

EARLY DAYS

The Society's very first Exhibition was held on an old Norfolk's bus at the August 1974 Fair on Webb's Meadow. Pictured are some of the original committee: Blair Lees, Chairman, Joan Moore, Secretary; Committee Members, Roy Berry, John Randall and Wendy Sparrow



The Society's stand at the Community Council's August Fair in 1975. Pictured are Blair Lees, Chairman; Committee members, Linda Clapham, Fred Hammond and John Randall



The Society's stall at the August Fair 1982. Pictured are Blair Lees, Chairman; Linda Clapham, Secretary, Mary Norfolk, Treasurer



COLCHESTER EVENING GAZETTE 6 APRIL 1977

Conservationists aim to save more of Stour valley

by RAY KINROSS

NAYLAND Conservation Society are trying to keep another large chunk of Constable country out of the hands of land developers and in its present unspoiled state.

They are asking Suffolk County Council to recommend extending the Dedham Vale area of outstanding beauty right up the Stour Valley from Wissington to Middleton on the outskirts of Sudbury.

Originally the council's idea was to do just this but somewhere along the line in thinking for the future it seems to have been dropped and proposed extensions for the area now only include parts of Polstead and Raydon.

STRETCH

So the society have written to the county council asking them to reconsider their plans for "this very fine landscape." They urge careful planning control and warn that already some modern agricultural methods are "creating pressure" on the local countryside.

"We do feel that strict planning control is necessary for an area of this kind," said the society's secretary, Mrs

Linda Clapham. "Without it, the advantages of this lovely stretch could be eroded quite quickly."

Getting the Dedham Vale area extended would be a feather in the cap for the society since at present it stops at the village's A134 bypass.

Nayland is thus separated from Wissington — whereas the village and its neighbour hamlet are officially one and the society's full name comes under the Nayland-with-Wissington title.

Wissington has also been the focus of considerable controversy recently, surrounding local farmer Mr George Storey, who lives at Wissington Hall.

His grass airstrip from which he "commutes" to his other farm property in Suffolk and his large concrete barns have been the subject of local protest.



One of the Society's early achievements was the erection of the Court Knoll sign board in 1974. It was restored and unveiled in 2021.



Firmly on the map...

A circular field lying behind the Anchor Inn, Nayland may look like an ordinary slice of farmland, but to members of Nayland-with-Wissington Conservation Society and students of local history it is something special.

Known as Court Knoll, the three-acre field is an ancient monument and the society has just erected an explanatory sign with historical details and an aerial diagram to mark the spot.

It is thought to be the original site of the village and past excavations have revealed Roman tiles and flint. During the Middle Ages, a manor house and chapel stood there. The society raised more than £100 to buy a notice-board from the Royal Label Factory. Permission to erect it was obtained from the landowner and local councils.

Pictured with the sign are society secretary Mrs Linda Clapham, committee member Mrs Wendy Sparrow, and chairman Mr Blair Lees.

LIAISON WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES 'GOOD'

NAYLAND with Wissington Conservation Society has established a good working relationship with the local authorities, members were told at a meeting in the village hall, last week.

In his report Mr Blair Lees, chairman, said representatives of Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council and the Anglian Water Authority had recently visited the village at the committee's request to discuss matters of concern to the society. Mr P. Hill, of Babergh's planning department had come to Nayland to give advice and information on the type of advertising signs that were acceptable in a conservation area. Two more visitors were the Anglian Water Authority's area engineer, Mr Pawsey, and the fisheries officer of the Essex river division, Mr E. Pearson.

Mr Lees said they had inspected the mill dam where a lot of driftwood and rubbish collects and promised that it would be regularly inspected and cleared when necessary.

They had also been to Hoxley lock, which Mr Pearson had felt was a dying pool which would not be a viable fishery much longer. The committee had been faced with the alternative of allowing the lock to deteriorate into a marsh or to clear it out and open an inlet channel. They had decided to continue their survey of the area and to seek help and advice for the Save the Village Pond campaign.

The last visitor, Mr Lees said, was Mr P. Webb, of Suffolk

County Council planning department, who came to Nayland to discuss the effects of Dutch elm disease in the area with the society and the tree warden, Mrs R. Southall. He had been concerned about the elms behind the bus shelter on Harpers Estate and said he would contact Babergh Council on the society's behalf.

TWO FILMS

Mr. Lees reported that the cheese and wine party at Christmas had been a great success and had made a profit of £17 for the society.

Among those at the meeting was Mr John Popham, director of the Suffolk Preservation Society. After he had explained its advantages it was agreed that the Nayland society should become affiliated to it.

After the meeting, members watched two films "The Conservation Game", an Environment Department film showing how a successful conservation policy has been carried out in Chester, and "British Butterflies and Moths".

Nayland society is opposing hypermarket

NAYLAND-with-Wissington Conservation Society has pledged its support to Leavenhath Parish Council and villagers in their opposition to the proposed hypermarket development there.

In his report to the society's annual meeting, held at Nayland Village Hall on Tuesday last week, Mr Blair Lees, chairman, said that although Leavenhath was not included in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it lay close to the fringe of the area and any major development there would alter its whole character. The society had expressed its views to Babergh Council.

