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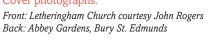
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For editorial matters, queries and submissions.

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Founded in 1929, the SPS Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1154806 is working to safeguard the buildings and landscape of Suffolk.





Representing the CPRE in Suffolk

Foreword

SPS Director, Fiona Cairns, writes



It was while driving back from the coast late one summer evening recently that I came upon a field of shocked wheat in the delightful village of Earl Soham. The evening sun was reflecting off the golden stooks in a small field bookended by some of Suffolk's most charming vernacular cottages. It was an idyllic scene capturing a rural tradition that has characterised our county for centuries. It put me in mind of The Shire in JRR Tolkein's fictional Middle Earth, described in The Lord of the Rings and other works. For the few who are unfamiliar with this work, The Shire refers to an inland area settled exclusively by Hobbits, simple

and easy going folk, small but courageous and largely removed from the goings-on in the rest of *Middle-earth*. The Shire is described as a small but beautiful, idyllic and fruitful land, beloved by its inhabitants.

However, shortly after the beginning of the events described in *The Lord of the Rings*, The Shire was invaded and captured by four *Ringwraiths*, the dreaded ringservants of the Dark Lord Sauron, who began a massive campaign to industrialize it, bringing widespread misery and severely damaging its ecology.

In recent months the good folk of Suffolk have experienced their own Ringwraiths. Here at the SPS we have been contacted by communities representing every corner of the county faced with industrializing threats to a part of their shire. We have recently met with the Say no to Sunnica campaign group which has launched a campaign to defend the communities in Worlington, Freckenham and West Row against the largest solar farm that the country has ever seen, spanning the county border with East Cambridgeshire and covering 2,600 acres terminating in a substation at Burwell. Meanwhile, we have been contacted by parishioners in the tiny parishes of Southolt, Horham and **Athelington** in Mid Suffolk and Bramfield and Thorington in East Suffolk who are facing up to the challenges of intensification of poultry farming. They are concerned by the environmental impacts of significant increases in HGVs, odour and dust on tiny lanes and diminutive settlements as part of the intensive rearing of poultry to feed the new mega processing plant in Eye, the largest in Europe. The scale and speed of growth of intensive poultry rearing is on a

scale that this county has not seen before.

At the other end of the county the Ipswich Northern Bypass consultation has been running during the summer months, promoting three separate routes north of Ipswich. The proposals are presented as a necessary way of easing congestion but the real story is the opening-up of vast tracks of land for development to accommodate up to an additional 10-15,000 houses above the number planned for in the emerging Development Plans. This has left numerous communities alarmed and distressed by the potentially devastating impacts of major road building in their midst.

Suffolk, like The Shire, arguably has its own *Mordor*¹ in the form of Sizewell. In recent months EDF has launched its fourth round of public consultation for Sizewell C, which has been responded to. It seems to answer few of the many genuine environmental concerns raised by affected communities and stakeholders. Just down the road from Sizewell, Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) have amended their timetable and decided to foreshorten the ongoing discussions with stakeholders, including SPS. We have been notified by SPR that they will be submitting their Development Consent Order for two windfarms in October, and have chosen to cancel the last promised round of engagement.

In recent months we have also begun our dialogue with National Grid Ventures who are developing their proposals for two Interconnectors in East Suffolk to bring power from Belgium and the Netherlands. It is still early days, but they have confirmed that the first Interconnector, named *Nautilus*, to come forward by 2028, will require a substation and a converter.

They have identified **Friston** to accommodate the substation but will need to identify a 12 acre site for the convertor within 5km of the substation. The associated undergrounding of cabling, with corridors extending to 150m in width, must be found in addition to the cable routes identified by Scottish Power Renewables as the projects are technologically incompatible. Within a decade we are promised a second interconnector will follow, representing further damaging blight on the Suffolk **Sandlings**.

The industrialization of The Shire was based on Tolkien's childhood experience of the blighting of the Worcestershire countryside by the spread of heavy industry. In the *Fellowship of the Ring* the main protagonists have their homeland

in The Shire: Frodo Baggins, Sam Gamgee, Merry Brandybuck and Pippin Took all had to face great danger in their quest against grave threats to life as they knew it. I think many of the communities that I have spoken to in recent months will identify with the plight of Frodo and his friends.

Here in Suffolk we are truly lucky to still enjoy a county that retains much of a more remote past. It is therefore right that as part of our 90th Anniversary we have reaffirmed our promise to promote and protect its special qualities by producing the *Manifesto for Suffolk*. We clearly state our priorities and commitments over the coming years – our lead feature at pages 6 & 7 illustrates this.

Finally, JRR Tolkien's quote from

the *Two Towers* comes to mind "War must be, while we defend our lives against a destroyer who would devour all; but I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness, or the arrow for its swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend." The battle for the Suffolk we love is upon us.

Director's note:

[1] The realm and base of the arch-villain Sauron, is located in the fictional southeast of northwestern Middle-earth, east of the great River Anduin. Mordor had three enormous mountain ranges surrounding it, from the north, from the west and from the south. The mountains both protected the land from an unexpected invasion by any of the people living in those directions and kept those living in Mordor from escaping. Tolkien was reported to have identified Mordor with the volcano of Stromboli off Sicily, in terms of geographic equivalency with the real world.



SPS Office Manager

Linda Cockburn, the SPS Office Manager based in Lavenham left us in June completing over 11 years service and we wish her a long and pleasurable retirement. We were delighted to welcome Julie Howe in her place. Some of you may have met Julie at our 90th Anniversary celebration garden party in June at Great Bevills, Bures, see page 25. We hope, Julie, you will enjoy working for the SPS.

Julie can be contacted at Little Hall by email Julie Howe sps@suffolksociety.org or phone 01787 247179.

Comment

SPS Chairman, Andrew Fane, writes



SPS Chairman, Andrew Fane, OBE

Our Director, Fiona Cairns, writing in this Issue displays "Mastermind" knowledge of Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, expertise that will probably appeal to many of our Members. But she also displays equally deep and sensitive knowledge of our county and its features – landscape, villages and communities including our historic buildings and their important settings. These together make our county such a beautiful place to live and make one's life.

The trouble is that when you come to know and love our county vou become ever more aware of the changes that are happening and are cumulatively eroding those very special features that made the county so appealing in the first place. This does not make the SPS hostile to all development. Of course, we recognise and support the need for some development to provide the housing our young people and our incomers need and want, and to provide the jobs and opportunities for our citizens that enable them to achieve good standards of living, including the infrastructure that we as a county need to support or lifestyles.

The proof that the SPS is supportive of the modern day needs of Suffolk dwellers is clearly set out in our *Manifesto* - recently published

to coincide with our anniversary of 90 years campaigning for protection of the best of our county, but also published to look forward to our next decade and to show our ambitions and priorities for Suffolk.

Context is always important. Austerity has hit all parts of society over the last decade and being nonpolitical SPS doesn't opine. But what is clear is that the planning service within local government across the country has taken the highest rate of hit in this programme. And planning has never been just about money. Planning officers have had an extraordinary knowledge of their patches, and conservation officers have been equally knowledgeable about the historic buildings and conservation areas they have nurtured. When cuts come, too often the older and more costly staff slip away to early retirement or to the consultant sector and that priceless blend of knowledge and expertise slips away with them. Young and newly qualified staff are inevitably less costly, and they are of a calibre that I am sure will mature into clones of their estimable predecessors. But that will inevitably take time and yet we are seeing overwhelming new development pressures and restructured authorities and government endeavour almost solely focussed on forcing through more consents. The mix can be toxic for our communities and people and indeed for the planners doing their very best to mitigate the damage they are almost involuntarily obliged to deliver.

The answer is not to campaign for more money in the system per se - planning took years to become a sophisticated and effective service from initiation to the 1970s and sadly it will take time to regenerate from the pressure cooker environment it now finds itself in.

One of the things that informed pressure groups like SPS must strive to do is engage with our politicians and seek to persuade them to lower the temperature on planning, and on development. We are doing just that for Suffolk wherever we can.

We advise politicians that issuing many more consents than our builders can deliver in a limited timescale means wrong consents being issued in the wrong locations. We point out that Suffolk doesn't have to be the conduit of choice for a wholly disproportionate percentage of national energy being channelled through some of our AONBs and delicate historic landscapes. We say that Suffolk doesn't have to produce such a percentage of the national chicken supply that prime land is vanishing under industrial scale chicken sheds.

