

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

Registered Charity 268104

Chairman's Report for 2011-2

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 and a lot of time spent in between meetings studying the latest national and district planning proposals.

We were sorry that Andrew Eldridge had to step down as a committee member during the year. This was due to family and work commitments. We were delighted to welcome Mike Hunter as full committee member.

2. Membership

Our membership continues to grow steadily and is now about 265. 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 three **Open Meetings** this year were particularly well attended, and we much enjoyed hearing Hector Wykes-Sneyd speak about the Tendring Estate and Rosemary Knox talk about Dr. Jane Walker and her hospital.

Open gardens: 20 gardens opened in June, although the weather was poor the total surplus was about the same as 2010. 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.

4. Planning Issues

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

The **Horkesley Park Heritage and Conservation Centre** was turned down by Colchester Borough Council in May. John Alexander was one of the 13 people who spoke on behalf of the Society for 3 minutes each, opposing the project. We are awaiting a new application for a smaller scheme.

The **White Hart** continues to give cause for concern. The building is deteriorating and nothing has happened since Babergh's refusal of the last planning application in October 2010.

We are still expecting an application for development of the old Norfolk's Bus Station in Mill Street..

On a positive note, we were pleased to support the plans for change of use of the **Sacred Heart Church** to a domestic house.

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 without them being seen from the road. The Primary School roof is a case in point. As always, we recommend contacting Babergh District Council planning department at the beginning before any expense is incurred.

We were all horrified when BT suddenly removed the **K9 telephone kiosk** from Bear St. and the Society has adopted the Wiston kiosk to be re-instated in Bear St. The box has been decommissioned and we are waiting for the electricity to be disconnected before the kiosk is moved to Bear St. where it will again be an important part of the street scene. An information point or book exchange have so far been suggested as a use for it.

Pylons: We objected to National Grid proposal for additional pylons on the Brantham to Twinstead route and recommended that as much as possible should be undergrounded. The additional cost appears to be slowly coming down and we are hopeful that at least undergrounding will take place within the AONB.

We also responded to the **Government's National Planning Policy Forum** and the **Babergh Local Development Framework**, commenting that unlimited development in the countryside for economic reasons is not "sustainable development". Building on brownfield sites should also take precedence over development in the countryside. Nayland is one of several Core Villages identified in Babergh district, which means that because we have community facilities, it is likely we may have to find space for more housing, although this can also be put in any of the 5 hinterland villages of Stoke, Leavenheath, Assington, Wiston and Little Horkesley.

4. **Photographic Archive:** We are very grateful to Bob Rudge for sending us copies of his photographs of Wiston and Nayland in the 1950s and 1960s. They make a wonderful addition to the Society's records and many of them are now on our website. We have also been given another collection of Nayland photos which will be included in the David May albums.

5. **Jubilee Tree Slice:** Our slice of the Jubilee Beech tree was inscribed and sanded down by Tony Fryer who did a brilliant job as a gift to the Society and we are extremely grateful to him. Due to a split across the middle of the wood, we were able to give the other half to Nayland Primary School.

6. **Elm Trees:** Three Disease resistant English elms were planted in the autumn after consultation with the Parish Council and the Tree Warden - two in the allotment field and one on Nayland Meadow. Many thanks to Mike Hunter for organising this.

7. **Footpath Map:** A new full colour footpath map of the parish has recently been produced by Mike Hunter and is selling very well from the Post Office and Forget Me Not price £2.

8. **The Future**

We have an interesting mix of speakers lined up for 2012 and preparations for our 40th Anniversary in 2014 are in hand. 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.