



Suffolk Records Society

Registered Charity No 1084279



The 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Records Society will be held at the Memorial Village Hall, Walsham le Willows, IP31 3AA, on Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

Apologies for absence

Welcome by the Chairman

1. Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting held at Orford on 23rd May 2024
2. Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2024-2025
3. Financial Statements for 2023-2024
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 Vivienne Aldous
Dr John Greenacre, Dr Joanne Sear, Mrs Denise Parkinson
Mrs Judith Berry, [Suffolk Archives], Mr Charles Farrow [Norfolk Record Society]
Dr Keith Briggs [SIAH]
8. President of the Society: Professor Richard Smith.
Vice-Presidents: Dr David Allen, Mrs Marion Allen, Mrs Viven Brown, Mr Clive Paine.
Dr Jane Fiske and Professor Mark Bailey have been invited by Council to become Vice Presidents of the Society.
9. **Election of Independent Examiner:** Mrs Rosemary Unthank is proposed by the Treasurer as Independent Examiner.
10. The 2025 Volume 68: *Manorial Account Rolls and Rentals of Walsham le Willows, 1327 to 1559* will be introduced by Mark Bailey, Professor of Later Medieval History at the University of East Anglia
11. Any other business and votes of thanks

WINE AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE MEETING

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The 61st AGM of the Suffolk Records Society was held in Orford Town Hall on Thursday 23rd May 2024, at 7pm.

Apologies for Absence: Revd Professor Sir D MacCulloch, Dr N Karn, Dr J Sear, Mr C Farrow, Dr K Briggs (Council), Dr D Allen, Mrs M Allen, Mr C Paine and Mrs V Brown (Vice-Presidents) and 56 members of the Society.

The Chairman, Dr Harvey Osborne welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Dr Jane Fiske, retiring member of Council and Mrs Bridget Hanley, Senior Archivist from Suffolk Archives. He thanked Council members and the officers of the Society for all their hard work during the previous year.

1530 Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting (previously circulated)

The minutes of the 60th AGM held in Bury St Edmunds on 17th May 2024 were signed by the Chairman. All in favour.

1531 Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2023-2024

The Annual report had been presented. Proposed by Vivienne Aldous and seconded by Denise Parkinson. All in favour.

1532 Financial Report

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts for the year 2023-2024. He was pleased with the stability of the finances which in the main matched expenditure to income. A surplus of £654 had been made despite a steady decline in subscription income and the cost of the Newmarket volume. Investments had shown a modest profit this year. There was no change in the accounts for the Charters Series. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Dr Greenacre and seconded by Professor Smith. All in favour.

1533 Future volumes

The volume 68 for 2025 would be *Manorial Account Rolls and Rentals of Walsham le Willows 1327-1559* edited by the late Audrey McLaughlin and revised by Mark Bailey. The diary of a World War One soldier from Ipswich, edited by Paul Botwright would be the 2026 volume. Mr Sherlock was thanked by Dr Osborne for continuing to oversee the production of fine academic volumes for the Society.

1534 Charters Series

Dr Karn was unable to attend but it was understood that he was still working on the forthcoming Bury Town Charters, edited by Mrs Vivien Brown.

1535 Election of Chairman

Dr Osborne vacated the chair and he was proposed by Mr Sherlock and seconded by Mrs Rosemary Mees. All in favour.

1536 Election of Officers

The election of officers en bloc was proposed by Dr Jane Fiske, seconded by Mr Peter Ledger. All in favour.

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1537 Election of Council members

The election of 7 current Council members was proposed en bloc by Professor Richard Smith and seconded by Mr Paul Simmons. All in favour.

1538 Election of Independent Examiner

Mrs Rosemary Unthank was proposed as Independent Examiner by Mr Clive Mees and seconded by Mrs Tanya Christian. All in favour.

1539 A presentation of a Prunus padus tree and a card was made to Dr Jane Fiske who was retiring from Council after nearly thirty years. The Chairman thanked her for her invaluable contribution to the life of the Society and for her editorship in 1989-1990 of the two volumes of James Oakes' Diaries.

1540 Volume 67: *The Great Sea Floods of 1953, The Records of P.J.O. (John) Trist* was introduced by the editor Denise Parkinson.