Frankly, we are saying spread the pain about a bit – send the green power by ring main direct to the Thames Estuary where it is wanted that is established technology. Let planners only allocate housing according to demonstrable local needs, not as a magnet for second rate mass housing in the wrong locations. Let road builders accept a degree of overcrowding on our major roads to discourage needless journeys, and then improve our rail infrastructure. And finally design everything better, be it houses or substations, so that they are not an automatic blight. Sizewell B has some iconic qualities – no such ambitions have even been sought for Sizewell C. SPS fights for the best in Suffolk, and now we have to get cleverer at influencing the system. Join us as members or volunteers and add to our voice, our capacity and our influence in this critical campaign, in this critical decade.

'A Manifesto for Suffolk 2019-2029'

SPS pledges to work to protect Suffolk

Just in case you hadn't noticed SPS is celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year so it was important to look forward to the future as well as to reflect on the Society's contribution to the past. Its Manifesto for the next ten years aims to do just that. It was an opportunity to assess the current development challenges facing the County and the work required to ensure the longer term future of Suffolk's iconic landscapes, characterful market towns and attractive villages.

Above all, SPS decided that the Manifesto should be a celebration of the special qualities of Suffolk that need to be protected and should reaffirm the Society's clear promise to redouble its efforts over the next ten years, see *Suffolk View*, Issue 133, page 5. SPS also felt that the Manifesto should be a quality publication, including many eyecatching photographs, which we would circulate widely in order to inform others and gather support for our campaigns and membership.

Having obtained funding for the publication from a generous supporter we set about producing the Manifesto in time for its launch at the 90th Anniversary garden party hosted by SPS President, Geoffrey Probert at his home, Great Bevills in Bures, at the end of June, and it was a most enjoyable evening.

Photo of Trustees and Staff holding Manifesto

The Manifesto makes it clear that the SPS is not against change in itself but believes that Suffolk faces such pressure from development that, unless directed and moderated by its communities, it will result in a county that is no longer the one its people love and want to live in.

nor the one tourists come to see.

Among the main issues raised is the pressure from housing growth and its impact on rural landscapes and historic village centres as 'anywhere design' housing which are tacked on to the edges of our settlements. At the same time, an increasing demand for more employment, better roads, good broadband and mobile phone infrastructure, as well as nuclear and renewable power generation, all threaten the character of Suffolk's prized landscape and its historic built environment. The Manifesto tackles these issues by encouraging high quality design which is both vernacular and contemporary; calling for the real costs of hosting the national energy

A Manifesto for Suffolk 2019-2029

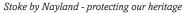
infrastructure to be fully understood, costed and mitigated; and supporting communities by providing professional advice and training.

With a vow to redouble our efforts to secure a future that conserves the best of the past and helps deliver a high quality environment for the future the Manifesto sets out the SPS promise for the next 10 years, see box on page 7.

The Manifesto has been very well received from a wide range of people who have received a copy. It has led to many encouraging comments as well as pledges of support. If you would like to read it in full, it is available on the website, or hard copies are available from the Little Hall office, please call 01787 247179. sps@suffolksociety.org









WE PROMISE TO:

- Work to protect our historic buildings and valued landscapes through engagement with the planning process.
- Engage with councillors, planning and conservation teams, developers and architects to achieve best outcomes.
- Empower communities, local councils and amenity groups through advice and training.
- Lobby the government and others for a better balance that safeguards our natural and built environment within the planning system.
- Celebrate the beauty of Suffolk through high-quality member events.
- Grow our membership in order to build our mandate, capacity and strength.







SPS - Celebrating **Ninety Years**

A Glimpse at the Past

A brief overview of the highlights and achievements, over the last nine decades, of the SPS.

(Taken from the exhibition to celebrate the founding of the Society in 1929.)



Local protests against the removal of Suffolk's old buildings





C15th Wool Hall, Lavenham being dismantled circa1912





Following public protest, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll purchased the Wool Hall. It was reinstated and now forms part of the Swan Hotel

Muriel Schofield - the SPS founder



In 1929 the Suffolk Preservation Society

'protect Suffolk - its old buildings and rural countryside'





In 1931 Mrs Schofield represented Suffolk at the first Conference on Regional and Town Planning.

In 1935 eminent planner, Abercrombie, undertook a survey for East Suffolk which called for the **planning of** growth and preservation of the character, charm and beauty of the county.

Recording and saving Suffolk's mills



By the mid 1930s Suffolk had only 62 mills standing.

SPS carried out a photographic and condition survey and campaigned for the rescue and repair of the best examples











Earl Soham windmill

Campaigning to save our heritage







In the **1960s** SPS President, the Duke of Grafton, led the battle to defeat plans for a new shopping centre at the Cornhill, Bury St





Saving Suffolk's industrial heritage





In the 1970s SPS bought Pakenham Water

SPS also set up a Trust to save Garretts' old works site which was restored and now houses The Long Shop Museum.





Protecting our special landscapes





Suffolk Coast and Heaths



In the **1960s** SPS appeared at public inquiry to resist large scale damaging development at Stratford St Mary. This led to the *1966* Survey of Dedham Vale.

SPS also campaigned to safeguard the Deben and Orwell estuaries as part of the Suffolk Heritage Coast.



Both areas were designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970.

Suffolk and energy - an enduring fight SU/JOLK





ewell A nuclear power plant



"....landscape qualities are a very minor factor within the site selection process, and will certainly be ignored unless local societies, such as the SPS, play their part."

Jennifer Armstrong BA MRTPI, Research Office, Town & Country Planning Association





Protecting Suffolk's native woodland





In the 1930s SPS campaigned against conifer plantations in Dunwich, Woodbridge and the area between Thetford and

In the **1960s** SPS was instrumental in saving Felsham Hall woods and Monks Park wood near Bury St Edmunds, the largest surviving area of ancient woodland in Suffolk.





Suffolk Building Preservation Trust and SUffolk Suffolk Historic Churches Trust set up





The Suffolk Building Preservation Trust was launched by SPS in the **1970s**.

The first acquisition was a fine pair of C17th houses at Rickinghall which was proposed for demolition.



This led to the foundation of **The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust,** funded by a donation from SPS.

500 medieval churches.

highlighting the disuse and decay of Suffolk's





Promoting good new design



Wetherden design brief





SUffolk

In 1973 SPS was gifted a site in Wetherden and commissioned architects to prepare a design brief for homes that fitted into a village setting.

In 1992 SPS published its own design guide for Suffolk.

In 2007 SPS held a competition to design a sustainable, contemporary, affordable housing scheme in Elmswell



Planning, Conservation and **Heritage Overview**

Update and comment SPS Planner, Bethany Philbedge, writes

All SPS letters are available in full on its website.

SUFFOLK TO HOST THE **COUNTRY'S LARGEST SOLAR FARM?**

A first round of consultation has taken place for the 500MW Sunnica Energy Farm which, if built, would be the biggest in the country. Located at three sites, the largest will cover around 1,700 acres very close to the villages of Worlington and Freckenham in the west of the county. In addition, a smaller site is proposed in East Cambridgeshire near Chippenham and Snailwell and connection will be at the National Grid substation at Burwell. SPS has met with local campaign group SayNotoSunnica and has responded to the first stage of consultations. Whilst supporting renewable energy generation in principle, very little detail has yet been provided and we have raised concerns around the sheer scale of these proposals and their potential impact on the landscape and the local communities.

Meanwhile, SPS has also responded to the Stage 4 consultation on the new nuclear reactors at Sizewell C.

LOCAL PLANS

An Inspector's report on the Examination of Forest Heath District Council's Core Strategy housing policy has called for more houses to be allocated to **Newmarket**. The Inspector stated that the draft policy allocated too few homes in the most sustainable places and too many in less sustainable settlements. A modified policy will now allocate a further 450 dwellings to Newmarket, in addition to the previous figure of 321, and reduces the number of new homes directed towards Red Lodge and Lakenheath. Regarding the impact on the horseracing industry, the Inspector

found no evidence to support the view that more traffic around the town and the areas used by racehorses would erode the perception of Newmarket and undermine its status as a top class horseracing venue. He concluded that it would be unreasonable for the housing growth proposed for Newmarket to be reduced on the basis of such an unfounded view. However, a modification to the plan will be required to consider the impacts of increased traffic associated with any residential scheme upon the horseracing industry.