Mr John Popham, director of Suffolk Preservation Society, who gave an illustrated talk on conservation in Suffolk, agreed that a hypermarket or any large-scale housing development at Leavenhath would be a complete disaster. Although he felt the era of big development was finished in Suffolk, particularly in the Babergh district, any major proposals for Leavenhath should be strongly fought at any future inquiry.

An extension of the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to include much of the Stour Valley between Nayland and Sudbury and an area round Polstead would be a big step forward, he said.

Mr Lees told members that the society had established good working relationships with the county council, Babergh District Council, the Anglian Water Authority, local landowners and farmers.

He said the society had been given permission to erect a small display board beside Court Knoll, an ancient monument on the footpath to Hoxley Lock.

The treasurer, Mr F. J. Fowke, reported a small loss for the year but said it would soon be rectified.

Officers elected were: Chairman, Mr Lees; vice-chairman, Mrs Joan Moore; secretary, Mrs Linda Clapham; treasurer, Mr Fowke; committee members Mrs Wendy Sparrow, Mr John Randall, Mr David Mitchell and Mr Fred Hammond.

Villagers protest to EEC over lorries

A VILLAGE is making its voice heard in Brussels in protest over a threat to its very foundations.

Nayland Conservation Society have written to the Commission opposing the EEC proposal to increase the maximum load for heavy lorries from 32 to 40 tonnes.

This earth-shaking problem arrived on Nayland's doorstep recently with the barring of the road from Leavenhath to Stoke-by-Nayland by heavy lorries bound to and from coast ports.

The result was that drivers switched their attention to the B1070 which runs through Nayland and continued to use this "short cut" route rather than go round by Colchester.

Now the conservation society have told the EEC — and the Transport Minister in London — of the "great deal of worry and consternation" that the lorries are bringing to the village.

Already severe damage has been done by 32-ton lorries to small villages such as ours — and in Nayland's case, walls and foundations are bearing the full brunt, says the letter.

Nayland Parish Council's chairman, Mr David Mitchell, who lives on Bear Street, said he wanted to see a map put up on both the A134 and the A12 barring juggernauts from using this back-country route.

"At one narrow point in Bear Street, I've seen lorries having to go up on the pavement. Of course house structures are bound to be affected and undermined by this sort of thing."

Nayland raises £300

Proceeds from Nayland's week of celebrations to mark the 800th birthday of John Constable have amounted to more than £300. The money will be used to restore the Constable painting in the church which hangs behind the altar in St James's Church.

After the meeting, members watched two films "The Conservation Game", an Environment Department film showing how a successful conservation policy has been carried out in Chester, and "British Butterflies and Moths".

Events throughout the week were well supported. Exhibitions by the primary school and Nayland Conservation Society drew a stream of visitors to the church and village hall where daily refreshments were served.

About 150 villagers representing all sections of the community attended a successful wine and cheese party in the village hall. The following evening an enthusiastic audience filled St James's Church for a concert of chamber music given by Susan Wiggleworth (flute), Tessa Khambatia (violin) and Geoffrey Hannant (organ).

To open the programme, Mr Hannant, formerly organist at Nayland and now sub-organist at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, played a voluntary by the 18th century Nayland churchman, the Rev William Jones, from the original manuscript.

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Dr Leslie Brown, visited the village to take morning service. Several individuals and institutions produced a variety of impressive floral arrangements for the church flower festival. It was organised by Mrs B. Horlock, assisted by Mrs P. Pitts.

Visitors to the church on Sunday afternoon were serenaded with music provided by the Nayland Consort, a group of local musicians. In the evening, the final event, a festival evening, was conducted by the lay reader, Mr A. J. Holden. Lessons were read by Father B. Nightingale, the Roman Catholic parish priest, and Mr D. Dewsbury, secretary of the United Reformed Church. The vicar of Bures, the Rev D. Mathers, preached the sermon.

The village threatened by lorries

Heavy lorries thundering through a village are endangering property and threatening people's lives, a Conservation society claims.

Members of the Nayland-with-Wissington Conservation Society recently conducted a traffic survey, monitoring the heavy lorries which travelled through Nayland.

They have also started a petition campaigning against the lorries which has been signed by most villagers.

The members are worried about the people and houses in Bear Street and Birch Street where the pavements are very narrow.

"There are a lot of older people and young children living in the village and we are worried about their safety," explained committee member, Mrs Wendy Sparrow.

"The two streets are full of old houses and the people living in them are concerned about them getting damaged."

Increasing

It was a few years back that the Conservation society became aware of the increasing problems of heavy lorries travelling through Nayland.

Last year, when Hadleigh's iron bridge was closed to traffic, even more lorries took a short cut through Nayland.

Earlier this year a container lorry took part of the roof off a house.

A large proportion of the heavy lorry traffic comes through the village from the A12 to get onto the A134, Sudbury to Colchester road, and it is articulated lorries that are the problem.

