

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society
Registered Charity 268104

Chairman's report for 2014

2014 has been an action packed year for us as we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Society in 1974.

COMMITTEE: I am most grateful for the support and hard work of our committee, Martin Wright, Jill Slater, Jennie Jenkins, Andora Carver, Mike Hunter, John Partridge and David Heigham, our Hon. Treasurer, all of whom offer themselves for re-election in 2015-26.

Our 40th Anniversary year got under way at our AGM in March when the **Archive Project** was launched. Loraine Brooks has continued to update the archive by scanning and uploading new images in the Society's collection. This is a wonderful resource and we showed our appreciation with a presentation to Lorraine at our 40th Anniversary meeting in June.

The Taylor collection of glass photographic plates has been lent to the Colchester Vith form College Photographic Department on permanent loan. The students are very enthusiastic about using these original materials.

In early April the new **Permissive Footpath Link to Stoke by Nayland** was officially opened by Hector Wykes-Sneyd, representing the Tendring Hall Estate, who kindly made this possible. Funding for the necessary groundwork was provided jointly by the Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project Sustainable Development Fund and the Conservation Society. The path is well used and the section nearest to Nayland supports a wide variety of plants, flowers and wildlife.

Open Gardens on June 8th raised a record £2,814. 22 gardens were open in glorious sunshine with the surplus going towards the cost of the Follow-Up Test Pit Dig.

40th Anniversary Celebration: About 90 members and friends packed into the Village Hall on 27th June. Displays showing the Society's history and achievements were prepared by Wendy Sparrow and Andora. These included the restoration of Horkesley Lock, initiating a Local List of unlisted buildings and structures in the parish, acquisition of the Nayland Meadow and Lot 3, Thrift farm. We can be proud of our Achievements which add to the quality of life in Nayland and Wiston and their preservation for future generations.

Chris Hunt then compared a lively discussion between Valerie Munson, Shirley Scarlett, Eva Rolfe, Roy Norfolk and Rosemary Knox, who related stories about the village in times gone by. This was a huge success and we hope to set up a similar event in 2016.

Follow-Up Test Pit Dig 21st & 22nd September: 16 pits were dug and over 120 volunteers of all ages were involved over the weekend. More Roman sherds were found in sites close to Court Knoll as well as a piece of Anglo Saxon pottery in the garden of Alston Court. The event closed with a tea party in the garden of Mill House, when Dr. Carenza Lewis summarised the results of the weekend's work. It was then decided that further surveying of Court Knoll might reveal more about the origins of the village and the history of the site.

English Heritage kindly granted a licence to access and survey the site (from mid November to early February). We are most grateful to Dr. Tim Dennis who undertook this work assisted by volunteers and to the Tendring Estate for given us permission. A further licence will be applied for in the summer of 2015 for a ground penetrating radar.

MEETINGS:

The Committee held 11 monthly meetings

There were, as usual, 3 open meetings with speakers on *The Dedham Vale*, *Timber Framed Buildings of Nayland* and *The River Stour* were all very well attended and added to our local knowledge

MEMBERSHIP: The Subscription remains £8 single and £12 double and the use of Standing Orders is encouraged to facilitate the collection of subscriptions. Life Membership remains £30 single and £45 double. Membership currently stands at ...? (Jill)

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.

The Horkesley Park saga has finally come to an end. Pigeon Investments purchased the Nursery site, the surrounding land, the Chantry and Westward Park and are in discussion with Colchester Borough Council regarding a small development on the greenhouse site and near the church. The chantry and Westward Park are being sold off separately as is the land.

THE MEADOW has continued to give pleasure to walkers and visitors to the village. The path is very well used. We are extremely grateful to Richard Wiles for continuing to look after "Richard's Wood" and the spinney close to Horkesley Lock.

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.

John Alexander