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

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Front: © SPS – Pakenham Watermill Back: © SPS – AONB near Withermarsh Green





Representing the CPRE in Suffolk

Foreword

SPS Director, Fiona Cairns, writes

Whilst Covid-19 has temporarily taken hold of our lives, SPS remains focussed on our charitable objectives of protecting and promoting the special qualities of our county. In these difficult times we continue our work in the knowledge that when the recovery begins there will be even greater need to create beautiful places. In the meantime, we send our best wishes to you and your family. Keep safe and well.

Housing Design – is the Tide Turning?

You will be familiar with the SPS mantra for high quality design in Suffolk's new housing schemes. This message was embodied in the SPS #SuffolkBeauty campaign and threaded through its Manifesto, launched to celebrate its 90th Anniversary last year. Not only does good design make the inevitable thousands of new homes more palatable to their communities, but spirits are depressed by the bland and characterless and uplifted by beauty and a strong 'sense of place'.

SPS is encouraged by the fact that lots of other, much grander organisations are saying the same thing. The Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission (BBBBC) has released its final report, Living with Beauty (January 2020). This report asks for beauty, refuses ugliness and promotes stewardship. This follows the Government's National Design Guide, (October 2019) which illustrates how well-designed places that are attractive, enduring and successful, can be achieved in practice. It calls for local design guides and design codes, and stresses the need for robust, skilled assessment of development to achieve quality environments.

Place Alliance, a research body that forms part of University College London, launched its Housing Design Audit report in January. The Audit, which was sponsored by CPRE, measures how well the country is doing at providing high quality, well-designed homes, and showed unsurprising results. The audit of over 140 large housing schemes across England found that new housing is overwhelmingly 'mediocre' or 'poor'. Up

"We all want beauty for the refreshment of our souls". (Octavia Hill 1883)



SPS Director, Fiona Cairns

"A happy awareness of beauty about us should and could be the everyday condition of us all".

(Clough Williams Ellis 1928)

to 20% of the schemes did not meet the Government's stated ambition set out in the planning framework (NPPF) to refuse poor design, and the majority were, at best, only mediocre. In the East of England the picture was especially dismal with over 80% of reviewed schemes judged to be mediocre. They were found to be dominated by the needs of cars, with car parking and roads prejudicing pedestrians and public space.

One of the most distressing revelations was that less affluent communities often get worse design inflicted upon them. While Suffolk does not see itself as a deprived county, the relatively low land values inevitably impact upon the profitability of schemes which often translates into poor design quality.

Another finding was wasteful land-use. Low density housing means wasted space, and ultimately a waste of our precious countryside. This need not mean tower blocks should dominate the Suffolk skyline. We need more terraced housing that uses land more efficiently and gives us more 'bang for our buck'. This would reflect the traditional patterns of development seen throughout our Suffolk towns and villages, while resisting a dominance of detached homes with double garages. All in all, a consistently clear message is being heard that we need to stop approving mediocre design, start 'upping our game' and demanding more of the developers,

"To secure the home healthy; the house beautiful; the town pleasant; the city dignified and the suburb salubrious".

(Aims of the Planning Act 1909)

but how? Who has the power to make the differences that are long overdue?

Civic Voice carried out research in 2019 asking 'Who has the power in planning?' This showed that 43% of the decision-making power was in the hands of central government and 40% with the developer. Only 11% was held by local planning authorities. It also confirmed that communities had an even smaller slice of the power cake at a mere 4%. So it is not helpful to point the finger at the hard pressed planners who find they are labouring under the heavy hand of government targets, working in a permissive system that gives developers the advantage. Equally, those community groups, including SPS, must be realistic about the influence they have in this process in trying to drive 'change'.

The simple truth is that the responsibility rests with central government. The Housing Minister, Robert Jenrick, has issued encouraging words about taking up many of the BBBBC recommendations to raise design standards in the forthcoming Planning White Paper. But the primary change must be a shift in government policy to level up the playing field, to give power back to the planners by supporting their decisions to refuse bad design at Appeal and giving a louder voice to the communities who must live with development decisions.

Another simple change would be to include climate change considerations in the statutory duty of highway authorities, alongside road safety and efficient movement of vehicles. This would result in a shift away from the car and a bias in favour of pedestrians and landscape-focussed housing layouts.

If the tide is turning, now is not the time to sink. We must rediscover the values of the early planning acts and the visionaries such as Octavia Hill and Clough Williams Ellis. We have the right to demand *beauty* in our everyday lives and for the next generation.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/861832/Living_with_beauty_BBBBC_report.pdf

Comment

SPS Chairman, Andrew Fane, writes

As Chairman of SPS I write to wish everyone well and to say that SPS recognises the effect the coronavirus (COVID-19) is having on all our lives. It, of course, affects this publication - both in content and delivery. The virus is so severe and its outcomes so unpredictable that we leave its reporting to others. We at SPS continue to focus on our mission – the love of the beauty of Suffolk and our collective determination to protect it in our normal professional way. We hark back to happier days and hope earnestly for their return.

We have emailed this Issue to save costs in these stringent times and to avoid unnecessary contact for the publishers, and we hope you enjoy it as much as ever. The office continues to work remotely; the best way to contact us is via email on <code>sps@suffolksociety.org</code>.

Also, in line with the latest Charity Commission advice, the Trustees have decided to postpone the 2020 AGM until the situation becomes clearer.

Everyone at SPS wishes all our Members and readers good fortune in these very threatened times.

The Director, Fiona Cairns, writes on the previous page of some truly encouraging news on official attitudes to design, with a Secretary of State who clearly understands the harm done to communities by poorly built and designed houses. We at SPS aim to follow through on that emerging guidance and seek to use it to influence the appearance and quality of the new houses appearing in our county, though we have to acknowledge that this won't necessarily reduce the pressure on the housing numbers.

The less attractive task falls to me to



SPS Chairman, Andrew Fane, OBE

talk about one of the biggest threats to landscape and communities that has hit our county since the war, leaving aside this virus - I talk again of energy developments and their impact on that beautiful and still largely unspoilt landscape between Saxmundham and Aldeburgh, centred on Friston.

Many of our Members will have read and heard that a series of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) are looming relentlessly closer to that coast and the AONB, and indeed the reckoning began in February. Without going into detail, a series of cables are intended to snake ashore from the Thorpeness beach, carving wide swathes through the AONB and heading for the Friston heath and the pylon lines south. Huge quantities of energy, ultimately one third of all future supply for the country, are predicted to converge onto a few thousand acres of East Suffolk. The construction will lead to massive on-shore substations dotted around that heath plus related 'sealing end compounds'. And Sizewell C is looming close behind them. Currently an idyllic dark-skied corner of our beloved county this will become one of the biggest construction sites in Europe and the works will continue for at least 15 years, involving vast movements of heavy lorries and construction traffic. and thousands of new workers.

My summary sounds bleak, and for those living near the area I fear it will feel pretty much like that. However, SPS has been working hard on addressing these proposals from the start. Many

excellent letters in opposition have been filed (see the SPS website) and the Director and I have held a number of meetings with local residents and objectors to understand all the aspects. I have joined forces with local campaigning groups to supplement their efforts, and during the General Election I chaired a public meeting in Aldeburgh Cinema where I interviewed local MP, Therese Coffey. Since her successful re-election she has written a powerful letter of objection, (see her letter on our website.) I think we can truly say that SPS is in the front line with the troops and is vigorously waving the protest banner.