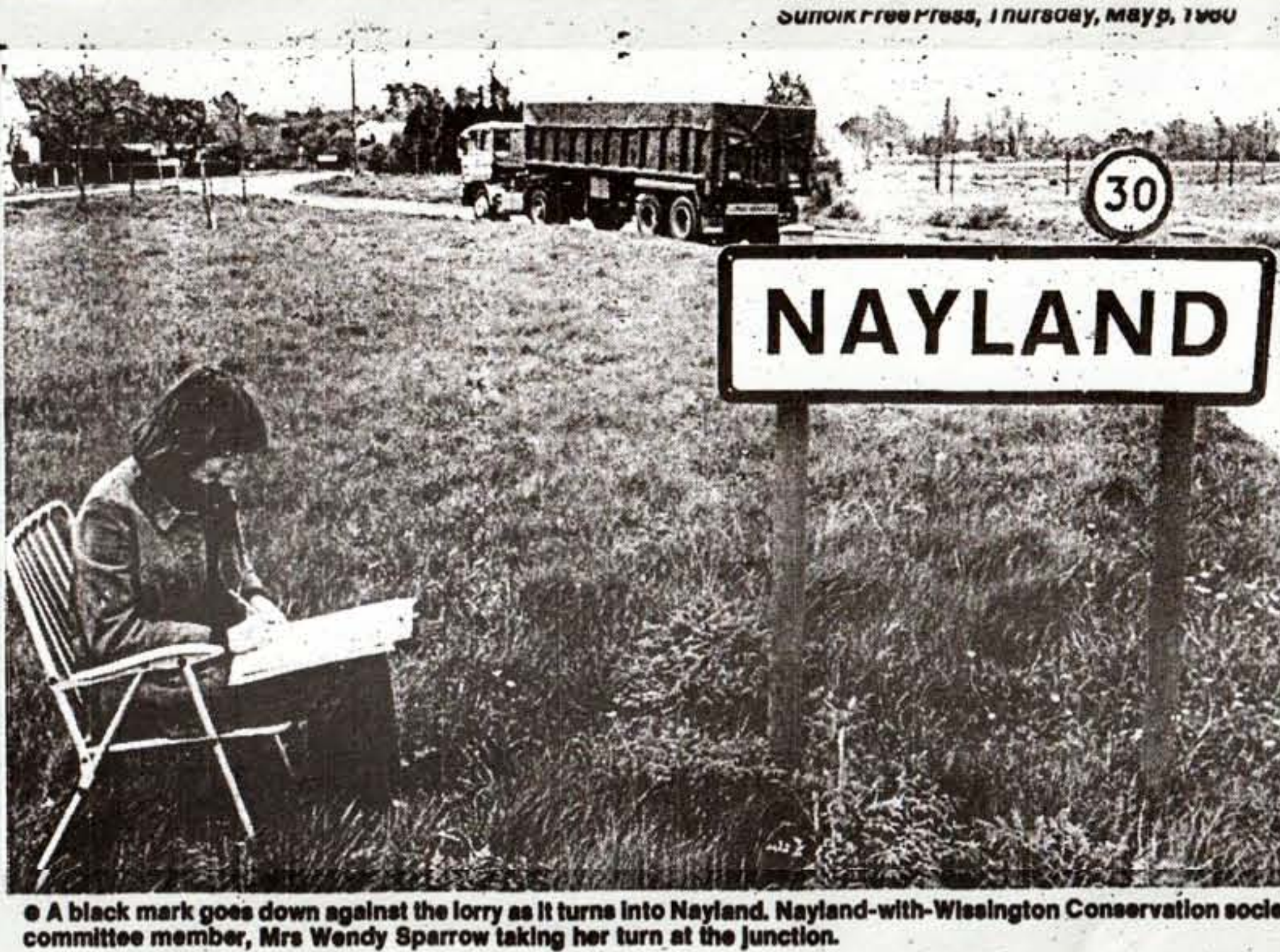
Suffolk County Council's highways committee conducted its own survey after being approached by the society for a weight restriction. But the members rejected this as not being a true representation of the problem, and so decided to do their own.

Hour stints

The society took the survey over four different week days — two days at a time — from 6 am until 6 pm with the members taking one hour stints each.

The direction and type or name of the lorry was noted, how many wheels and axles it had, the size of it and the time it passed through the village.

Once the results of the survey have been analysed, the society will decide what to do next.



A black mark goes down against the lorry as it turns into Nayland. Nayland-with-Wissington Conservation society committee member, Mrs Wendy Sparrow taking her turn at the junction.



NAYLAND-WISSINGTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

WINE & CHEESE PARTY on Saturday, 14th December, 1974 at Stour House, Nayland 8 p.m.

