

suffolkVIEW

The magazine of the Suffolk Preservation Society



KEEP THE MILL WHEELS TURNING

A celebration of Suffolk's mills



Elizabeth Coughlin

Suffolk Preservation Society

As laden trailers lumber through our villages at the end of summer how many of us recognise this golden thread of harvest as a direct link to our Stone Age forbears?

We will probably never know what sparked the change in Neolithic lifestyle from hunter gatherer to farmer but we do know that grain crops were first cultivated in Britain 6,000 years ago and are thus the foundation of modern agriculture. Of course, the sheer scale and abundance of today's cereal yield would be inconceivable to those early farmers - probably just as well, since for

many centuries, processing was done by women with two stones to rub together. Small hand mills called rotary querns followed eventually and, while the Romans enlisted slaves to improve productivity, it was those clever Greeks who came up with the water wheel. This efficient new technology was introduced to Britain by the Romans and was widespread by the time of The Domesday Book. While the earliest mills were water or animal powered, windmills followed soon after in the 12th century with Suffolk being one of the first counties to adopt them.

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Keep the mill wheels turning

As farming developed, mechanisation became widespread, until almost every Suffolk village had a mill to serve the local community. Over the centuries these evolved to become more efficient in the face of the apparently insatiable demand for wheat but the fundamental reliance on sustainable energy, in the form of wind and water power, remained constant. By the early 1800s, over 500 windmills and around 100 watermills were operating in Suffolk, so apparently intrinsic that Constable's Flatford Mill is still one of the most famous and quintessentially English landscape images.

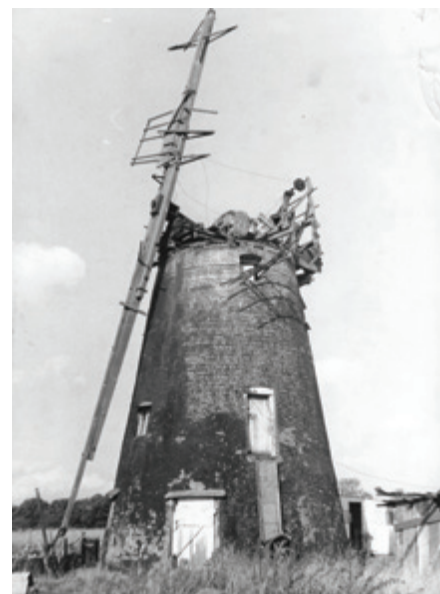
By the early 1800s, over 500 windmills and around 100 watermills were operating in Suffolk

While Constable enjoyed his rural idyll, however, the Industrial Revolution was bringing sweeping changes and the countryside did not remain immune. Steam and electricity could provide a constant source of power, motor vehicles improved transport to rural areas and the new roller crushers were more suited to bulk production than grinding stones. Expanding towns and the demand for cheap white flour meant that centuries of tradition were swept away in favour of large-scale centralised business. By 1900 only 200 mills were still working in Suffolk with just 13 of these operating at the outbreak of World War II.

Inevitably, the cessation of commercial use meant that the majority of mills fell into disrepair with many disappearing completely. Of the 80 or so survivors, some, such as those at Sudbury and Tuddenham have been converted into hotels while others are used as holiday accommodation or event venues. Of course, whilst preservation in any form is preferable to dereliction, the real magic of the mill comes from the unique combination of building and machinery. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated enthusiasts Suffolk boasts several locations where our rich milling heritage can still be appreciated.

THELNETHAM MILL

The cloth sails of this redbrick tower mill first turned on Christmas Day 1819, an imposing sight looming in splendid isolation over Thelnetham Fen. Built to replace an older design by local miller, William Button, it incorporated the latest technology. Over the ensuing decades of continued modernisation by Button & subsequent millers a steam engine for windless days was added, but eventually the challenges proved insurmountable and the mill fell into disuse. In 1979 it was purchased by a group of enthusiasts and following a painstaking renovation was returned to full working order. It is now in the care of the SBPT & with a fresh breeze can now produce up to 200kg flour per hour which is available for sale to visitors.





WOODBIDGE TIDE MILL

The ancient Greeks may have invented the original water wheel but tide mills, first used in the 7th century, were pioneered in England. Driven by the rise and fall of the tide, these were particularly appropriate for a county like Suffolk with often rather low water levels on inland rivers but blessed with an extensive coastline.

Operating on the same site for over 850 years, Woodbridge Tide Mill has a rather more aristocratic heritage than most. Owned by Augustinian Priors for 350 years, it was confiscated by Henry VIII, passing via Elizabeth I to the eminent Seckford family. Operating until 1957, the machinery lay still for a mere decade until restored and opened to the public. With magnificent views over the River Deben, the mill provides a fascinating insight into our industrial heritage as well as supplying stone-ground flour to local cafes and shops.

BARDWELL MILL

Built in 1923 and powered by wind until 1925 and then by a Blackstone oil engine, Bardwell ceased operating during WWII. Bought by the Wooster family nearly 40 years ago, its ongoing restoration is a labour of love undeterred by setbacks such the devastating storm of 1987.

Continuing in the family tradition, grandsons Will and Joe Wooster have revived their parents' bakery business on site and were honoured as "Best Newcomer" in the 2017 EADT Suffolk Food and Drink Awards. With products ranging from heritage grain loaves of spelt and sourdough to indulgent amaretti biscuits, the constant factor is a commitment to quality. That commitment means that currently Woosters cannot

rely totally on home-milled flour. Dependable consistency as well as quantity are essential but fortunately Marriages of Chelmsford, itself milling local flour since 1824, has both the pedigree and capacity to keep the ovens supplied.

Other working mills to visit in Suffolk include **Upthorpe Mill** in **Stanton** and **Pakenham**, with many more in various stages of repair and conservation.

Information on these is available from the Suffolk Mills Group and The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Or if your interest tends towards the culinary rather than the industrial, you could always try a Masterclass in traditional bread-making at Woosters. Either way, next time you pop a loaf into your shopping basket take a moment to contemplate how it got there. And be patient behind that tractor....



Cover
Bardwell Mill
Photo:
Joe Wooster

Page 2 top
Thelnetham before
restoration taken
in 1979

Page 2 bottom
Thelnetham
Photo:
© Michael Garlick
(cc-by-sa/2.0)

Top left
Woodbridge
Tide Mill before
restoration

Top right
Woodbridge
Tide Mill
Photo:
Stephen Thomson

Bottom right
Bardwell Mill
Photo:
Joe Wooster





Fiona Cairns

Director, Suffolk Preservation Society

As the country emerges tentatively from the restrictions of the last 18 months, we find ourselves having to adapt to meet to the realities of a world which will never be quite the same again.

One significant change on the SPS horizon is the retirement of our Chairman, Andrew Fane. Andrew and I joined the Society at the same time in December 2012.

Under his chairmanship the Society has increased its professional capacity and strengthened its reputation as a mature and reliable voice in Suffolk's planning community.

His warmth, good humour and positive outlook has made our time working together both rewarding and very enjoyable.

