
Suffolk View

A PUBLICATION OF THE SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Issue No: 103

Winter 2006

Season's Greetings



Are we good tenants of the earth?

see page 7

Suffolk Preservation Society



Campaign to Protect
Rural England

The County Branch of CPRE

Founded in 1929, the SPS, a registered charity, (registered charity number 249981), is working to safeguard the buildings and landscape of Suffolk.

Offices:

Little Hall, Market Place,
Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk
CO10 9QZ

Telephone 01787 247179

Fax: 01787 248341

Email: info@suffolksociety.com

Website: www.suffolksociety.com

Patron:

The Lord Lieutenant
The Lord Tollemache

President Emeritus:

The Duke of Grafton KG

President:

The Lord Marlesford DL

Chairman:

Dr. Michael Coleman, M Inst P, C Phys.

Director:

Richard Ward, Dip.TP MRTPI

Honorary Secretary:

Colin Clapham, FCIS

Honorary Membership Secretary:

John Paton

Honorary Treasurer:

Patrick Corney, FCA

*For editorial matters, queries and
submissions contact the Editor:*

Linda Clapham,
Little Hall, Market Place, Lavenham,
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9QZ

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Little Hall Garden, Lavenham, South Suffolk

Front: Millenium Garden

Back: house viewed from garden

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Snippets from the Cutting Room



***SPS Director,
Richard Ward,
writes -***

The work of the Society could not be undertaken without the help and support of the many volunteers who devote precious time to foster its aims. I rarely have the opportunity to thank you but do so now. Your work and endeavours are critical to the success of the Society and are its strength. It is, therefore, with sadness that I have to report the passing of Sheila Gooch, a volunteer from the Waveney District, and one of our staunchest supporters, *see page 21*. The Society offers her husband Michael its deepest sympathy.

The Society made changes to its website to accommodate the 'Worst of the East' Competition run in conjunction with BBC Radio Suffolk, and is in the process of creating one which will be attractive, flexible and easy to use, and in-pit, so please bear with us during this on-going process.

As for the Competition there were some interesting comments, not least from one young lady, aged 7, in respect of the new Cinema at Bury St. Edmunds, *see page 12, Issue 102, Suffolk View*. Her email to the website summed up her view of the cinema saying "Please vote for our Cinema, I did - it's yucky". Pity she was not present at the Planning Committee when the decision was made to approve it! Norman Foster, (no, not the architect of international repute) added his comment "I consider the Cineworld Cinema to be in a league of its own. Unlike the other candidates, this building has the greatest dichotomy between its exterior and the product it contains. A cinema is a place where the human imagination is projected: in all its colour, drama, and extremes. But, the exterior of this building fails totally to express the

vast creativity of film which a cinema has the potential to contain." Sentiments I, and I am sure many others, agree with.

I have had the opportunity recently to talk about the Society's important work to various groups and organisations. They included The Clare Society, The Woodbridge Society, European Union of Women, Needham Market Society, Sudbury Society, and Town and Parish Councils at a SALC Training Day on Local Development Frameworks, *see page 23*. This, combined with coverage in the media, ensures the Society's profile is ever increasing. It is, therefore, regrettable that at the end of the year the Society will be losing the services of Media Consultant, Paul Simon. I take this opportunity to thank him for his excellent work on the Society's behalf over the past two years.



Left to right: Sue Tamlyn, Clive Harridge RTPI, Richard Ward, Ralph Carpenter and Dr. Mike Coleman

The Society, on 7th November, was delighted and honoured to welcome to Little Hall the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Clive Harridge, during his visit to the East of England Region. Discussion focused on affordable housing and its delivery, the Elmswell Affordable Housing Project, housing design, rural issues and ensuring that the voice of communities is heard in the planning system.

This latter point remains an issue with one particular Suffolk District Council. The Society is seeking, in this specific case, to convey the many comments made by that district's communities and town and parish councils, but it appears reluctant to listen. The Society aims to attain good working relationships with all Councils, and does this in most cases, but equally it needs to be able to speak out when appropriate and not be lambasted for so doing.

Comment

SPS Chairman, Dr. Mike Coleman, writes

Having been your Chairman for more than a year now I thought you would like to know what has been achieved and what will be forthcoming in 2007.

Two new members of staff have joined the office team and they have settled into their posts at Little Hall very well.

At the start of the year, I initiated a thorough Review of the way the Society and its associated charities are structured, organised and operate. I have already seen a *draft* of the Report and, by the time Suffolk View reaches you, the Society's Executive Committee will have had their first opportunity to discuss the recommendations. Various changes are proposed and will be assessed over the coming months, with a view to their consideration at the next AGM.

We are very pleased to welcome Executive Committee Member John Paton to the additional post of Honorary Membership Secretary, which has been vacant. He has prepared a comprehensive Programme of Events for 2007 – *it is published on page 30 of this edition* – which represents a change in the way we have organised events in the past, and we hope will attract new membership. We particularly want you to be aware that **all** events, whether organised by Little Hall or the Districts, are open to **all** Members. Your guests are also welcome at our events but please bear in mind that, as always, availability at some may be limited. Early booking is advisable to avoid disappointment.

The Society's innovative *Affordable Housing Project* to construct, in association with Orwell Housing and others, sustainable affordable housing in Mid Suffolk at Elmswell, has now received planning permission and work started in November. As you will see on page 28 of this Edition of Suffolk View, Baroness Rendell of Babergh has agreed to 'turn the first sod of earth'.

We have made well-researched practical presentations to influence the *East of England Plan (RSS14)*, the document that will affect all of us and our county for the next 20 years, and in the New Year we will join forces with others to challenge the enormous Snoasis project at Great Blakenham, and other particularly damaging planning projects. It seems increasingly that Suffolk, and other counties, are under ever-increasing threat from business, developer and economic interests anxious to exploit any opportunity to make a 'fast buck' regardless of the consequences on local people and their communities. The ripples spread ever wider.

I am confident that the Society is in good health and is fighting fit to take on the challenges that lie ahead. For this we must particularly thank our Director and the staff at Little Hall, both paid and volunteer, and I am sure you will join with me in wishing them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Likewise, I wish you all a joyous festive period.

Elmswell is on the Map!

Who would volunteer to fund themselves for a marathon cycle ride of 500 miles around the East and South of England for charity? The answer is only those with the philosophy and faith in life of Dr. Marina Voikhanskaya. In late August just after breakfast, on a mild, damp day Marina cycled into Elmswell from Bury St. Edmunds for a photo-opportunity to highlight the pressure on our countryside, as proposed in the *East and South East of England Plans*, (the Government's planning proposals for future housing and development in the East and South East Regions).

The Editor found Marina standing with her old but trusty racing bike by the Elmswell Village sign, talking to another cyclist, Lorraine Nicholls, a local resident, who had already been given a CPRE membership form! The village of Elmswell was chosen as a 'pit-stop' because, as readers of *Suffolk View* will already know, it is the location for the new Affordable Housing Scheme. (See *Suffolk View Issues 101 & 102*.) To briefly reiterate, the Society felt it had a duty to demonstrate the way forward by promoting an exemplar affordable housing project, which was well-designed and sustainable, and to this end it commissioned and funded the RIBA to implement the competition on its behalf. RHM Architects, the winning London practice, received planning permission and work on the site will start in November, (see page 28 *Stop-Press News*).

This is an optimistic story when set against the fight against unsustainable development impact on the Region. But, as I learnt, 'optimism' is what Marina is all about. "As I cycle around and see wonderful

countryside I always hope for the best - I'm not always rewarded, but I still hope." This, remarkably, is from a lady who celebrates her 72nd birthday this year, (*no, this figure is not a typing error*). Marina was born and raised in St. Petersburg where she graduated from medical school in 1960. She worked as a psychiatrist until she left Russia and came to England as a political refugee. She started cycling at the age of 44 and last year undertook a similar cycle ride to highlight the threats to the Green Belt and to draw attention to CPRE's work.

While speaking with Marina I was delighted to see that Lorraine had darted off with the CPRE collecting tin to a line of waiting cars brought to a halt by the railway crossing barrier – a captive audience! Asked what she thought of the affordable housing scheme in her village, Lorraine said it was a "brilliant idea" and was looking forward to seeing it built. Discussing the various sustainability aspects of the scheme Lorraine thought that some of the new technologies "*might be ones we could use in our own homes.*"

Good luck Marina as you cycle your 50 miles each day, with Norfolk and Suffolk nearly under your belt (*at the time of writing*), only Essex, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire to go - and thank you!

Editor's Note: Marina has raised over £3,000 to date. To sponsor her please donate online at – www.justgiving.com/MarinaV, or call 020 7981 2849 for a donation form.

Pictured left to right: Lorraine Nicholls and Marina Voikhanskaya



The Case has Opened – and Closed

Your little patch can be saved!

Regular readers of Suffolk View will recall, in the *Summer 2004 Edition, Issue No. 97, page 8*, the article asking ‘do we care enough about our little patch?’ SV discussed the plight of Catherine Robinson, and **The Friends of the Trap Grounds**, (the *trap grounds* being a three-acre reed-bed and three acres of scrubland, grassland, and woodland lying between the canal and the railway line in north Oxford). **Oxford City Council** planned to build houses on *their patch* and appealed against a High Court Judge ruling that the Trap Grounds be registered a Town Green for the local residents to enjoy in perpetuity. After a prolonged appeal process, the **House of Lords** has recently found in favour of The Friends of the Trap Grounds.