Members and Guests 50p



The first Annual Cheese & Wine party was held at the Chairman's Home, Stour House, in December 1974

543 GARDENS OPEN DAY - FIRST

The Treasurer reported a gross profit of £105.32 and a net profit of £89.90 after expenses of £15.42 which included advertising and £3 donation to the Church Hall for the use of furniture and crockery. It was agreed the event had been a great success and that a date for a similar function next year should be fixed at the next general meeting to allow plenty of time for arrangements to be made. Thanks were extended to all committee members for their hard work and to Richard Sparrow for the road signs. The duplicator was now paid for and there was a balance of approximately £40 at the bank.

extract from Minutes - 1978: Proceeds now up to £900 +

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The Society had its beginnings in the Spring of 1974 when Nayland's Parish Recorder, the late Blair Lees, and Wendy Sparrow, produced the first edition of a quarterly historical journal called the *NAYLAND RECORD*. This was distributed to every house in the village and readers were invited to return a slip stating their interest in forming a "Preservation" Society. In all, 57 replies were received and an inaugural meeting was held in the Village Hall on the 6th June 1974.

With the help of the Dedham Vale Society, whose Secretary, Michael Archer, attended the inaugural meeting, the "Conservation" Society was formed and later registered with the Civic Trust and Charity Commission. The Society's aims were, and still remain:

(a) To stimulate public interest in Nayland

(b) To promote high standards of planning and architecture

(c) To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest

THE NAYLAND RECORD

Number 1

Spring 1974

Dear Reader,

In offering you, with our compliments, a copy of the first issue of the *NAYLAND RECORD*, we wish to make it clear that this new venture attempts in no way to rival nor supersede the existing Parish Magazine.

The Record will write about families rather than individuals, streets and houses rather than people, although personalities will emerge, inevitably, in their proper context. We shall act as watchdogs, too, bringing to your notice local amenities which we believe to be neglected or misused, so that something may be done about them. One such that springs immediately to mind is old Horkesley Lock, commonly known as the Pool. In days not so very long ago it was a pleasant place, much visited by artists and anglers among others, but together with its attendant footpath the Pool has been neglected for years and only the fishermen go there now. Unless action is taken soon by the relevant authorities, a once important and delightful local amenity will be lost.

We are conscious, too, of the changing face of Nayland, the disappearance of fields and orchards in favour of clusters of new houses and bungalows. Such open spaces have an amenity value of their own for they enhance their environment and add much to the charm of the village. The Record will do its best to protect them. In this context we would draw your attention to the slip of paper attached to the foot of the page, and ask all those prepared to join a Preservation Society for Nayland to fill in and return the slip as soon as possible so that the initial steps may be taken.

The first issue of the *NAYLAND RECORD* has been distributed free of charge as an advertisement, to gather your interest. Future numbers will cost 5p. The format will be larger to include historical articles, notes on current affairs and many other items. We hope that our readers will contribute articles and items of their own, and also act as special correspondents when the occasion arises, for only thus will the journal become fully identified with Nayland. It is up to you now!

Unless the response to the first few numbers is such that a more frequent periodical seems required the Record will be published at quarterly intervals.

Yours sincerely,
THE EDITOR

NAYLAND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

I am in favour of forming a Preservation Society for Nayland and would be prepared to attend an inaugural meeting.

Signature

Address

Please return to Blair Lees, Stour House, Court Street, Nayland.

YELLOW SLIPS RETURNED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

Mr & Mrs Hugh Arnold, Loretto, Church Lane
Brigadier P Litton, The White House, Church Lane
Mr & Mrs Francis Fowke, Knollgate, Court Street
John Randall, 16 Heycroft Way
Mr & Mrs Barwick, 32 Lucas Avenue, Fordham
Major General C H Fairbanks, Fen Street
Mr & Mrs Salaman, Farthing Hall, Wiston
Lady Purchase, Martins, Stoke Road
Major & Mrs Hopewell, Rose Cottage, Fen Street
Mrs & Miss Stone, Clare Cottage, Bear Street
Mr & Mrs Ken Willington, Lopping House, Fen Street
Miss V Griffin, Floodgate Cottage, Bear Street
Mrs H M Henshaw, 14 Birch Street
A C H Holden, 7 Mill Street
Mrs G O Butler, Hollyhock Cottage, Fen Street
Mrs M J Harrison, 37 Bear Street
Alan Hardy, Wiston House, Wiston
Fred Sexton, 8 Crossfields, Stoke by Nayland
Mr & Mrs David Walsh, 23 Church Row, London NW3
Blair Lees, Stour House, Court Street
Mr & Mrs Richard Sparrow, 4 Bear Street
Mr & Mrs Colin Clapham, 1 Larch Grove
Mrs C Bennet-Clark, Fen Street
Mrs P Moore, 3 The Westerings
L W Loyd, Old Poplars, Bear Street
Mr & Mrs R Harman, 2 Birch Fall
M Shorrocks, 61 Maldenburgh Street, Colchester
Ferd Hammond, 1 Gravel Hill
Mr & Mrs J Murphy, Corner House, Birch Street
M S Hines, Nayland Post Office
Mr & Mrs Cronyn, Fir Cottage, Bear Street
Miss Burfield, 23 Heycroft Way
Mrs Owen, 50 Bear Street
T G Smith, 13 The Westerings
J P Freeman, Cob Cottage, Bear Street
Mr & Mrs G Kimber, 14 Stoke Road
Mr & Mrs Collingwood, Old School, Church Lane
Miss K Woodbridge, Dane Booth, Bear Street
Mrs Benham, Weavers, Bear Street
Mrs Findlay, 54 Bear Street
Mrs F W Strange, Lade House, Fen Street
N F Binks, Secretary, Colchester Angling Preservation Soc
Melanie Ross, 110 Magdalen Street, Colchester
Mr & Mrs Dryden, Woodpeckers, Stoke Road
W B Wigglesworth, 13 Fen Street
Mrs N C Hurren, Longwood Cottage, Fen Street
Mrs Pollard, Dereham House, Newlands Lane
M B Saberton, Dresden Cottage, 10 Birch Street
Mr & Mrs J Slater, Shaddelows Farm
Mrs R Southall, 38 Bear Street
Major M J G Thomas, 11 Laburnum Way
Mrs B E Simpson, Hunters Lodge, Alresford Road, Wivenhoe
Mrs Stonor Alston Court
E Milne-Redhead, 43 Bear Street
V Fergusson, 28 Heycroft Way

NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

FOUNDING COMMITTEE

Blair Lees, Chairman
Francis Fowke, Treasurer
Joan Moore, Secretary
John Randall, Committee
Wendy Sparrow, Committee

CHAIRMEN

Blair Lees 1974-1985
Denis Halliday 1985-1994
Barry Wakefield 1994-2002
John Alexander 2002-2016
Mike Hunter 2016

LIFE PRESIDENTS

Blair Lees
Edgar Milne-Redhead
Jock Neighbour
Barry Wakefield
John Alexander

From the ESSEX COUNTY STANDARD 14TH June 1974

NAYLAND

Conservation. — A long-standing idea of one Nayland resident was realised last week when a conservation society was formed in the village. Mr Blair Lees of Stour House, organised an inaugural meeting in the village hall. After an explanatory talk by Mr Michael Archer, secretary of the Dedham Vale Society, and discussion, it was decided to found the Nayland-with-Wissington Conservation Society. A committee was elected to draw up a constitution and decide the society's aims. The members are Mr Blair Lees, Mr Francis Fowke, Mr John Randall, Mrs Wendy Sparrow and Mrs Joan Moore. Mr Lees who has lived in Nayland for 25 years, says he has always wanted to form such a society there. His aim is to preserve the character of the village, at the same time seeing what can be done to improve its appearance. Last week also marked the publication of the second issue of Mr Lees's *Nayland Record*, a quarterly journal containing items of historical and current local interest.

40th Anniversary 2014

left to right: John Alexander,
Barry Wakefield
foreground: Jock Neighbour



Denis Halliday at the
Suffolk Local History Fair
at Stowmarket in 1993



It's Blair's hobby carrying a torch for tradition

COLCHESTER EVENING
GAZETTE
30.3.77



• BLAIR LEES — seeking a plum of history

that goes far beyond the mere demands of an everyday job. Blair, finally found his niche after a false start as a medical student, war service in India and a longish spell which he prefers to pass over as "unsettled". But settling in Nayland has provided both a home and a cause which are satisfying. Now he'd like to write a definitive history of the village — if time will be him.

Walk past Stour House any dark winter's night and the odds are that you'll find warm, welcoming lamplight streaming from the hall window. Of those who like to carry the torch of tradition, Blair works harder than most.

RAY KINROSS

— like the person from Portsmouth who turned up at Stour House with the story of the Great Mill robbery. The Record's 1974 launch coincided with another Lees venture — the Conservation Society. It was founded at a time when he was acutely aware of Nayland's two-fold "progress" over the previous 20 years. "Bustling and thriving" was how he remembers Nayland in the late 40s. There were three bakers, two butchers, a general store, a cobbler, a blacksmith. There was more local industry and not many people travelled outside the village to work.