I would like to thank him on behalf of the trustees and the staff for all his hard work and dedication. During his time as chairman the Society has grown in size, reach, influence and reputation. This is a testament to his valuable contribution and a legacy to be proud of. I am sure you will

join me in expressing our sincere thanks to him.

The need for adaptation is well illustrated by the decision by SPS trustees to make some necessary changes to the Constitution. Most fundamental is a proposed change to allow our future AGMs to take the form of electronic meetings, should it be appropriate.

In a post Covid world reliance solely upon physical meetings is old fashioned and no longer fit for purpose. If Covid has taught us anything, it is how we can work effectively and flexibly in multiple ways, embracing technology to increase accessibility for all. Our governing document needs to reflect that.

However, the catch 22 is that we have to take the vote "in the room" to bring about the necessary changes to allow electronic voting! Oh the irony!

This year, for a variety of reasons our AGM has been postponed from its usual summer slot in June to November, and will be taking place at **Little Hall in Lavenham on 5th November at 6.30pm.** We hope that you will consider joining us or at least support us by giving us your proxy vote.

The meeting is especially important this year as we need to make a number of other changes to the Constitution to bring it fully up to date. Details of the proposed changes are summarised at page 19.

I hope you enjoy this autumn edition which celebrates our wonderful industrial heritage (milling article page 1), the equally wonderful people who care for our heritage (Heritage Champion Awards page 9) and our very special open spaces and hedgerows (articles pages 5 and 16).

“ If Covid has taught us anything, it is how we can work effectively and flexibly in multiple ways, embracing technology to increase accessibility for all. ”



Andrew Fane OBE

Chairman, Suffolk Preservation Society

As I approach the end of my term as your Chairman of the SPS - I will have completed over eight years at the AGM in November - I thought it valuable to reflect on evolution of the Society in that time.

When I joined SPS the world of planning was changing with the move to an internet service which brought to an end mountainous paper applications and responses. Fiona Cairns was newly in post but she responded most positively to the new technology and suddenly all responses could be made by qualified planners in Little Hall.

I have been fortunate in building a strong and eminently qualified new board in my time, and a glance at the list of trustees shows an admirable array of relevant professional qualifications. I am hugely indebted to them all for the expertise they bring to our work and deliberations,

and the professional support they provide to the team. Two in particular must be mentioned - Geoffrey Probert was my very first recruit and he has been a tower of resolve and sound advice and has since become our President following Lord Marlesford's admirable stint in that role, and he recently brought in Robert Townshend, a professional Landscape Architect and designer, and he has agreed to stand as my successor, subject to confirmation at the upcoming AGM. I am sure he will be a more than sound successor, and I am most grateful to him.

Fiona as Director, ably supported by Bethany Philbidge and Julie Howe our wonderful Office Manager have all been admirable and the Society could not have achieved what it has without their collective skill and commitment. I thank them most warmly.

And finally of course I thank you the Members. Without your subscriptions and donations, and attendance at our events, we could not have maintained our momentum. The Society's role as guardian of the wonderful heritage and special landscapes that characterise our county remains as important and relevant now as it did when the Society was formed.

“ I have greatly enjoyed my eight years of active involvement with SPS and I wish the Society very well into the future. Thank you all for your support. ”

Access All Areas

How can we open up
Suffolk's countryside
to more people?

Did you know that nearly 50% of the most deprived areas in the country are more than 25 kilometres from a National Park or one of the 46 Areas of Outstanding Beauty (AONB)?

In many respects, the challenges facing some of our poorest citizens, and those from Black Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, in accessing such sites is even greater than this suggests. Not all have cars, and public transport is frequently patchy at best.

When the most beautiful parts of England's countryside were given National Park status or designated as AONBs, it was intended that everyone could enjoy the benefits that access to them can bring. However, the mapping demonstrates that many people are currently missing out.

Not only are such levels of inaccessibility damaging to those individuals and communities directly excluded, but SPS believes that they represent a longer-term challenge to the very existence of such designated landscapes, including the two AONBs here in Suffolk: Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths.

Indeed, the separation of significant numbers of our citizens from any meaningful attachment to, sympathy for, and understanding of, our historic buildings, towns and villages as well as the wider environments in which they are sited, risks a future society even less inclined to favour their sustainable and purposeful preservation.

Meanwhile, the importance of 'social prescribing' would suggest that the healing powers of beautiful landscapes provide well evidenced benefits both for patients and public finances.



Research conducted on behalf of the Green Light Trust suggests that disadvantaged adults attending programmes at their Lawshall centre resulted in a 28% fall in GP appointments and a similar reduction in visits to hospital emergency services.

The cumulative impact on the NHS of such

behavioural shifts is a saving of about £6,500 per household over a ten-year period.

Preservation and accessibility are not mutual exclusives – far from it. We all need to take our heritage forward to ensure that future generations come to really value what is around them.

The healing powers of beautiful landscapes provide well evidenced benefits both for patients and public finances





Bethany Philbedge

Planning Officer, Suffolk Preservation Society

Planning Overview

Update and comment on planning issues

For details on all SPS's planning campaign work, see our monthly bulletins available on our website at

suffolksociety.org/about/our-publications/monthly-bulletin

CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

At the Government's 'Building Beautiful Places' event in July, Robert Jenrick, former Housing Secretary, set out his vision for a planning system that make beautiful, sustainable and life-enhancing design a necessity, rather than a luxury. New planning measures were announced, through which it aims to improve local infrastructure, help the environment, champion neighbourhood design and boost health and wellbeing.

The measures include a National Model Design Code – a toolkit to enable every council and community to create their own local design requirement. Guidance is provided across all aspects of development including landscaping, sustainable drainage and design to support walking and cycling. The word "beauty" will be specifically included in planning rules for the first time.

An updated planning framework (NPPF) has been published which stresses the value of beauty, place-making, the environment, sustainable development and underlining the importance of local design codes.

This greater emphasis on quality and design in the planning system is welcomed, as is an increase in community involvement. The changes to the National Planning Policy Framework set an expectation that good quality design should be approved, while poor quality should be rejected. There will also be an Office for Place to drive up design standards, piloting the National Model Design Code with around 20 local councils and communities.

Meanwhile, the **Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee** published a report on the government's proposed planning reforms which were included in the 2020 Planning Reform White Paper and concluded that they would not speed up housebuilding or make the process cheaper. The cross-party committee of MPs urged the government to reconsider the proposed reforms. They were unpersuaded that the proposed zonal planning will produce a quicker, cheaper and democratic planning system, and called for further details to be provided. The removal of the right for individuals to respond to planning applications is

particularly contentious and the Section 106 proposal could jeopardise the availability of affordable housing. They also argued that the government should provide an extra £125m a year for local planning departments.

Together with CPRE, SPS raised strong objections to the Planning White Paper not least because it seriously undermines the democratic principles of public participation in the planning process. It now seems likely that the hostility to the reforms, amongst Tory MPs in particular, will result in significant amendments before the changes are brought before Parliament, under the new minister Michael Gove.



"In my day that was taken for granted."

Guidance is provided across all aspects of new development including landscaping, sustainable drainage and design to support walking and cycling. The word "beauty" will be specifically included in planning rules for the first time.