Developers and planning consultants are being advised to ignore at their peril the threat of village green registration applications. **Julian Boswall**, planning partner at law firm Eversheds, writing in ‘**Planning**’ in late September warned developers “*Village green applications are an objector’s dream. Anyone can lodge one, there is no fee and no risk of paying costs however unmeritorious the application or dishonest the supporting evidence.*” Oh dear, sour grapes?

Boswall states that **The Commons Act 2006** sets out important changes to village green law, with serious implications for landowners and developers. **The House of Lords** decision on proposals to register the Trap Grounds in Oxford as a Town Green under the **Common Registration Act** clarified a number of important points of law. This ruling means that, in the event of a village green registration claim, developers need to look at this aspect in their promotion of any house-building scheme on undeveloped



land. An applicant must show that the land has been, and continues to be, used by a significant number of local inhabitants for lawful sports and pastimes for 20 years, as of right.

Because of this important ruling it is now really worth campaigning to protect important local wildlife sites and village green spaces for future enjoyment. Catherine Robinson said “*after battling through the public inquiry, the High Court, the Court of Appeal, and the House of Lords, we have finally won our case (and helped to clarify the law of town greens in the process). I hope that we can now work with Oxford City Council, who own the land, to develop it as a Community Nature Reserve, for the benefit of wildlife and local people.*”

This is another ‘David versus Goliath’ planning success – but this precious pocket of wilderness would not have been rescued from development without the enormous determination of a devoted and hard-working few. *It can be done, and The Friends of the Trap Grounds have made easier that process!*

www.PlanningResource.co.uk
www.trap-grounds.org.uk
See Letters on page 28.

The Society's Conference

“Climate Change – What Can You Do?”

Individually we may not be able to save the world but we can all be good tenants of the earth. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), formerly the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, is to produce by December a Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change. Better late than never some might think, but too late for the East of England Plan. Will it brim with ideas for mitigation measures and adaptation without fully addressing the question of sustainable living within a one world footprint? Of course, this is difficult to achieve without world governments being of the same mind. However, as one speaker commented off the record “I believe this country has a duty to set the principles and targets and hope that others will follow. We have to start somewhere, we have to lead.”

The speakers for the day – Dr. David Viner, of the Climate Research Unit, School of Environmental Science at the University of East Anglia:

Sir Edward Greenwell, a Suffolk farmer and Past President of the Country Land and Business Association:

Matthew Chell, Co-ordinator of the East of England Climate Change Partnership:

Dr. Jane Powell of the University of East Anglia:

David Green, Environment Correspondent of the East Anglian Daily Times: and

Dr. Matthew Ling, Environment Manager, Ipswich Borough Council.

All focused on the evidence that our climate is changing as a result of human intervention and on the need for urgent action to try to reduce many of the consequences.

The Conference was introduced and chaired by the Society’s Chairman, Dr. Michael Coleman, and the following is a brief synopsis of the speakers’ individual addresses to Conference.

Dr. David Viner

‘The myths, human influence on the planet, the science of climate change, and impacts.’

Dr. David Viner ‘gave it to us full square and at a rate of knots’ - an authoritative and up-to-date assessment of the subject of climatic change, including climate history, present-day climate variation and climate



prediction, and the impacts of climate change on human welfare.

Through graphs and data, Dr. Viner demonstrated man’s contribution to global warming particularly since 1950. The 1990s have been the warmest decade globally over the past millennia. 1998 was the warmest year globally of the last millennium and 1999 was the warmest year in Great Britain since daily records began in 1659. 2005 saw the largest increase of

CO₂ concentrations on record. Global temperatures have risen by nearly one degree centigrade since 1860, unprecedented, and 2005 was also the second warmest to date for the globe, and for the northern hemisphere. July 2006 was the warmest month on record. Dr. Viner then took his audience through a series of graphs illustrating air temperature changes from 1860 to 2000, the geographical extent of warm or cold temperatures from BC 800 to AD 2000 indicating 100 years of widespread warmth in the 20th century, and a 'dancing' diagram showing how radiation works from the sun to the earth's surface and back to space. He then explored what forces the climate to change. Things like human activity – land-use changes and greenhouse gases - and other natural activity such as solar and volcanic activity.

He elaborated on changes that force scenarios globally. The extremes and changes in mean climate, the changes which effect world markets, national enterprise, global sustainability and local stewardship, and interestingly the different socio-economic scenarios which occur, and their outcomes.

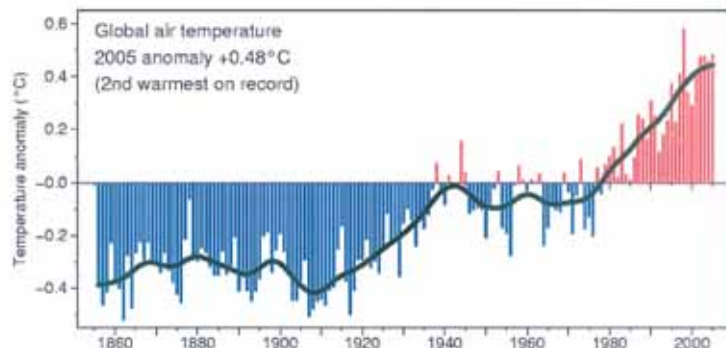
Small climatic changes can result in extreme events such as heat waves, floods, droughts, storms and hurricanes. During August, Sommieres in the Gard area of France, had 6 months rainfall "in a few hours". (There is, however, cynical

consolation for the boarding house landlady in Brighton in the fact that the tourism comfort index indicates that the warmer climates that we rush off to now will be much too hot, but Britain will be the tourist destination of the future!)

Dr. Viner left us with a few thoughts on the climate system:

- ***The world's climate is changing.***
- *There is discernible human influence, mostly during the 20th century, and this statement is supported by science.*
- ***The change in climate will enhance existing risks and introduce new ones.***
- *Climate change mitigation and adaptation responses must support sustainable development.*
- ***Climate change is not an environmental issue, it is a social and economic one.***
- *And, it is no use worrying about climate change unless you plan to take action!*

The Current State of the Climate
Global Temperature



Sir Edward Greenwell
The impact on agriculture, land-use and landscape of Climate Change.

Sir Edward Greenwell reminded Conference that 'not an acre of Suffolk has been unaffected by man in his quest for food, shelter and the other fruits of civilisation. The



landscape we see today would have been unrecognisable to a 19th Century eye, let alone a mediaeval one.' Not only has the landscape changed but so has the coastline, and it will continue to change. However, farmers and farming still had the biggest impact on the landscape and what happens in farming is fundamentally driven by economics. Farmers cannot afford to depart far from what works best

economically. They have always been quick to follow financial signals and if incentives are offered to grow crops to reduce greenhouse gas, or to sequester carbon or plant trees, they would comply.

Sir Edward's premise of a rise in temperature of between 1 and 3 degrees centigrade would give higher autumn and winter and lower summer rainfall, milder winters and hotter summers. Suffolk is very dry and sunny and its soils vary widely and abruptly in composition and fertility. This landscape is good for arable farming but offers small incentive for livestock. However, this situation could change with appropriate and enduring incentives.

The long-term decline in values of food commodities seems to be ending, and a range of factors, some linked to climate change, are indicating the way. The world population is still growing, and the world's poorest countries are becoming more prosperous, with an appetite for wheat, rice and meat. There is an obvious demand for fuels and bio-energy plants from our own farm land, which could lead to the UK exporting less cereal and have a major effect on our markets: and world food prices are likely to be supported by the loss of farmland in various parts of the globe because of a changed climate.

So Sir Edward did not see farming disappearing from the landscape of Suffolk, despite the more difficult climatic conditions. The rise in temperatures and changing rainfall pattern would create a demand for water to irrigate the vegetables and potatoes grown on the sandy soil. Water irrigation had become an essential because of quality criteria demanded by supermarkets. *Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies* (CAMS) are gradually being created across Suffolk and all licences to abstract are under review and may be cancelled, reduced or changed. Climate change predictions for East

Anglia suggest a slightly higher rainfall overall, but mostly in the autumn or winter, so winter water storage reservoirs are going to become necessary on many more farms in the future. If CAMS concludes that agriculture must surrender significant amounts of water, and cannot replace summer abstractions with winter storage reservoirs, there will be a battle.

There is an ecological argument that the reversion of light, sandy arable land back to the heath-land that prevailed between the wars would be highly desirable, but this is not going to be a course that farmers or land-owners will readily follow whatever the incentives. Farmers will be very reluctant to lose the capacity to farm their land, if they are unable to 'reverse' any subsequent land protection designation in the future.

There could be dramatic impacts on the landscape of the coast for Suffolk from *managed or unmanaged retreat* from the current defended line. *The Environment Agency* is engaged in creating *Shoreline Management Plans* for the Suffolk Coast and, in parallel, individual plans for our estuaries. There are two distinct views – that nature should be allowed to develop the coastline naturally versus the demand for the status quo to be maintained – and there is the issue of money. Reconciliation may be difficult.