Mendlesham have a Neighbourhood Plan

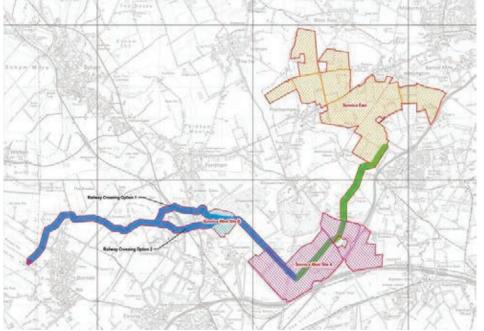
We await the conclusions on the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan which has

been subject to External Examination in the summer. Meanwhile, SPS has responded to the consultation for a draft Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk highlighting issues relating to site allocations, landscape and heritage of these districts.

FISONS

Readers will no doubt be aware of the devastating fire at the Fisons factory, Suffolk's largest listed building, earlier this year. We had reported in the Spring edition of Suffolk View that Mid Suffolk District Council had successfully obtained a court order to 'execute such works as may be necessary to obviate the danger to the public' and prevent deterioration of the Northern Warehouse at Bramford. It is expected that permission will be sought for its demolition, a sad end to this important piece of Suffolk's industrial heritage.





Credit: Bury Free Press



POULTRY INDUSTRY

A number of concerned communities have contacted SPS regarding the rapid expansion of poultry farming businesses. A new poultry processing plant under construction at Eye will be the biggest in Europe, creating jobs as well as supply opportunities at local poultry farms. However, the scale of intensive poultry rearing to supply the processing plant is raising alarm bells in deeply rural locations. Expansion proposals are coming forward which include additional large sheds and associated increased traffic, odour. noise and dust. SPS has also raised heritage concerns regarding a scheme for three new sheds at **Thorington** and we are aware of future proposals at Brome, Occold, Horham and Southolt.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Whenever possible we feed into the Neighbourhood Planning process by reviewing the heritage and landscape components of plans at their various stages of consultation.

The **Stowupland** Plan has now been adopted and the plans for **Haughley** and **Thurston** have received support from their communities at referendum. The **Botesdale** and **Rickinghall**, **Aldham**, **Elmsett** and **Mutford** plans are also complete and are due to go to referendum in the near future. However, we share the frustration of some parishes that feel their efforts are being given little weight by the local authorities.

Mendlesham has had a completed Neighbourhood Plan in place since 2018 and is currently updating it to include allocated sites for housing having identified suitable sites to the south of the village. But, in direct opposition, Mid Suffolk District Council is looking to allocate a site in the local plan to the north of the conservation area contrary to the wishes of the community.

GLADMAN DEVELOPMENT DISMISSED

A decision from the Planning Inspectorate to dismiss a controversial application from Gladman Developments Limited was welcomed by SPS. Along with local residents, we had strongly objected to the scheme for 160 houses on Poplar Hill, on the edge of **Stowmarket**, which had been turned down by Mid Suffolk. The elevated site is of a high scenic value which contributes to the setting of St. Mary's Church, a Grade I listed building. The site also forms a strategic gap between Stowmarket and Combs and its development would give rise to coalescence of these two quite distinct settlements.

IPSWICH NORTHERN ROUTE

A first stage of consultation was carried out on the three proposed routes for a relief road linking the A12 and A14 to the north of Ipswich. Very little detail was provided on the routes and their likely impacts on the landscape, woodland and listed buildings. SPS submitted a response (see our website), calling for sustainable measures to improve transport routes within the town and highlighting that a new road will simply open up land for further housing growth.



Campaigners near a site at Southolt



Chapel of St. Botolph, Botesdale

County Courier

News and issues from the districts, amenity societies and members





Borough of St. Edmundsbury

Report by Roderick Rees, Bury Society

Bury town and SPS had shared major concerns about plans for an elephantine development of shops and 48 flats at Cornhill Walk, just off the Buttermarket, and this was refused by the Development Control committee in September. Seemingly indifferent to local anxieties, a new four storey, faux Georgian building is proposed within the conservation area with little respect for neighbouring Well Street, which is probably one of the most delightful streets in the town centre. By way of contrast, a pre-application presentation for the redevelopment of the vacant Lloyds Bank premises on the junction of Risbygate Street and Parkway has been more favourably received. The plans show 48 flats for 'retirement living' with a concierge, residents' lounge, communal garden and parking. This is a sustainable location within walking distance of town facilities and the design is an immense improvement upon that presented two years ago for a much larger building.

A submission of details has been lodged for the former gas holder site on **Tayfen Road** and **Spring Road** with replica Victorian warehouses and Georgian terraces. A more innovative approach to designing new homes and eco-houses to inspire the next generation would be welcome. But the listed **Railway Station** has received a grant from the Railway Heritage Trust for remedial works to the Station Master's house and *Greater Anglia* are also making a financial contribution, so this is good news. A Lawful Development Certificate has also been issued for a new 74-space car park.

Looking to the future, the **Bury Town Trust** charity has exciting plans to refurbish

one of the last medieval houses in the town at 11 High Baxter Street. It appears not to have been modernised. Also, the Borough Council is preparing ambitious plans for a new public sector hub on **Western**Way for support services such as police, NHS and West Suffolk College. They are also relocating the Leisure Centre. The application to redevelop the **Old Post**Office premises with new shops and 12 flats over and, more importantly, widening of the pedestrian link through to the Arc shopping centre is expected.

An interesting application was received which related to the refurbishment of a property on **Honey Hill.** The original plans included the replacement of the existing external render. When the render was removed, an attractive façade of flint and Abbey stone was uncovered so a second application was required to retain the original appearance.

The Abbey of St. Edmund Heritage Partnership is preparing a Heritage Fund bid to support the 2020 Millennium Celebrations of the foundation of **the Abbey**.

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District

Report by Phil Butler, SPS Mid Suffolk

Hopefully some of you managed to attend the Society's 90th Birthday Celebrations held in the magnificent setting of the President's home, Great Bevills in Bures which included the launch of the 'SPS Manifesto'. If you haven't seen a copy it's available on the SPS website and it spells out the challenges ahead and how SPS intends to ensure it continues to make an effective and meaningful contribution to the future of our County, see pages 6 & 7.

To reflect these ongoing challenges, Fiona and her team over the past six months have

made some fifty detailed responses on key planning applications across the county, of which over half were either in Babergh or Mid Suffolk. This gives a flavour to the specific pressure being placed on our planning districts.

Not only do we face inappropriate large and medium scale housing developments but also a growing trend towards dispersed power generation with another gas powered station proposal being approved at **Bramford**. SPS had objected that the introduction of this industrial facility would impact on the character of the surrounding landscape which, despite its relative proximity to the existing Bramford substation, still retained a sense of rural tranquillity that should be preserved.

In order to effectively reduce the impact on the landscape, the SPS consider that a more strategic co-location approach should always be followed. This would require such *ad hoc* installations being sited closer to existing facilities in order to minimise piecemeal developments across Suffolk that will inevitably lead to the erosion of the rural landscape.

Other planning representations made this period have covered Fitzgerald Road, **Bramford** 175 dwellings; Sand Hill, **Boxford** 80 dwellings; The Street, **Elmsett** 34 dwellings; Dagwood Farm, **Elmswell** 3 dwellings; Wickham Road, **Finningham** 15 dwellings; Chapel Road, **Mendlesham** 63 dwellings; Burstall Lane, **Sproughton** 114 dwellings; Bramford Road, **Sproughton** 54 dwellings; Poplar Hill, **Stowmarket** 138 dwellings, and further comments on the Persimmon development at **Thurston**.

Comments have also been made against a proposal for a single dwelling in **Lavenham** that would impact on the setting of Lavenham Priory.

As Suffolk View goes to press the public consultation period on both the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Draft Housing Land Supply

Position Statements will have closed. Following this consultation the final Statements should be published later this year which will inform the housing land supply position across both Districts for the next five years up to March 2024. SPS made a detailed response on both of these documents

A Local View of the Draft Babergh & Mid-Suffolk Joint Local Plan (2019 – 2036)

Report by John Beales, 'Keep Bildeston Beautiful' campaign group

Many of the things that readers of *Suffolk View* most value about our County are in jeopardy and the protagonist has come armed with a clipboard. The land allocations section of the draft Local Plan amply illustrates what is wrong with our planning system: to dyed-in-the-wool lovers of Suffolk villages, it seems to be singularly insensitive to the particular character of our rural landscape.

