

The 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Records Society will be held at The Hold, Fore Street, Ipswich IP4 1LE Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7.30pm

A G E N D A

Apologies for absence

Welcome by the Chairman

1. Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting held at Walsham le Willows on 8th May 2025
2. Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2025-2026
3. Financial Statements for 2024-2025
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 [i]:** the following are eligible for re-election:
Hon Secretary: Mrs Claire Barker
Hon Treasurer: Mr Clive Mees
Hon Co-ordinating Editor: Mr David Sherlock
Hon Charters Series Editor: Dr Nicholas Karn
Hon Web Manager: Mrs Tanya Christian
- Election of Officers [ii]:**
Hon Publicity Officer: Mrs Denise Parkinson
Hon Membership Secretary: Mr Paul Botwright [co-opted during the year]
7. **Election of Council Members:** the following are eligible for re-election:
Revd Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch, Kt, Dr Vivienne Aldous [SIAH]
Dr John Greenacre, Dr Joanne Sear, Mr Charles Farrow [Norfolk Record Society], Mrs Judith Berry, [Suffolk Archives]
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, Professor Mark Bailey
9. **Election of Independent Examiner:** Mrs Rosemary Unthank is proposed by the Treasurer as Independent Examiner.
10. The 2026 Volume 69: *An Ipswich Man's War, The First World War Diaries of George Punchard* will be introduced by the editor, Paul Botwright
11. Any other business and votes of thanks

WINE AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED BEFORE THE MEETING

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

Tel: 01449 781078 * Mob: 07876 496065 Email: claire@ejbarker.co.uk

Website: www.suffolkrecordsociety.com * Email: info@suffolkrecordsociety.com

The 62nd AGM of the Suffolk Records Society was held in the Memorial Village Hall in Walsham le Willows on Thursday 8th May 2025, at 7.30pm.

Apologies for Absence: Revd Professor Sir D MacCulloch, Dr N Karn, Dr J Sear, (Council), Dr D Allen, Mrs M Allen, Mr C Paine and Mrs V Brown (Vice-Presidents) and 38 members of the Society.

The Chairman, Dr Harvey Osborne welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Mrs Deirdre Burrell, Audrey McLaughlin's daughter. Mrs Burrell thanked the Society for the production of such an excellent book. She also thanked Professor Bailey for coming to launch the book and Frances Jenner and the Walsham History Group for the exhibition of Audrey's past work and books she had written about Walsham. The Chairman also welcomed Richard Belson, chair of the Parish Council and Frances Jenner of the History Group. Ian Bartholomew from the Community Council was unable to attend but had been at the hall earlier in the afternoon to set up the chairs and the audio-visual equipment. He also welcomed a member Bob Hawes and his wife Sue who had family connections with Walsham and Westhorpe and had travelled down from Barnsley for the event. The Chairman thanked Sarah Cousins and her team from 'Good For A Party' for the excellent catering and also thanked Council members and the officers of the Society for all their hard work during the previous year.

1541 Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting (previously circulated)

The minutes of the 61st AGM held in Orford Town Hall on Thursday 23rd May 2024 were signed by the Chairman. Proposed John Greenacre, seconded Suzie Morley. All in favour.

1542 Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2024-2025

The Annual report had been presented. Proposed by Jane Ingle and seconded by David Sherlock. All in favour.

1543 Financial Report

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts for the year 2024-2025. He was pleased with the stability of the finances which in the main matched expenditure to income. A surplus of £1,000 had been made. Investments had shown an increase in value of £6,000 this year. There was no change in the accounts for the Charters Series. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr Farrow and seconded by Mrs Christian. All in favour.

1544 Future volumes

The volume 69 for 2026 would be The diary of George Punchard, a World War One soldier from Ipswich, edited by Paul Botwright, which was ready to go to the publisher.. Mr Sherlock was thanked by Dr Osborne for continuing to oversee the production of fine academic volumes for the Society.

1545 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.

1546 Election of Chairman

Dr Osborne vacated the chair and he was proposed by the President, Professor Smith and seconded by Mrs Rosemary Mees. All in favour.

1547 Election of Officers

The election of officers en bloc was proposed by Dr Vivienne Aldous, seconded by Jane Ingle. All in favour.

1548 Election of Council members

The election of 8 current Council members was proposed en bloc by Jane Ingle and seconded by Isobel Pugh. All in favour.

1549 Dr Jane Fiske and Professor Mark Bailey have been invited by Council to become Vice Presidents of the Society.

1550 Election of Independent Examiner

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

1551 Volume 68: *Manorial Account Rolls and Rentals of Walsham le Willows, 1327 to 1559* which was originally edited by the late Audrey McLaughlin and revised with an introduction by Mark Bailey, Professor of Later Medieval History at the University of East Anglia. Professor Bailey launched the volume giving a picture of life in late-medieval Walsham with details of its society and economy, its agricultural practices and the local tensions following the national political turmoil in the summer of 1450. There were many questions from the floor and Professor Richard Smith thanked Professor Bailey for the talk and for his work on what was an excellent volume.