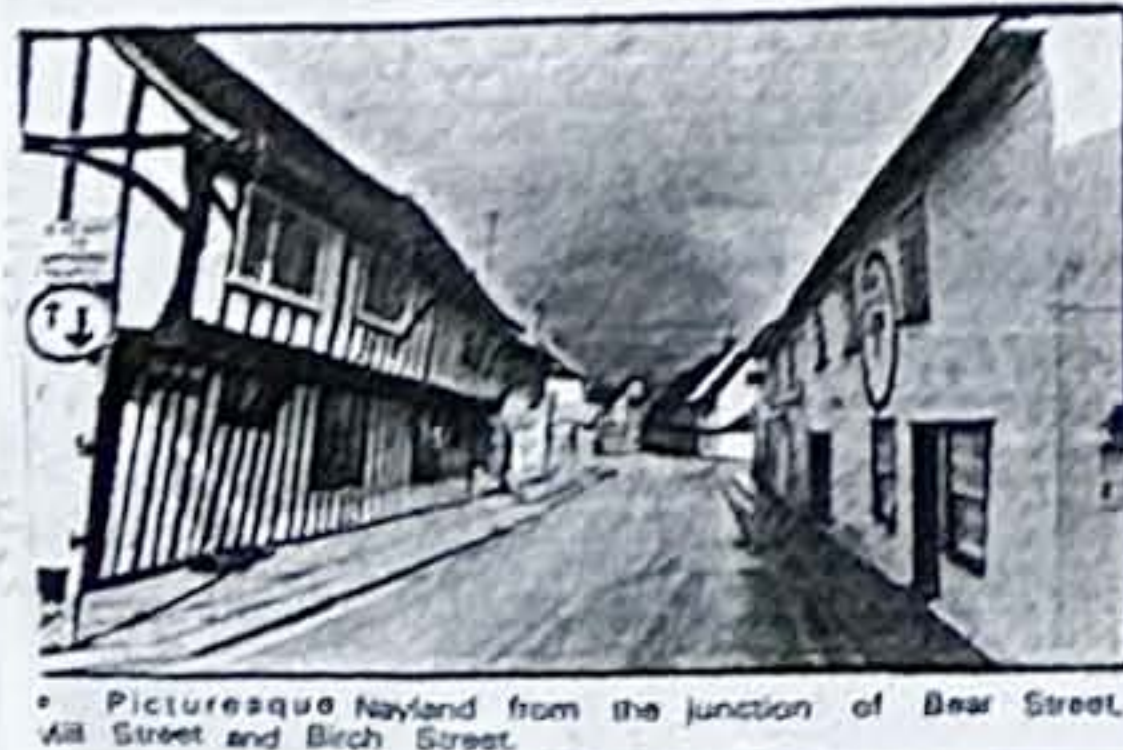
Heartened

The expansion of Nayland since the 70s has brought the paradox of an increased population and a decline in shopping facilities and jobs so that the village is now almost a dormitory for Colchester. It's Blair's concern for the vitality of village life that keeps him hammering out those editorials — and he's heartened by the young and vigorous element that has now appeared in the Conservation Society.

What has it all brought? "An awareness of the value of environment — and a stop to the apathy which seemed to have gripped the place in the 50s and 60s."

The society's work may not appear spectacular — an ugly sign removed here, a wall repaired there — but it's the small things that make grassroots history. While politicians squabble and armists grapple, what concerns most of us is garden fence controversies. Blair pounds a recorder, beat round the village with regular inspection tours to note any changes. And there are other tours as he plays piper to parties of young wives or the local schoolchildren, giving them an awareness of their surrounding and heritage that they might not otherwise grasp from a less enthusiastic guide.

For Blair, care about history — a feeling that stems directly from his job in the British Museum's music library.



• Picturesque Nayland from the junction of Bear Street, Old Street and Birch Street.

EARLY EXHIBITIONS

The Society has mounted many exhibitions over the years. In 1985 the first Art Competition and Exhibition was held and attracted a large number of entries. We were fortunate to have as our judge the Royal Portrait Painter, Richard Stone



1986 First Photographic Competition & Exhibition also attracted a large number of entries



A 40-YEAR-OLD farm tractor which chugged its way from Boxed to Nayland on Saturday, heralded 'Nayland Past and Present', an exhibition of village memorabilia at the church hall.

Organised by Nayland-with-Wislington Conservative Society, the exhibition was one of 1,000 events being held country-wide as part of the Civic Trust's national environment week and attracted a steady stream of visitors of all ages.

Several hundred items were borrowed from about 25 sources, including the Public Records Office at Bury St Edmunds, the parish church, the school, the Jane Walker Hospital and many individuals.

One of the main contributors was Mr Ewart Russell, who once lived and taught in Nayland and had just given his collection of memorabilia to the Public Records Office.

Exhibits included a wealth of photographs of people, places and events, posters, documents, old thatching tools, shop equipment, bus timetables, bills, maps, registers and even a section of a cottage wall, 150 years old. The oldest parish register of births, marriages and deaths on show dated from 1588.

The tractor, which stood outside the hall all day, is still used annually for threshing by its owner, thatcher Stuart Osborne.

Mr Denis Halliday, the conservation society's chairman, thanked everyone who had lent items or helped with the exhibition, especially the Bury records office and Mr Blair Lees, the parish local history recorder.

He commented that of four items in the village listed in 1985 as being noteworthy for industrial archaeology, one — the forge in Bear Street — had already been destroyed.

If residents wanted to keep their village a worthwhile place for future generations to enjoy they had to be vigilant and ensure that treasures were not lost, he said.



1987
NAYLAND PAST & PRESENT
EXHIBITION in the Church Hall

1995 The Society's 21st Anniversary Exhibition in the Church Hall

Left: Chairman Barry Wakefield and Elizabeth
Below: Denis Halliday, former Chairman

Thriving conservation group celebrates 21st anniversary

MEMBERS of Nayland-with-Wislington Conservation Society celebrated their 21st anniversary with an exhibition and the annual open gardens event at the weekend.

The exhibition in Nayland church hall — organised by a founder member Wendy Sparrow and former secretary Mary George — attracted a steady stream of visitors throughout the day and remained open on Sunday.

Dozens of photographs, maps, documents and newspaper cuttings chronicled the society's history, the changes that have taken place in Nayland since its formation in 1974 and the story of Horkesley Lock.

One of the society's earliest projects, the restoration of the lock has now been taken up by the National Rivers Authority and is due to be completed in September.

