

Chairman's Report for 2013

2013 was another very full year for the Society and we continue to enjoy our position at the heart of village life

COMMITTEE CHANGES: Farewell to Clemency Doxey and Jill Badman and to Pauline Heigham, who has been a stalwart member of the Committee since March 1998. Welcome to John Partridge, Jill Slater and to David Heigham who is taking over from Jennie Jenkins as Hon. Treasurer. We are delighted that Jennie is to remain on the committee and warmly welcome the new members and thank Clemency, Jill and Pauline for their support and contributions to the Committee in recent years.

VILLAGE HALL GARDEN: This has been maintained by Chris and Mike Hunter and we would like to give a special thank you to Jennie Hoskins who worked very hard at the autumn clear up day last October.

MEETINGS:

Committee held 11 monthly meetings

3 open meetings with speakers on *10 Years with Suffolk Timber framed houses*, *Farming in the Stour Valley* and *the Jane Walker Hospital – Recent History* were all very well attended and added to our local knowledge

MEMBERSHIP: We have updated our list of members and raised the Annual Subscription to £8 single and £12 double and hope that this can be done by Standing Order to facilitate the collection of subscriptions in future. Life Membership remains £30 single and £45 double.

CONSTITUTION: The Constitution of the Society was amended to authorise the Society to acquire and retain items of historic or public interest and to authorise the Committee to acquire and hold such items

PLANNING: This has been relatively quiet this year. We continue to be vigilant and study all applications in Nayland and Wiston. Comments or objections are made where appropriate. These included:

The White Hart: concern continues at the deterioration of the fabric and the continued loss of an employment site in the village centre. Contact has been made Babergh Enforcement Officer. It is not possible for the building to be included on the Community Asset Register as the use of the premises as a public house ceased more than three years ago.

The Horkesely Park saga continues. The Latest planning application for the Stour Valley Information Centre was turned down in February and the Appeal was heard in early October. The chairman gave a presentation focusing on likely traffic problems at the Hearing. We expect a decision from the Secretary of State on or before 6 May 2014.

9-11 Mill Street also appealed the refusal of their application for 2 houses on the site. The Appeal was dismissed by the Inspector in July.

19 Stoke Road: the Committee objected to the replacement of brick wall with woven willow fence and the creation of vehicular access. We did not agree with the applicant's statement that this "will enhance the site and improve the character of the conservation area from the current situation". The application was approved.

Buggs skips: Your committee objected to the application for a B8 storage building. We were concerned at the expansion of light industry in this rural location which has happened on a piecemeal basis. The application was granted.

Westwood extension of the Dedham Vale AONB towards Henny, has been proposed by the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Partnership and the Society has written to them. This will culminate in a formal approach by the DV Project to Natural England.

THE MEADOW has continued to give pleasure to walkers and visitors to the village. The path is very well used.

Sadly an alder came down in the St. Jude's storm blocking the footpath near to the A134. We are extremely grateful to Richard Wiles and Glenn Deering, a new member, for all their hard work in clearing this site. Some of the wood has been left in piles as a wildlife habitat. Richard and Glenn have also kindly cleared away some willow branches and debris beside the path to the north of Horkesley Lock.

Horkesley Road: members also cleared overgrown branches from the north side of the verge alongside Horkesley Road in the spring. This land does not belong to the Society and the Parish Council are in discussion with Suffolk CC as to who is responsible for keeping it cleared so that walkers can keep safely off the road.

THE ANCHOR/LOT 3 THRIFT FARM:

The Anchor has not yet decided how much land is required for casual temporary (up to 28 days p.a.) car parking on the newly acquired land beside Horkesley Road.

MAY FOOTPATH WALK: was led by Martin Wright and Mike Hunter and we are grateful to them for planning the route and leading a small contingent.

OPEN GARDENS: was very successful with 16 gardens open. £2,500 was raised which is close to our record (2009) and will go towards the 2014 Test Pit Dig. Thanks to all those who opened their gardens, made cakes and helped with the teas.

PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH TO STOKE. A grant was obtained from the Dedham Vale Project Sustainable Development Fund of £1,500 toward the £2,000 cost of re-siting a fence to enable walkers to be protected from the road. The Society will pay the balance. Work is due to start in the New Year. The Tendring Estate has indicated they view this as a longer term path and we are most grateful for their support without which this project could not have gone ahead.

PHOTO AND DOCUMENT ARCHIVES: We are extremely grateful to Lorraine Brooks who has spent most of 2013 scanning photo albums donated and purchased by the Society, from various sources. Additions to the collection were received during the year from some old Nayland families. Andora has been co-ordinating this project with help from Wendy with the captions. The plan is to have all the collections available online via our website and thanks are also due to Tony Price who has created the software for the search engine. Ultimately images will be accessible by subject as well as by the source collection. This major project is intended to mark our 40th Anniversary.

KEITH TAYLOR'S COLLECTION of Deeds, Indentures and Glass Plates were very generously presented to the Society by Usha Taylor, in his memory. We gratefully accept these important historical documents on behalf of the village. A list has been added to our website and they are available to be borrowed for further study by anyone who is interested. We are particularly pleased to be able to lend some of them to Nayland Primary school on a on-going basis. The glass photographic plates are very unstable and so will be given to the Suffolk Record Office for safe keeping. The Colchester VIth form College are at present printing off about 8 of them as samples.

We are looking forward to 2014 which, is, as mentioned earlier, the 40th Anniversary of the Society and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all committee members for their support and hard work during the last year.

John Alexander