Suffolk Records Society

Registered Charity No 1084279

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025/26

1. Trustees and Council members for the year were:
 Dr Harvey Osborne (Chairman) Professor Richard Smith (President) Mrs Claire Barker (Secretary),
 Mr Clive Mees (Treasurer) Mrs Tanya Christian (Membership Secretary(Dec 2025) Webmaster),
 Mr Paul Botwright (co-opted Membership Secretary Jan 2026) Mr David Sherlock (Co-ordinating Editor),
 Mrs Denise Parkinson (co-opted Jan 2026 Publicity and Marketing) Dr Vivienne Aldous Mr Charles Farrow (NRS)
 Dr John Greenacre Dr Nicholas Karn (Charters Series Editor) Revd Professor Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch,
 Dr Joanne Sear Mrs Judith Berry (Head of Suffolk Archives and The Hold).
 Vice-Presidents: Mr Clive Paine, Dr David Allen, Mrs Marion Allen, Mrs Vivien Brown, Professor Mark Bailey and
 Dr Jane Fiske.
2. **The 2025 AGM** was held at the Village Memorial Hall in Walsham le Willows when Volume 68 *Manorial Account Rolls and Rentals of Walsham le Willows, 1327-1559* originally edited by Audrey McLaughlin, was introduced by Professor Mark Bailey who had revised the volume and the introduction.
3. **MEMBERSHIP:** As of the 15th January 2026 we had 256 members: 48 institutions and 208 individual members, with 1 life member left. 2025 saw another significant drop in membership, exacerbated by less new members joining via the website or at the AGM. Paul Botwright has agreed to replace Tanya Christian as Membership Secretary and will take over duties during 2026.
4. **FINANCE:** The SRS accounts through 2025 continued on a stable footing with our income matching our expenditure. Significant expenses were the publication of *Manorial Account Rolls of Walsham le Willows, Vol 67* and the setting up of the new website. The General account showed an increase in cash assets and the value of shares had increased. Very little change on the Charters account.
5. **GENERAL SERIES:** The Society will publish volume 69 *An Ipswich Man's War, The First World War Diaries of George Punchard* edited by Paul Botwright in May 2026.
6. **CHARTERS SERIES:** Dr Karn (Charter Series Editor) reported progress on the Bury Town Charters since the Index had been completed. It now needed to be edited and converted to an electronic format with assistance from Boydells. It will be two volumes and possibly published later in 2026.
7. **WEBSITE:** The website has continued to do well in terms of book and membership orders, although 2025 has been unusually quiet. The new site provided by Web Identity went live on the 13th March 2025. Fundamentally it is very similar to the old website with little change in design, but sitting on a different platform and using different software. There were some obvious teething problems, but most of these have been overcome, although the designated SRS email (info@suffolkrecordsociety.com) has been the most challenging. Most of the volumes that were due to be digitised by Cadence last year did not appear, so the volumes went to Suffolk Archives to be digitised at a more favourable rate. There are now 31 digitised volumes on the website. At the end of the year we implemented a Christmas sale which saw a significant rise in books sales and some additional members, this continued into January 2026.
8. The Society will hold the 63rd AGM in The Hold in Ipswich on **Thursday 14 May 2026**, when volume 69 will be launched and introduced by the editor Paul Botwright.

Harvey Osborne (Chairman)
 March 2026

Suffolk Records Society					
Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2025					
	2025	2024		2025	2024
Subscriptions	3,963	4,561	Boydell & Brewer Ltd	5,288	4,751
Sales	830	1,094	Warehouse storage	28	57
Investment income	3,092	3,013	Postage and printing	844	1,457
Interest	91	78	AGM	528	434
Royalties	1,852	1,784	Web site hosting and design	3,722	801
Gift aid	612	775	Zoom	16	29
Donations	4	262	Management fees	720	720
Boydell & Brewer Ltd - refund	2,685	0	Sundries	480	638
			Digitizing records	432	474
			Account fee	55	60
			BALH subscription	75	75
			Donation	0	1,000
			Excess of receipts over payments	941	1,071
	13,129	11,567		13,129	11,567
Excess of receipts over payments	941	1,071	Surplus to accumulated funds	6,632	7,101
Increase in value of investments	5,864	6,030	Loss on sale of investments	173	0
	6,805	7,101		6,805	7,101

Balance Sheet 30 September 2025

	2025	2024		2025	2024
Accumulated funds b/f	75,530	68,429	Cash at bank	12,728	11,686
Surplus	6,632	7,101	Virgin Money	5,848	5,772
			Cash at brokers	7,051	151
			Investments at Charles Stanley	56,535	57,921
	82,162	75,530		82,162	75,530

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
9th February 2026

Suffolk Records Society**Charter Series****Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 September 2025**

	2025	2024		2025	2024
Subscriptions	203	220	Publishers	0	2,874
Sales	60	529	Bank charges	60	60
Interest	141	97	Postage	0	169
Donation	36	36	Digitization of record	0	500
Excess of payments over receipts	0	2,721	Excess of receipts over payments	380	0
	440	3,603		440	3,603

Balance Sheet 30 September 2025

	2025	2024		2025	2024
Accumulated funds b/f	11,664	14,385	Cash at bank	12,044	11,664
Surplus/(Deficit)	380	-2,721			
	12,044	11,664		12,044	11,664

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
9th February 2026

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

Tel: 01449 781073 * Mobile: 07876 496065 Email: claire@ejbarker.co.uk

Website: www.suffolkrecordsociety.com * Email: info@suffolkrecordsociety.com