OFF SHORE WIND - calls for a split decision

While the Examination into Sizewell C is currently underway, the Examination into the East Anglia 1(N) and East Anglia 2 windfarms closed in July after a 3-month extension. Of particular interest to SPS was a specific question by the Examining Authority during the Examination to Historic England regarding the historic value of the parish boundary which is to be lost as a result of the siting of one of

the substations. Historic England finally confirmed that the historic footpath makes an important contribution to the wider setting of the grade II* Friston church by physically and visually connecting it to nearby listed farmhouses. This was a significant development and one that SPS and the campaign groups were encouraged by.

SPS made a final submission adding its

voice to the local campaign groups and Dr Therese Coffey MP, that a split decision is the only appropriate outcome. This would permit the offshore elements, while withholding consent for the onshore infrastructure at Friston and calling for these to be "pathfinder" projects for a proposed offshore connection which is set to come forward post 2025.

COMMERCIAL SCALE SOLAR

Updated and revised **National Policy Statements on energy** are expected soon. The Society will work with CPRE in preparing its response to the revisions which are anticipated to create a far more permissive framework to deliver the government's target of carbon net zero by 2050.

The technology for commercial solar farms did not exist 10 years ago and therefore there is no policy framework in place to assess these schemes

The government has made clear its aim to eliminate delays in the process of delivering large scale energy projects which often end up in the courts subject to Judicial Review. The existing policy documents are over ten years old, out of date and no longer fit for purpose. For example, the technology for commercial solar farms did not exist 10 years ago and therefore there is no policy framework in place to assess these schemes.

SPS Position on Commercial Scaled Solar in Suffolk can be read at:

suffolksociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SPS-Position-on-Commercial-Scaled-Solar-in-Suffolk-Draft.pdf

In response to the burgeoning number of commercial solar schemes in Suffolk, centred around the substations of Bramford in the south and Burwell in the west, SPS has written a position statement on commercial solar farms which sets out the views of the Society when responding to such applications in the county.

We have recently reviewed plans submitted for a 78 hectare (192 acre) solar farm which have been submitted to West Suffolk Council just 2km away from the Sunnica nationally significant infrastructure project (5 sites approaching 2700 acres in total) which we understand is to be submitted within the coming weeks. The Society recognises the climate emergency and the need for a significant increase in renewables, yet strongly objects to the landscape impacts of proposals such as this particularly when viewed cumulatively with existing and consented schemes. Mid Suffolk now has two separate applications for solar farms in the Bramford area under consideration, from ENSO and EDF, and SPS are urging

that the cumulative landscape and amenity impacts of these must be considered.

Meanwhile we have met with representatives of the **Say No to Sunnica** campaign group and CPRE Cambridgeshire.

The campaign group are seeking the support of groups on both sides of the county border. They have raised a fighting fund and appointed a landscape consultant. We have agreed that SPS will work with the group and in particular review and contribute, as appropriate, to the landscape evidence that the group has commissioned.



NATIONAL GRID

National Grid have consulted on its renewed plans to upgrade the existing electricity transmission network from Bramford to Twinstead to include an additional 400kV pylon line in place of the existing smaller 132kV line.

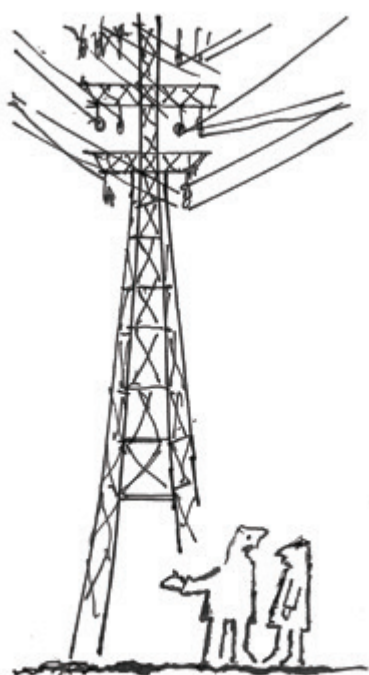
Only limited sections of the new transmission line are proposed to be placed underground and accompanying sealing end compounds will be required at each end of an underground section, inevitably themselves in a sensitive landscape

SPS responded to this consultation calling for a greater extent of undergrounding to better safeguard the special qualities of the Dedham Vale AONB, the Stour Valley Project Area and their settings. We consider that the proposals miss a wider opportunity to remove some of the wirescape which currently blights communities, harms the

setting of heritage assets and impacts large areas of Suffolk countryside.

In supporting the Nation's current and future energy requirements, Suffolk is being disproportionately affected in terms of the combined environmental impact of onshore infrastructure including substations, cables, solar farms and pylons routes and therefore SPS has called for funding to be made available to fully mitigate the impact of the proposals on Suffolk's landscapes, its heritage and the communities expected to host these various schemes.

Meanwhile National Grid Ventures are now consulting on proposals for Nautilus, an interconnector connecting up to 1.4GW of offshore wind power between the UK and Belgium. We expect that supporting onshore infrastructure will be required close to Leiston and Friston.



Suffolk is being disproportionately affected in terms of the combined environmental impact of onshore infrastructure including substations, cables, solar farms and pylons routes

Planning Overview

SUFFOLK'S HUMBLE HERITAGE

The important contribution that unlisted historic buildings, or non-designated heritage assets, can make to the character of an area is an issue that the Society highlights whenever the opportunity arises. It is therefore encouraging that the Hadleigh Society have produced a local list for the town - 'Hadleigh's Forgotten Heritage' (see Suffolk Spotlight page 18).

It was disappointing to learn however that a scheme to demolish the former Co-operative buildings on Carr Street in Ipswich had been given the go ahead. These buildings were included on the Ipswich Local List and local planning policy had called for the retention of their historic facades. The Ipswich Society fought hard, but nevertheless, the buildings are to be demolished to make way for a new primary school.

This decision follows one from the Babergh planning committee to allow the demolition of **Victoria Hall and the Conservative Club** within Sudbury's conservation area, as part of a redevelopment scheme. The buildings were included in the Sudbury Society's local list and the council's own Heritage Officer, SPS and the Sudbury Society had all objected to their loss.

SPS now has concerns for the future of a **19th century horsehair factory in Lavenham**. This time, the Heritage Officer has not raised any objection to its loss but SPS, as well as Historic England, considers it to be of significant historical value as well as adding to the aesthetic character of the conservation area.

The building is on the site of Lavenham Press and McCarthy and Stone plans its demolition to allow for a 35-unit retirement complex. Our objection to the scheme also relates to the proposed new residential block which the Society considers will be over scaled and will harm the setting of nearby listed buildings as well as the character and appearance of the conservation area.

SPS now has concerns for the future of a 19th century horsehair factory in Lavenham.

In East Suffolk, the council has adopted criteria which make it much more straightforward to recognise a non-designated heritage asset when a planning application comes forward. SPS has recently called for the recognition of the **White Horse Inn in Felixstowe** – due to its association with local renowned architect Thomas Cotman – following an application for its demolition. A decision has yet to be made on proposals but we were pleased that, following our response, the applicant was required to submit a heritage statement, to provide more detail on the building, and the council's Heritage Officer has agreed that the building should be treated as a non-designated heritage asset. This will be an important factor in weighing up any benefits of the proposed scheme.