Though growth is inevitable, and probably desirable to maintain lively villages, Babergh seems to be putting to work just one single blunt tool: it proposes vast fields be put forward for development, placing 50, 75 or 100 new houses in one location, usually outside an existing village. The danger is that, away from the village centre, these unappealing, outsized estates create distorted, dysfunctional and disjointed communities, with infrastructure problems that will never be fixed. And they call this strategy. Many villagers would much rather spread new houses within existing villages, growing them far more harmoniously and organically.

Bildeston is one of the District's smallest core villages, on the road between Stowmarket and Hadleigh and comprising about 500 households. It is half-anhour's drive or more from employment opportunities in Ipswich, Colchester or Bury St. Edmunds. At one time Bildeston was among the 100 biggest towns in England. Those days have long gone, but they left behind a narrow High Street lined with picture-postcard Grade II listed properties forming the heart of a pretty conservation area.

Land Allocation LA048 (p.219 of the draft Local Plan) identifies a single, outlying field as a prospective site for 75 houses. Together with another farmer's field which controversially received planning approval for 48 houses in September 2017, plus a brownfield site at one end of the High

Street which offers far more integrated development, Bildeston is bracing itself for a potential 35 per cent increase in existing household numbers, up by 175 houses. This lovely Suffolk village, with picturesque houses and cottages, has had to rely on the economic downturn for protection – the planned greenfield estate for 48 houses remains unbuilt.

The new land allocated for development is contentious for any number of reasons. In particular, the likely consequence of such a large estate a few hundred metres from the primary school, shops and doctors' surgery in the village centre will see greatly increased traffic – impacting on the conservation area.

Without incurring a detour of several miles, the only route through Bildeston is along the High Street. The junction from the unclassified Wattisham Road adjoining Bildeston High Street narrows dangerously on the approach. There is no possibility of widening the junction because of the proximity of houses. Cars and delivery vehicles using this junction are already compelled to improvise passing places by climbing the narrow footpath or pulling on to private drives. Adding all the vehicles that will belong to and serve 75 more houses must be questioned. It is not just a matter of visual and physical impact, safety too is an issue.

Editor's note: John's concerns will resonate with many communities facing significant housing development. SPS encourages parishes to engage with the local plan site allocation process by responding to <u>all stages</u> of consultation. Better still, communities should consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan which, when completed, forms part of the Local Plan and enables communities to influence growth by allocating their own preferable sites for new housing.



Bildeston village pinch point

Ipswich Borough

Report by Mike Cook, Ipswich Society

Norwich Road: it is the main entrance into the town from the west and has attracted much ill-informed criticism in recent years. It is a vibrant multicultural area with, in my opinion, the best Indian restaurant, two fine Portuguese cafes, a 40-year established barber and Coes of Ipswich, the renowned clothing store in the area in its ultramodern glass building. It has been marred, however, by the social habits of some and the disastrous fire at the former Rose & Crown public house. But because of the huge efforts of Ipswich Borough councillors money has been found locally and centrally to improve the inner area under the guidance of a good local architect and the urban planners.

Digital Communication Hubs: there is a proposal to install five 2.4m tall 1.5m wide telephone and advertising screens (seen on the side of public telephone boxes) in central Ipswich. Under the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 16 the local planning authority cannot refuse these advertising hoardings from source. Advertising companies can make use of this facility, but if there are objections the Borough Council would need to reassess the matter. The Ipswich Society is consulting Civic Voice to assess the situation nationally. We understand that the Highways Authority and Suffolk Constabulary have objected as have the Ipswich Conservation & Design

Houses in Multiple Occupation: there is a surge in the conversion of officers and houses, of all sizes and description, to houses of multiple occupation. If listed or in a conservation area planning permission is required but many are exempt under recent regulations. The extremely small accommodation provided reduces the number of homeless in Ipswich, but can produce areas of friction between residents, landlords and tenants. There are few powers to exert control over the situation of people living in inadequate space. Recently, a Planning Inspector was unable to find a legal reason to refuse an Appeal for a conversion which had several windowless rooms.

Ipswich Bypass: the Ipswich Society is considering its policy for the transport network in and around Greater Ipswich. At this point, it's unlikely to include a northern, outer triple carriageway through virgin countryside – watch this space.

Sugar Beet Factory Site: this factory at Sproughton, with its four huge concrete silos, remained unused and an eye sore for at least ten years. It is one of Babergh District Council's (BDC) important designated employment sites and thus planning permission was delayed and then not carried out. Ipswich Borough Council

bought the site and gained permission from BDC for a food warehouse. They now have the site partially redeveloped by the erection of a 45 metre high warehouse that is the size required to accommodate the robot forklift trucks that industry requires today, so a white industrial cube rears uncompromisingly out of the Gipping Valley. Similar massive infrastructure is likely to appear in the Suffolk countryside at Friston and Bramford to contain the inverters for the offshore wind farm power lines. It surely must be possible to design and camouflage infrastructure if it is vital to save the planet and our economy.

Land to the west of the A12 and to the north of the A14 at Foxhall in East Suffolk: Gladman Developments, land promotors, have applied to construct a 'garden village' on 142 hectares of countryside with 2,700 houses (33 per cent affordable), 70 apartments with care, a new roundabout from the A12, a neighbourhood centre, two primary schools, a village green, a medical centre and more. The Ipswich Planning & Development Committee has objected; no consultation has taken place with the local planning authorities. It would produce a major increase in traffic where the proposed changes to the A12 and A14 have not been approved and there is no public transport scheme identified. There would be the loss of 142 hectares of high grade farming land as well as the countryside setting of Ipswich. East Suffolk Council has already identified sufficient housing for its needs and this site is not included in the emerging Local Plan. The Ipswich Society will be objecting.

Editor's note: this application has now been withdrawn.

East Suffolk Council - Waveney

Report by Paul Fletcher, Beccles Society

In the last edition of *Suffolk View*, page 9, it states that "SPS remains disappointed at the scant regard given to the historic character of our towns and villages by developers and decision makers when it comes to traffic. Suffolk Highways in particular seems to pay little attention to the historic environment when installing signage and bollards."

The Beccles Society has had similar problems with Suffolk Highways. In March 2019 it contacted them with the following comments. "The traffic lights at this location, Market Street/Smallgate, incorporate 'No right turn/No left turn' signs within the head of the signal fixtures, making the free standing equivalent signs superfluous and hence redundant. In the interests of protecting the Conservation Area would you please arrange for the redundant signs to be removed?" Their

response was - that they looked at removing clutter but the funding available to undertake this type of work was very limited and had to be prioritised, especially with the additional costs of disconnection of the UKPN power supply to the illuminated signs. The signs were required to ensure the 'One Way' was clearly signed with the 'No Entry signs', 'No Right Turn/No Left Turn' meeting the requirements to enforce the Traffic Regulation Order. One of the ways was to consider the works within a larger scheme. At the time of writing, a scheme to upgrade the traffic signals in the area was being designed and was to investigate removing some of the stand-alone signs; again this was dependent on costs. The works were being programmed for early summer.

This scheme has now been implemented by Suffolk Highways with little or no regard to the conservation area, (CA). Existing old



Duplication of "No Right Turn" signs



Duplication of "No Left Turn" signs

kerbstones have been replaced with new concrete ones. Existing flagstones have been replaced with tarmac; redundant signs have been left in place. "No Entry" signs are full A-road size when a smaller size for the conservation area could have been used. The Public Hall on the north side of Market Street is listed and every opportunity should have been taken to enhance the setting. We appreciate that funds are extremely limited, but the new traffic/pedestrian signal scheme has resulted in a deterioration of the existing streetscape.

Editor's note: SPS would like to hear if there are other villages or towns experiencing impact on CAs and heritage assets because of ill-placed or redundant highways signage arrangements. It may be able to take up this matter with SCC Highways with suitable examples. It is noted that there is frequently no contact between them and the district planning conservation officer, which should be a procedural courtesy.



Change in kerbstones and the tarmac surface



Duplication of "No Entry" signs

From the News-stand

Copy and comment

New National Housing Design Audit

Following on from our last Suffolk View, Issue 133, the 'Building More, Building Beautiful' report by Policy Exchange noted "Simply put, not enough new homes are built with beauty in mind. Decisions over space are nearly always financial, not aesthetic, and so the aesthetic needs of the community are too often marginalised (along with issues like affordability). High rise developments are prioritised over low rise because of the cost of land. Ceiling heights are reduced to maximise the number of units. The façades and vernaculars of buildings are homogenised to drive schemes through the planning system."