Sadly some tree species will suffer, most of all the Beech, and parkland trees will be very vulnerable, but others will be quite tolerant to climate change: Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Corsican Pine, but not everyone will be delighted with some of the newer drought tolerant species like Eucalyptus. However, timber itself may become more valued – for fuel or for building as a substitute for brick and steel which are both very energy consuming.

Sir Edward considered, however, that *global cooling* would have a much more

devastating effect on humankind than global warming and although global warming will change our familiar landscapes, alter our ecology, and threaten

businesses and property, given a choice between the two he would prefer global warming. (Now there's food for thought.)

Matthew Chell
Consequences for the Built Environment

Matthew Chell's presentation centred on the practical approach to *adapting* to climate change and the *mitigation* measures which were needed to aid it.

For example, actions which help us prepare for changes in our climate and actions which help us reduce our greenhouse gas emission.

We adapt by improving flood defences, designing homes and infrastructure for higher temperatures, improve our water efficiency and at the same time improve energy efficiency, bringing on renewable technology, using private cars less and reducing air travel.

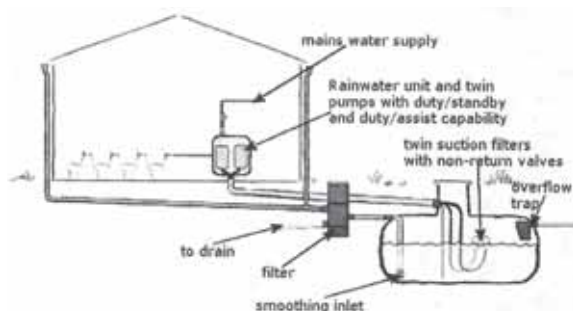


In the future we will need to keep warm and we will need to keep cool. Greater extremes in temperatures will concentrate minds. On the *warm front* we must consider options for insulation, draught proofing, passive solar gain, thermal mass, solar heating, heat pumps, ventilation heat recovery, and combined heat and power like district heating, fuel cells and micro-central heating pumps.

As for keeping *cool*, shading in summer through trees and vegetation, light coloured (thermally reflective) roofs and walls, 'green' roofs (turf and planting), design of windows (shutters) and doors and natural ventilation will help. We can design for more outdoor living. Most of these technologies are operational now as Matthew Chell's presentation showed. The houses of the future may look very different.

Flooding: adaptations

- *Location - risk assessment*
- *Green roofs*
- *Rainwater harvesting*



Photos (clockwise from above):
Thames Gateway London Partnership;
Municipal Planning Board, Linz,
Austria; Rainwater Harvesting
Systems

We need to look at our energy use – particularly our appliances and equipment, lighting and the way we cook. Also how to adapt to flooding – do a risk assessment of our location and incorporate a ‘green’ roof which will absorb water into the vegetation; and we need to harvest our excess rainwater. We will need sustainable drainage systems, to use the ground floors of our houses differently in flood areas and to adopt perhaps, in extreme cases, the idea of the floating house from far off regions where it is now used. It is important that we are educated to adapt, and that the technology is there, and that contingency plans are in place when needed.

In a world that wastes so much we already understand that our toilets and household equipment can use less water with the appropriate technologies, and we can harvest rainwater and ‘grey’ water (filtered water that has been used in the household system). We can enjoy designing outdoor gardens and spaces that can both protect and shade us from the excesses of the elements.

However, new building and development must set the standard, and all new concepts need to be designed-in for life at inception. (What, no more built-in obsolescence?)

Existing buildings should be assessed when either renovating or replacing old technology. People’s behaviour also needs to reflect a requirement for the conservative use of resources.

The South East Climate Change Partnership has produced a guide for developers, ‘*Adapting to climate change: a checklist for development*’. This covers categories such as looking carefully at the location, site layout considerations, the buildings’ structures, materials, drainage, water, outdoor space etc. It rather makes one wonder what they were doing before! However, it does put extra ‘checks’ and technology in place to try to ensure that property is viable for insurance purposes. The new technologies cover facilities like solar gain and natural ventilation, and developers need to ensure that the materials perform in extremes of climate conditions throughout the design life. One idea which is welcome is the permeable paving so that rainwater manages to reach the ground aquifers.

It will also be necessary, says Matthew Chell, to refit existing development and public buildings such as hospitals. (It would be good to know that our hospitals, at least, were state of the art technology.)

Dr. Jane Powell
Energy and Climate Change

Dr. Jane Powell, who is involved in the business of reducing the impact on the environment, asked “what can we do”?

In her presentation she looked at why energy is so important. This included the limits to fossil fuels; issues of security and risk; fuel



poverty and our changing climate. Energy security is likely to become more of an issue as the quantity of energy imports increases. By 2030, based on current trends, 90% of Europe’s oil and 80% of gas will be imported, often from countries with unstable governments. Nearly 3 million UK households are in fuel poverty in that they spend more than 10% of their income on energy. Even worse 1.6 million people lack access to electricity and two billion people are without clean and safe cooking fuels.

Dr. Powell, through illustrated graphs, showed once again the indications that natural and man-made factors are contributing to changes in our climate. The scientific basis for climate warming is well established, and we can already see the evidence as well as the impacts of climate change. We now need to both reduce the causes of climate change and prepare for its consequences.

Where do the damaging carbon emissions come from? Eighty per cent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are energy related: the other factor is land use changes.

CO₂ emissions will continue to increase with an estimated 60% increase between 2002 and 2025. In China and India CO₂ emissions are likely to increase by a factor of two.

To tackle the causes of climate change we need energy conservation, alternative energy sources and engineering solutions. Energy conservation includes both improving energy efficiency, reducing demand, and encouraging behavioural change. This applies not only to households but also to businesses, developers, architects, planners and builders. Behavioural change can be encouraged using market instruments such as carbon trading and energy taxes.

Alternative energy sources includes both 'renewables' and nuclear, while engineering solutions can include carbon sequestration and CO₂ burial. To decarbonise our energy supply we need to develop both technically and economically viable sources. A society with high energy demand will face future infrastructural challenges particularly if we change from a small number of

power stations to 'renewables' with a large number of small power sources. If these ways forward are to have a global impact we need to not only change fossil fuel dependence in the developed world but also to provide this technology to the developing world.

Dr Powell stressed the need for industry to also decarbonise its energy demand and to examine the labour, materials, water and energy that go into producing finished goods and the air and water emissions and waste that result.

Emphasis was placed on the fastest growing emissions sector, international aviation and shipping: the growing aviation industry will force even further emission reductions from all other sectors if we are to meet our emission targets.

Currently, to meet our Kyoto Commitment the UK must reduce GHGs by 12.5 per cent below the 1990 levels by 2008-12. **The UK CO₂ targets have been stepped up.** The previous target of 20 per cent below the 1990 levels by 2010 is now 60 per cent below the 1990 levels by 2050. Fifty per cent of the 2010 target can be achieved by energy efficiency measures. **The renewables target is for 10 per cent of electricity to be generated by 2010** (3.5 per cent was generated in 2004.)

The role of government is to implement and enforce minimum energy standards. As you will already have realised equity concerns will demand innovative policy mechanisms. All of the 60 per cent (*new target*) futures will require immediate action – *but some will require more action than others!*

David Green
A local and personal perspective.



David Green confessed that he was 'light green'. He composts, plants trees and hedging, buys 'green' and has a 'green' electricity supplier, so he reckons he is about average in the 'green stakes'. But he believes we all need to 'get greener'.

As consumers we need to send out the signals, and *buy products that change the world*. It goes without saying that we need to consume less energy and use efficiently what we do have in our homes. Some shoppers have become very discerning, rejecting excess packaging and buying more efficiently with fewer car journeys. *Governments want to be re-elected, says David, so they find it difficult to bring in strong policies that might not be popular. They 'play around the fringes' and will not do anything that is not economically competitive.*

There have been international success stories and in the UK good community

responses to do more locally, like retain our abattoirs, recycle, wind farms, and a wind turbine for each community. While nuclear power is a low carbon option, it involves use of a highly radio-active material so we have a conundrum as to how to bring-on new technology quickly enough. However, we do need to consume less energy and to make builders and planners more aware. Government planning guidance must reflect this.

It all needs 'a carrot and stick' approach. David thought that Dr. Jane Powell's idea of a 'carbon credit card' was perhaps a good way forward. We are all given a set amount of carbon credit to spend in whichever way we want, so if we wish to fly to Europe instead of using the train, fine, and run a four-wheel drive car, fine, but we would run out of carbon credit more quickly than those who chose to use a more carbon friendly transport. We could trade with others our carbon credit, but when it was all used up, would have to try to buy more from others with credit.

In the end we all had to consume less energy and use sparingly the world's resources as our contribution towards climate control.

Dr. Matthew Ling
'What can YOU do?'



Dr. Ling brought us back into local focus in Ipswich by addressing the communication issues – *the messages that catch our attention.*

Sustainability is key when talking in the same breath about regeneration schemes in Ipswich. With a multicultural population of 310,000 people within 10 miles of the town centre, diverse economies in

technology, shipping, manufacture, financial, business and insurance services, plus leisure and tourism and the public sector, it would need to have thought about its future and how it can sustainably provide for all its new development.