The forces weighed against us are formidable; however, we are not yet defeated. The source of all this 'new' energy claims to be green (wind power, nuclear energy from France and Sizewell C), the need is indisputable with huge diversion towards renewable energy being the only way forward for the world. The public benefit will be massive, but the loss to Suffolk and that priceless ancient community looks like being damaging in the extreme. A better planned system might have found somewhere else to place all this development, but where? I, and others have argued for the Thames estuary but the necessary ring-main technology appears to be years off, and there is no official will to go there because that brown-land is very expensive and they can cheaply compulsorily purchase the many acres they want at Friston. Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council are putting up strong objections but even grossly overloaded highways for ten years seem unlikely to stop this energy juggernaut. The dice is heavily loaded and powerful forces in Whitehall have been preparing this ground skilfully for some years.

Many of you will be aware that the Hearings for the windfarms have been postponed as a result of the national emergency and EDF have also confirmed that they intend to delay, by "a few weeks", the submission of their DCO for Sizewell C. Meanwhile, SPS continues to prepare its representations. We will wave the SPS banner and will work, with other objectors, with passion, vigour and skill - but it is uphill all the way. What we need is a timely miracle.

SPS 90th Anniversary Celebrations

Elm Tree Planting at Haughley Park

Member, Chris Philbedge, writes



Robert Williams, encouraged by the SPS Chairman, Andrew Fane, plants an Elm tree at Haughley Park – in National Tree Week.

Professor Tom Williamson was back supporting the Society last November, helping our Chairman, Andrew Fane, Director Fiona Cairns and owner of Haughley Park, Robert Williams, plant a disease resistant Elm within the Park grounds. The Elm was presented to the Williams family by the Society to mark its 90th anniversary. Members watched on and compared the differing spade techniques as the young tree settled into its new surroundings. Robert completed the process with a fine, timber tree-guard (made by him) on which was fixed the commemorative brass plaque. The new Elm will be in good hands with the Williams family. Their parkland and woods at Haughley contain a number of special plantations, areas of coppice and a fine selection of tree specimens within the arboretum.

As the light of the late afternoon faded and the temperature fell, members filed back across the lawn to the barn to listen to Tom Williamson deliver a talk about the history of, and our relationship with, trees. We learnt much - about the devastation of Dutch Elm Disease and that its 1960s version was a more virulent strain than an earlier one in the 1920s; that hedgerow Elm should only grow to a certain height (under twenty feet) - any higher and it is likely to become infected with beetle infestation.

Members learnt about coppice rotation and that a quarter of the value of oak had previously been in its bark for use in the tanning process. We also learnt about the best uses for the different tree timbers. Apparently, Elm is ideal for coffin manufacture, Hornbeam for charcoal (hence the greater



Professor Tom Williamson demonstrates a 'good technique'.

numbers found closer to London) and Alder for scaffolding, but perhaps in less health and safety-conscious times. Tom talked about how most of the mature trees we see today are pollards and that they had tended to be pollarded when their harvest was of a size which could easily be transported, demonstrating that the local population really understood how to use and manage their trees. Tom remarked that the unmanaged woods we see now are, in fact, the 'redundant factories' of our ancestors.

To conclude, Tom stated that disease in trees was nothing new. The movement of crops and the increasing age of our tree population had contributed to its spread. He urged us to go out and plant trees, but also to



SPS Director, Fiona Cairns, shows style with a spade.

diversify into minority species such as Black Poplar and Maple.

The afternoon was complete – SPS Members had enjoyed the planting of a fine specimen Elm to celebrate the occasion and to thank the Williams family for their support over many years, followed by an informing lecture from Tom. Members then relaxed and tucked into a superb buffet before heading home into a dark and chilly autumn evening. Everyone had marked the Society's 90th anniversary of its founding – with some Members being lucky enough to collect and take home their own disease resistant Elms, donated by Esmond Harris, MBE, the distinguished arboriculturalist, forester and Elm tree expert, see SPS Events on page 19.



Brass commemorative plaque to mark the occasion.

Good Urban Design

New development that knits into the existing fabric of towns and villages

by Martha Alker and Robert Townshend, Townshend Landscape Architects

TLA was founded by Robert Townshend in 1988, and is based in Central London with an established reputation for delivering high quality, public realm schemes, both domestic and international. It is passionate about creating lively environments that contribute to people's health, happiness and wellbeing. It is committed to investing in local community projects, as demonstrated by schemes in Camden, Islington and Southwark. Its creativity is represented in landmark schemes in the City of London as well as in France, Hungary and the UAE. Robert is also a Trustee of SPS.

The evolution of the urban fabric of our towns and cities is fascinating and has traditionally responded to the particulars of each place, creating a visual demonstration of regionalism, history and process. This evolution continues with new development underway across the Suffolk landscape. Too often though, the expansion of housing is seen as poor quality and mundane. Good design should be achievable in all instances and the resulting developments integrating positively with their surroundings.

In January 2020, the *Building Better*, *Building Beautiful Commission* published an independent report on how to promote and increase the use of high-quality design for new-build homes and neighbourhoods. Its premise is that beauty should come through good design, inbuilt from the planning stage through to delivery and does not necessarily result in additional costs to a scheme. The value of such thought is that it should enable 'place-making' to be the focus of the process.

Place-making is at the heart of landscape and architectural design, capitalizing on existing assets and potential to create places which encourage the creation of a sense of community, belonging and well-being.

Developments should seek to create places that are unique to their locality. This can be expressed through all aspects of design including siting, access, character, materiality and scale; developments do not need to be anonymous but a positive, creative response to the setting in which they are located.

Projects are designed through a series of stages which get progressively more detailed. These stages allow for design refinement which can help to create schemes which are both a response to their surroundings, and an opportunity to demonstrate design flair and



Marmalade Lane – designed with inherent sustainable principles, and cost effective function.



Marmalade Lane – attractive individual & communal green space.

identity. The finer grain detail is an important element for bridging the gap in scale between a masterplan and individual homes. By carefully constructing their contents, a curated set of proposals can be developed to create a residential development which can embody the soul of the locality whilst having its own identity.

The existing site and the surrounding context should provide the setting for a scheme, informing the character, identity and language of it. Knitting schemes into their context is a positive objective; to create a link with their surroundings so that they can become a part of the wider neighbourhood and not be perceived as an adjunct. By responding to the context, its unique qualities can be imbued in the scheme and will inform its sense of identity.

Developments should be a positive

addition to the existing area and an opportunity to add to an existing patina of spaces in the local context to help to create a place for everyone to enjoy. A variety of open spaces within a neighbourhood can allow for liveliness, quiet contemplation, and play and greatly enhance the sense of community, helping engender neighbourliness while sowing the seeds for a more enduring sense of local identity.

Creating a legible scheme will enhance the connectivity to the neighbouring areas. A clear hierarchy of routes and entrances while considering the way in which the setting of each building is read will enable residents and visitors to navigate the site comfortably. Meaningful, attractive connections, enhancing natural biodiversity corridors, and encouraging movement by foot and cycle will support and promote

healthy lifestyles and a sustainable neighbourhood.

Sustainability should be considered holistically, balancing environmental, economic and social criteria, and be embedded into the design approach for all developments to ensure that the scheme has longevity through the ability to adapt and change in time. Drawing upon the aspiration to create healthy and active spaces, developments should aim to deliver a sustainable community, encouraging and facilitating a sense of civic pride through the delivery of safe, well-designed spaces where people's differences – age and wealth – come together collectively and use the same spaces and places effectively.