Place Alliance (UCL) and CPRE, with support from Home Builders Federation, Urban Design Group, Civic Voice, Academy of Urbanism, Design Council, UK Green Building Council and Institute for Highways & Transportation are together supporting the first ever national housing design audit and its interim statement has been released.



"I'm quite happy in our high-rise flat but it doesn't suit my husband."

'Creating Space for Beauty'

How to promote and increase the use of high-quality design for new-build homes and neighbourhoods, part of the 'Building Better, Building Beautiful' report, mentioned above, has set out in its interim statement the work carried out so far. The final Report is



Planning with beauty in mind.

expected in December 2019. It will recommend "practical measures to help ensure new housing developments meet the needs and expectations of communities, making them more likely to be welcomed, rather than resisted, by existing communities."

Particularly important for heritage is the Commission's commitment to preserving Britain's heritage through 'planning' and preventing loss. The potential of heritage to bring about improved well-being and environmental and economic benefits is also mentioned as an important consideration.

The Report currently highlights the differential VAT treatment of repair and restoration building work as something that should be "harmonised so as not to continue discouraging the repair and reuse of existing buildings and places". **Editor's note:** CPRE Members can read more in the Summer edition of *Field Work* on page 12.

Death-watch Beetle threat to Church buildings

A new campaign, fronted by Sir Michael Palin, has highlighted the need to protect church buildings from death-watch beetle, leaking roofs and crumbling stonework. As a representative for the National Churches Trust (NCT), Sir Michael – actor, writer and television presenter – has spoken out about the threats facing churches and chapels in the UK. Deathwatch beetle can cause significant structural damage to the wood of historic churches and cathedrals as

their larvae burrow through the timber internally.

In an animated film for the charity, Sir Michael is encouraging members of the public to join the NCT's Friends scheme, to provide urgent repairs needed to prevent the closure of historic church buildings across the country. The film shows just how important churches are to our history and heritage and also to local communities.

The NCT say churches are the heart of local communities and should be preserved for future generations to enjoy. The Trust gave out a total of £1.2 million in grants to churches and chapels in need of urgent repairs in 2018.

In its Annual Review, the National Churches Trust has expressed concerns about insufficient funding for church building repairs following the end of the National Heritage Lottery Fund's scheme to provide grants for *Places of Worship* scheme, as well as the Government backed *Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair* fund. The review also highlights the threats that churches are currently facing and outlines grants available for church buildings.



"They're playing our song."



"This is a fish farm and when it gets flooded all my stock swim away."

Agricultural Land "Cannot be Ignored"

In response to the Environment Agency's draft National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy consultation, the Country Land & Business Association (CLA) have urged the Government to consider the strategic importance of land when it comes to the introduction of new measures to protect areas at risk of flooding in England. The early August floods in Derbyshire and Yorkshire have reminded us of this.

In its response, the CLA argued that agricultural land should not only be assessed in terms of its financial value, but also for its key role producing food for the nation and responding to climate change. In particular, the CLA's response highlighted the devastating impact flooding can have on individual farms where it can damage harvests and livestock, buildings and equipment.

CLA members own or manage more than 10 million acres of rural land across England and Wales.

Urban Design Character protected in Ipswich

Ipswich Borough Council adopted its final three *Urban Character*Supplementary Planning Documents in July after consultation. These documents aim to provide urban design analysis and information which will help developers and their agents to

design new development in a way which protects and enhances the special character and distinctiveness of the eight character areas which explore locality and can be identified to highlight their special interest and

inform any new development. This is not new policy but provides detail to aid protection and enhancement through the planning system. Changes will need to take these elements into account as required by the National Planning

Policy Framework and adopted *Core* Strategy. https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/urban-character-supplementary-planning-document

Well done IBC for this piece of excellent work which will form part of the Suffolk Design Guide and will, in turn, create an in-depth online resource and a convenient desktop companion to guide the future quality of the built environment. It will inspire people with the beauty of Suffolk's environment and the best of architecture, landscape design and place-making from the County, as well as providing access to the technical data, policies and design tools they need to design quality buildings and spaces.

Village greens in the balance warn Open Spaces Society?

'Our green spaces are under unprecedented threat as the law on town and village greens are in the balance,' so declared the Open Spaces Society in July 2019.

The Courts had ruled that 380 square metres at Vowley View, Royal Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire could not be registered as a green because it, and indeed the entire town, was vaguely identified in the Local Plan as eligible for potential development. Communities up and down the country would be concerned that they were unable to register their long-held (at least 20 years) open spaces as greens which meant that they were neither securing their rights of recreation on the space nor protecting the land from development.

The appeal by Lancashire County Council as education authority in respect of 13 hectares at Moorside Fields in Lancaster was turned down; NHS Properties Limited have asked for time after their appeal in respect of 2.9 hectares of Leach Grove Wood in Leatherhead was also turned down.

Giving the lead judgment, Lord Justice Lindblom ruled that there was no blanket exemption to prevent land held by public bodies from being registered as a green and that, in both the Lancaster and Leatherhead cases, the use for which the land was held did not conflict with the recreational use as a green.

The judgment also included a helpful discussion on the definition of "locality" and "neighbourhood within a locality" which are important to define in an application for a green. So the position appears unchanged.

Designated Landscape Review

Nearly 70 years after the country's National Parks were first established, opening up the countryside and allowing more people to connect with nature, an independent panel has been looking at how these iconic landscapes meet our needs in the 21st century – including whether there is scope for the current network of 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks to expand.

Julian Glover, Review Panel lead and journalist, advised the Rt. Hon Michael Gove, MP in July that the Panel thought that AONBs should be strengthened, with increased funding, new purposes and a greater voice on development. The Panel had been impressed by what it often achieved now through partnership working. "We believe there is a very strong case for increasing funding to AONBs." Suffolk has two. The Panel will make proposals in its final report expected in December 2019.



"You're out!.. And so is everybody else, here come the developers."

In Memoriam

Sir Clive Rose GCMG 1921 – 2019

Members will be saddened to note the passing of Sir Clive Rose in April, aged 97. Before his period with the Suffolk Preservation Society, in his retirement years, he had led a distinguished career joining the Commonwealth Relations Office in 1948 and subsequently the Foreign Office. He was one of their leading experts on nuclear weapons and disarmament, headed Britain's delegation to the Mutual Reduction of Forces and Armaments talks in Vienna and later served as an ambassador to NATO. In this sense he is best remembered as the Chair of the Cabinet Office's Civil Contingencies Unit during the 'Winter of Discontent' of 1978-79. He also served on a number of other important defence committees. In 1976 he was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

In 'retirement' Sir Clive was a very active member of the Lavenham community where he lived. He was a founding member of the Lavenham Literary Society and a published author writing several books on his ancestral history. But he also gave his time generously to the work of the SPS at a formative time being first Vice-Chairman and then Chairman from July 1985 to May 1988 for which the Society will always be grateful. He continued to support the Society in many ways thereafter and will be remembered with much affection and respect.

Paul Edwards RIBA 1943 – 2019

Members will also be sad to hear of the passing, in May, of Paul Edwards a former Director of the SPS. He was 76. Having qualified as an architect he had a particular passion for old buildings and spent most of his career in the heritage field.

Paul had a fruitful spell at Norfolk County Council and in the 1970s was responsible for putting forward historic buildings for listing at a time when the Department of the Environment was accelerating the parish-based listing resurveys using specially trained private consultants and local authority staff. Working for the County Council also enabled Paul to indulge his passion for church architecture in the County, a skill put to good use when he became an architect member of the St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocesan Advisory Committee.

During Paul's tenure as Director of the SPS from November 1983 to November 1992 the Society was engaged in the many challenging issues that still occupy it today but there was also the Society's 60th Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, which included a Ball, and the publication of its book for the occasion - *Suffolk Forever*.

After the Government hived off its Historic Buildings' Division to form English Heritage in 1984, the lure of direct involvement with some of the region's most historic buildings led him, eventually, to join it as an Inspector of Historic Buildings. Many building owners and local authorities came to greatly appreciate his wise advice.

