



# Suffolk Records Society

Registered Charity No 1084279



## A G E N D A

Apologies for absence

Welcome by the Acting Chairman

1. Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting held by Zoom on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021
2. Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2021-2022
3. Financial Statements for 2020-2021
4. Reports on volumes in progress: Mr David Sherlock, Co-ordinating Editor  
Dr Nicholas Karn, Charters Series Editor
5. **Election of Chairman:** Dr Harvey Osborne
6. **Election of Officers:** the following are eligible for re-election:  
Hon Membership Secretary: Mrs Tanya Christian,  
Hon Secretary: Mrs Claire Barker,  
Hon Treasurer: Mr Clive Mees,  
Hon Co-ordinating Editor: Mr David Sherlock,  
Hon Charters Series Editor: Dr Nicholas Karn
7. **Election of Council Members:** the following are eligible for re-election:  
Revd Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch, Kt,  
Dr Jane Fiske,  
Dr Kate Jewell,  
Ms Kate Chantry,  
Mr Charles Farrow [Norfolk Record Society],  
Dr Keith Briggs [SIAH],  
Dr David Allen
8. **Election of co-opted Council member:** Mrs Vivienne Aldous
9. **Election of President:** Professor Richard Smith
10. **Election of Vice Presidents:** Dr David Allen, Mrs Marion Allen, Mrs Vivien Brown
11. **Election of Independent Examiner:** Mrs Rosemary Unthank is proposed as Independent Examiner.
12. The 2022 Volume 65, *Monks Eleigh Manorial Records, 1210-1683* will be introduced by the editor, Vivienne Aldous.

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The 58<sup>th</sup> AGM was held by Zoom on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7pm.

Apologies for Absence: Mr Victor Gray, Mr Charles Farrow (Council) and 17 members

The Acting Chairman, Dr Harvey Osborne welcomed everyone to the Society's first Zoom AGM, including Mr Stephen Chanko who was attending from Torrington, Connecticut. Dr Osborne was standing in for the Chairman who was unwell. He reported the sad news of the deaths of Mr Bill Serjeant and Mrs Joy Rowe, both former members of Council and Vice-Presidents. Their obituaries appear in volume 64. Mr Kim Gibson-Wynes had also died during the year. He had supported the Society for many years with an annual grant towards publishing costs and this support had been recognised at the Melton AGM in 2019, when he was very proud to be elected a Vice-President. Dr Osborne also reported that Dr David Dymond, the Society's President, was very ill. As this news had been received very recently, Dr Dymond's name would still appear in the election for Council members.

Due to the pandemic it had not been possible to hold a launch for the two Charters Series volumes 20 and 21: *The Cartularies and Charters of the Priory of Saints Peter and Paul* edited by Dr David Allen. Both volumes had been very well received and had garnered some glowing reviews. Charters Series members had received their membership volumes, but copies of both were available from the Secretary at the members' price of £30 each.

Volume 63, the membership volume for 2020: *Cornelius Collett and the Suffolk Yeomanry, 1794-1820*, edited by Dr Margaret Thomas should have been launched at The Longshed in Woodbridge in May 2020. The Society was grateful to the Norfolk and Suffolk Yeomanry Association for a grant towards the publishing costs. Copies were still available from the Secretary.

## **Z/1493 Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (previously circulated)**

The minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> AGM held at Melton in 2019 would be signed by the Chairman when possible. All in favour.

## **Z/1494 Trustees' Annual Reports**

Two sets of Annual reports had been presented. All in favour.

## **Z/1495 Financial Reports**

The Treasurer presented two sets of accounts which had been audited. The value of investments was slightly down over the last six months. The signatories on the bank accounts will have to be updated. Grants of £350 had been received towards the publishing costs of volume 65. The Treasurer proposed the adoption of both sets of accounts, seconded by Mrs Barker. All in favour.

## **Z/1496 Future volumes**

Volume 65 will be *Monks Eleigh Manorial Records, 1210-1683* edited by Vivienne Aldous to be published in 2022, followed by a volume on Medieval Newmarket edited by James Davis and Joanne Sear in 2023.

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## **Z/1497 Charters Series**

Dr Karn reported that Mrs Vivien Brown had completed her typescript on the Bury St Edmunds Town Charters covering mid 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century urban holdings. It will probably be two volumes, with publication likely in 2023.

