

Chairman's Report for 2010

1. Committee

Thanks to the Committee for their support during the past year. It has been a very busy time for the Society with full Agendas at our monthly meetings.

We were delighted that Jennie Jenkins agreed to stand as Hon. Treasurer on Richard Cave's retirement and we are also very pleased to welcome Mike Hunter as a co-opted member of the Committee.

2. Membership

Our membership continues to grow steadily and is now about 250. We are always delighted to welcome residents of the parish and beyond. There are a dozen or so postal members from as far away as Australia.

3. Events

The 3 Open meetings this year were well attended and Open Gardens was a success, although the total surplus was slightly down on the previous year. As ever we are very grateful for the support of garden owners who put so much work into preparing for the day. Open Gardens would not be the same without our splendid homemade teas in the village hall and again this is due to the skill and commitment of everyone who makes cakes, buns and biscuits.

The Constable Bicentenary celebrations were another highlight of 2010 and we were delighted to welcome 3 generations of the Constable family to St. James Church on Sept. 19th. Thanks are also due to Andora who put together the exhibition which was held over the village Festival weekend. A leaflet about the Constable Picture was funded by the Society and is on sale in the Church.

4. Planning Issues

The committee comments, where appropriate, on local planning applications.

There have been fewer than usual this year and the proposed creation of 3 flats and a small pub at the White Hart, and the redevelopment of the old Norfolk's Bus Station were the two which caused the most concern. Both of these are as yet unresolved. The Horkesley Park scheme is still under discussion with Colchester Borough Council and is expected to be determined shortly. On a positive note, we were pleased to support the application for alterations to the Old Maltings in Birch Street.

However, the committee continues to be concerned about the overdevelopment of listed buildings, the use of inappropriate materials and the difficulty of introducing solar panels and satellite dishes in Conservation Areas. We have produced a special leaflet *Living in a Conservation Area* as a guide for members wishing to undertake any home improvements or repair. As always, we recommend contacting Babergh District Council planning department at the beginning before any expense is incurred.

5. The Future

We have an interesting mix of speakers lined up for 2011 and preparations for the Jubilee year are in hand. 2014 is the 40th Anniversary of the Society and we very much hope that the long delayed book on the Timber Framed Buildings of Nayland will be completed in celebration of this great event.