With a focus for regeneration in Ipswich at 'Waterfront' on the Quay, a new University, a Cambridge to Ipswich 'Hi-tech Corridor', and various other large housing and commercial development schemes, hotel and amenity buildings in the pipe-line, its vision to 2020 is huge. The Regional Spatial



SPS Director, Richard Ward, pictured here with some of the 14 students who attended the Conference from 9 Suffolk Schools.

"We have found it really interesting but the facts are quite scary" commented one student.

Strategy (RSS14) predicts for Ipswich in the Plan Period 15,000 homes at a rate of 750 a year in the market sector, 18,000 jobs created and a shortfall of 800 affordable homes each year. The new university alone will bring 5-7,000 students and staff; and student accommodation will be part of the integrated university and further education campus.

However, Ipswich Borough Council believes it has been well on the track of reducing the environmental impact of new housing development. Its Supplementary Planning Advice in 1997 set out its support and encouragement for the conservation of energy and the use of alternative and renewable sources of energy in the design and layout of development for new buildings and converted existing buildings. It covered many of the issues, from heat recycling and solar energy to encouraging local building materials or materials from sustainable sources.

Dr. Ling considered that it made sense to have local responsibility for local consumption and was supportive of 'renewables' for energy supply. It was secure, and the cost to householders and businesses could be reconciled. The vision for Ipswich up to 2020 was low carbon, climate-proofed communities: a zero waste action plan with a low energy town and a 'travel to work partnership'. This would be achieved through sustainable construction, a carbon reduction partnership and 10 per cent

'renewables' policy. Some of the sustainable build 'quick wins' on Dr. Ling's list included solar water heating, rainwater recycling including 'grey' water, compost bins (including wormeries), low dual-flush toilets, water and energy efficient appliances, ground source heat pumps and insulation measures. It was envisaged that most of these ecological design features should be designed-in for more cost effective solutions.

So how big is our footprint? We need to address our mode of transport, our homes and buildings, the energy we use, consider where our food comes from and how it is packaged, and how much waste we produce. In other words, is ours a sustainable 'one-world footprint' lifestyle - are we living within our ecological means?

If we want a pictorial message that catches public attention, says Matthew Ling, how about the fact that there are *five hot air balloons per person per year putting 9 million tons of CO₂ gas into the atmosphere!*



Suffolk Building Preservation Trust

SBPT Chairman, Sue Tamlyn, writes

Pakenham Water Mill - From Head Teacher to Head Miller

Pakenham Water Mill's Curator, 80 year old Roger Gillingham, has decided to put up his feet at the end of this season and spend time looking at other people's properties. His twenty colleagues, who work at the Mill every Thursday morning throughout the year, are banding together to give him and his wife National Trust Membership as part of their well-deserved retirement present.

Roger says "My life as Head Teacher for 15 years of Risby Primary School and before that Deputy Head of Bury's Guildhall Feoffment School was enjoyable and rewarding. Since I retired and started work at the Mill I have been able to welcome many of my ex-students when they visit."

Roger added that since he had taken over as Curator he had not only restored a lot of 18th and 19th Century machinery, milled hundreds of tons of flour, cleaned acres of floors, restored windows and doors, and planted wildflowers, but had also cleared countless tons of weed from the Mill Pond. "Since we acquired the Miller's House in 2000 we have done sufficient restoration work to attract even more people to this wonderful site at week-ends and Open Days. What I would really now like to see at the Mill is a fully-fledged Education Centre so that all local school children can share in my wonderful experiences here," ended Roger Gillingham.



Honorary Curator, Roger Gillingham, in action!

Chairman of the Mill Management Committee, Roger Bowden added "It will be difficult for anyone to succeed Roger – so much so that his job is to be divided between three volunteers in the future. We are, of course, delighted that Roger has promised to return to help us to take round school parties, and we hope that in the not too distant future we will be able to meet his ambition for a fully-fledged education centre at the Mill."

The Trust is currently running an Appeal for funds to repair, develop and enhance the Mill as a visitor centre: for details contact Sarah Grieveson at spectrums@btinternet.com

New Volunteers Required

Yes, please do volunteer if you have some spare time. At **Pakenham Water Mill** we are looking to extend the number of people willing to give a few hours at weekends and during school holidays in order to extend the opening hours to meet visitor demand and to offer refreshments.

Little Hall, Lavenham Museum and Garden

Little Hall Museum has now closed for the Winter and will open again in the Spring. However, tours of the house and garden continue for parties by prior arrangement. Volunteers are also needed for the house and garden, so please do get in touch.

Telephone Little Hall for details: 01787 247179

Planning 'Round-up' – the Society's Director writes

Local Development Framework Training

Local Development Frameworks, (LDFs), are the planning blueprints for a local district's area and will replace the District Local Plan. All Suffolk District Councils are preparing one.

The procedures for preparing LDFs, which are made up of a variety of documents, require Councils to engage with communities in respect of their content from the outset. However, communities have received little, if any, independent training on what to expect or what they should be trying to achieve. It is for this reason that the East of England Region of CPRE has held two workshop days for town and parish councils to explain all of the procedures associated with LDFs, so that they are empowered and can secure the right policies for their community.

Comments on Waveney & Ipswich LDFs

The Society has commented on LDF documents from both Councils. Generally it was able to support much of what was proposed. However, in relation to the Waveney Core Strategy Policy 1 which states: *"To achieve sustainable development, all development proposals must address issues, where appropriate, such as the need to reduce waste, reduce crime and anti-social activity, conserve and enhance biodiversity and reduce the effect of traffic on the environment,"* the Society stated the following needed to be added: *"reduce reliance on the private motor car especially in rural areas, assure that development takes place in a sustainable way, retain tranquillity in the countryside, and protect the countryside for its own sake."*

Ipswich Borough Council simultaneously submitted four parts of its LDF for

consideration, each involving around 23 questions and/or options! In responding, the Society's focus was to ensure that the needs of communities are met in a sustainable way in the LDF. The Society did express concern that the options offered were not comprehensive and suggested, in some instances, others as its preferred way forward. Affordable housing will be a major target in the LDF, as it is now, for the Council. The impact of traffic and congestion was raised - account needed to be taken of the amount of development taking place, both that which is already approved but not yet started, and that which has to be planned for in the future.

Creting Road, Stowmarket Housing

The Society objected recently, because of the very poor design, to a development proposal of mixed-use properties for this site made up, in part, of 83 flats. It appeared to be one of the worst the Society had seen in recent years. Suffolk Structure Plan Policy ENV3 states: *"to conserve and enhance the special character of Suffolk, the local planning authorities will require high standards of siting, design and landscaping in all development"*.

The Society suggested the proposal did the very opposite of the policy and, therefore, urged the LPA to refuse it.

Notcutts Site, Woodbridge – Up-date

The original planning application by McCarthy and Stone, (see pages 17 and 18 of Newsletter 101), is the subject of an appeal against non-determination. Suffolk Coastal District Council, (SCDC) subsequently decided they would have refused it. In the meantime, a revised application has been submitted. This is not significantly better and still fails in the

Society's view to deliver a proposal which matches the architectural standards of the surgery now being built on the adjoining part of the site. The Society has, therefore, maintained its objection. The fear is that SCDC Members may feel pressured to approve the new application.

Snoasis – Up-date

This development scheme has been 'called-in' for an Inquiry which is due to commence on 23rd January, 2007. The Society has offered funding and assistance to a group of objectors, the SNOasis Community Alliance, in order for them to be professionally represented at the Inquiry. The Appeal is scheduled to run for five weeks.

Adnams Brewery Site, Southwold – Up-date

This proposal, reported in *Suffolk View*, Issue 102, pages 20 and 21 was approved by Waveney District Council.

Sudbury Society -

The Alan Phillips Award 2006

On the 21st October at the Town Hall, Sudbury, the SPS Director was privileged to be one of the judges of this important competition. The Director announced five commendations ranging from a glassed rear extension to the 'Ask' Restaurant in Friars Street, and a new vehicular access in the same street for a motor car turntable. *The winner was Ballingdon Bridge.* The Director spent some time explaining what made a winning scheme and why some submissions, although very good, just missed the mark. At the end he stated: *"and finally, all those involved in the development and design process, including those who commission the work, architects, builders and those responsible for making planning decisions need to work to achieve the very highest standards at all times."*

Suffolk County Council Minerals Strategy Consultation

The Society, having attended a consultation meeting with representatives from Suffolk

County Council, the aggregates industry and other interested parties, was pleased to be invited to submit comments on this important document which allocates mineral extraction sites for future development and infrastructure. The reply focused on both general issues as well as site-specific ones. It stated that:

"... the Society has become aware of the potential impact of the construction industry to secure aggregates for both the step change in development in the East of England, and elsewhere in the country, combined with the needs of the 2012 Olympic Games. The Society fears that this may bring about, in a very short period of time, significant changes in the needs and demands of the construction industry which will encourage pressure to increase production of minerals, particularly in Suffolk. We believe none of the sites are capable of significant expansion without serious and long lasting consequences."

Pier Pavilion, Southwold – Clarification

Brian Haward, the Architect responsible for the excellent work to the Pier at Southwold, which won the SPS Alfred Williams Prize 2005, was not in any way associated with the proposal for the new alterations which the Society opposed. I am happy to set the record straight.