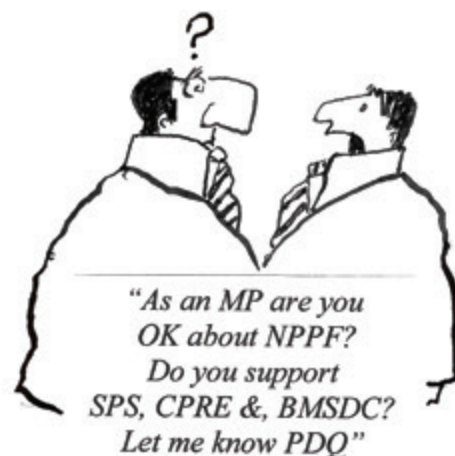


"That's sad, your great granny always had her hair done there."

BABERGH MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL PLAN

We understand that Examination of the Babergh Mid Suffolk local plan started in the summer but was soon abandoned due to difficulties relating to the Examination taking place virtually. It was rescheduled and should be completed mid-autumn. Meanwhile, following a meeting between the planning policy team and the Inspectors at the end of July, modifications to the draft plan have already been submitted. These include

the welcomed removal of a number of site allocations, including at Stoke by Nayland and Beyton, which had been contrary to those selected by the parishes in their emerging neighbourhood plans. More detail on the protection of the AONB landscapes and the project areas has also been added as well as clarification of confusing terminology regarding hamlets and clusters of dwellings, an issue which SPS had previously raised.



Heritage Champion Awards

#Suffolk
EAST ANGLIAN
DAILY TIMES

Heritage
Champions
SUFFOLK
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

SPS launched its Suffolk Heritage Champions Awards in July and what a wonderful response we have had. We always suspected that the county was full of unsung heritage heroes and the response to the awards confirms this. The number of people working hard to protect and care for our heritage has been inspiring. The winners are all hugely deserving of our recognition, our thanks and appreciation. We are delighted to recognise them all as Suffolk's Heritage Champions and to highlight the various achievements of a selection of them in these pages.

JAMES HALSALL AND MARION WELHAM

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING SUFFOLK'S ECCLESIASTICAL HERITAGE

James and Marion are true heritage heroes, having worked individually and jointly on promoting and protecting Suffolk's ecclesiastical heritage.

Marion Welham, a journalist, promoted "Angels and Pinnacles", as a tourism initiative to draw the attention of all ages to church heritage in the county. She also voluntarily contributed her regular column in the EADT, 'Selig Suffolk', until October 2015, and has produced a number of church guides and children's activity packs to make church visiting more meaningful and enjoyable.

James was secretary of the Diocesan Advisory Committee in the county for over 25 years, until he retired this March.

He spent his professional career in the county encouraging people to look after their church heritage buildings and encourage them to be user friendly. He was also a member of the Suffolk initiative to reduce VAT on church repairs, which nationwide to date has returned over £500m to churches in VAT.

NICOLA AND MALCOLM CURRIE

SAVIOURS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HITCHAM

Nicola and Malcom have been responsible for successfully delivering a £340,000 Tower Project at All Saints Church, Hitcham. The project was divided into two parts: 'Restoring Henslow's Bells' and 'The Evolootion of Hitcham church'. The first part involved the relocation of the organ from under the tower arch to the north aisle where it was restored and rebuilt. The six existing bells were lowered from

the rare C16th wooden bell frame which was also restored. A new steel bell frame for eight bells was installed in the Victorian ringing chamber and two additional bells acquired. Access from the tower stair turret to the original ringing gallery, which had been demolished as unsafe in the late 1800s, was opened up and a new gallery floor constructed. An oak screen with glass balustrade was constructed across the tower arch; this created a room at the base of the tower into which an accessible WC was installed. The couple submitted applications to over 50 different funding bodies and generated community support in the form of 2000 hours of volunteer labour, equivalent to about 285 days' work. They worked tirelessly over two years to bring the project in on time and on budget, repairing historic fabric as well providing facilities to allow the church a secure future as a community facility.



Heritage Champion Awards

ALAN GILPIN

LITTLE HALL VOLUNTEER GARDENER EXTRAORDINAIRE

The museum at Little Hall wouldn't be the success it is without the work done behind the scenes. Amongst the unsung heroes are the gardeners who keep the surroundings as impressive as the contents. The longest serving volunteer is one of these, Alan Gilpin. Alan came to Lavenham on retiring from banking. Sheila, his wife, heard that Little Hall was looking for gardeners and volunteered Alan. That was 1997 and Alan is still volunteering at Little Hall. For several years he performed a vital role, repairing and decorating, and on one occasion getting a distress call from a lady locked in the SPS office. The day came when he was advised that men of

his age shouldn't be going up ladders. About that time the gardeners had lost their mowing man so Alan moved to that role, and he's been mowing weekly ever since. He takes it seriously, edges as well. He's been a lifelong volunteer, one way and another and is still going at 84. Grateful thanks go to Alan for his part in making this special property an enjoyment for so many people.

MARTIN LIGHTFOOT

A MAN OF VISION

West Suffolk generally, and Bury St Edmunds in particular, have a great debt of gratitude for the work and expertise of Martin Lightfoot, with specific examples including the Pakenham Water Mill, Unitarian Meeting House and most recently the Grade I listed Guildhall in

Bury of which he became Chairman of Trustees. A man of vision and drive he has been actively involved in a number of heritage organisations, supporting them all with charm and enthusiasm. He has served as Director of the Suffolk Architectural Heritage Trust, Suffolk Building Preservation Trust, Bury St Edmunds Town Trust, with many projects in the town, Bury St Edmunds Heritage Trust and the Unitarian Meeting House Management Company, of which he was Director and Secretary for many years. He gave further help to Camphill Communities, is a published author with the illustrated book 'A walk around Bury St Edmunds', and still found time for his other long-term interest in very old cars! Martin is a true Suffolk Heritage Champion.



Alan Gilpin



Martin Lightfoot



Great Waldingfield crinkle crankle wall

GREAT WALDINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

PROTECTING AN HISTORIC WALL

A planning application in 2019, which would have entirely obscured views of an early 1800s 'crackle-crackle' wall, first highlighted the precarious position of this much-loved local landmark. Despite the refusal of the planning application, the future of the wall continued to be in doubt as damage to the brickwork was apparent and further deterioration was feared inevitable. The Parish Council at Great Waldingfield refused to accept the gradual decline of the wall and set about the task of protecting this heritage feature for the future. They applied to Historic England to ask that they assess the wall and potentially add it to the statutory list. This is not a simple process; Historic England receive many such enquiries and require clear evidenced justification to persuade them to consider a new building or feature for listing. In order to make a convincing bid, the group pulled together details of the history of the site and the wall in particular. They approached individuals and groups for support, including the district authority and SPS who wrote in support of their application to have the wall listed. SPS recognises the important role historic features such walls have in creating the special character of Suffolk and are delighted to be able to highlight those who go the extra mile to protect them.