Planting is a design tool which is available on all projects, as well as creating visually attractive spaces for residents and visitors. Planting is also key to a better, sustainable environment with multiple beneficial impacts including on the climatic environment — heat island effect, soil stability, air quality, water management and supporting wildlife communities. Planting also has a benefit on the health and wellbeing of residents, occupiers and visitors with multiple studies demonstrating these benefits. The seasonal changes in planting are a further way of engaging people with their surroundings.

The aesthetic of a scheme should be expressed in the choice of materials and carried through to the detailed design. Material choices are an opportunity for the designer to respond to the characteristics of surrounding neighbourhoods, considering traditional local materials and details, as well as selecting those that are sustainable, durable, attractive and affordable.

Demands for new housing should be met through responsible, considered designs and design processes which reflect their locality and are a positive addition to the identity of places. New developments should better reflect what communities want. Designers and developers understand the processes that are involved in creating good design and, given encouragement, are able to deliver it. However, for this to become a reality, there needs to be much greater joined-up thinking between national and local bodies so that all the stages of the planning and development process have the shared ambition to create places and homes which reflect the confidence we have in our society – and the benefits good design can deliver.

Editor's note: Marmalade Lane - Cambridge's first cohousing, custom-built and community-led housing development: schemes like this are now recognised by the government as viable and attractive models for future housing with its shared spaces and communal facilities, designed to foster community spirit and sustainable living integral to the development.

Mole Architects

Photos: ©David Butler

Winner of the 2019 National Urban Design Awards

(Public Sector).

Editor's note: the design sought in Goldsmith Street, Norwich to re-introduce streets and houses which had been dominated by 20th century blocks of flats. Existing green links were reinforced with a landscape scheme which extended beyond the boundaries of the site to include local roads and a park. The scheme is dense and low rise, and maintenance is minimised by designing flats whereby everyone has a front door onto the street, with its own staircase and lobby at street level – designing out all internal common parts. This is a low carbon scheme, where all houses and flats face south. The properties are socially rented.

Architects: Riches Hawley Mikhail Photos: ©Tim Crocker RIBA Stirling Prize 2019 winner (Architects for the SPS-initiated Clay Field scheme in Elmswell, Suffolk.)



Goldsmith Street - defined communal & green space.



Goldsmith Street - pedestrian friendly and softened with tree planting.



Goldsmith Street - embedded design for social living and cohesive shared amenity.

Planning, Conservation and Heritage Overview

Update and comment SPS Planner, Bethany Philbedge, writes

SUFFOLK'S ENERGY COAST

Scottish Power Renewables submitted its Development Consent Order (DCO) applications for two major new windfarms East Anglia 1(N) and East Anglia 2 off the Suffolk coast in January. These will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate before a recommendation is made to the Secretary of State. SPS has registered as an Interested Party in order to feed into the Hearings stage, which is expected to take place later in the year, but currently postponed as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. Whilst supporting renewable energy projects, we have serious concerns over some aspects of the projects. Together, these will amount to over 130 turbines between 30 and 40 km from the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB coastline. At up to 300m, they will be the tallest turbines worldwide and, therefore, although seemingly a good distance from the shoreline will be highly visible. Moreover, the onshore impacts of 9 km of underground cabling through the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and the industrial scale substations at Friston will be highly damaging. In total over 800 people, local businesses and organisations have made representations, indicating the hugely controversial nature of the proposals. These include Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council which have raised serious concerns including the impact on Friston and the AONB coastal landscape and Therese Coffey, MP for Suffolk Coastal, who has urged the Planning Inspectorate to recommend refusal of the applications: 'the impact of this proposal on the countryside, vital habitats, heritage assets, the amenities of local residents and tourism means that I formally object to these DCO applications'.

The threat to the East Suffolk coast from these vast projects continues as, despite questions around its financing via a levy on our energy bills, EDF is soon expected to submit its DCO for two new nuclear reactors at Sizewell C, although this has temporarily been postponed as a result of the current pandemic. Two interconnector schemes to transfer power between the UK, the Netherlands and Belgium are also planned and, in February, National Grid announced two new 2GW HVDC Interconnector Projects connecting the Electricity Grid in the Sizewell area to existing Grid locations in Kent. Details of the significant onshore requirements for these projects are yet to be seen.

HIGHWAYS WORKS IN HISTORIC AREAS

SPS has previously highlighted insensitive and damaging highway works where scant attention has been paid to the historic environment when installing signage, lighting and bollards.

A prime example of this was recently brought to our attention by the **Beccles Society**. Concrete bollards had been installed directly in front of the recently renovated and Grade II listed 'Pinfold Pound'. The Beccles Society was frustrated that these highway 'safety' works, which accompanied the building of a new supermarket, were both inappropriate in design and would fail to protect pedestrians on the pavement. We are pleased to report that following SPS's approach to District Councillor, Andrew Reid. the offending bollards are to be removed. The Highways Department agreed that it could have handled this better and suggest that lessons have been learnt to reduce the likelihood of it happening again in the future. We hope that a more suitable 'heritage' design bollard will now be installed at the road edge of the pavement, set further away from the heritage asset.

SPS continues to urge that **highways teams routinely work with their heritage colleagues** to prevent future insensitive schemes in our valued streetscapes.

HOUSING NUMBERS – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS vs EMERGING LOCAL PLANS

The number of adopted **Neighbourhood Plans (NPs)** in the county has risen in recent months with Aldham, Elmsett, Fressingfield, Haughley, Botesdale & Rickinghall and Mutford all successfully seeing them over the line having been through formal Examination followed by a Referendum. These plans now form part of the Local Plan against which proposals for development should be judged.

However, SPS is increasingly aware that NPs are not being given their due weight consistently by some local authorities. Two housing applications for sites in Thurston which are not in Thurston's adopted NP were recently approved by Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) after a lengthy planning meeting. This disappointing outcome followed officer advice that the housing requirements for Thurston, as set out in the draft emerging Mid Suffolk Local Plan, would not be met by the allocations in the adopted Thurston NP, rendering the NP out-of-date. Thurston already has four large housing developments under construction and the Parish Council had raised serious objections to these further sites. Effectively, however, MSDC has given its draft plan, which has received a number of objections resulting from the public consultation stage, greater weight than the Neighbourhood Plan which has been through Examination and Referendum and been formally adopted.



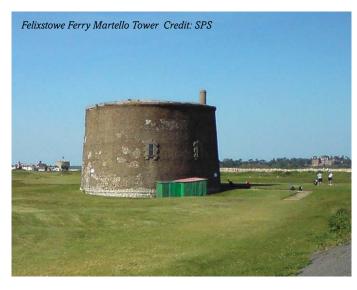
Interestingly, the Thurston decisions are in stark contrast to an Inspector's recent dismissal of an appeal for a housing development in **Eye**, also in Mid Suffolk. The Inspector stated that the conflict with the Eye NP, which was about to be taken to referendum, was a decisive matter. She concluded that "to grant permission would ignore the vision of the people of Eye and call into question the very purpose of the neighbourhood plan process" - local authorities please take note.

NEW ROADS

Suffolk County Council (SCC) has taken the welcome decision not to proceed with the Ipswich Northern Route project, following feedback from last year's public consultation. SPS's response had called for alternative sustainable measures to improve existing transport routes within the town, highlighting that a new road would inevitably open up large areas of greenfield land for housing. It is clear that the project did not attract widespread political support and that if government funding was to be available

there would indeed need to be significant housing growth. This would, in turn, generate more traffic in the area. It is reported that SCC proposes to address the problems of daily congestion and gridlock when the Orwell bridge is closed by forming a task force charged with evaluating both improvements to the existing road network and, perhaps even more challenging, changing people's travel habits. Meanwhile, Babergh District Council, in

contrast, is continuing to support a Sudbury bypass in its emerging Local Plan, despite the scheme being abandoned over a year ago. Those against the Sudbury relief road are particularly concerned that the potential impact on the Sudbury water meadows, and



that the opening up of land for more housing, will outweigh any benefits.