Editor's note: It has been brought to light that, as a result of a number of public examinations around the country regarding disagreements over District LDFs, no proposals are to be decided upon until after a public consultation. In the case of the proposed development at the Trimleys in Suffolk Coastal District this will be welcome news – it means that decisions cannot be taken without engaging with the Trimley communities from the outset – no tick-box consultation exercises!

Nuclear News

SPS Chairman, Dr. Mike Coleman, writes

Fission v Fusion

What a complex subject but in my continuing short articles on nuclear energy I hope to explain a little more.

Both fission and fusion are fundamental processes. Fusion keeps us warm (the sun) and fission is one of the things that occurred naturally before life as we know it existed on earth.

Nowadays mankind has harnessed fission for good (nuclear power stations) and for evil (as a pretty poor but nonetheless devastating bomb - Hiroshima). Fusion has not yet been truly harnessed. Yes, it does make really devastating bombs, but it offers the most long-term eco-friendly potential means of providing electricity, if we can control it properly.

So what is the difference between these two processes? Well, they are poles apart - fission is the splitting of very heavy elements such as uranium, plutonium or thorium into two or more lighter particles, while fusion is the joining together of two lightweight particles. In both cases, the fission or fusion process releases phenomenal amounts of energy which, if captured, can be converted to usable energy such as electricity. Fusion releases far more energy per atom than fission, but fission is very prolific compared with chemical energy such as the burning of coal, etc. So, fusion, with its much greater energy release than even fission, is seen as the ultimate panacea.

The catch is that fusion is a much more difficult beast than fission, which we can do, and do much better these days than when we started back in the forties and fifties. (The process was discovered only in the 1930s by Edwin Chadwick, and in 1942 Enrico Fermi famously managed to control the process in Chicago under a sports stand - this is quite mind blowing and would not be allowed by today's safety standards!)

The potential of fusion was recognised early on, but the safe harnessing of its energy has remained a problem. However, significant progress has been made during the last half century, and in the last few years a successful demonstration was given by the JET project at Culham of their ability to contain sufficient fusionable material for long enough at a high enough temperature for it to happen (but energy input exceeded energy produced). This though has encouraged the world to put money into the next fusion project to be built in France which, within 15 years, it is believed, will demonstrate that the fusion process can be economically viable. If

this happens, the next stage will be to build a demonstration reactor which will require significant scaling up to get usable amounts of energy.

If all goes well, in about 50 years from now, commercial stations will be built. If it does not happen, it will be back to the drawing board, but we will get there. Because of global warming, we have to make it work and work we know it does – just see daylight and feel the sun!



"Fission and Fusion? I thought you said Fishing and Fashion!"

News from the Districts

SPS St. Edmundsbury District Report

District Chairman, David Rees, writes

I have to report the sad news of the unexpected death, while on holiday in Ireland, of David Ridley. I had known David for only a few years but he was always quietly incisive at District Committee Meetings and was, of course, a former Editor of the Society's Newsletter. I was always proud that he, too, wore my favourite tie – that of the Trollope Society. We shall miss him. Former Chairman of the District, Dan Pillar, contributes the following:

Obituary - David Ridley

We are very sorry to record that David Ridley died suddenly whilst on holiday with his sister in Ireland, on 28th August.

As a resident of Clare, David made a significant contribution to the community, very much involved with the foundation of the Clare Society, and the work of the SPS St. Edmundsbury District Committee. He was the author of the excellent SPS guide to "Clare: the Place, the People". In this he wrote a succinct account of the Battle of Bannockburn which, after 250 years, brought the earldom of Clare to a sad end. His description of Clare houses is clear and informative, including "the former weaver's house with the regrettable garage".

As the author of several monographs on the history of Clare he was understandably most influential in the revival of the Ancient House Museum, one of the county's most interesting small museums.

For many years he was Secretary of the Friends of Clare Church, and wrote one of the most engaging church guides in Suffolk.

In the years up to his retirement David was a leader writer on the East Anglian Daily Times, having previously been editor of the Liberal Party Newspaper: he stood for Parliament as Liberal candidate for Saffron Walden but failed to unseat the incumbent Member of Parliament – Rab Butler!

When he became Editor of the SPS Newsletter he introduced colour printing, and set the direction for the introduction of Suffolk View which has done so much to enhance the Society's work. Our sympathy goes to his only daughter Carella, his wife having pre-deceased him some years ago.

Roys of Wroxham Site

The lease on this supermarket in Risbygate Street, Bury St. Edmunds ends shortly.

The owners want to develop the site with another considerably larger supermarket, absorbing the council-owned car park to the east, and building flats over the new parking, dug into the sloping site. They also plan more residential units on top of the supermarket. The architect, developer and public relations officer presented the scheme to the local society district planning team at some length.

The initial reactions were "*does the town need another large supermarket, and if so should it be further to the west?*"

Traffic on Parkway often approaches gridlock and it is doubtful if all the proposed traffic management schemes could cope with even more traffic

movements on the two crucial roundabouts on Parkway. The Scheme commendably suggests a good proportion of 'affordable housing' but these are, in fact, segregated - it is essential that they are completely integrated into the scheme. It is also questionable whether the maximum possible density of housing is being built on a town centre site.

Car parking again raises its ugly head – this scheme cleverly increases Bury's town centre supply of places, but they will be empty for 12 out of 24 hours – why not integrate shoppers' requirements with those of the residents?

There is a vacant block of land to the south of Blomfield Street and to the north of the Bus Station where there have been planning difficulties, and it would seem sensible to absorb it into the larger scheme, if only to enhance the landscaping.

Details of the materials to be used suggest a bland exterior and the use, once more, of cedar cladding must make us depressed and worried. The anticipated use of steel nets containing flints as retaining walls is innovative and adds a new work to our building vocabulary – 'cabions'.

Once again the local authority is going to be involved as land-owner and planning authority; how on earth can they deliver a good scheme with this double constraint? They always demand the best price for their land ignoring, as it is not legally necessary, the consideration of any other factor – for example environmental or social considerations. A lot more discussion is needed before this major plan is given the go-ahead.

Stanton Horse Crematorium

These proposals have been turned down by both Borough and County Planning Committees. What is to happen to the increasing number of equine carcasses now that hungry hounds are no longer available

to devour them – perhaps our Forest Heath/Newmarket colleagues can advise?

Proposed buildings at Risby and Pakenham

SPS advice on two planning proposals to St. Edmundsbury Development Control Committee resulted in both being turned down by the Council. In one case the Society's detailed objections were read out in full. It is good to know that the SPS District Committee's comments were not in vain.

Programme for next year

After the over-subscribed visit to the West Front at Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral more visits are planned for 2007. We will also be looking at new architecture in Cambridge, enjoy a re-visit to Clare, and have an exploration of Haverhill. (*See full details on page 30.*)

We must acknowledge with gratitude the hospitality of John Hogg, the builder, and Walter Hawes, the developer, at Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral, and must congratulate them for the splendid job they are doing in restoring it to be once again a unique jewel in Bury's crown.

The District Chairman can be contacted at 44 College Street, Bury St. Edmunds, IP33 1NL, telephone number 01284 754618, email address david.rees@talktalk.net

SPS Waveney District Report

Mark Woods has taken over as District Chairman from Mike Coleman who has held down a dual role as District and Society Chairman for the last year, and we welcome Mark to this column.

SPS District Chairman, Mark Woods, writes

My first duty is to report that a stalwart District Committee Member for the last

20 or so years, and a planning watchdog 'par excellence' given her architectural background, passed away very suddenly. Halesworth will miss Sheila Gooch's contributions, indeed we all will, and our condolences go to her husband Michael, a no less redoubtable campaigner, particularly for Halesworth.

There have been major planning applications for redevelopment in Southwold, and the Society has commented on three significant proposals and a few lesser ones too. The major ones were redevelopment of the former Adnams Distribution Centre, The Might's Bridge proposals and the Head of Pier changes. It is re-assuring that our comments may have influenced Waveney somewhat. In fact, the Might's Bridge proposals were rejected and the other two were passed with strong reservations. We may not win totally but some of our suggestions are likely to be taken on board. We should say that the Adnams proposals had been extensively researched and were, on the whole, well thought out. Waveney District Council, being unwilling to countenance underground parking proposals, perhaps inhibited them regarding parking. However, we remain convinced that, although a good plan, it still needs to be perfect for this gem of the Suffolk coastline. We aim to achieve this perfection!

No district report would be complete without mentioning that, regrettably, the District has won the dubious distinction of being home to 'the worst building in Suffolk' (see page 3 for details). Yes, the Retail Park on Belvedere Road harvested 36% of the vote for this accolade by the County in our first ever poll in conjunction with Radio Suffolk. The resulting publicity in the main regional 'dailies', of what the people think about our buildings, should support the SPS in getting its opinions across. The Retail Park was nominated for a number of reasons: the mish-mash of

materials; the riverside features designed into it did not really work; it looked a bit like a child's Lego construction; it appeared back to front as viewed from the road. It is obviously disliked by the voters and, given that after about a year there are still no takers for the units, perhaps they are not alone!