BENTON END

A HAVEN FOR THE ARTS AND HORTICULTURE

Benton End, on the outskirts of Hadleigh, has a rich and extraordinary artistic and horticultural past.

For over forty years it was home to the esteemed artist plantsman, Sir Cedric Morris and his lifelong artist partner, Arthur Lett-Haines. Together they ran the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing welcoming many students, including Lucian Freud and Maggi Hambling. Vita Sackville-West, Beth Chatto, Elizabeth David, Constance Spry and Benjamin Britten, to name but a few, were frequent visitors. The garden at Benton End was revered by botanists and gardeners alike, for its huge collection of rare and unusual plants. Morris famously bred bearded irises, naming 90 different cultivars many of which carry the 'Benton' prefix.

Most recently, the property has been taken on by the Pinchbeck Charitable Trust. Having established the Benton End House and Garden Trust, and now in



Benton End



The Modece team outside
Old Fox Yard

collaboration with the Garden Museum, work to preserve the house and garden is ongoing, ensuring the rich history of Benton End is not forgotten. The aim is to re-establish Benton End as a centre for artistic and horticultural education, as a haven for those wishing to practise arts and horticulture, thereby echoing the spirit of Cedric and Arthur. All those involved in securing the future of this remarkable place are recognised as Suffolk Heritage Champions.

MODECE ARCHITECTS

BRINGING BACK TO THE FUTURE A 16TH CENTURY COACHING INN FOR TODAY'S CREATIVES

In 2019, Modece Architects acquired The Old Fox Yard - a Grade II listed 16th century coaching inn at the centre of Stowmarket. The iconic Fox sculpture stands in its courtyard. Modece envisioned the development of the Old Fox Yard into a creative hub, engaging the local community & beyond & growing to be a centrepiece of the Vision for Prosperity (VfP) of Stowmarket. Modece's architectural practice & other small businesses are located here & Fox Yard Studio is a space for local artists to exhibit their work, run classes & have workshops. SPS is pleased to recognise the sensitive and creative re-use of this important historic building and the contribution it makes to the regeneration of the historic town of Stowmarket.

Beautiful Places to Live and Work

Do changes to the NPPF offer hope for the future of design in Suffolk?

SPS has been writing a regular monthly column for the local media for a number of years.

Glancing through the 'back catalogue', one of the most constant themes, unsurprisingly given the Society's remit, relates to the importance of persuading developers and architects to improve their designs for new housing estates.

Five years ago, the idea that the planning system could in any way determine what might be considered a good or bad design and more fundamentally deliver 'beauty' was pretty much ridiculed.

The job of the planning system was to deliver numbers, big numbers of houses. It was almost always about quantity. Quality, well that was desirable of course, but not a

deal breaker. 'Anywhere' homes that bore no relation whatsoever to local traditions or materials was the norm.

That was why our Manifesto for Suffolk, which we launched in 2019 on the 90th anniversary of the Society's foundation, made the improvement of housing design in the county one of our key commitments:

These developments often bear no relation to their surroundings as the designs and the materials used in their construction make little use of local techniques, colours or styles. Such large housing estates often lack trees and open spaces and are dominated by poorly thought-out car parking. The fundamental character of their host settlement can be forever lost.

We promised that we would:

actively promote and celebrate examples of good modern design (SPS Manifesto 2019-2029)

Thereafter, a careful reading of our columns actually tells a more encouraging story. Slowly but surely, through successive iterations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the concerns of the Society have become more centre-stage and, indeed, national planning guidance.

The latest revision of the NPPF, published in July and its fourth substantive iteration, is another step forward in the battle for 'beauty.'

In a Written Ministerial Statement, the Secretary of State explained that: *"The new Framework is fundamental to ensuring local*



authorities and communities can shape and deliver beautiful places to live and work, with a greater emphasis on quality, design and the environment than ever before.”

The latest version formally introduces the concept of ‘beauty’ and considers how, through the mechanism of national and local Design Guides and Codes, such a concept might be objectively applied to subsequent planning applications.

Impressively, the new NPPF makes it clear that if there is no local guide or code, planning decisions are to be made in accordance with the National Guide and Code. Such a default ensures that the inability of some councils to put their plans in place in a timely fashion will no longer punish their poor residents.

The new guidance expands on the ten characteristics of good design as set out in the National Design Guide. These characteristics include responding to the context of the surrounding area, having attractive and distinctive identities, safe, social and inclusive public spaces, enhanced and optimised nature and houses that are built to last for a very, very long time.

If this sounds somewhat vague, the Guide helpfully gives many successful case studies and detailed explanations on what a well-designed place requires such as tree-lined streets. The requirements are often obvious, but clearly set out criteria that will make it harder for developers and planners to wriggle out of such straightforward obligations is welcome.

But what does this mean in practical terms for local communities fearing the

prospect of some bland, unsustainable housing estate on their patch? What influence can local people have in shaping the design of any future development?

Well, another significant change to the NPPF is the greater emphasis to be placed on community involvement in design. The role of “neighbourhood planning groups”, has been expanded beyond creating ‘neighbourhood plans’ to engaging in the production of design policy, guidance and codes by local planning authorities and developers.

This is an important guarantee of meaningful local involvement, not least as other shifts in planning policy mean the principle of development will be established through the local plan, leaving design as the main outstanding issue to be determined at the individual application stage.

The Society will be monitoring the implementation of the updated NPPF closely and will continue holding Suffolk councils to account in implementing improvements set out in the National Guide Code.

To develop local design codes and to achieve improvements in the design of approved schemes, however, these councils need to have the necessary numbers and quality of specialist design staff. Unfortunately, at the moment, Suffolk councils are not adequately resourced in this regard.

They are not alone in this deficit. The recent Bartlett School of Planning report – The Design Deficit – records that two-fifths of councils had no access to urban design advice, almost two-thirds no landscape advice and three quarters no architectural advice.

Very worrying statistics.

Page 12
The Avenue, by Thomas Pollard Edwards, Saffron Walden, Essex - an exemplar scheme in the National Design Guide
Photo:
©Tim Crocker

Page 13 Middle right
Goldsmith Street, Norwich - successfully defined communal and green amenity space
Photo:
©Tim Crocker

Bottom right
Celestion Drive, Ipswich - parked cars replaced by street trees in the future?

Bottom left
Landscaping scheme at Thurston.
Photo:
Jonathan Masters





Crow's Hall, a Medieval Moated Gem



Elizabeth Coughlin

Suffolk Preservation Society

The phrase “island paradise” generally conjures white sands and palm trees but give me the enchanting Crow’s Hall near Debenham any day. Lying just outside the historic town, the moated 16th century manor house is approached along a straight avenue of double lined oaks. With an elevated position in the landscape, it has far reaching views over its own 400 acres and the rolling countryside beyond. During the centuries since its original construction, the fortunes of the house have waxed and waned and by the time it came on to the market in 2005 it was definitely in need of an overhaul. Despite the challenges, it proved irresistible to owner Caroline Spurrier who has made it her home ever since.