Editor's note: could a new pattern of working from home emerge from our present circumstances resulting in fewer road journeys?

PLANNING OUTCOME

Hatchfield Farm, Newmarket

In March, Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, granted permission for a development of 400 new homes at Hatchfield Farm in Newmarket. This long running, contentious application was initially supported by Forest Heath District Council but overturned by the Secretary of State in 2016 because of concerns over the impact of increased traffic in the town on the Horse Racing Industry. In 2017 this decision was successfully challenged at the High Court by the landowner, Lord Derby, together with the Rural Parishes Alliance. In supporting the High Court decision and granting permission, Robert Jenrick considered Newmarket a sustainable location for growth and stated that no evidence had been presented to suggest that the development would result in trainers or owners removing their horses from the



Sudbury Water Meadows



ENABLING DEVELOPMENT

Plans have been submitted by **Felixstowe** Ferry Golf Club to demolish their clubhouse and replace with a larger, contemporary building which would incorporate facilities available to the wider community. SPS considers that the proposed new building, which sits within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, exhibits a high level of architectural design. However, to fund this multimillion pound project, the Club is also seeking permission for five detached houses on the clubhouse site. The Club has the 18-hole Martello Course, and proudly displays an image of the Martello tower on its badge. It is, therefore, disappointing that the Martello tower is not set to benefit from this development. The tower is owned by the Club and is on Historic England's 'at risk' register and, therefore, SPS has called for investment in the heritage asset as a matter of priority.

County Courier

News and issues from the districts, amenity societies and members

Ipswich Borough

Report by Mike Cook, Ipswich Society

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust was formed in 2018 through the merger of the Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals. **Ipswich Hospital** gained £60m from this merger. A large portion of this will go to building a new extension for urgent A & E care as well as improving the Medical Admissions Unit, the Surgical Assessment Unit and scanning facilities. Appointed **Architects KLH, Ipswich** has tried its best to achieve some architectural cohesion with the in-situ external cladding.

The final draft of the Ipswich Local Plan, Core Strategies and Development Areas emphasise its co-operation with adjoining local planning authorities in delivering nationally-set housing targets, and more fundamentally, the purpose of the Borough Council's 'place-shaping' role. It will be under constant revision and will produce aims for the next 15 years.

St. Peter's warehouse and the old Burton, Son and Sanders Limited building on the Waterfront near Stoke Bridge are both owned by Ipswich Borough Council. The quay in front of these has been completely renovated and permission has been granted to convert the latter brick-built warehouse to a rehearsal space for 'Gecko', a 'physical theatre' at present without a home. To raise the funds for the conversion EDRM Architects have designed a scheme for the whole site; the concrete framed building adjacent will increase by three storeys to provide retail outlets with a cafe/ restaurant/takeaway at ground floor and basement level, offices on the first and second floors, and up to 14 self-contained flats with a roof terrace, amenity area and ancillary plant at third to seventh floors. This sensitive scheme will provide, with the Jerwood Regional Dance House, a welcome creative hub on this part of the Ipswich Waterfront. The Borough

Council-owned 16th -17th century **4 College Street**, Grade II listed house will be renovated and fitted out for office use removing it from Historic England's *'Buildings-at-Risk'* register. The remainder of the site is currently being master-planned; the future for this prominent site looks encouraging, especially as this nascent Saxon site has been an eyesore for decades.

A site next to the Blue Bird Respite Home on **Ravenswood development** was allocated for recreation; this has now been acquired by 'Headway' to concentrate its services for the rehabilitation of the brain injured in a much larger new build. This is a welcome move for Ipswich and the area providing for both day and inpatient care

for the injured and their relatives. However, the Ipswich Society and the Conservation & Urban Design Panel were disappointed with its uninteresting layout and design; they have made some encouraging changes. Many such buildings could be either architectural prize winners or 'an opportunity lost but a facility gained'.

A proposal to build a single-storey dwelling in the rear garden of 15 Warrington Road was refused. At Appeal the Planning Inspector supported the reasons for refusal in the Borough Council's decision. Its Development Management team leader felt that this was a significant decision in the protection of conservation areas and rear garden development and set a precedent.

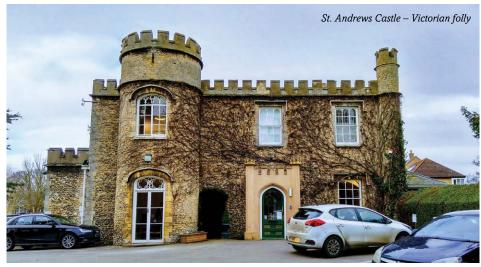
JCDecaux's application to erect seven 'telecomms' (advertising screens) in the town centre was originally thought to be impossible to resist but the General Permitted Development (England) Order 2015, Part 16 A (4) (c) (November 2016) removes the permitted development rights for public call boxes on which these are imposed. At Appeal the one in the centre of

the Old Cattle Market and the two in Carr Street had been allowed but the Appeals for those outside the Great White Horse, the Ipswich Building Society (Parr's Bank), outside Sainsbury's in Upper Brook Street and opposite Revolution, Old Cattle Market were dismissed because they would harm the setting of listed buildings in the central conservation area. The original legislation was introduced to prevent the loss of the iconic Sir Giles Gilbert Scott K6 telephone boxes which were under threat of removal; the law of unintended consequences then allowed the installation of other devices such as the 'telecomms' screens without planning permission being necessary.

West Suffolk Districts

Report by Roderick Rees, Bury Society

In Bury St. Edmunds a sign of the times is the rising number of applications to **convert vacant properties** in the town





centre. Plans have just been approved to convert the closed Bank of Scotland premises on Guildhall Street into an Italian restaurant and there is an application pending to replace the empty Lloyds Bank premises on Risbygate Street with flats for 'retirement living'. There are also plans to subdivide the vacant Palmers department store on the Buttermarket into two smaller shops. The local view is supportive, but perhaps the town might be better served with loft apartments above rather than offices. An application has also been lodged to convert the former Ashtons solicitors' offices on Guildhall Street into two large houses on the frontage and four smaller properties at the rear. The building is Grade I listed and was designed by Sir John Soane possibly one of his best in the county.

There was some relief when a development of shops and flats at Cornhill Walk was refused. The plans had included three large shops which fly in the face of what is happening on high streets elsewhere in the country. Meanwhile, the application to redevelop the **old Post Office premises** with new (smaller) shops and flats has been approved – so the town may now see the widening of the pedestrian link through to the Arc shopping centre.

Plans have been presented to **build nine new houses adjacent to St. Andrews Castle** on St. Andrews Street South. St. Andrews Castle is an early Victorian folly designed in the Regency Gothic style with castellated parapets and stone walls. There is local concern that the new houses fail to enhance the setting of this significant, much loved listed building.

Works are also well underway for the **new car park** at the listed railway station and soon there should be a start to make weathertight the empty Station Master's House. However, there remains concern that the new Millers Quarter flats, currently under construction, seem to have diminished the station frontage. SPS Members are encouraged to take a look and judge for themselves.

