

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

www.naylandconservation.org.uk

Registered charity no.268104

Chairman's Report for 2022

In 2022 for the first time in two years the activities of the Society almost returned to normal following the reduction of the impact of the Covid pandemic.

COMMITTEE: The only change to the committee this year was the resignation of our membership secretary Frank Warren. Frank has given excellent service to the committee and we are sorry to lose him. The current membership of the committee is as follows: - Chairman Mike Hunter, Vice Chairman Martin Wright, Secretary Mandy Cook, Committee members John Partridge, Lucy Carpenter, Suzanne Cullen, Colette O'Shea and Richard Evans, our Hon. Treasurer, all of whom are offering themselves for re-election in 2023 -2024. I extend the thanks of the Society's members to the committee who have worked tirelessly for the good of the parish and its residents over the past twelve months. John Alexander has continued in the role of Life President and as usual our web site manager Lorraine Brooks has continued to provide invaluable support to the Society and I express the Society's thanks to her.

OPEN GARDENS: For the first time in three years Open Gardens took place on the 12th June and it was the most successful to date with 563 paying visitors in attendance and income exceeding £4,000. Twenty-four gardens were open to the public. I would like to record my thanks to the garden openers, the ladies and gentlemen who supplied the cakes, made the teas and helped in the kitchen, the car park attendants and the other volunteers, all of whom did an excellent job. A special mention also for Lucy and John Carpenter who had to shoulder additional responsibility as I and Suzanne Cullen, being members of the organising team, contracted Covid just before the event and consequently were only able to play a limited part on the day.

MEETINGS: Your committee held ten meetings in 2022. The Society's AGM was held in person in the village hall for the first time since 2019 and around 60 members and guests were present. The AGM was followed with a brilliant talk on the subject of "Industry in Nayland" by Nayland resident and church warden Chris Hunt who was ably assisted by Peter Drew. Unfortunately, as a result of the sudden increase in Covid infections in the village the committee had to cancel the speaker meeting due to be held at the village hall on the 27th of June. On the 3rd of October Edward Martin spoke to us on the topic of "Suffolk's Humphry Repton" with special reference to Tendring Park. At our November speaker meeting we were due to hear about John Constable and the Stour Valley. Sadly, that speaker suffered ill-health and at short notice we had to re-arrange a speaker from next year's programme. Professor Jules Pretty kindly agreed to step in and gave a hugely interesting and inspiring talk based on his latest book "Sea Sagas of the North". Jules managed to mix historical tales arising from the North Sea area (extending as far as Iceland) with the injurious impact of climate change.

NATIONAL GRID PYLON PROPOSALS: Shortly after lodging our objections to National Grid regarding the additional Bramford to Twinstead route we became aware of the far larger Norwich to Tilbury pylon route. Although the immediate impact on Nayland and Wissington is minimal the remainder of our county together with significant parts of Norfolk and Essex will be badly affected and objections have been lodged with National Grid.

PLANNING: Your committee made representations on six planning applications during 2022. The planning register for the parish of Nayland with Wissington is reviewed every week by committee members and substantial consideration is given to every application.

20 MPH ZONE: The committee have been working with the Parish Council in endeavouring to persuade Suffolk County Council to consider a 20 mph traffic zone in the village. At the time of writing this report SCC Councillor James Finch has announced that speed testing is due to commence on the 26th January 2023. You may recall that for the village to be considered as a suitable location for such a zone the existing average speed of traffic must be 24 mph or lower.

REVEREND JONES: Following a tip off from a number of members, the Society was advised that a volume of musical works by the Reverend William Jones was coming up for auction in Truro. The Reverend Jones was a clergyman and author who held the curacy of Nayland from 1777 until his death in 1800. He achieved considerable fame during his lifetime for his writing and musical composition and he is buried in the vestry in St. James. Our bid was successful but as the book was published in 1789 it is unsurprising that the condition of the binding is a little threadbare. Accordingly, the committee decided to have the book professionally scanned and we are currently in the process of uploading the scanned pages onto our web site.

The publicity arising from the book's acquisition resulted in an approach from Society members Foster and Jan Jones. Foster advised me he was in possession of another book written by Jones entitled "Letters from a tutor to his pupils" published in 1822. There are 26 "letters" on subjects ranging from "Good Manners" to "The use of mathematical learning". Foster and Jan have very kindly donated the book to the Society and we are arranging for this book also to be scanned with the intention of adding it to our website to permit general access. It is hoped that both books will be placed on display in St. James in due course.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Our Spring Footpath Walk took place on the 8th of May when Chris Hunt took members on a memorable circular walk around the village of Acton and the surrounding countryside. In conjunction with the Parish Council two litter picks were undertaken, one in April the other in October and Society members also participated in the two village hall gardening sessions.

COURT KNOLL PROJECT: News of progress relating to the Court Knoll Project has been thin on the ground since the pandemic started but I am pleased to report a recent development. You may recall that a number of high-status ceramic tiles were recovered from the excavations. These were to be analysed against similar tiles which had been found at Bury St. Edmunds. Unfortunately, the Bury tiles had been mislaid and the analysis was delayed. However, they have now been found and it is hoped that once the results of the analysis are to hand we can progress to the final report.

MEMBERSHIP: The subscription rates are currently £8 single and £12 double for annual membership, £40 for single and £60 for double Life Membership. Membership currently stands at about 260.

Finally, the Data Protection legislation requires that our records are dealt with in a secure manner and everyone who receives emails from the Society is reminded on a regular basis that if they wish to be deleted from our data base we shall be happy to oblige. For the avoidance of doubt our membership list is not made available to anyone or any organisation outside of the Society.

Mike Hunter
January 2023