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Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2024

	2024	2023		2024	2023
Subscriptions	4,561	4,888	Boydell & Brewer Ltd	4,751	5,293
Sales	1,094	1,077	Warehouse storage	57	248
Investment income	3,013	2,357	Postage and printing	1,457	1,326
Interest	78	41	AGM	434	388
Royalties	1,784	673	Web site hosting	801	752
Gift aid	775	790	Expenses	29	66
Donations	262	236	Management fees	720	720
			Sundries	638	480
			Digitizing records	474	0
			Account fee	60	60
			BALH subscription	75	75
			Donation	1,000	0
			Excess of receipts over payments	1,071	654
	11,567	10,062		11,567	10,062
Excess of receipts over payments	1,071	654	Surplus to accumulated funds	7,101	1,065
Increase in value of investments	6,030	411			
	7,101	1,065		7,101	1,065

Balance Sheet 30 September 2024

	2024	2023		2024	2023
Accumulated funds b/f	68,429	67,364	Cash at bank	11,686	10,280
Surplus	7,101	1,065	Virgin Money	5,772	5,712
			Cash at brokers	151	546
			Investments at Charles Stanley	57,921	51,891
	75,530	68,429		75,530	68,429

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

Rosemary Unthank
April 2025

Suffolk Records Society			Charter Series		
Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2024					
		2024	2023		
				2024	2023
Subscriptions		220	289	Publishers	2,874 191
Sales		529	76	Bank charges	60 60
Interest		97	45	Postage	169 0
Royalties		0	134	Digitization of records	500 0
Donation		36	36	Excess of receipts over payments	0 329
Excess of payments over receipts		2,721	0		
		3,603	580		3,603 580
Balance Sheet 30 September 2024					
		2024	2023		
				2024	2023
Accumulated funds b/f		14,385	14,056	Cash at bank	11,664 14,385
(Deficit)/Surplus		-2,721	329		
		11,664	14,385		11,664 14,385
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					
April 2025					

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024/25

1. Trustees and Council members for the year were Dr Harvey Osborne (Chairman), Professor Richard Smith (President), Dr Vivienne Aldous, Mrs Claire Barker (Secretary), Dr Keith Briggs (SIAH representative), Ms Kate Chantry [+2024 Suffolk Archives], Mrs Tanya Christian (Membership Secretary & Webmaster), Mr Charles Farrow (NRS representative), Dr John Greenacre, Dr Nicholas Karn (Charters Series Editor), Revd Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch, Mr Clive Mees (Treasurer), Dr Joanne Sear, Mr David Sherlock (Co-ordinating Editor). Dr Jane Fiske resigned from Council in May 2024. Mr Clive Paine, Dr David Allen, Mrs Marion Allen and Mrs Vivien Brown were accepted as Vice-Presidents. Council consisted of six Honorary Officers and eight elected members.
2. **The 2024 AGM** was held at Orford Town Hall where Volume 67 *The Great Sea Floods of 1953, The Records of P.J.O. Trist*, was introduced by the editor, Denise Parkinson.
3. **MEMBERSHIP:** As of 13th January 2025 we had 274 members: 52 institutions and 222 individual members, with only 1 Life Member left. 2024 saw another drop in membership numbers but we are continuing to regularly recruit new members via the website, often from outside the county. However, many of these do not continue their membership past the first year.
4. **FINANCE:** The SRS accounts through 2024 continue on a stable footing with our income matching our expenditure. The one significant expense was the publication of *The Great Sea Floods of 1953 Vol 67*. We were able to make a financial donation to The Historic Town Trust towards the costs of publishing a historic map of Ipswich. The Charters account was similarly able to support publication of *The Franciscans in Medieval Bury St. Edmunds* and the digitization of some of our previous records.
5. **GENERAL SERIES:** The Society will publish volume 68 *Manorial Account Rolls and Rentals of Walsham le Willows, 1327 to 1559* in May 2025.
6. **CHARTERS SERIES:** Dr Karn (Charter Series Editor) reported minimal progress since the publication of the *Franciscan* volume edited by Francis Young. He had received Vivien Brown's typescript on the Bury Town Charters which required editing. He will begin this work in the spring of 2025, possibly sending it to Boydells in the summer. It is large enough to be two volumes and might be ready by 2026.
7. **WEBSITE:** The website has continued to do well in terms of book and membership orders, although 2025 so far has been unusually quiet. However the website has struggled with some technical issues following a software update. Cadence suggested the site needed rebuilding and quoted £4-£5k to do this. Identity Web Design were also asked for a quote which was considerably less at £2800. It was decided to accept this quote and transfer hosting of the site and email as soon as possible as it was likely costs would only increase. The site is due to go live very soon. Cadence are still digitising volumes for us, in particular the set of 8 volumes of Constable's Correspondence.
8. The Society will hold the 62nd AGM in the Memorial Village Hall in Walsham le Willows on **Thursday 8th May 2025**, when volume 68 will be launched and introduced by the editor Professor Mark Bailey.

Harvey Osborne
Chairman

March 2025