The open gardens after-noon has become a popular annual fund-raising event and although Sunday's showery weather affected attendance, about 600 people from a wide area visited the village.

Eighteen gardens, including two at Wislington, were on view and teas were served in the village hall.

The event raised £700 to be used for the benefit of village projects.

"In view of the weather it was a grand occasion," said chairman Barry Wakefield.

Originally the long-held dream of former local history recorder, the late Blair Lees, the Nayland-with-Wislington society was launched by like-minded conservationists and now has about 180 members.

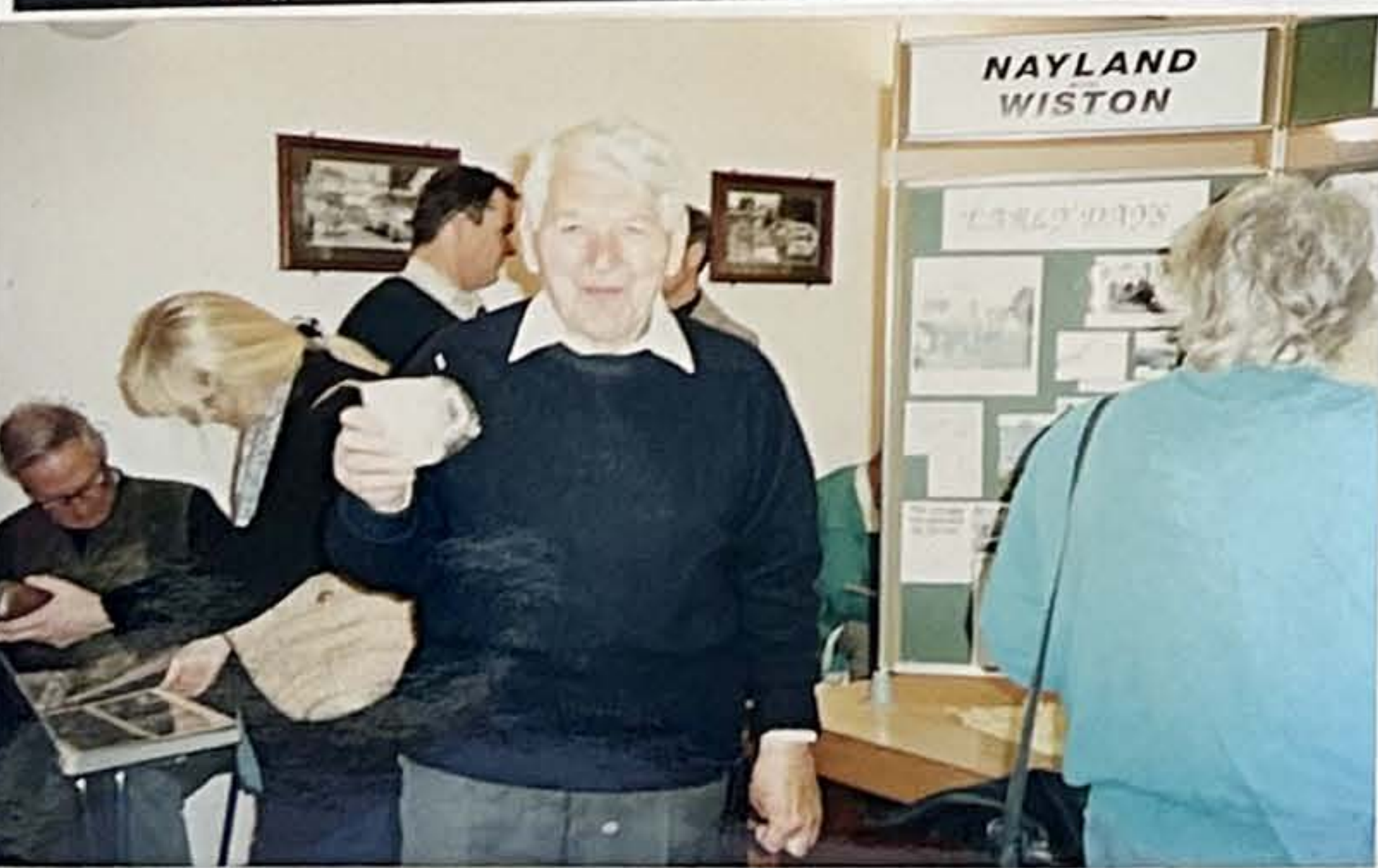
Over the years they have undertaken various projects, published two Nayland history books and contributed to a number of local appeals.



Former Chairman John Alexander at the 2008 Bygones Exhibition



Above: Andrew MacBeth Below: Barry Wakefield, former Chairman



Millennium Exhibition



SOME ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE 1980s



John Constable, R.A. (1776-1837)
CHRIST BLESSING BREAD AND WINE
St. James' Church, Nayland, Suffolk, England



1985: Sponsorship of a litter bin in support of the Parish Council's "Keep Nayland Clean" campaign. This was repainted in 2001. A litter clean-up day was held in May when 9 volunteers collected 12 bags of rubbish.