Paul was tall of stature and slim of frame and had a predilection for three-piece suits. Always softly spoken and with excellent powers of recall, he dispensed his guidance with authority and a polite smile and all who came into contact with him will remember him with great fondness and respect. Bob Kindred MBE BA IHBC MRTPI



A lovely photograph found in the SPS archive taken in 1989 showing left to right – Sir Clive Rose, retiring SPS Chairman, David Puttnam, film producer, Paul Edwards, SPS Director and Sir Reginal Harland, elected SPS Chairman. Picture: courtesy EADT

Heritage matters

The Elm Tree – let's grow something back

For those of you with a musical bent the Baez/Dylan song "Where have the flowers gone, long time passing" may remind you of loss and regret. In the case of Suffolk the loss is of the natural giant in our landscape - the elm tree. Where have they all gone? It was surely one of our natural heritage assets, dominating the countryside and especially evident in the paintings of Constable and Gainsborough. Before the devastating effects of Dutch Elm disease, Suffolk had one of the highest number of elm trees in the country, and was known affectionately as the 'County of Elms'.

SPS thought it was time to revisit the plight of the elm because we understand that the science is moving on. At least we sincerely hope so and intend, as in our commitment to protect our landscape in our Manifesto, to plant some elm trees, with professional advice of course. It will not have escaped the reader that it is our 90th Anniversary and contributing something tangible seems appropriate especially something that contributed so much to our

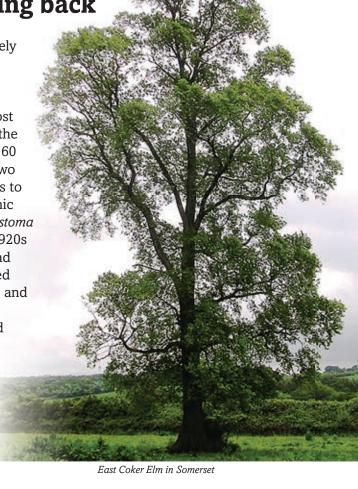
landscape, and is so sorely missed.

According to Forest Research Dutch Elm disease is one of the most serious tree diseases in the world. It has killed over 60 million British Elms in two epidemics and continues to spread. The first epidemic caused by fungus Ophiostoma ulmi is noted from the 1920s onwards. The second and ongoing epidemic caused by the highly aggressive and related fungus O. novoulmi was first recognised in the 1970s. Forest Research is Great Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree related research and is internationally

provision of evidence and scientific services in support of sustainable forestry.

renowned for the

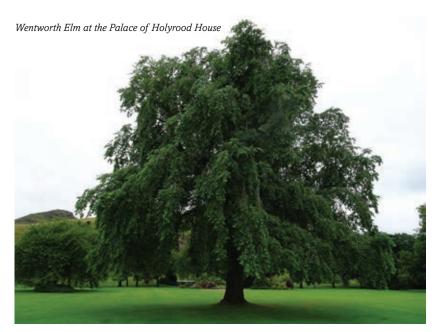
There are now, however, strains of elm which are proving resistent to Dutch Elm disease. 'Lutece'

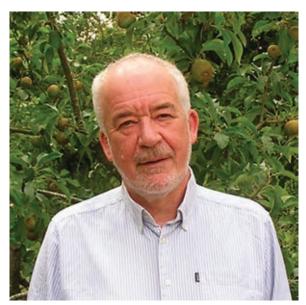


was developed by the Netherlands elm breeding programme but later acquired by the French agency INRA and released in 2002 after lengthy trials. Also referred to as 'Nanguen' this clone has a complex parentage with *Ulmus minor*, glabra, Exoniensis and wallichiana all present in its genetic makeup. Originally a Dutch clone, it was discarded for the unfounded fear it was susceptible to Coral Spot fungus but was adopted by the French instead who have planted extensively in Paris and surrounding cities. We understand that Ulmus *lutece* is a tough tree and tolerates urban pollution as well as coastal locations. It is very temperature hardy and has been successfully planted in Scandinavia. Most importantly, it has been subject to 20 years of field trials in France before being released for general planting in 2002. It has a very good proven track record and matures



Haughley Park





Professor Tom Williamson

to a height of 17–22 metres. The 'Resista' range of elms, and other varieties, are being developed also and are on the market, so that those with access to space and the right conditions should explore planting elms as an option.

Purists may well be critical of introducing non-native elms, but with the potential demise of the ash tree, the planting of some elms will add to the diversity of tree species and provide a wider range of habitats, something which is becoming a huge issue in the County.

On the 30th November the SPS will hold a special elm tree ceremony and plant three elms at Haughley Park, near Stowmarket. The recently appointed Estate Manager, Graham Broadhurst, has undertaken map regression of historic maps of the park to identify locations of lost trees to ensure that the newly planted trees will as far as possible reinstate lost landscape features. These trees will be monitored. The conditions at Haughley Park are right and the location is also of importance to the Suffolk Preservation Society being the home of the late Alfred Williams, a former Trustee. Mr. Alfred Williams financially supported the Society's first Director at Little Hall from 1974 for many years. We will be ever grateful to him for his foresight and

His son Robert, and his family now resident at Haughley Park, continue to support the SPS in many ways including the free use of Haughley Barn for SPS events.

A lecture by Professor Tom Williamson entitled *Trees in Suffolk:* past, present and future is planned to follow the planting ceremony. Some of you will already know of Professor Williamson's work in this field. Members and guests can enjoy this special event by contacting the Little Hall office to book their place, please see Diary Dates on page 23 for full details.

Contact Julie Howe 01787 247179 sps@ suffolksociety.org

Heritage matters

Many people will remember the hazy, lazy days of their adolescent summers, in and out of the lovely *Art Moderne* open-air Lido, watching the girls (and boys) go by whilst having a crafty smoke! Sadly, the pool was closed in 2002 because it needed repairs and it wasn't making any money to pay for them. It was built in 1938 for £17,000 by the County Borough of Ipswich and designed by E. McLauchlan, the County Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

A group of volunteers, who weren't prepared to let it go, formed the Broomhill Pool Preservation Trust; they fought and schemed, despite setbacks, to get the Pool restored to near its 1938 former glory. Now, reopening is only just over the horizon.

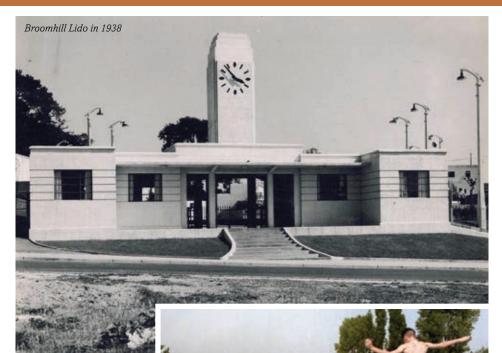
The Trust's objective was to seek a way to restore Broomhill Pool, the last remaining Olympic length, Grade II (listed in 2001) lido in Suffolk & Norfolk for full public use, while maintaining its 'architectural significance'. Also, to obtain the owner's support (Ipswich Borough Council); get the locals on-side (18,000 people signed the petition); find an operator and raise the money. The Borough Council didn't really want it to





Broomhill Lido restored vision Credit KLH Architects





Broomhill Lido in former years

close but were forced to by legislation demanding a five per cent return on the asset value, making it unaffordable. The site, a part of Broomhill Park, was legally covenanted in 1924 for recreational use in perpetuity.

Our 'white knights' were Fusion Lifestyle, a not-for-profit charitable trust, a highly experienced sports and leisure management organisation. They work in partnership with local authorities, schools and colleges, and other public sector organisations, to provide recreational sport, health and fitness activities to local communities.

The plan was to restore the facility as near as current legislation allows with a restored swimming pool including its 700-seat grandstand, heating, diving boards, a fountain, renewed tiling, and the benefit of a café facility, and to its 1938 state except for the former male

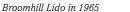
changing rooms on the east side which will be replaced by a two-storey new build fitness suite, open all year round for extended viability. The clock tower, the buffet, the underwater and some overhead lighting will be restored together with the listed and unique diving boards (though only the lower boards will be able to be used for safety reasons). The water will be heated to about 80F/26C, extending the seasonal operation of the pool.

Of the £7.25m funding required the Heritage Lottery Fund has granted around 3.5m; Ipswich Borough Council has allotted £1.5m: Fusion Lifestyle and local support the remainder. A lease from IBC giving Fusion Lifestyle operating control for fifty years has now been signed. It's worth noting the huge help that's been given to the Trust by local professionals, largely because they had swum in the Pool themselves: that includes the architect, Alan Wilkinson, who is with the appointed scheme's Ipswich architects, KLH. They are currently looking to appoint contractors who will start work in Spring 2020. We are aiming for a grand reopening for the 2021 season.