## **Z/1498 Election of Chairman**

Mr Victor Gray was proposed by Dr Osborne and seconded by Mr Sherlock. All in favour.

## **Z/1499 Election of Officers**

The election of officers en bloc was proposed by Mr David Addy, seconded by Mr Clive Paine. All in favour.

## **Z/1500 Election of Council members**

The election of 6 current Council members was proposed en bloc by Mrs Sarah Doig and seconded by Mr John Saunders. All in favour.

## **Z/1501 Election of co-opted Council members**

The election of the 3 Council members co-opted in 2020 was proposed en bloc by Dr John Shaw and seconded by Mr Addy. All in favour.

## **Z/1502 Election of Vice-President**

Mr Bob Malster had been invited by Council to become a Vice-President of the Society. His election was proposed by Mrs Christian and seconded by Mr Paine. All in favour.

## **Z/1503 Election of Independent Examiner**

Mrs Rosemary Unthank was proposed as Independent Examiner by Professor MacCulloch, seconded by Mr Ray Whitehand. All in favour.

## **Z/1504 Proposals to amend the Constitution**

The proposals had been set out in the Agenda to make the date of the AGM less restrictive and to enable the Society to hold electronic meetings if necessary. All in favour of both. The Secretary would inform the Charity Commission.

## **Z/1505 Volume 64: *The Crown Pleas of the Suffolk Eyre of 1240 – introduced by Dr Henry Summerson.***

This volume of the crown pleas largely consists of criminal proceedings. They are from the earliest surviving roll made for the King's justices at their eyre held in Suffolk in AD1240. Its companion volume of civil pleas was published by the Society in 2009.

Dr Osborne thanked Dr Summerson for launching the volume and for taking questions afterwards. He thanked the Society's officers for their continued hard work throughout the pandemic and all those members who had used Zoom to attend the meeting. He hoped that we would all be able to meet in person in 2022.

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## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021/22

1. Trustees and Council members for the year were Dr Harvey Osborne (Acting Chairman), Mrs Vivienne Aldous (co-opted), Dr David Allen, Mrs Claire Barker, Dr Keith Briggs (SIAH representative), Ms Kate Chantry, Mrs Tanya Christian, Mr. Charles Farrow (NRS representative), Dr Jane Fiske, Dr Kate Jewell, Dr Nicholas Karn, Revd Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Mr Clive Mees, Mr David Sherlock. Mr Clive Paine and Mr Robert Malster served as Vice-Presidents. Mr Victor Gray served as Chairman until his death in September 2021. Dr David Dymond served as President until his death in August 2021. Mr Kim Gibson-Wynes served as a Vice-President until his death in January 2021. Council consisted of six Honorary Officers and eight elected members.
2. The 2021 AGM was held online on 19 August 2021 when volume 64 *Crown Pleas of the Suffolk Eyre of 1240* edited by Dr Eric Gallagher, was launched with a lecture by the General Editor Dr Henry Summerson. The Constitution was amended to include electronic meetings.
3. **MEMBERSHIP:** As of 7<sup>th</sup> January we had 305 members: 63 institutions and 242 individual members, including 4 Life Members. 2021 saw another large drop in membership numbers although we are getting new ones joining via the website regularly often from outside the county and from abroad.
4. **FINANCE:** This has been a quiet year with little change in our finances. Points to note are that although membership income was slightly down, it was compensated by an increase in on-line sales. Our publishing cost is for the *Crown Pleas of the Suffolk Eyre of 1240*. Postage of publications to members shows a continuing increase. There has been an increase in investment valuation of £4249 (7.8%) which is a dividend return of 4%. Investment is pitched at medium risk for medium return. The Charters Series has shown a steady increase in membership and sales income over the year with little expenditure.
5. **GENERAL SERIES:** The SRS will publish *Monks Eleigh Manorial Records, 1210-1683* edited by Vivienne Aldous and published by Boydell and Brewer as Volume 65 in the series in 2022. Volume 66 for 2023 will be *The Records of Medieval Newmarket* edited by James Davis and Joanne Sear.
6. **CHARTERS SERIES:** Dr Vivien Brown has completed the text of her edition of the Bury St Edmunds Town Charters, and it is in the hands of the Charter Series editor. We intend to publish this large edition in two parts, and hope that the first can be published at the end of 2022 or in early 2023.
7. **WEBSITE:** The website is doing well and we continue to see an increase in book sales. We have increased the digital material with more indexes courtesy of David Sherlock and the Ilketshall Probate Inventories. According to Google Analytics the digitised volumes are seeing online activity, with *The Wills of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk 1620-24* (Volume 31) being the most popular.  
The SRS has been actively involved in developing a new website called the **Suffolk History Hub** with the SIAH. The site will serve as a gateway to a range of Suffolk's historical societies, explaining the expertise of each society with an aim to help those new to the county's rich historical heritage find the information they are looking for. Initial designs for the site have been approved and the hope is to have it up and running in the next couple of months.
8. The Society will hope to meet at an AGM in Monks Eleigh Village Hall on 26 May 2022 to formally launch Volume 65 *Monks Eleigh Manorial Records, 1210-1683*.