Looking to the future, plans are well advanced with a 13ha greenhouse development on the edge of **Bury at Ingham**, potentially supplying 12 per cent of the country's tomatoes. It is a carbon neutral project using waste heat from an Anglian Water recycling centre, perhaps another sign of the times.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts

Report by Phil Butler, SPS Babergh/Mid Suffolk

The saga around large housing proposals continues across our districts. Some are new proposals and others are persistent reapplications attempting to push through applications as is the case in **Debenham** for 295 dwellings to which SPS, once again,

raised objections. Likewise in Fressingfield, SPS has objected to three applications for separate sites which have all had previous applications refused. Parts of the supporting case against these applications are the local **Neighbourhood Plans (NPs)** that exist for these areas. Neighbourhood Plans were introduced under the 2011 Localism Act providing local communities with a vehicle to express and formally define how they would like to see their local area developed or protected. Once adopted, they become formal policy documents that the local planning authority has to take note of, and give weight to, in any planning decision.

In the case of Debenham the NP indicates that the local community are not against such developments, but clearly favour alternative sites in the village. For Fressingfield, it is more about the disproportionate scale of the development when taken together with other schemes already approved. The recently adopted NP (having been through Examination), does not allocate this particular site for development with the plan's Examiner noting "I do not consider it necessary for inclusion of additional sites". Therefore, SPS's view is that the policies within the NP should be given significant weight in consideration of the proposals as they have been independently assessed and the views of the parish have been clearly made on sites for future development. The first fully adopted NPs in Babergh/ Mid Suffolk were East Bergholt and

Mid Suffolk were **East Bergholt** and **Lavenham** back in 2016, closely followed by **Mendlesham** and **Lawshall** in 2017. However, the question is how powerful and useful these can be; the uptake across our district remains relatively low with only a handful of fully adopted NPs so far. Taking into account others currently being progressed, the potential coverage of NPs will still only amount to around a quarter of our parishes and towns.

Although producing a Neighbourhood Plan takes time and commitment from

communities (and has an associated cost), the outcome of having some locally focused planning policies really can only be a benefit, providing a strong evidence base for supporting or fighting future developments across our districts. The previous Parish Plans and Design Statements still remain relevant, but to a much lesser extent and of course, do not have any formal status.

Therefore, if not already on your local parish council's radar how about asking the question 'why not have a Neighbourhood Plan?'

East Suffolk Conservation Forum

Report by Bethany Philbedge

The annual Suffolk Coastal Conservation Forum is now an expanded gathering due to the merging of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils into one East Suffolk District. The forum, previously run each year by Suffolk Coastal District Council's Conservation team, is an opportunity for the area's amenity societies and SPS, together with other heritage bodies, including The National Trust and Historic England, to come together with the council's Conservation Officers for a review of the year. It also offers a chance to discuss heritage issues with like-minded groups. This year societies from **Beccles**, Lowestoft, Halesworth and Southwold **& Reydon** were invited to attend the event at High Lodge, Darsham, in addition to the Woodbridge, Aldeburgh and Felixstowe Societies. Topics covered included the Historic England study of shop fronts in Lowestoft, an extension to the conservation area in Woodbridge and the Listing of 1930s Kings Knoll Art Deco house in Woodbridge, which was designed by architect Hilda Mason ARIBA, 1879-1955 and has now been saved from demolition.



From the News-stand

Copy and comment

AONB view improved

UK Power Networks have completed a £425,000 project to underground two miles of overhead power cables to improve the skyline at Shingle Street, within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The works were funded by a special allowance from Ofgem.

It is reported that not only has the skyline been improved, but it has also eliminated the risk of birds flying into the overhead power lines. The underground cables are also better able to withstand winter storms.



Job done!

Going, going - gone!

It is timely but sad to report that Juliet Blaxland, SPS #SuffolkBeauty photographic competition winner, is parted from her visual subject! She, and husband Giles, had to leave their precariously placed home, which was the subject of her winning photograph, see article in Suffolk View, Issue 129, page 23. The

three simple cottages on the edge of the cliff at Easton Bavents became unsafe just before Christmas because of a series of storms and high astronomical tides resulting in rapid erosion. This left the cottage in imminent danger, and the difficult decision to vacate and demolish, sadly, had to be made.

People had lived in the cottages for over 200 years and although they might be termed ordinary dwellings they were special, being simple Suffolk farm cottages in a stunning location on the edge of the Suffolk Coast. However, there is a price to be paid for being so close to the North Sea. Juliet, an architect, writer and illustrator has written a book about her experience of living so close to the encroaching tide entitled *'The Easternmost House – a year of life on the edge of England'*. This narrative is the experience of living with the constant risk of coastal erosion but also of the extreme beauty of such a breath-taking location on the cliff.

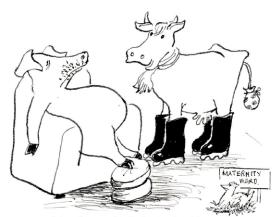
https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/ The-Easternmost-House-by-Juliet-Blaxlandauthor/9781912240548

This book was nominated in 2019 The Times nature book of the year.

Editor's note: on another erosion note East Suffolk Council determined that decommissioned Orfordness Lighthouse, dating from 1792, was unsafe after recent storms and land erosion, and ordered that it should be demolished. Its artefacts are in the process of being saved for display in a nearby museum.

Website planning warriors

On a chilly, wet and dark winter afternoon four SPS Members from different parts of Suffolk travelled to the SPS office in Lavenham to talk with Paul Simon, SPS's media consultant, about why they valued the help and support they had received from the SPS planning team. The interviews were recorded for the new SPS website: we hope you like our 'new look' and enjoy the interviews, and we thank the contributors for their support. www.suffolksociety.org



....raising the standard of animal welfare.

Oxford Farming Conference

EU farming subsidies are to be replaced by funds linked to efforts to combat climate change, the Environment Secretary announced at the Oxford Farming Conference in January.



The Government's landmark Agriculture Bill is now at the Report stage before returning for its final reading and it will replace the Common Agricultural Policy. It will be one of the most important environmental reforms for 40 years, covering many things from food security, marketing standards, animal transportation, securing compliance with WTO agreements on agriculture, and set the standard for climate change action across the world

The Bill puts forward a new approach where farmers and land managers are rewarded with public money for 'public good' – such as enhancing biodiversity, acting on climate change and raising standards of animal welfare.

Planning for the Future

If the Government Housing Secretary, Robert Jenrick, has progressed with radical reform of the planning system, which he described as 'broken' last October, it is possible he will support the 'renovation and refurbishment' of existing buildings through the planning system. This would make sense, not just in terms of sustainability, but because 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s 'may not be an ambitious enough target', according to his speech to the Policy Exchange think-tank. Mr. Jenrick also set out minimum design requirements taking up Chairman of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission who passed away in January) vision for housing, as he wanted to be a 'crusader for quality and sensitive design'.

A 'model design code' based on recommendations from this body came out in January, followed by a pre-white paper, 'Planning for the Future' in March. This included an extension of the Affordable Homes Programme with a new, multi-year settlement of £12 billion; over £1 billion of allocations from the Housing Infrastructure Fund to build nearly 70,000 new homes in high demand areas across the country; and has set a deadline for all local authorities to have an up-to-date Local Plan by end 2023, ambitious indeed in these difficult times.

"Like the pleasure of friendship, the pleasure in beauty is curious: it aims to understand its object, and to value what it finds."