The SPS Waveney District AGM, held at Beccles Town Hall, passed off well despite me feeling like the 'new boy'. After taking over as Chairman my first duty was to hear Jack Storer and other local Southwold residents make representations in respect of new development in Southwold. I was fortunate to have Richard Ward, the Society's Director, in attendance to give help and advice on this matter. I would also like to mention that a second party of ten members visited the Sizewell A Nuclear Power Station and thanks go to our host Mike Carr for an informative and fascinating visit to this site which is to be decommissioned at the end of the year.

The outgoing District Chairman, Mike Coleman, will be a hard act to follow, but I shall endeavour to do my best.

*The District Chairman can be contacted at
Tithe Farm, Mill Lane,
Ilketshall St. Andrew, NR34 8JL,
telephone number 01986 781376, email
address MSW@ntcom.co.uk*

SPS Mid Suffolk District Report

District Chairman, Douglas Evans, writes

It was marvelous news to learn that at Wingfield Castle, our efforts and those of the owners had resulted in the refusal of Planning Permission for the conversion of the castle barns (sold off some years ago to a third party) into domestic use. These barns, formerly part of the Castle's curtilage, are located in a visually

prominent position and such conversion would have detracted seriously from the gravitas and bearing of the Castle's main façade.

I had the opportunity of attending a Council Planning Committee meeting in order to put forward a short (3 minute) representation from the Society against an Application involving the over-domestication of timber barns at Old Newton. I was very pleased with the outcome, and felt that it had been arrived at through judicious and sensitive deliberation on the part of the Council Committee Members.

It is interesting to note that more stringent fire-check regulations are now being introduced through Building Control Regulations where it is planned to divide timber barns into separate residences within a single building. This particularly affects party walls, and it is hoped that cost and space implications will now militate against excessive or inappropriate barn subdivision.

The District Chairman can be contacted at Oak Cottage, Daisy Green, Gt. Ashfield, Bury St. Edmunds, IP31 3HS, telephone number 013595 242643, email address douglasevans@waitrose.com

SPS Forest Heath District Report

District Chairman, John Howell, writes

Kentford Heath

The good news concerning the rejection by Forest Heath District Council of the plans for the 'water based' (Watermark) development on Kentford Heath has been tempered by the development company Orion Leisure's announcement that they intend to follow this up with alternative proposals.

Kentford Heath – Part Two.

The most recent news concerning this

family-owned land is that a company, Newmarket International, has approached Forest Heath Planning Department with an outline proposal for 40 acres of the 'Watermark Site' to be designated for use as 'distribution, temperature-controlled storage, repackaging and associated light industry' employing some 400 people, and a further 11 acres for residential use. In return the developers would be prepared to donate 17 acres to wildlife reservations (including a 'corridor' for the Icknield Way Path that would run through a factory estate), construct a Kennet/Kentford Bypass A11 to A14 link road, upgrade Moorland Stud as a horse farm and upgrade rail access to the site.

It is considered that the final statement in their letter to Forest Heath that "the proposed development would be similar to that on the Fordham-Newmarket Road owned by Turners" should be sufficient to, hopefully, put paid to this aspiration!

Red Lodge

There is a continued and dangerous 'planning creep' occurring on family-owned farmland around the Red Lodge housing development which is not utilizing the 'brownfield area' of this village. This is being closely monitored by the very effective Five Villages Preservation Trust.

Queensbury Lodge.

Long overdue remedial work is at last underway to prevent further deterioration to this Listed Building in the centre of Newmarket. The planning application for the use of this former training yard as a hotel will be the subject of an Inspector's Report early in 2007. The full restoration cost of the yard is forecast to be in the region of one million pounds, a sum that clearly rules out the future use of these small premises for training. This situation, together with the continued vacancy of the District Council-owned Palace House Stables (also in the centre of the town), indicates the need for an urgent review of the present planning guidelines on the use

of horse racing property in Newmarket. There have been no further announcements concerning the Wadlow Wind Farm and Olympic Horse Reception Complex mentioned in the last Suffolk View.

Mildenhall

During the year we received a call from a very capable Action Group in Mildenhall, concerning an application for an American Forces housing estate that was planned to be located on a greenfield site in an attractive landscape area south of the town. Richard Ward gave assistance and advice and to date it appears that the plans have been dropped at the present time.

The District Chairman can be contacted at 29 The Avenue, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9AY, telephone number 01638 662582, Email address: john@howell-newmarket.fsbusiness.co.uk

Town & Parish Council Comment

Local Development Frameworks for Town & Parish Councils – Regional Workshops/Seminars

Well-attended CPRE workshops took place on the 5th and 17th October, in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, in which the Society's Director assisted. It was emphasized that when District Local Plans are replaced by Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), it is important that councils engage early on in the process if they wish to influence planning in their localities. A third workshop, on 14th November, in conjunction with the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, ensured that Suffolk delegates also have the knowledge and skills to influence LDFs.

Editor's note: see Planning Round-Up on page 16.



Left to right: Lawrence Wragg CPRE, Eastern Region Chairman, Richard Ward SPS, Michael Brooks (Planning Consultant) and Shaun Traverse-Healy CPRE Cambridgeshire at the LDF workshop at Hinchbrook on 5th October.

CPRE in Focus

'Tranquillity' Field Launch

In October CPRE launched a national campaign to protect 'tranquillity' – one of the countryside's most valued attributes and an important indicator of countryside quality - but what defines 'tranquillity'? It can mean different things, depending on who you are talking to, but the CPRE definition of a tranquil place is one 'where a quality of calm can be experienced in the presence of mainly natural features and activities, and the absence of disturbance from manmade ones'.

Editor's note: Let us know of a place in Suffolk you find tranquil, or what you define as a tranquil place. For more information www.cpre.org.uk

New Members of the Society

(From 1st August – 1st November, 2006)

(CPRE)

Mrs. S. Rivers, Felixstowe
Mrs P.A. Mutton, Southolt
Mr. J.D. Anderson, Felixstowe
Mr. M.E. Phizackhea, Bury St. Edmunds
Miss M. Reed, Lakenheath
Mrs. Shout, Trimley St. Mary

(SPS Friends)

Mr. M. Nicholls, Nettlestead
Mrs. M.F. Evans, Loughton, Essex
Mrs. S. Vermont, Ardleigh, Essex
Mr. D.G. Eddershaw, Bury St. Edmunds
Mrs. E.M. Empson, Framlingham
Mr. R.K. Smith, Orford
Ms. Sarah Hinton, Snape
Lt. Col. & Mrs. J. Collins, Fressingfield
Dr. & Mrs. M. Chesshyre, London
Mr. & Mrs. Trushell, Carteton, Oxford
Mr. & Mrs. M. Angel, Theltham
Mr. & Mrs. J. Hines, Bury St. Edmunds
Mr. & Mrs. T. & G. Rose, Lavenham
Mr. R. Green, Ipswich
Mrs. E. Knight, Clare



Media Questionnaire Response

Thank you to the 364 SPS Members who responded to the Society's Media Questionnaire. The information gathered has been very useful in identifying areas of perceived strength and weakness in the Society's media coverage. We are already adjusting our media strategy to take account of the main points arising from it.

Overall, Society members seem to be reasonably pleased with how we are presented in the media. Sixty-two per cent thought the quantity of coverage either excellent or good. Eight-five per cent considered that when mentioned in the media, the Society was successful in getting across its message. Four out of five of those who responded felt that that coverage was very or moderately positive. It was also pleasing to note that none of the Society's four main campaigning 'themes' was seen to overshadow the others.

The Society's public relations consultant, Paul Simon, has found the concerns expressed about certain geographical 'gaps' in coverage to be particularly helpful. As a result the Society has started to increase its use of the Lowestoft Journal and Eastern Daily Press in the north and east of the county and, resources allowing, is keen to step up its presence in the Haverhill and Newmarket areas, and along the Essex/ Suffolk border.

The Society also aims to provide an occasional digest of media coverage in Suffolk View, so as to ensure that all Members receive an overview as to how the Society and its many campaigns are being reported.

Paul Simon

Technical Tack

Pointing and Re-pointing – a practical guide

The ‘glue’ which holds brick, flint, stone, tile and slate together is mortar. It appears in the form of a ‘joint’ between main building materials. It was, historically, made largely from local lime and sands which gave the mortar a distinctive character but is now more often formed from ‘foreign’ soft sand and cement.

Mortar not only has its own character, it gives walls and buildings in which it is used a distinctive appearance. It was, and is, more than glue and should be treated with great care and respect. *Its appearance, and yes beauty, lies in its composition and the skill in the way it is used.* Subsequently, and perhaps more importantly, its repair and replacement needs care, knowledge, sensitivity and skill if disasters such as those shown in the photographs are to be avoided.

The way in which a mortar joint is finished is referred to as ‘pointing’. Pointing can take



Note the difference on this stonework when the loose mortar is removed (on the right-hand side) which indicates that re-pointing was unnecessary.

many forms and some are shown overleaf. The most common is flush pointing which is, in fact, very slightly recessed. This has the benefit of allowing the edges or arrises of the brick, stone, flint or slate to be seen and to be ‘read’ clearly. As weathering takes place pointing naturally erodes as it is meant to. Mortars are deliberately made softer than the building materials they join together. At some stage the weathering erodes the mortar to a stage where replacement needs to be considered, a process called re-pointing.

