20th century, edited by Dr Alan Mackley. The situation with proposed volumes was buoyant. Mr Peter Ledger asked if Council had considered increasing the membership subscription. He felt that the volumes produced were of such a high value that membership should not be given away. The Treasurer replied that Council had indeed looked into increasing the cost of membership but felt at the moment it was not needed. Many members paid their subscription by standing order and any change tended to result in more people cancelling rather than increasing their subscription.

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Direct Debit payments which could be increased by the Society were too expensive a proposition. However the subscription for international members and institutions and for UK institutions had been substantially increased to cover the growing postal costs.

Mr Sherlock was thanked by the Chairman for overseeing another excellent book for the Society and for continuing to supervise an impressive line of proposed volumes.

1451 Election of Chairman

Eric Maule proposed Victor Gray as Chairman, seconded by Margaret Statham and carried unanimously.

1452 Election of Officers

The Chairman thanked all the officers of the Society for their hard work and support. He read a list of Officers prepared to stand for re-election:

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

Their election was proposed en bloc by Jean Sheehan, seconded by Diana Maywhort and carried unanimously.

1453 Election of Council Members

The Chairman thanked all the members of Council for their support and assistance over the year particularly for their guidance and consideration of proposed volumes. He 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 Robert Malster, the Rev Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Dr Harvey Osborne, Ms Kate Chantry.

Their election was proposed en bloc by Martyn Taylor, seconded by Brian Milner and carried unanimously.

1454 Election of Independent Examiner

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

1455 Votes of thanks

The Chairman expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the Society to Fr Mark Hackeson of St Edmund's Catholic Church and to the officers and members of the Society.

Dr David Dymond, President of the Society, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr Victor Gray for all his hard work on behalf of the Society ensuring that while it still continued to produce the excellent academic volumes for which it was well-known, it continued making progress and maintaining its relevance in an increasingly digital future.

1456 Volume 59 – Rookwood Family Papers 1606-1761

The Chairman introduced the editor, Dr Francis Young who then gave a whistle-stop tour of the Rookwood family's Catholicism across the period covered by his volume. Members were urged by the Chairman to read the introduction and documents to understand the family stratagems necessary to ensure their survival. Dr Young was the youngest editor in a decade, disproving the theory that editing was solely a retirement pursuit. If further proof was needed then one just had to read his previous volume on the Gages of Hengrave which had been published in 2015 and which emphasised his breadth of knowledge and erudition.

Dr Young informed members of a forthcoming conference on Catholic East Anglia in Norwich on 11 June.

The Chairman thanked members for coming and said that the next AGM and launch of Volume 60 would be at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh in May 2017.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

1. Trustees and Council members for the year were Mr Victor Gray (Chairman), Dr David Allen, Dr Nicholas Amor, Mrs Claire Barker, Ms Kate Chantry, Mrs Tanya Christian, Dr David Dymond, Dr Jane Fiske, Dr Nicholas Karn, Revd Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Mr Robert Malster, Mr Eric Maule, Dr Harvey Osborne, Mr Clive Paine, Mr David Sherlock, Professor Richard Wilson. Council consisted of six Honorary Officers and ten elected members.
2. At the 2016 AGM, held in the Crypt of St Edmund's Catholic Church, Bury St Edmunds, Volume 59, *Rookwood Family Papers 1606-1761* edited by Dr Francis Young, was launched with an introductory talk by the editor.
3. MEMBERSHIP: As of 1 January 2017 there were 275 individual members (including 4 life members) and 78 institutional members. Once again the year has seen a slight reduction in members, in line with the experience of other records societies, but requiring vigilance on the part of Council in trying to halt or reverse this pattern.
4. FINANCE: The surplus for the year was £1657. The higher subscription payable by institutions has increased this income and it just covers the printer's cost of the annual volume. Other income adequately covers other costs and we are fortunate in still receiving a grant from Suffolk County Council and an increased amount from the Gibson-Wynes Charitable Trust. Our investments have also performed well. Since the year end, it has been decided to give our brokers full discretion to manage the portfolio. No Charters Series volume this year and the net income has been accumulated.
5. GENERAL SERIES: While no new proposals for volumes were accepted during the year, the sequence of volumes for the next few years seems guaranteed. Forthcoming volumes are likely to include an edition of the household inventories of Helmingham Hall, 1597-1740, edited by Moira Coleman; and poor law records of the Incorporated Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, 1765-1826, edited by Dr. John Shaw.
6. CHARTERS SERIES: Dr David Allen has completed the transcription and introduction for an edition of the charters of the Priory of St Peter and St Paul in Ipswich. It is hoped that the first of two volumes will be ready for publication within the next twelve months. Dr Vivien Brown's work on the Bury St Edmunds town charters continues.
7. The Society meets on Thursday 11th May 2017 in Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh for the AGM at which we shall launch volume 60, *The Restoration of Blythburgh Church, 1881-1906* edited by Dr. Alan Mackley.
8. Council established a working party to investigate ways in which the Society's website could be used to enhance the range of material offered to members and to researchers in Suffolk history.
9. During the year, the Council of the Society, recognising the key importance of the Suffolk Record Office to its work, made a donation of £5,000 in support of the proposed development of a new Record and Heritage Centre (currently known as The Hold) in Ipswich.

Victor Gray
Chairman February 2017

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Suffolk Records Society			Charter Series		
Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2016					
			<u>2,015</u>		<u>2015</u>
Subscriptions	456	518	Editor's expenses	48	53
Sales	10	18			
Interest	351	380	Excess of receipts		
Royalties	67	215	over payments	960	1,197
Income Tax repayment	88	83			
Donation	36	36			
	<u>1,008</u>	<u>1,250</u>		<u>1,008</u>	<u>1,250</u>
Excess of Receipts	960	1,197	Decrease in valuation	171	0
Increase in Valuation	0	374	Surplus	789	1,571
	<u>960</u>	<u>1,571</u>		<u>960</u>	<u>1,571</u>
Balance Sheet 30 September 2016					
		<u>2,015</u>			<u>2015</u>
Accumulated Funds	18,567	16,996	Cash at Bank	0	13,091
Surplus	789	1,571	Investment	5,305	5,476
	<u>19,356</u>	<u>18,567</u>		<u>5,305</u>	<u>18,567</u>

Maule 23 January 2017

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

I report on the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 30th September 2016.

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.

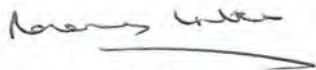
BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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

9th February 2017