Sir Roger Scruton, FBA FRSL – February, 1944 – January, 2020

New Design Guidance

Expanding on the previous item the Government is to encourage more beautiful design and to ensure local authorities have the support they need to demand higher standards. It will revise the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to embed the principles of good design and place-making - high-quality buildings and places must be considered throughout the planning process. It will respond to the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission's report calling for urban tree planting: and for communities to have a greater opportunity to influence design standards in their area. It will give local authorities the ability to ensure that new homes conform to local residents' ideas of beauty through the planning system using the National Model Design Code. Local places may produce their own design guides and codes, informed by local context. This will embed standards in planning policy and give local communities the confidence to demand that they are met.

Editor's note: see Foreword, page 3 and Good Urban Design, page 6. There are examples of well-designed, sustainable places but it lies with government to give the powers to the Planning Inspectorate to reject poor design if high-quality new build is to become the norm rather than the exception.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/ uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/ file/872091/Planning_for_the_Future.pdf

More trees please!

1 1 / W William Willia

A government tree strategy which was launched over the winter will need to plant 1.5 billion trees if it is to meet its pledge to reach net zero emissions by 2050 – and this needs to 'happen quickly', government advisers have warned.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommended that 30,000 hectares be planted every year but if other carbon-reducing targets are not met, it said this will



"I've got 15,000 young trees on my truck, where do you want me to put them?"

have to go up to 50,000. Last year, the UK planted just 13,400 hectares of woodland, the majority of which were in Scotland. Woodland cover needs to increase from 13 to 17 per cent – the equivalent of 1.5 billion new trees, said the Committee.

Research by Swiss scientists from the Crowther Laboratory in Zurich showed that planting trees in an area the size of the United States could be the 'most effective climate change solution to date'. The study, published in the journal *Science*, suggested trees could absorb and store 205 billion tons of carbon. This could remove around two-thirds of the extra carbon released into the atmosphere by human activity since the industrial revolution. The scientists said it highlighted 'global tree restoration as our most effective climate change solution to date', and adds value to the beauty of our landscape.

More than 15,000 young trees will have been planted in Suffolk over the winter. This amazing achievement was made possible through partnership working. The Woodland Trust provided the young trees (including stakes and guards) and Suffolk Tree Wardens, farmers and local people planted the trees supported by The Tree Council and Suffolk County Council. This has been followed by numerous small tree planting projects all over Suffolk, see Cow Pasture Lane page 17, including the SPS's tree planting ceremony at Haughley Park of disease resistant Elm trees on 30th November - National Tree Planting Day 2019 on page 5.

Editor's note: let us know if your community carried out a tree planting scheme over the winter, giving details. Indigenous trees add value to our landscape as well as contributing to biodiversity and climate control. There will be plenty to do when we can all get out and about again!

Heritage Matters

Unitarian Meeting House - Ipswich

A Programme of traditional repair

As large and as fine a building of that kind as most on this side of England, and inside the best finished of any I have seen, London not excepted.

Daniel Defoe - 1722



Interior showing original Dutch brass chandelier

Historic England confirmed in February it would be making a grant of £421,000 for restoration work on this fine Grade I, 17th century Meeting House. It was placed on the Heritage at Risk register in 2018, and will be removed from it when the restoration work is complete. It was originally founded in 1672 and the present building was officially opened in 1700.

According to the listed building consent application, on which this article is based, the meeting house is of a square plan and built of timber frame on a masonry plinth. It has retained much of its original fabric and many interior fittings, the latter having been retained almost intact. It is plastered externally with modillion block cornice at the eaves. There are original timber framed mullion and transom windows and the 'bulls-eye' oculus windows survive with their original leaded glazing. The building has a twin-hipped roof with a central lead gutter and is of significant pitch to carry plain tiles. It is two storeyed – the upper storey windows light the gallery which runs round three sides of the building.

The interior of the meeting house is contemporary with the original construction and has survived unaltered, other than for



some reorientation of the central bank of high-backed box pews, made of pine, around 1900. However, the focus is on the pulpit representing pre-eminence, and characteristic of the reformed protestant church design of this period. It is elaborately carved, early eighteenth century work and redolent of the style of Grinling Gibbons.

The meeting house is of great interest in architectural terms and Pevsner (Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England*, Suffolk edition) described it as a 'gem'. Given the importance of the retained fabric and the extensive survival of a rare, late 17th century Dissenters' chapel interior, **KLM Architects, Ipswich** are to consider each and every item of the proposed repair works and assess each in terms of 'preserving significance through each intervention', and their prepared proposals are detailed.

The twentieth century interventions had included an impervious concrete render, creating dampness and cracking to the plaster work. Untreated steel had been used in the frame supports which had subsequently corroded. This scheme proposes to remove all the modern in-built steel structural elements and reinstate the timber framing with sympathetic repairs to provide compatibility with the original structure. These defects had been placing at risk the original timber elements, including the interior wall panelling within the building which was key to its architectural and historical significance.

The new repairs will use traditional materials – chalk and lime, and putty and hair render. Structural repairs to the timber frame include an oak sole plate (replacing the currently corroding steel channel which had been set into concrete foundations) and new bracing, first removing the twentieth century steel members.

Some window frames will be removed and replaced with purpose made joinery, while others will be removed and refurbished, reinstating all lead glazing to both replacements and repairs.

All existing roof tiles will be removed because they have reached the end of their serviceable life. These will be replaced with handmade plain clay tiles incorporating a 'bat safe' breathable underlay and purpose made clay arris hip tiles, including repair of rainwater gullies.

Sheep's wool insulation, which is breathable and controls moisture allowing excess to pass through the building fabric, is specified. The original paintwork was lead-based and while it is acceptable to use it on Grade I buildings, linseed oil based paints are suitable for historic building use and should provide a weatherproof seal, and help to preserve original features.

The SPS welcomes the high standard conservation repair approach using traditional materials and methods. It is an opportunity to right the wrongs of a damaging repair approach, from a previous era, and from which lessons have been learnt. We look forward to seeing the completed repair works and the removal of the Meeting House from the 'at risk' register. After all, it is a rare survival and one of Suffolk's most important buildings.

Editor's note: records still exist of this place of worship in 1699, including the original building contract and the sermon preached by the Reverend John Fairfax on 26th April, 1700 at the original opening service. Originally Presbyterian, the congregation became Unitarian during the eighteenth century by a process of theological and spiritual development.

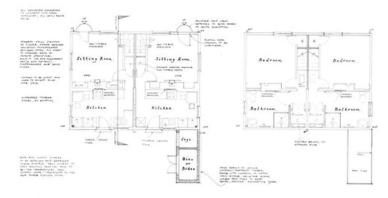
Some original 18th century pine pews



Heritage Matters

The White Cottage, Framlingham





Ground Floor Plan

First Floor Plan.



Ready for thoughtful and sensitive repair. Pictures © Paul Bradley Architecture

The plans make restoration possible.

The White Cottage, although a dilapidated, non-designated heritage asset, is identified as contributing positively to the Framlingham Conservation Area. Planning approval has been granted for its refurbishment with subdivision back into two separate, small one-bedroomed dwellings and is, therefore, a 'good news' story after the chequered history of its recent past. Previous proposals for demolition have been shelved by its owners, Framlingham College, in favour of sensitive repairs and refurbishment which respect the importance of the building's setting in a prominent position in the Framlingham Conservation Area.