Manorial history at Crow’s Hall dates back to the Domesday Book, although evidence such as Roman coins found nearby, suggest even earlier occupation.

The name itself appears to derive from John Crow, a Yarmouth shipping merchant, who lived at the site in the 13th century. Sold in 1397 by one Jenk of Framlingham it then passed by descent for several hundred years. Architecturally, the most significant player in the cast of owners was Sir Charles Framlingham, who inherited from his father in 1559. Recent dendrology confirms that two roof timbers were felled shortly after this, enabling the construction of the present North Wing just in time for his marriage to Dorothy, daughter of a leading lawyer and politician Sir Clement Higham of Barrow. As his status rose, Charles seems to have enjoyed further spending sprees, extending the existing Tudor barn and building the current bridge and dovecote. Sadly, the subsequent years were not always as prosperous and it seems by 1700 the Hall was in a state of disrepair resulting in the demolition of both the

south and east wings. Only the gatehouse and north wing were left standing, but three hundred years and numerous owners later, there was more than enough to captivate the current occupant.

Rewiring, re-plumbing and re-roofing will be a familiar mantra to anyone with an historic house but at Crow’s Hall that was compounded by the extensive range of original service buildings including a huge barn dating back to c1478. Caroline was determined to restore the house and outbuildings with the lightest of touches to preserve their authenticity as well as the actual physical structures. Nicholas Jacob Architects and builders R & J Hogg were called in to ensure an exemplary standard of design and craftsmanship and their efforts have certainly paid off. As you cross the redbrick bridge and enter the courtyard though its Tudor gateway it feels as if you are stepping back in time.



Page 14
Crow's Hall

Page 15 Top left
Crow's Hall Barn

Top Right
Caroline Spurrier

Bottom left 1
Crow's Hall
grounds

Bottom left 2
Crow's Hall gardens

Bottom right
Crow's Hall
renovations

Respect for history shouldn't imply any Luddite reluctance to embrace new technology, however, and the main barn now boasts a huge automated biomass boiler. Housed in an old grain store this supplies hot water and heat to the whole property. Its green energy also powers a state-of-the-art new grain drier and store which services the arable farm. Caroline admits ruefully that this may never pay for itself but for her it is essential to ensure the future sustainability of the estate.

Alongside the renovation of the buildings, Crow's Hall Island has been totally redesigned in order to complement and enhance the historic manor house. Leading garden designer Lady Xa Tollemache of Helmingham Hall has created a series of garden "rooms" on three sides of the house demonstrating her signature style of formal structure and voluptuous planting. From the sheltered entrance courtyard, heady with lavender and heritage roses, to

the elegance of the pool garden with its fountain and yew hedges, there is something to delight the eye at every turn. Jetty terraces alongside the moat and a sunken grassed amphitheatre complete the picture.

Although Crow's Hall is first and foremost her home, Caroline is keen to enable others to enjoy its unique and magical qualities and to that end she hosts a variety of visits and events. As a wedding venue, it is highly sought after with the dreamy island gardens and house providing an array of Instagrammable backgrounds while the grassy paddocks beyond the moat are ideal for marquees and glamping. The Tudor Barn provides a delightful and original setting for the wedding breakfast and dancing. Despite the newfangled boiler it remains very much a working farm building, however, still used for storing straw and machinery in the colder months. In the same spirit of authenticity, the number of weddings is strictly limited and all hints of commercialism

eschewed: whatever is going on, the horses remain stabled in the yard and the dogs almost invariably steal the show in the photographs!

Other events include occasional musical evenings, with previous performances ranging from jazz to opera, and afternoon guided tours under the auspices of the Invitation to View scheme. And finally, as a keen horsewoman herself, Caroline is always delighted to host the annual Pony Club Rally. Most definitely camping not glamping but huge fun for the youngsters, with the rolling paddocks providing a perfect secure location for endless fun and games.

Historic buildings are, of course, always an ongoing project, with repair and preservation being both costly and time consuming. Fortunately Caroline Spurrier has the passion, energy and flair to give her home the commitment it deserves. She may be lucky to live there but the house (and we) are lucky too: despite its chequered history Crow's Hall is in safe hands.



Hedge fund

Investing in hedgerows for climate, nature and the economy

Hedgerows are the unsung heroes of our countryside. They have been a defining feature for over a thousand years, bringing landscapes to life with character and beauty.

They connect habitats and provide pathways, shelter and sustenance for wildlife, while protecting the soil, cleaning the air and absorbing carbon emissions. They are nature's key workers.

But around half England's hedgerows have been lost since the end of the Second World War due to changing land use, or they've been left in poor condition. And whilst targets are set for tree planting and peatland restoration, the government has so far failed to show any real commitment to hedgerows. This has left us vulnerable to the threats of climate breakdown, while intensifying nature's decline.

That's why CPRE is calling on the government to commit to planting thousands of miles of hedges all across the country.

As a predominantly rural county, it would be hard to overestimate the contribution that our hedgerows make to the Suffolk landscape, as well as the clear environmental benefits that they bring. So the Society has been very keen to support CPRE in its recent campaign to highlight the importance of maintaining and increasing England's hedgerow network.

In early September, CPRE's research document into the future of hedgerows - Hedge fund: investing in hedgerows for climate, nature and the economy - was launched at an environmental parliamentary reception at Westminster. The research concludes that hedgerows could become champions of climate action and nature recovery, while creating valuable jobs within local communities. It highlights that while the government has set clear targets to increase tree planting, it is yet to set a target for hedgerows, which are crucial in soaking up carbon, protecting against flooding and aiding nature's recovery.

The research is part of the #40by50 campaign which was launched in the summer with a petition calling on the government to set a target to increase the hedgerow network by 40% before 2050. This target follows recommendations by the independent Climate Change Committee and equates to adding over 4,000 miles of new and restored hedgerows per year, starting now.

The report can be found here:

cpres.org.uk/news/cpres-groundbreaking-hedgerow-research



CPRE #40by50 campaign graphic

And SPS has been playing its part.

Suffolk is one of five counties taking part in CPRE's Hedgerow Heroes initiative which aims to work with local landowners to restore or replant 10 miles of hedgerow by May 2022. The Society has successfully secured funding from Defra via a joint CPRE bid which will be used by the Stour Valley Farm Cluster to plant or restore around 4 miles of hedgerows within the Dedham Vale. These will all be within view of public paths and lanes and the work will connect a more extensive network of wildlife habitat.

Geoffrey Probert, SPS President and Chairman of the Stour Valley Farm Cluster hopes that the current projects prove to be pilots which will

“light a fire of enthusiasm for roll out elsewhere. Certainly, we in Suffolk would be up for extending our 4 miles!”