Historic film footage from 1947 of Broomhill Pool, plus 2001 photographic stills of the derelict pool are featuring in the V&A's "Into the Blue - the origin and revival of pools, swimming baths and lidos", on until 19th April, 2020.

Broomhill Pool also featured as *SAVE Britain's Heritage* 'Building of the Month' earlier in the year.

https://www.savebritainsheritage.org/building-of-the-month/#_





And again in 1975



Heritage matters

Traditional Building Skills and Building Conservation Courses

HISTORIC WINDOWS WORKSHOP

Cressing Temple Barns CM77 8PD

Date: Friday, 25th October 2019 **Time**: 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Cost: £70.00

Placeservices.co.uk/coursebookings

This course will provide a detailed examination of a wide range of historic windows and joinery. It will focus on windows as designed components of a historic building in their own right, exploring their changing styles and the contribution they make to historic buildings and local character. As particularly vulnerable elements of historic buildings, this course will provide delegates with an understanding of key concerns surrounding historic windows today, and will offer the opportunity to closely examine historic windows and joinery to recognise subtle changes in mouldings and construction that indicate the age and development of windows.

The course will be held as a workshop, with a range of windows and joinery displayed; these examples will be discussed throughout the afternoon, which delegates will be free to photograph, draw, and closely inspect.

This course will be led by architectural historian and historic buildings consultant, **Charles Brooking**, who is also the Founding

Historic windows add intrinsic value

Member of The Brooking Museum of Architectural Detail. In 1966 he founded the museum and in 2013 a new registered CIO charity was formed. Charles has rescued more than 500,000 period building details, including doors and windows, which span over 500 years of design and making. The museum is now recognised as a renowned teaching resource offering its unique 'hands-on' teaching philosophy, and is consulted by a wide spectrum of people, ranging from architects, conservation officers and owners of period properties, to artists, designers and researchers. Examples of artefacts from the museum will be presented at the course.

HERITAGE STATEMENTS AND HISTORIC BUILDING APPRAISALS

Cressing Temple Barns CM77 8PD

Date: Friday, 20th March 2020 **Time**: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Cost: £55.00

Placeservices.co.uk/coursebookings
Heritage Statements are required for any
planning application or listed building
consent which affects the significance of
a heritage asset; this is enshrined in the
NPPF and particularly Paragraph 189. If

undertaken correctly, these do not only provide a supporting document for an application but also a useful resource of baseline information which can inform an appropriate scheme of development, repair or conservation.

The morning course explores the following:

- Why undertake a Heritage Statement;
- · Content and Format;
- Methodology;
- · Research and Resources;
- Types of Heritage Assets;
- The Setting of Heritage Assets; and the NPPF and types of Harm.

The course will be provided by **Tim Murphy** IHBC MCIfA. Tim has over ten
years' experience working in the private
sector as a Heritage Consultant across
the UK and Ireland. He is the **Historic Environment Manager at Place Services**, responsible for managing
both historic building and archaeological
development control support to several
local planning authorities in the east and
south east of England.

TIMBER FRAME RESTORATION SKILLS

Orchard Barns

IP14 2LY

Dates: 28th - 30th April 2020 **Time**: 9.30 am - 4.00 pm **Course Fee**: £330.00 Full Price

£285 Early Bird Price

Discover why old buildings get damp and the remedy:

Understand why timber frame buildings need to breathe:

Get to grips with the lime cycle and how to use lime mortar and render: make informed choices when discussing repair schedules: save money by learning how to undertake some repairs yourself, or become more confident instructing your builder.

This course is suitable for home-owners, professional builders, architects, surveyors and conservation officers.

Teachers: **Mike McConnell** (remedying damp) **Rory Sumerling** (lime) **Rick Lewis** (timber frame assessment/repair).

Take advantage of the Early Bird Price by paying for your place via Pay Pal, BACS or cheque. Please email *sarah@orchardbarn. org.uk* or telephone 01473 658193 or 07766 054042 to book a place.



Membership

A warm welcome to new Members

Membership Information

New Joiner's Membership available by *standing order* online:

Household -£30 per annum

Town & Parish Councils & Amenity Groups - £30 per annum Corporate Organisations -

£70 per annum

Life Member -

SPECIAL 90TH ANNIVERSARY OFFER UNTIL DECEMBER - £450

CPRE membership available online from £3 a month via the SPS website link www.suffolksociety.org Also direct www.cpre.org.uk

DO WE HAVE YOUR **UP-TO-DATE EMAIL ADDRESS - THIS SAVES SPS POSTAL CHARGES?**

A gift or bequest leaves a lasting legacy please get in touch

The SPS is an independent Suffolk charity which attracts its own funding. Membership, donations, bequests and legacies are vital to its support income. To discuss please

We hope you enjoy your Suffolk View publication which you will receive twice a year as part of your subscription. It aims to keep you informed and up-todate on many of the subjects we believe a crucial part in our ability to plan for will interest you and should you wish to comment upon any article or add to the debate please do not hesitate to contact us. If you would like us to forward a further copy of this publication to pass on to a prospective new member, please telephone 01787 247179, or email sps@ suffolksociety.org

Membership of SPS makes you a privileged partner in our work. When you join SPS you are helping it to preserve and protect all the things that make Suffolk special. Members also have the opportunity to meet at a number of functions throughout the year, and this year at our special 90th Anniversary Celebration in Bures many of you received our Manifesto, the SPS promise to you to continue to undertake to protect the best of Suffolk for now and for the future, so the next generation can have pleasure in their surroundings. Your support ensures also that we can continue to deliver expert

advice and information to those who need it as well as deliver our continuing heavy workload in these extremely testing times. Your subscription plays the future with confidence. The **Life** Membership special offer in our 90th founding year gives those who accept it not only added value but stability to our work. By joining us you have helped to continue this vitally important mission.

PLEASE VIEW OUR WEBSITE WHICH IS UPDATED REGULARLY WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION www.suffolksociety.org

GIFT AID is important to us. If you are a SPS member and a UK taxpayer, we can claim 25 per cent of the total value of your donation/subscription in the tax year through Gift Aid. Please email or telephone the office to request a Gift Aid form if you have not already notified us, or download and print one off from the SPS website for completion and return to the SPS Lavenham office; this will enable us to claim Gift Aid from





SPS Events Review

All our events aim to raise funds for the work of the SPS.

AGM presentation.



President, Geoffrey Probert, Chairman, Andrew Fane deliver the message



SPS CIO Annual General Meeting

In June the SPS held its AGM at the Guildhall in Lavenham.

It was an occasion to warmly welcome Geoffrey Probert as the new President, and an opportunity to meet with the Trustees and Director, and enjoy an evening with fellow Members. After the business of the evening the meeting was entertained to an enlightened power-point presentation given by Fiona Cairns, Director, which covered a scaled-down history of the first ninety years of the SPS, being celebrated throughout the year. This was a tribute to all those who had gone before, and their farsighted drive and steadfastness to protect Suffolk's unique character. It was pleasing to consider too how many Suffolk amenity trusts, groups and ideas had originated from the 'SPS stable' over the years, see pages 8 & 9.

SPS 90th Anniversary Celebration Great Bevills, Bures

The meteorological gods looked kindly on the Society's 90th anniversary celebration on the evening of 27th July. Conditions were perfect. As guests drove through the beautiful Stour Valley to Great Bevills in Bures, there was no hint of a cloud in the sky. The fabulous location on the lawns of Great Bevills allowed 180 Members and guests to join together in celebrating the landmark anniversary of the Society. Drinks and canapes were enjoyed and

thoughtful and entertaining speeches from the double act of President, Geoffrey Probert and Chairman, Andrew Fane provided a clear and consistent message to the assembled guests on where the Society saw itself and its vision for the future. Whilst also celebrating some of SPS's recent achievements, they re-emphasised the Society's role in protecting our county and called on us all to support the Society in ensuring that future development remains appropriate. Members are grateful to Geoffrey and

Nella Probert for hosting the event at their home - an ancient and stunning location.

Chris Philbedge, Member

It was the opportunity also for the SPS to launch *A Manifesto for Suffolk – 2019-2029*, a beautifully illustrated brochure setting out the challenges facing Suffolk, the commitment that the Society had in managing them, and a call to action to everyone who valued the County. Each Member and guest present received a copy to take away.





Linda Cockburn (left) and Julie Howe – new Office Manager



An amused Trustee

It was the occasion also for SPS to show its gratitude to Linda Cockburn, who was retiring from the post of office manager at Little Hall for the past eleven years. She was presented with gifts, with sincere thanks from her colleagues and many contacts, for her service and good wishes for a happy and fulfilling future.