The White Cottage, whilst derelict, is timber-framed and weather-boarded and dates from the late 18th or early 19th century and was formerly associated with a mill complex that existed nearby. In fact, the millstone steps to the south elevation will be retained in situ.

dwelling the permission sought to propose no new door or window openings within the main cottage and, in fact, one door opening is to be unblocked, hence it respects the original plan form. To give some extension of space it is proposed to rebuild a demolished single storey outshot structure on a larger, historic footprint.

To keep the character of this simple

The features of the cottage include black glazed roof pantiles; existing door and window joinery will be repaired or replaced using existing joinery as a reference point for ironmongery and mouldings. This detail is important in small dwellings where unique, often locally crafted features provide innate character.

Internally, mid-20th century fabric, detailing and fixtures will be removed. Replacement items will be sensitively designed, drawing on what exists for detailing. The former blocked outside entrance door will open with detail to match

the existing boarded entrance door, to form two entrances as before.

The landscape immediately associated with the cottage will be maintained and the whole will enhance the character of the adjacent Framlingham College and its environs.

Paul Bradley Architecture from Southwold, in producing the proposal to which this planning application relates, gives a sensitive and viable future for The White Cottage which fully understands and respects the significance of the structure, and the positive role it plays within the conservation area. We look forward to seeing the completion of this project and, hopefully, in a future Issue, bring you the final chapter of this modest dwelling's journey back to 'life'.

The existing door is retrievable?



Plenty of ventilation at present!



Opportunity for traditional plaster work.



Heritage Matters

Cow Pasture Lane tree planting scheme - The Road to Redemption

Member, Simon Cairns, writes

On a wet winter weekend, in a remote corner of the county, a little piece of Suffolk's lost landscape was restored through a coalition of the community, the landowner, Suffolk County Council and charities.

The landscapes of the High Suffolk Plateau Claylands have arguably experienced the most rapid landscape transformation of any part of the county. In the twentieth century, the small networks of cow pastures were transformed by the revolutionary power of the tractor and our new-found ability to cultivate these unproductive heavy claylands into arable land. This erased most of the historic, or indeed prehistoric, landscape structure and the dense network of hedgerows to create the prairie landscapes beloved of agribusiness.

The network of ancient green lanes, as public rights of way, were thankfully beyond the reach of landowners





and endured as a stubborn legacy of our prehistoric forebears and the communities that preceded the Roman colonisation. **Cow Pasture Lane** with its romantic and evocative title is one such ancient trackway linking the scattered farmsteads that fringed the waste of **Mellis Common** with the Knights Templar Court formerly at Chapel Lane, Thornham (one of the three medieval manors that controlled the parish) and onward to the estate villages of Thornham Magna and Parva – the ancient seat of the Henniker Majors.

The benevolent Henniker estate maintained the woody fringe along their length of the lane but sadly the Mellis end of the lane fared less well. The heart-felt loss of the sunken lane in Mellis during the later 20th century was lamented in the seminal work of Roger Deakin who lived in the adjacent Walnut Tree Farm. In his book 'Notes from Walnut Tree Farm' Roger allows us to gain an insight into the heart of Suffolk and the significance of the natural world to the identity of our communities. Sadly, Roger did not witness the reinstatement of the lost planting along the missing link of the lane. This recent act of environmental

atonement was only made possible by the landowner, the Woodland Trust and Suffolk County Council.

The new planting was funded by the Woodland Trust for the reinstatement of lost hedgerows and trees. It was a celebration of community action, with young and old from Mellis and nearby villages coming together over two days to plant thousands of whips into the cold wet clay at the opening of December. These included a European resistant elm tree (Ulmus laevis) generously donated by Esmond Harris to the SPS as part of their tree planting celebration at Haughley Park, see page 19. We hope that it might thrive as a potential substitute for the mighty English elms that once commanded much of Suffolk's countryside.

The resurrection of this stretch of the lane is surely a symbol of the need to achieve a balanced management of our countryside, where nature and food production are complementary and inseparably symbiotic. We need to ensure that a fair new deal is struck as part of the climate crisis between our post-Brexit Government and the farming community as stewards of our countryside.

SPS Photographic Competition

'Look up Suffolk'

In 2016, the Suffolk Preservation Society ran its first, very successful, photographic competition. Themed around the broad topic of 'Suffolk Beauty', it was inundated with good quantity entries.

We are now looking ahead to our next competition when times are better and we can once again go out and about. On this occasion our theme will be 'Look up Suffolk'.

We are asking for images taken from street or ground-level looking up that capture those fascinating features we tend to miss because of our busy lives.

The shots could be of pargetting detail; quirkily thatched roof ridges; good brickwork detail; interesting chimney design; skilful use of glass and leadwork in an upper window; an iron weather vane or an old hanging sign on a bracket fixed upon some building. The detail of an upper stone arch or moulding, even a



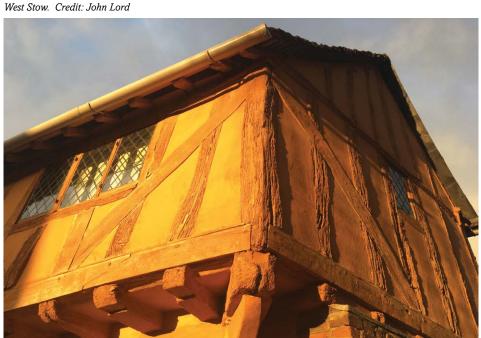
Christchurch Mansion. Credit: SPS

strangely placed icon in its niche perched up on a street corner cottage which catches the eye, as it did ours in Lavenham. Sometimes the juxtaposition of buildings that appear to lean towards each other when you gaze upward creates that photographic gem. Or perhaps your bent runs towards wild, natural landscapes – beautifully formed trees, coastal cliffs or the fabulous Suffolk skies. Look up and send us what attracts and fascinates you.



Pakenham Windmill. Credit: Chris Carroll-Davis





Little Hall, Lavenham. Credit: SPS



Orwell Bridge. Credit: Debbie Thompson



Suffolk Hares. Credit: Valerie Bond

Photographic Competition

'Look up Suffolk'

Full details will appear later regarding how to enter using **#LookupSuffolk** via Twitter, Facebook and our new Instagram feed suffolk_preservation_society. We will use social media to encourage everyone to talk about the various images submitted and feature our favourites. Photos are fun — we look forward to seeing yours when things look up.



Lowestoft's oldest shop. Credit: Julie Durrant



Water Street, Lavenham. Credit: SPS



The Arc, Bury St. Edmunds. Credit: Richard Jozefowski



Kirkley, Lowestoft. Credit: Julie Durrant



Hadleigh chimneys. Credit: Keith Evans



SPS Events Review

Our events aim to fulfil our charitable object though training and education and raise funds for the work of the SPS. Events cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic, will be rearranged.

Landscape Training Day

This enhanced landscape training day at Haughley Park Barn, last October, saw representatives from 25 communities, faced with new housing development in their area, attend SPS's second workshop. The first session, run the previous year, was so well received by attendees that we invited back the speaker, landscape architect Ruth Elwood, along with Alison Farmer who is one of the UK's leading professionals in landscape character assessment.

Alison, of Alison Farmer Associates, kicked-off the session outlining the importance of landscape character appraisals to highlight the significant aspects of our existing landscapes. These allow us to understand where new development could best be accommodated within the existing landscape and should be the starting point for all developers, rather than an afterthought. This was particularly relevant to the neighbourhood planning groups present who are tasked with identifying sites for housing within their areas.