Stour Valley Farm Cluster
Photo: Dedham Vale AONB

Suffolk Spotlight

Bury St Edmunds railway station



BURY ST EDMUNDS

THE BURY SOCIETY, RODERICK REES

The Bury Society commented upon preliminary proposals to locate the new hospital at Hardwick Manor behind the existing building on Hardwick Lane. The present hospital was built in 1974, but now has only a ten year life expectancy. The proposed hospital is one of those allocated by the Government for 'seed-funding' as part of a nationwide hospital building programme. Westley had previously been proposed for the new hospital, but this option has now been ruled out because of problems with site acquisition. Also, the existing hospital grounds contain many ancillary buildings, such as nurses' accommodation, which would be retained. The Society therefore accepted the case for building the new hospital at Hardwick Manor with caveats about access, parking and that the design should demonstrate a local Suffolk context. We also sought assurances that the current level of health care would not be diminished. We do not wish to see our new facility reduced to the status of a satellite for Addenbrooke's or Ipswich hospitals.

Through the wider Station Group, the Society also expressed concern about the long-term maintenance of the Railway Station. The Government has published a new white paper proposing that the responsibilities of Network Rail and the franchisees are placed under one umbrella organisation Great British Railways. The Group therefore wrote to the Secretary of

State seeking assurances regarding the future of this important heritage asset, including the plans for a new north entrance. The Society sought similar assurances about a separate application to decommission the iconic timber signal box built in 1888.

Still no news about the redevelopment of the vacant Cornhill Walk shopping mall, following dismissal of the appeal in February, but site clearance works have begun for the new houses planned for the empty Record Office car park on Raingate Street. Also, work is now well underway on the construction of probably the largest single warehouse in the county at 870,000 sq ft. It is for a Belgian logistics company and located alongside the A14 on the rapidly expanding Suffolk Business Park.

HADLEIGH

HADLEIGH SOCIETY, RICHARD FLETCHER

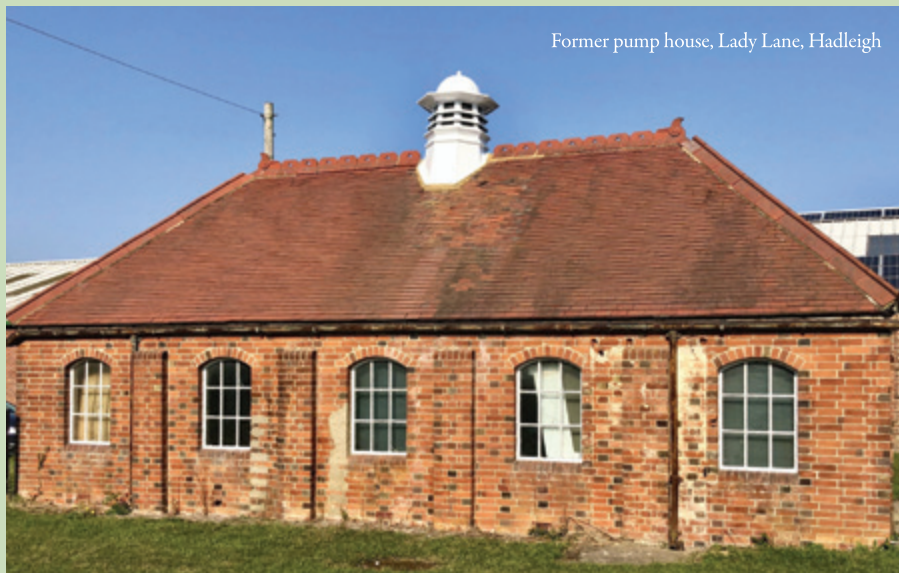
We may all be familiar with the Listing scheme which applies to nationally important buildings of special architectural or historic interest but there are so many more buildings and places within a community that define its own very specific architecture, history and heritage.

The Hadleigh Society in association with Hadleigh Town Council have been compiling a Local List of non-nationally listed buildings in the town which are considered, by reason of their architecture and or historic association, to merit special mention and highlighting in a "Local List of Non-Designated Heritage Assets for Hadleigh".

In compiling a Local List, it is very important that the local community have their input, and so an exhibition entitled Hadleigh's Overlooked Heritage was arranged in the Hadleigh Town Hall to invite the public to comment on the Local List. The exhibition provided an opportunity for the community to make contributions to the Local List, either by nominating properties they consider may merit inclusion or providing historical photographs and information to be added to currently selected properties. This opportunity for public involvement was extended via the Society's website to provide interactive access to the Local List. Details of the Local List can be found at:

hadsoc.org.uk/local-list

Former pump house, Lady Lane, Hadleigh



SPS CIO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of Suffolk Preservation Society CIO to be held on Friday 5th November 2021 at 7.00pm (registration from 6.30pm) at Little Hall, Market Place, Lavenham, Sudbury CO10 9QZ for the following purposes:

- 1 Welcome;
- 2 Apologies for absence;
- 3 President's address;
- 4 Director's report;
- 5 Trustees' Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020;
- 6 To receive the Trustees' Annual Report;
- 7 To elect Robert Townshend as Chairman
- 8 Thanks and appreciation to Chairman Andrew Fane who is stepping down and to Ralph Carpenter and Jessica de Grazia who are resigning;
- 9 To re-elect Trustees Nicholas Pearson and Bob Kindred who retire by rotation in accordance with the CIO Constitution;
- 10 To elect Thomas Seymour and Simon Sturgis as Trustees co-opted during the year by the CIO Trustees in accordance with the Constitution;
- 11 To re-appoint a registered auditor to the CIO, to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting when accounts are laid before the meeting;
- 12 To approve the draft amendments to the CIO's Constitution;
- 13 Members' questions to the Director and Trustees.

The CIO accounts ended 31st December 2020 will be made available on the website and at the AGM. A personal profile of the proposed Trustees offering themselves for election can be found on the website and available at the AGM. Copies of the 2020 AGM minutes will be available at the AGM. AGM papers will not be mailed out to Members unless requested. Refreshments will be available on arrival and an indication of attendance would be helpful - 01787 247179 or sps@suffolksociety.org

FOR THE ATTENTION OF SPS MEMBERS

NOTE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SPS CONSTITUTION

The Trustees have reviewed the Constitution and decided to make a number of amendments, which will now be put before the membership to vote upon at the AGM on 5 November 2021.

The Constitution, showing the amendments, can be viewed on the SPS website at www.suffolksociety.org. If for any reason you have no access to the website, please contact Julie Howe on 01787 247179 to arrange inspection or access to a copy.

In summary:

1 SPS's long-established function of representing the Countryside Charity (formerly known as CPRE) in Suffolk in matters of common interest is now expressly set out (Clause 4), along with co-operation with other relevant bodies.

2 SPS's powers will include power to provide advice and services to representative bodies, including councils, amenity societies, and voluntary organisations with similar objects in Suffolk, and, where appropriate, to others, and to charge for the service. Charities are authorised by law to charge for services provided in the course of carrying out their objects, and the power needs to be recorded in the Constitution.

3 As respects CPRE members who enjoy automatic membership while resident in Suffolk: the Constitution will now expressly record that SPS membership terminates on termination of residence in Suffolk or membership of CPRE: Cl.9(4).

Membership will be evidenced by the list of current members sent by CPRE to SPS and periodically updated: if not shown on the list, an individual may be asked to provide evidence of current membership of CPRE and residence: Cl.9(7).