It is necessary, firstly, to establish if re-pointing is absolutely necessary. If the existing mortar or joint has only eroded fractionally, say half an inch, and the remaining mortar is firm and sound, not soft, then re-pointing is unlikely to be necessary. If erosion is greater than one inch, or there are signs of water penetration through the joint (perhaps internal damp plaster) or the mortar is soft, often due to the actions of pollutants in the air on the lime in the original mortar, then re-pointing is likely to be necessary.

The extent of any re-pointing then needs to be established. The modern trend to re-point whole areas for the sake of appearance alone is unnecessary, expensive, potentially damaging, and might even cause more problems than it solves. Re-pointing should only be undertaken in areas which require it.

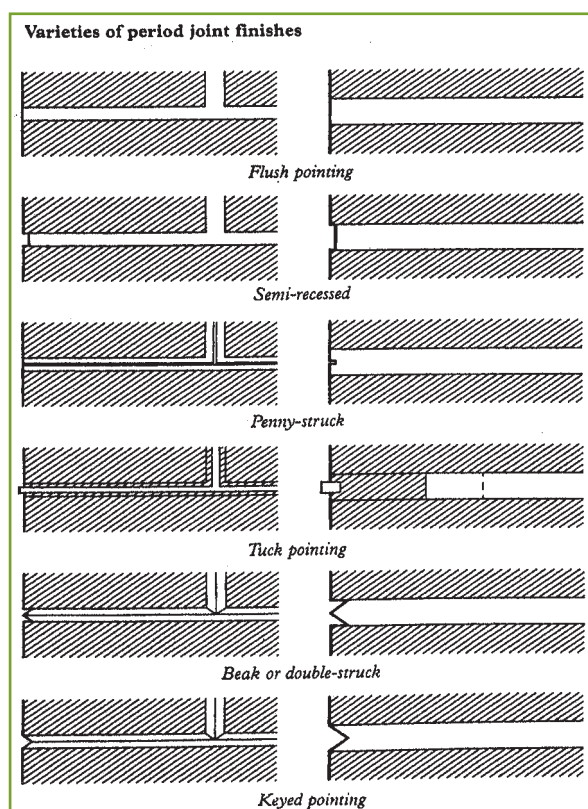
The mortar mix to be used should, as far as possible, replicate the composition of the original. Mortars can be analysed for content and this is a process worth considering. Generally they are a mix of lime

putty and a blend of *local* sands to give the correct colour and coarseness. *This latter issue is often ignored to-day, and the use of soft sand and cement produces a hard, smooth mortar which is damaging and totally inappropriate for use in historic buildings.* It might be necessary to source and purchase sharp, well-graded sand to achieve a coarse mix to match the original mortar. The end result will be well worth the effort.

Time should be taken to tray-sample mixes, if necessary, before the main work is undertaken. There are a few suppliers, some local, of ready-made mortars which might be worth considering. It arrives in tubes and just needs ‘knocking up’ before use.

The area to be re-pointed needs, also, to be prepared. All loose mortar should be removed and the joints raked out to a minimum depth of one and a half inches. *This work must never be undertaken with power tools or angle grinders as great damage can occur.* Small hand tools, wooden if possible to minimise the risk of damage, must be used.

In hot weather it might be good practice to slightly wet the area to be re-pointed before starting work, especially the joint. This will prevent the surrounding material sucking out all of the water from the re-pointing mix on application. Work on small areas at a time. Fill the joint with mortar ensuring it is pushed in firmly. It might be worth purchasing a re-pointing or pointing tool or iron. *Do not spread the mortar mix onto the face of the surrounding brick, flint, stone, tile or slate.* Having filled the joint, remove any excess. Do not try to achieve any fancy joint finish. Leave the mortar to set for about a day.



A medium hard bristle hand brush can then be gently rubbed along each horizontal and vertical joint to recess the joint fractionally, expose the arrises and draw to the surface of the mortar larger pieces of aggregate. If the mortar is still soft, leave until it sets sufficiently to allow this process to be carried out. The result will be a joint appropriate for most historic buildings and one sympathetic to areas surrounding those being re-pointed. The main points to remember are:-

- *only re-point if necessary;*
- *prepare the area with hand tools;*
- *use a mortar to match the original; and*
- *avoid fancy joints.*

If you have badly re-pointed walls, especially with cement mortar, then you can consider the following. It may be best to allow weathering to take place. This often loosens areas of hard mortar which can, subsequently, be *gently* removed. Over a period of time, perhaps years, it might be possible to restore the area back to its original appearance. Any area of mortar or re-pointing which is well-attached should be left regardless of its appearance. Often it will be found that badly pointed areas never need re-pointing in

the first place – *see the photographs!*

Removing cement mortar is an expert job and you should seek professional advice. *If in any doubt, leave well alone.* Removing cement mortar with tools, especially power ones, will cause damage to the surrounding material and is, therefore, not generally advisable.

Views, News and Reviews – your letters – stop press news – book reviews

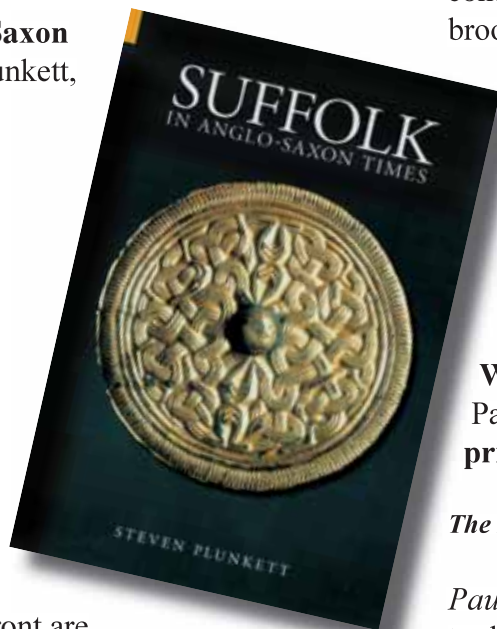
Book Reviews

Suffolk in Anglo-Saxon Times Stephen Plunkett, Tempus Publishing Limited, priced at **£18.99**

SPS Editorial Group Member, Jane Allen, writes

The soil of Suffolk has yielded a wealth of Anglo-Saxon remains. West Stow, Sutton Hoo and the Ipswich waterfront are renowned sites of national importance, but the work of those using metal detectors and the archaeological surveys that are now the precursor to many building developments, have helped to produce yet more evidence of Anglo-Saxon Suffolk.

Dr. Plunkett's new book gives a coherent narrative of events from the Anglo-Saxon migrations of the fifth century to the Viking wars and the death of King Edmund in the late ninth century. He discusses and places in context the many beautiful objects discovered throughout the county, and reviews a superb sequence of coins from the final two hundred years of the East Anglian Kingdom, giving details of royal dynasties of bogglesome complexity and the names of the moneyers who struck the coinage of those long-ago kings. He weaves into their stories those of the saints and bishops who brought Christianity to our region and, in some instances, carried it across the North Sea to Frisia.



This handsome and well-illustrated book contains many excellent photographs of brooches, pottery, combs and other objects found, but one of the best features is the section of coloured photographs taken by the author himself, showing the places in Suffolk which were of great significance so many centuries ago but which are now in remote and tranquil countryside.

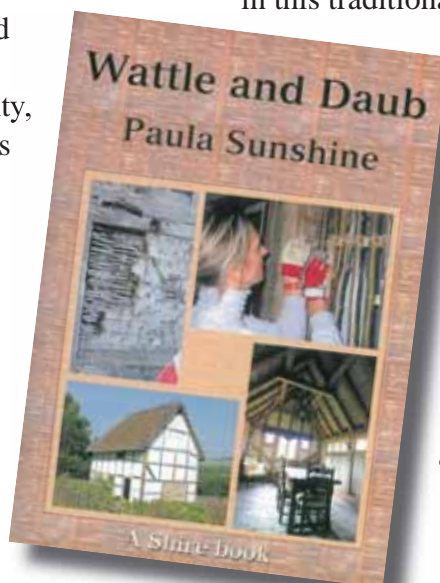
Wattle and Daub

Paula Sunshine, Shire Books, priced at **£4.99**

The Editor writes

Paula Sunshine's latest contribution to traditional building techniques and their care and repair labours on Wattle and Daub. Following on from her previous book, *'You've been Timber Framed'*, this is a clear, informative and very readable adjunct to the former. Concentrating on the structure and make-up of wattle and daub, its use within later timber-framed buildings, its decline and how to repair it today, Paula takes us, with the aid of illustrations, lovely coloured plates and a well-formatted text, on a valuable journey in this traditional craft. Importantly, the

subject's elevation to a booklet in its own right should indicate to everyone just what an important integral material this is, one which should be preserved or repaired at all costs. At this price this book is a must have for all traditional home owners and followers.