After a refreshment break, Ruth Elwood of Elwood Landscape Design gave us another informed insight into the importance of effective landscaping to deliver successful housing developments. She encouraged consultees to view developers' landscaping plans with a cynical eye in order to demand the best outcomes for their communities. Ruth provided lots of unfortunate examples of what can go wrong, as well as some which demonstrated how a committed approach to getting it right can make all the difference to both those living in the new development and the existing community.

Once again, the questions raised by the group, and the positive feedback, demonstrated that this is an important topic to cover. The morning was both factfilled and fast-paced and many thanks were extended to both Alison and Ruth.

Elm Tree Planting Ceremony at Haughley Park

We were delighted when the distinguished arboriculturalist and author, Esmond Harris, MBE contacted the SPS office after reading about the proposed elm tree planting ceremony at Haughley Park on National Tree Day, 30th November, see page 5 for the full report and pictures.

Esmond Harris, MBE is a well-renowned and highly respected forester and former Director of the Royal Forestry Society from 1975–1988, now living in Suffolk. He was a recipient of the RFS Gold Medal in 2000 in recognition of his lifelong work championing education in forestry circles. A published author, Esmond's books include: *Trees, Usborne Spotter's Guide to Trees, Field*

Guide to the Trees & Shrubs of Britain, and Wildlife Conservation in Woodlands & Forests.

Esmond is an expert in the elm species *Ulmus laevis* – the European white elm. He has written about *Ulmus laevis* in several journals including the Quarterly Journal. The tree is not native to Britain but is a European species and shows strong resistance to Dutch Elm Disease (DED) due to a chemical in the bark which deters the vector beetles. Whilst most of the DED resistant elm hybrids, now being developed, are of American origin, *Ulmus laevis* is a European species and in profile and ultimate height, looks similar to the English elms that we have lost from the Suffolk countryside.

Esmond has been growing seedlings *Ulmus laevis* for some 30 years and

throughout that time has sought to distribute them widely. He donated 40 of his 2018-19 seedlings to the SPS and brought the saplings to the Haughley Park celebration to distribute to Members on the day. After addressing guests, he invited them to take a tree home to plant. There was genuine enthusiasm to receive such a wonderful gift and all the trees were snapped up. Many Members generously gave donations to the SPS while accepting the trees: thank you.

Esmond's contribution to the event was enormous and we are extremely grateful to him for the extra value that he brought to the occasion as well as his generous distribution of a new generation of elms which are a much loved, and missed, feature of the Suffolk landscape.



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 website, but if unable to do so contact us directly by email *sps@suffolksociety.org* or telephone 01787 247179.

<u>Coronavirus pandemic – all events below have been postponed but will be</u> rescheduled when the situation returns to normal.

Events 2020

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TRAINING HALF DAY FOR PARISH COUNCILS



May: Tuesday, 12th **Time**: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Cost: £15.00 *Refreshments*

This half-day training seminar will be invaluable to all parishes involved in Neighbourhood Planning, from the initial stages of the project through to those who have been through the process and are now wondering how to keep their plan up-to-date and relevant in an ever-changing planning environment. **Ian Poole, town planner**, has extensive knowledge and experience in managing and delivering

planner, has extensive knowledge and experience in managing and delivering planning projects in the public sector. Ian will cover the processes involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan and will include tips on how to get it right. He will also focus on the status of adopted Neighbourhood Plans against emerging Local Plans and the process of reviewing and updating adopted plans. This is also an opportunity to raise your own neighbourhood planning questions and issues with Ian.

Summer Event

'A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST J.M.W. TURNER IN EAST ANGLIA'

ALDEBURGH YACHT Slaughden Resign P15 5NA

June: Friday, 26th
Time: 7.00 for 7.30 pm
Cost: Price to be confirmed
Members and guests Drinks and canapes

Join us for this special talk given by **Dr.Richard Hoggett, FSA MCiFA**,

(a freelance heritage consultant, writer and lecturer specialising in heritage planning) which examines a series of watercolours by artist, Joseph Mallord William Turner, featuring sites along the East Anglian coast in the 1820s. These include views of Orford, Aldeburgh, Dunwich, Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Happisburgh. As well as being beautiful paintings in their own right, these images tell us a great deal about the dynamic coastal landscape and illustrate the changing artistic fashions of the early19th century. This subject is a speciality of Richard's - a 'not to be missed' event in a lovely location. Do join us for our summer event and absorb the coastal atmosphere!

'TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH' LAVENHAM AIRFIELD REMEMBERED

ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL

Old Bury Road, Alpheton, Sudb Suffolk CO10 9BS

Octobolicay, 10th
Time 2.00 – 4.00 pm
Cost Price to be confir

Cost Price to be confirmed *Refreshments Members and guests*

Michael Sutherill was formerly a regional curator for the National Trust and is a Trustee of the Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome and its Museum, at Maldon.

We will visit Lavenham airfield and return to Alpheton Village Hall for Michael's talk about a vital period during World War II and the plight of military aerodromes built in the East of England between 1939 to 1945. The aerodromes, occupied by the 8th Army Air Force (AAF) in the East of England, are particularly significant as it was the only region in the country where significant numbers of American service personnel would serve in the same area for the duration of the war. What survives of the aerodromes used by the 8th AAF provides tangible evidence of the scale and functions of such sites. It also serves as a reminder of the bonds that were developed between the incomers and the local populace. As a point of interest the unit's first commander was Lieutenant Colonel Beirne Lay, Jr., a prominent Hollywood screenwriter until he was shot down on 11th May 1944, in one of the group's earliest actions. He was brought down over enemy territory, but evaded capture and was returned to duty. After the war, he wrote the screenplay for the 1949 film, Twelve O'clock High.



Membership

A warm welcome to new Members

We hope you enjoy your copy of *Suffolk View*, which is an online only Issue on this occasion. Under normal circumstances you will receive it twice a year as part of your subscription. It aims to keep you informed and upto-date on many of the subjects we believe will interest you: please feel free to email it to a prospective member. Should you wish to comment upon any article or add to the debate please do not hesitate to contact us.

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. Your subscription plays a crucial part in our ability to plan for future work with confidence.

Under normal circumstances, Members also have the opportunity to meet at a number of functions throughout the year, see SPS Events on page 19. However, our events have been paused for the present but we hope to reschedule them in due course. **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 you can now download and print one off from the SPS website for completion and return to the Lavenham office; this will enable us to claim Gift Aid from HMRC.

Membership Information

New Joiner's Membership – now available via the SPS website:

Household - £30 per annum

Town & Parish Councils & Amenity and Community Groups - £30 per annum

Corporate Organisations - £70 per annum

Life Member - £500

CPRE membership available on-line from £3 a month via the SPS website link <u>www.suffolksociety.org</u> Also direct <u>www.cpre.org.uk</u>

It is now possible to join online on our new website, which we hope you will like, and which is updated regularly with events, planning news, back copies of Suffolk View and all the latest news and information.

PLEASE ADVISE US OF EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES.

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 contact - 01787 247179 or email sps@suffolksociety.org

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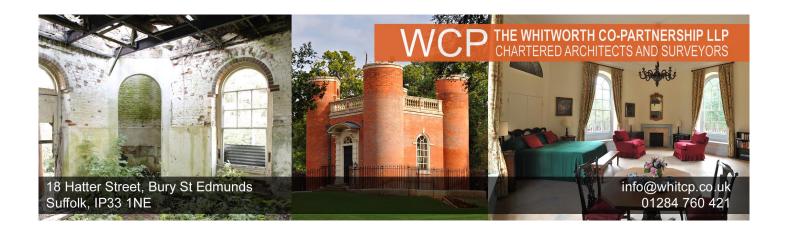
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