Harvey Osborne  
Acting Chairman

April 2022

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## Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2021

	2021	2020		2021	2020
Subscriptions	<b>5,052</b>	5,272	Boydell & Brewer Ltd	<b>4,141</b>	6,452
			Warehouse		
Sales	<b>1,226</b>	409	storage	<b>367</b>	362
			Warehouse		
Investment income	<b>2,271</b>	2,699	postage	<b>2,019</b>	1,022
Royalties	<b>199</b>	662	AGM	<b>207</b>	0
Gift aid	<b>690</b>	0	Digitizing records	<b>1,044</b>	1,044
Donations	<b>480</b>	145	Web site hosting	<b>720</b>	720
Excess of payments over receipts	<b>642</b>	2,259	Management fees	<b>722</b>	747
			Sundries	<b>1,340</b>	1,099
	<b>10,560</b>	11,446		<b>10,560</b>	11,446
Excess of receipts over payments	<b>0</b>	0	Excess of payments over receipts	<b>642</b>	2,259
Increase in value of investments	<b>4,249</b>	0	Loss on sale of investments	<b>0</b>	963
Deficit to Accumulated Funds	<b>0</b>	15,777	Reduction in value of investments	<b>0</b>	12,555
			Surplus to Accumulated		
			Funds	<b>3,607</b>	0
	<b>4,249</b>	15,777		<b>4,249</b>	15,777

## Balance Sheet 30 September 2021

	2021	2020		2021	2020
Accumulated Funds	<b>70,444</b>	86,221	Cash at Bank	<b>3,862</b>	7,087
Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>3,607</b>	-15,777	Virgin Money	<b>9,680</b>	9,661
			Cash at Brokers	<b>1,996</b>	2,746
			Investments at Charles		
			Stanley	<b>58,513</b>	54,264
			Owed to Charters	<b>0</b>	-3,314
	<b>74,051</b>	70,444		<b>74,051</b>	70,444

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**Charters Series****Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	2020		<b>2021</b>	2021
Subscriptions	<b>461</b>	355	Editor's expenses	<b>0</b>	79
Sales	<b>362</b>	59	Bank charges	<b>87</b>	60
Dividends and interest	<b>17</b>	134	Publishers	<b>0</b>	2,604
Royalties	<b>68</b>	121	Postage	<b>25</b>	39
Donation	<b>36</b>	36	Expenses	<b>74</b>	0
Excess of payments over receipts	<b>0</b>	2,077	Excess of receipts over payments	<b>758</b>	0
	<b>944</b>	<u>2,782</u>		<b>944</b>	<u>2,782</u>

**Balance Sheet 30 September 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	2020		<b>2021</b>	2020
Accumulated funds	<b>12,877</b>	16,298	Cash at bank	<b>13,635</b>	9,563
Excess of receipts over payments	<b>758</b>	-3,421	Owed by SRS	<b>0</b>	3,314
	<b>13,635</b>	<u>12,877</u>		<b>13,635</b>	<u>12,877</u>

I have examined the books and records of the Suffolk Records Society Charter Series and from the information supplied to me confirm that the accounts are in accordance with those records.

Rosemary Unthank  
11th April 2022