4 The Trustees are given power to call an AGM, or any other general meeting they may call, as an electronic meeting and procedures are laid down for its conduct as such: Cl.11(1). That will not apply to the forthcoming AGM, and will only apply if the Trustees so decide.

5 The quorum at general meetings will be changed from 30 to 20: Cl.19(5).

6 The minimum number of Trustees is increased from 3 to 5, maximum 12 (as at present) and the minimum quorum for meetings will be increased to 3: Cl. 12(3) and 19(3).

7 No person can be elected as a Trustee, unless nominated by the trustees immediately before the general meeting or by 10% or more of the members by 14 days prior notice in writing: Cl.13.

8 Express provision is made for the removal of a Trustee, pursuant to a resolution at a general meeting called for the purpose and if passed by a two-thirds majority: Cl.15.

The Trustees consider it important that the Constitution is kept in good order and up-to-date, and therefore urge members to consider the amendments and, if satisfied they are appropriate, to support the resolution at the forthcoming AGM.

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY CHARITY INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Registered Charity No. 1154806

Members of SPS CIO (including Suffolk CPRE members resident in Suffolk who gain automatic membership of SPS CIO) may attend and vote in person at the AGM by registering at the beginning of the meeting. Voting by members will take place by a show of hands. Members who are unable to attend the AGM in person may appoint the Chairman or another person to speak and vote in their place at the meeting by using the proxy form below.

FORM OF PROXY

for use at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday, 5th November 2021 in accordance with the Notice of Meeting.

To be valid, this form of proxy must be signed by the Member and received at the registered office of the CIO at least 72 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting

I/we the undersigned, being a Member/Members of Suffolk Preservation Society CIO, hereby appoint the Chairman of the meeting or the person hereby named as my/our proxy to attend, speak and vote in respect of my/our voting entitlement at the AGM of the CIO as set out in the Notice of Meeting:

--

Resolutions:	FOR	AGAINST	VOTE WITHHELD
1. Apologies for absence			
2. To receive the Statement of Accounts			
3. To receive the Trustees' Annual Report			
4. To elect Robert Townshend as Chairman			
5. To re-elect Trustees Nicholas Pearson and Bob Kindred			
6. To elect Thomas Seymour and Simon Sturgis as Trustees			
7. To re-appoint an Auditor to hold office until the conclusion of the next AGM			
8. To approve the draft amendments to the CIO's constitution			

Signature of Member:

Date:

ARE YOU ONE OF THE EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE WE ARE LOOKING FOR?

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director@suffolksociety.org
to arrange an informal discussion to find out more.

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SPS Representing CPRE in Suffolk

Founded in 1929, the SPS Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1154806 is working to safeguard the buildings and landscape of Suffolk.

The views expressed in Suffolk View are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of SPS.

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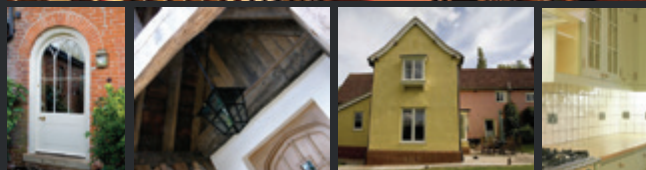


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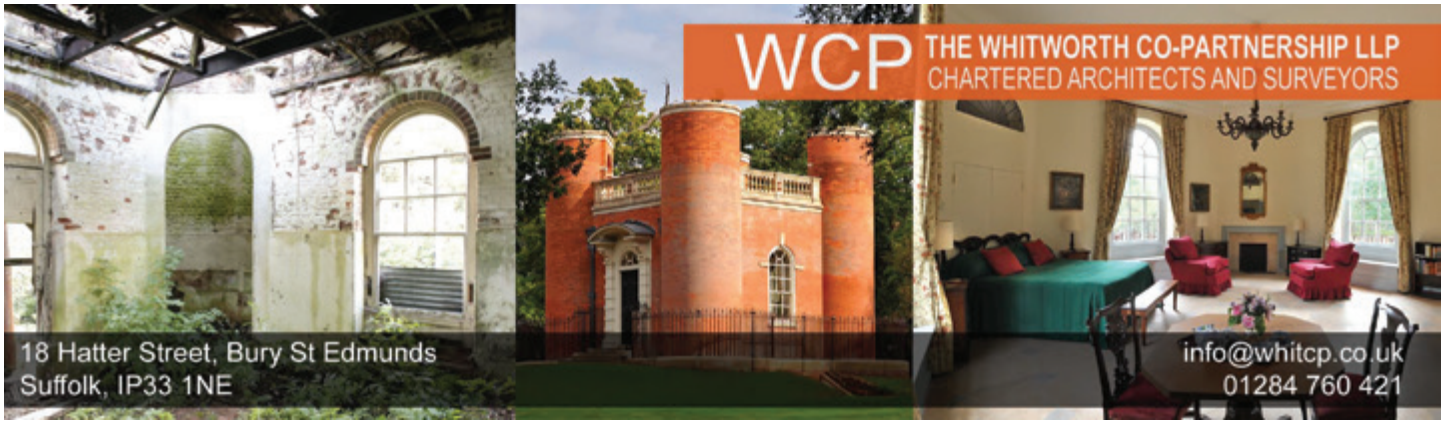


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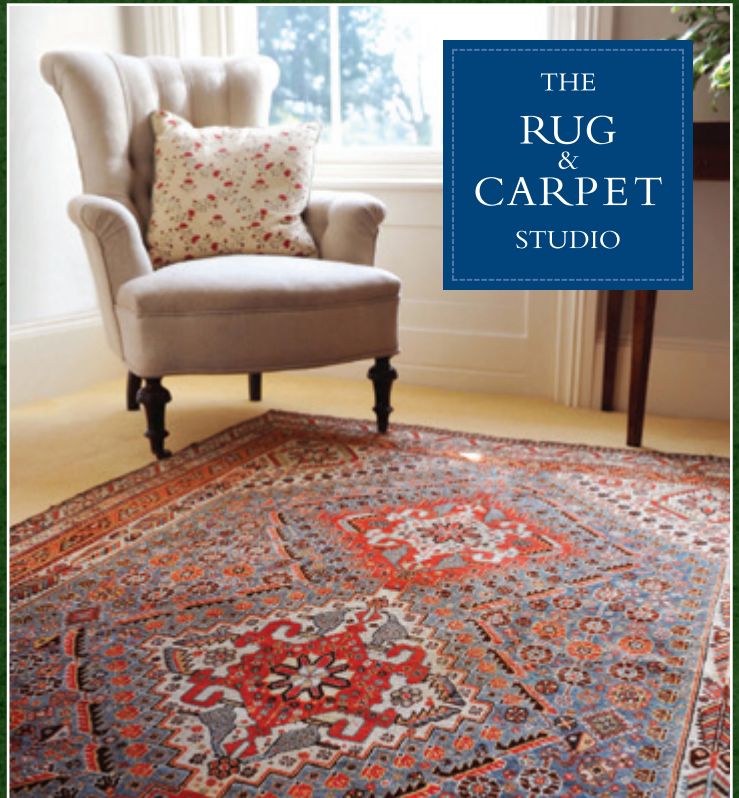
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