Your Letters

Catherine Robinson, Friends of the Trap Grounds, emails

I think that *Julian Boswall's* comments, quoted in your most recent article (*see page 6*), are misleading, in that he says of village green applications: "Anyone can lodge one, there is no fee and no risk of paying costs however unmeritorious the application or dishonest the supporting evidence." It is true that applying to register a green does not incur a fee, but he is wrong to imply that the registering authority is bound to hold a public inquiry regardless of the merit of the claim. I know of cases where the authority's lawyers have advised that a claim is without foundation, and the application has been dismissed without an inquiry being held.

If an inquiry is held, it is true that whoever loses will not have to pay the costs of the other side. BUT (and it is a big but) if the applicant wins, the landowner will almost certainly challenge the ruling in the High Court, and that is when things start to get expensive. In our case we had to hire a solicitor and a barrister to represent us in the High Court, again in the Court of Appeal, and again in the House of Lords. Altogether their fees amounted to about £45,000, despite the fact that our barrister was young and recently qualified, so we got him on the cheap! Fortunately our solicitor negotiated a no-claims deal with the landowner, to the effect that whoever lost would not have to pay the costs of the other side - otherwise I would have been personally bankrupted when we lost in the Court of Appeal.

It is terribly easy to get drawn into protracted legal proceedings without any clear idea of the risks involved. If you know of anybody who is minded to apply for village green registration, tell them that they

absolutely must take advice from the *Open Spaces Society* (www.oss.org.uk) before proceeding.

Good luck in all your own endeavours.

Stop-Press News



Mystery of how to find the answer to the Affordable Homes Crisis: Case may be Solved!

Ruth Rendell, pictured above with Elmswell school children, the world-renowned crime writer and Suffolk-based Member of the House of Lords turned the first 'turf' on 24th November in an innovative affordable housing development, initiated by the Society. This project shows what can be achieved by different groups working together for the same purpose.

Baroness Rendell of Babergh has campaigned for a number of years on the issue of increasing the supply of low-cost homes in rural parts of the country, including Suffolk. She has lent her support to the new scheme at Elmswell near Bury St. Edmunds, not only because 25 new homes are being made available for local people, but because of the way the community has been involved in the process and the environmentally friendly nature of the designs.

Paul Simon

‘Through the Portal’

The Office

Since we last communicated the Office has seen further staff changes. Sue Friend retired in August and we thank her for her work and support over the three years she has been with the Society. Holly Green has now joined us and taken up a new position in the office support team working 20 hours a week, and we welcome her to Little Hall.



Holly Green

The House

As already heralded in *Issue No. 101*, Little Hall’s installations and appearance have naturally deteriorated over time so the house has seen some recent urgent refurbishment – a few replacement heating radiators, a new boiler, some electrical alterations, a touch of re-plastering and a lick of paint to maintain the building in good order for a few years to come. The Society encourages owners of listed buildings to carry out regular maintenance, so this is called ‘practising what you preach’!

All the above requires a great deal of organising and hard work and much of the burden falls upon Little Hall’s Management Committee Acting Chairman, Renee Attew. *Thank you* Renee for all the time you spend assisting the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust Ltd. It is appreciated.

The Garden

Lavenham resident, Miss Nellie Smith, was 100 years old on 22nd October – congratulations and warmest wishes to you Nellie! Nellie was cook at Little Hall for 12 years from 1961 for the enigmatic artist Reginald Brill and his wife, Rosalie.

Reginald Brill, an English realist painter, former student at the Slade School of Fine Art and a contemporary of Stanley Spencer, had spent nearly a third of his life firstly as Head Master and later as



Reginald and Rosalie Brill relaxing in the garden

Principal of the Kingston School of Art. On early retirement in 1962 he became Warden of Little Hall. On his initiative Surrey County Council had accepted the Gayer-Anderson Brothers’ offer to bequeath their house, fully-furnished with art treasures, two additional cottages, and an endowment of £3,000, for the use of students of Surrey Art Schools, and of the Slade, as an Artists’ Hostel.



Nellie is seen here *above* with Reginald Brill’s cat Tim, which she adored, in the garden. She considered Mr. Brill a ‘real gentleman’. He died at Little Hall, just before he and his wife were to vacate the house, it having been sold by Surrey County Council to the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust Ltd. in 1973.

Selection of illustrated envelopes (wage payments) presented weekly by Mr. Brill to his cook, Miss Nellie Smith



Diary Dates

Planned Society Events – 2007

SPS District Committees and staff at Little Hall are pleased to present an interesting, varied and comprehensive programme for 2007. It includes visits to places in Suffolk of historical interest, of recent planning outcomes, and in addition, there are lectures and training days. We also have two days outside Suffolk, one to the mediaeval town of King's Lynn and one to the City of Cambridge to see some of the new buildings. We hope that Members will give us good support and will bring guests so that we can continue to increase our membership base. Guests will be asked to pay more for the events but if they join the Society they will receive the *first event free*. The *full programme* for each event will be available *three months before the due date* when the organiser for the programme will be pleased to give you further information should you require it.

February

Friday, 23rd at 7.00 pm – Lavenham Guildhall: *Talk on Wattle & Daub*

Contact for further details: Tom Tebbutt, SPS Babergh District, telephone number 01473 823719

March

Friday, 9th at 6.30 – 8.30 pm – Haughley Park Barn: *Social gathering with talk on “New buildings in the Countryside”.*

Contact for further details: Clare Evans, SPS Mid-Suffolk District, telephone number 01359 242643

April

Wednesday, 18th – King's Lynn: *Invitation to visit this interesting Mediaeval Town with a guided tour by Dr. Paul Richards.* We meet for coffee and our tour starts at 10.30 am with a stop for lunch at 12.00, which can be taken at the Green Quay Visitors' Centre or alternatively somewhere of your own choice, or you may like to bring a picnic. The tour will continue after lunch, ending at about 3.00 pm. Car parking is available. Cost £8.50 per person, including morning coffee, but not lunch. Join us for a fascinating visit.

Contact for full programme, car parking map and further historical background to the town: Little Hall Office, telephone number 01787 247179

May

Tuesday, 15th at 6.30 pm – Nayland: *a visit to Maltings Chase, Bures Road, (built in the sixties)*

You are welcome to bring a picnic.

Contact for further details: Tom Tebbutt, SPS Babergh District, telephone number 01473 823719

Monday, 21st pm (time to be confirmed) – Flixton: *visit to Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum, guided tour & refreshments*

Contact for further details: Mark Woods, SPS Waveney District, telephone number 01986 781376

June

Thursday, 7th at 6.30 pm – Haughley Park Barn: *Society's AGM & Supper*

Contact for further details: Little Hall, Lavenham, telephone number 01787 247179.

Sunday, 17th – Haverhill: *visit to 'little known' Haverhill, guided by Haverhill Historical Society.*

Contact for further details: David Rees, SPS St. Edmundsbury District, telephone number 01284 754618

25th – 30th (to be confirmed) – Southwold and Reydon: *visit to this special area.*

Contact for further details: Mark Woods, SPS Waveney District, telephone number 01986 781376

July

Thursday, 26th – Lowestoft: “Lowestoft International Air Show” invitation to Chairman’s home to watch the displays from the garden!

Contact for further details: **Mike Coleman, SPS Waveney District, telephone number 01502 518708**

Milden: (date & time to be confirmed) visit to Milden Hall, to see their Barn Conversion and farming practices.

Contact for further details: **Tom Tebbutt, SPS Babergh District, telephone number 01473 823719**

August

Sunday, 5th from 3.00 – 5.00 pm – Lavenham: Little Hall, New Members’ Garden Tea Party and guided tour of the House.

September

Thursday, 6th – Orford: visit to Orford Castle and Museum to see the changes of the last 25 years.

Contact for further details: **Victor Gordon, SPS Suffolk Coastal District, telephone number 01394 387881**

Saturday, 15th – Cambridge: visit with a tour of new buildings and tea in a college hall

Contact for further information: **David Rees, SPS St. Edmundsbury District, telephone number 01284 754618**

October

Wednesday, 10th – Haughley Park Barn: Planning Training Day – ‘Your Involvement in the Planning System’.

Contact for further details: **Little Hall, Lavenham 01787 247179**

Wednesday, 31st – Blackbourne Hall, Elmswell: Planning Training Day – ‘Design & Modern Architecture in a Suffolk Context’.

Contact for further details: **Little Hall, Lavenham 01787 247179**

Finalised details for dates more than three months ahead will be available for the next issue of Suffolk View.

Market Place – Directory

Paul Edwards, Dip Arch, RIBA. IHBC, Historic Environment Specialist

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Suffolk View is a publication of the Suffolk Preservation Society and is published three times a year.

The Society works to protect and enhance the countryside, towns and villages of Suffolk. Its volunteers in the Districts, with a Chartered Planner at Little Hall in Lavenham, combine effective local action through the planning system with the promotion of building conservation projects, encouragement for sustainable planning, and campaigns and awards which support this ethos.

Help us to protect the rich diversity of the County – its countryside and coastline beauty; its tranquil places; its rich complexity of buildings and architecture; its historic market towns, country villages and farm hamlets – its special character.

If you are not already a Member consider joining us today and become part of the campaign to protect Suffolk and ensure changes value its natural and built heritage and promote sustainable planning for a better future.



A PUBLICATION OF THE SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Little Hall, Market Place, Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9QZ
Tel: 01787 247179
Website: www.suffolksociety.com