Media training for Local Council and Amenity Groups

In July SPS, once again, welcomed Paul Simon from Isiaih Consulting to run our Media training event for campaigners and community groups. On this occasion held at the Ansell Centre in Hadleigh the attendees included representatives from Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Planning Groups and local residents, all keen to gain media coverage of their particular concerns. Paul, having identified the specific case which each delegate brought to the group, explained how the media works in particular highlighting that the local media is often very happy to receive well-written news direct from the groups immediately affected. Tips were given on how to use different types of media outlets to communicate campaigners' messages most effectively. This was followed by a series of role-play exercises with volunteer delegates giving interviews which were then discussed by the group. Finally, all the skills learnt were pulled together and the group was invited to write their own media releases. Once again, the feedback has been really positive from all those attending.

From Castle to Cold War - reading the Historic Landscape

The month of May was wet and cold but the forecast for Friday, 10th was for light showers in the afternoon, so we kept our fingers crossed. Dr. Richard Hoggett's qualifications as a heritage expert, lecturer, and writer promised a good day whatever the weather!

Richard kept us both educated and entertained indoors in the morning with a power point presentation giving the theory around the topography, settlement patterns, field systems, and buildings which give Suffolk its unique landscape character, along with plentiful real-life examples and plenty of opportunities for questions.

Then we took advantage of a break in the clouds to go out and practice our new landscape-reading skills in the town of Orford, starting at the castle and meandering through the back streets until we reached the quay and could look across at the weird and wonderful constructions on the ness. Sadly, the rain hit us half-way round, but didn't dampen our spirits – I for one found the whole day most interesting. Dr. Hoggett is an engaging speaker with a great depth of knowledge, and I learned not only new skills, but a deeper appreciation of a little town that I thought I knew well. Nicky Moxey, Bentley Parish Council

Orford, Suffolk Coastal



Diary Dates

Support and enjoy events while raising important funds for the SPS. The website contains full details *www.suffolksociety.org*

BOOKING INFORMATION

All SPS events are open to Members and their guests unless stated otherwise. However, some events may take limited numbers for obvious reasons so early booking is advisable. Please book through the SPS office, unless an alternative is given – Little Hall, Market Place, Lavenham CO10 9QZ, email address <code>sps@suffolksociety.org</code> or telephone 01787 247179. Cheques are payable to 'SPS' and upon receipt names will be placed on a list – tickets not usually issued. However, where tickets become necessary for a particular event, this will be indicated, and we request you enclose a stamped-addressed envelope. Please check our website for event updates.

Events 2019-20

LANDSCAPE TRAINING FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUPS, PARISH COUNCILS & AMENITY SOCIETIES

HAUGHLEY PARK BARN,

Haughley, Stowmarket, IP14 3JY

October: 15th Tuesday Time: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Registration: 9.30 am Cost: Members £30.00 Non-Members £75.00

Refreshments

This enhanced landscape training programme will explore understanding landscape proposals as part of development schemes as well as the assessment of landscapes with a view to delivering Neighbourhood Plans.

Ruth Elwood, Landscape Architect,

see page 23, has agreed to return to give us another professionally informed insight into understanding landscape proposals - an important part of the planning toolkit. She will be joined by **Alison Farmer**, who is one of the UK's leading professionals in landscape character assessment. Alison's work covers landscape and visual impact and character assessments, townscape and urban fringe assessment, historic and designed landscapes, and protected landscape guidance, and will be of particular relevance to Neighbourhood Planning groups. The speakers will be happy to hear your case studies and apply the methodology. This broad spectrum of exploration will be delivered in an action packed session and will give

delegates the technical skills to apply in the light of increased challenges posed by housing development across Suffolk not to be missed!

SPECIAL EVENT

SPS 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HAUGHLEY PARK BARN,

Haughley, Stowmarket, IP14 3JY

ELM TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

Followed by a talk given by Professor Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia

'TREES IN SUFFOLK: PAST PRESENT & FUTURE'

November: Saturday, 30th **Time**: 2.00 – 5.00 pm **Cost**: £20.00 per person

Members and guests to include afternoon tea

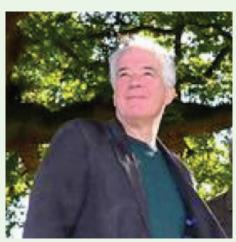
As part of the SPS's 90th year celebrations we wanted to give something tangible back to our landscape as a token gesture. The elm tree has been a huge loss in the Suffolk countryside so we will plant three disease resistant elms at Haughley Park, see article on page 17. The ceremony will be followed by a talk given by **Professor Tom Williamson**, a leading **landscape historian and landscape archaeologist** with wideranging interests including investigations of the history of tree populations and tree disease in England since 1600,

funded by the AHRC, DEFRA, and the Woodland Trust.

He currently leads an HLF-funded project studying the history and ecology of orchards in eastern England ('Orchards East'); and works with Chris Scull and others on a study of the important Anglo-Saxon site at Rendlesham in Suffolk, funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

Professor Williamson teaches courses on landscape history at undergraduate and MA level, and supervises MPhil and PhD students researching a variety of subjects related to landscape history, agricultural history, and the history of landscape design, and we welcome him for a return visit to inform and entertain us.

We will start the afternoon with the brief tree-planting ceremony which you are invited to attend; bring wellies if wet, but it will be a short distance to walk from our venue – followed by the talk and tea in the barn. We look forward to seeing you there.



Tom Williamson

Jules Pretty



TALK - THE EAST COUNTRY -HOW CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS CAN INCREASE WELL-**BEING AND HELP SAVE THE** PLANET.

SUFFOLK FOOD HALL,

Wherstead, Ipswich, IP9 2AB

March: Saturday, 14th **Time**: 2.00 – 4.00 pm Cost: £20 per person Members and guests Afternoon tea

Professor Jules Pretty, OBE is an author and academic whose exciting work focuses on sustainable agriculture and the relations between people and the land. Professor Pretty was awarded an OBE in 2006 for services to sustainable agriculture, and was a member of the UK government Foresight project on Global Food and Farming Futures.

He writes on the importance and relevance of nature for people. His most recent book, The East Country: Almanac Tales of Valley and Shore (Comstock) was winner of the East Anglian Book Awards 2018. In his book Professor Pretty follows the seasons through seventy-four tales

Riverside Centre, Statford St. Andrew



set in a variety of landscapes from valley to salty shore. He convinces us that we should all develop long attachments to the locale, observing that the land can change us for the better.

His talk will be at the foodie venue of the Suffolk Food Hall in the Feast lecture room, an interesting location with views on to the River Orwell. Do join us for this special talk - and why not extend your visit and enjoy the bustling rustic-style market of gourmet food and wine - and a chocolate shop – all in the adjacent barn. An enjoyable day out.

HERITAGE TRAINING DAY FOR **CONSULTEES, COUNCILS & AMENITY GROUPS**

RIVERSIDE CENTRE.

6 Gt. Glenham Road, Stratford St. Andrew, IP17 1LL

April: Tuesday, 7th

Time: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm Registration: 9.30 am Cost: £20.00 members £40.00 non-members Refreshments

Increasingly, town and parish councils are the new front line in heritage management and play an important role as statutory consultees when changes are made to the historic environment through the planning system. This seminar, through case studies, will provide essential advice and skills, delivered in a practical way, when facing the challenge of safeguarding Suffolk's special heritage, its protected buildings, designated areas and their setting.

Heritage professional, Bob Kindred MBE BA IHBC MRTPI is a founding director of the Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation (IHBC). He is a casework panel member for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute since 1975.

A coffee break will be included with time for assessment and discussion, see website for full details.

River Orwell, a view from the Suffolk Food Hall



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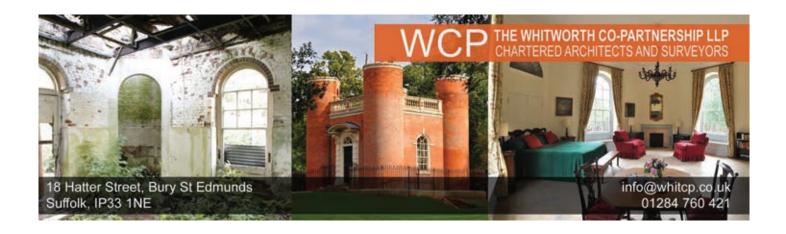
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