1986: Security of Constable Picture in St. James' Church following its theft and subsequent return. The Society also helped towards the provision of window guards for the stained glass in St. James



19 September 2010: Bi-Centenary of the installation of John Constable's Nayland Altarpiece in St James Church. The Society arranged a display and celebration in the church which was attended by Dr John Constable, the great great great grandson of the artist and members of his family. Dr Ronald Blythe read extracts from Constable's letters and the hymn *The Lord Will Come* sung to "The Nayland Tune", St Stephen, composed by the Rev. William Jones of Nayland 1776-1800, was included.



'Constable's Mission was to reform the



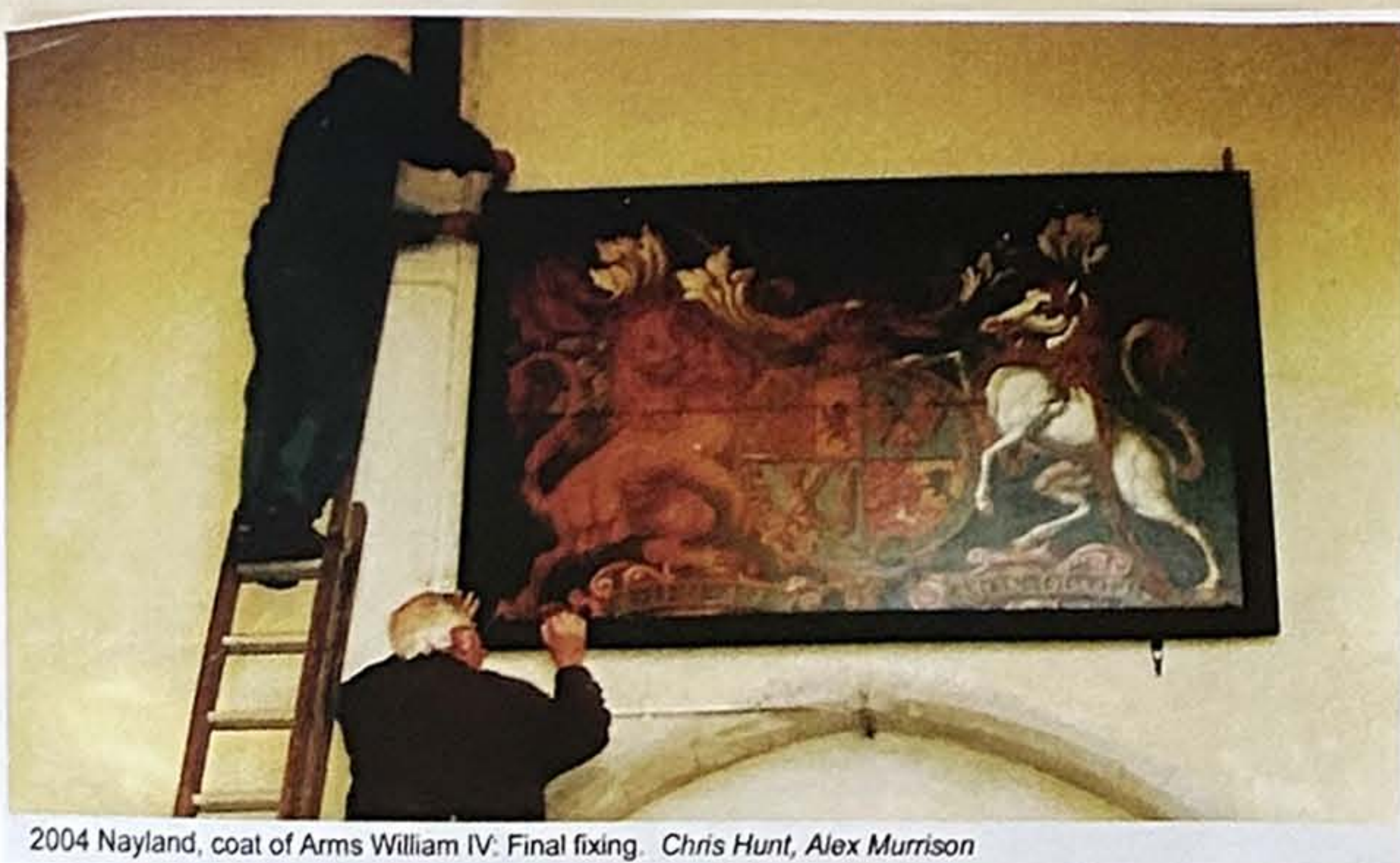
2001: Provision of field gate at entrance to Court Knoll in association with the Rowley Estate.

Assisted the Horticultural Society with bulb planting on the open space near Bear St. and the A134.

2001: Court Knoll Archaeological Survey

2002 Provision of gates at the Candy Lane entrance to Webb's Meadow, funded jointly with the Community Council

At the request of St James' Parochial Church Council the Society arranged for the conservation of a section of the 1953 Coronation Altar Frontal in St James' Church. This was originally designed by a Nayland resident and woven in Sudbury. A large piece can be seen in the Lady Chapel At Long Melford Church

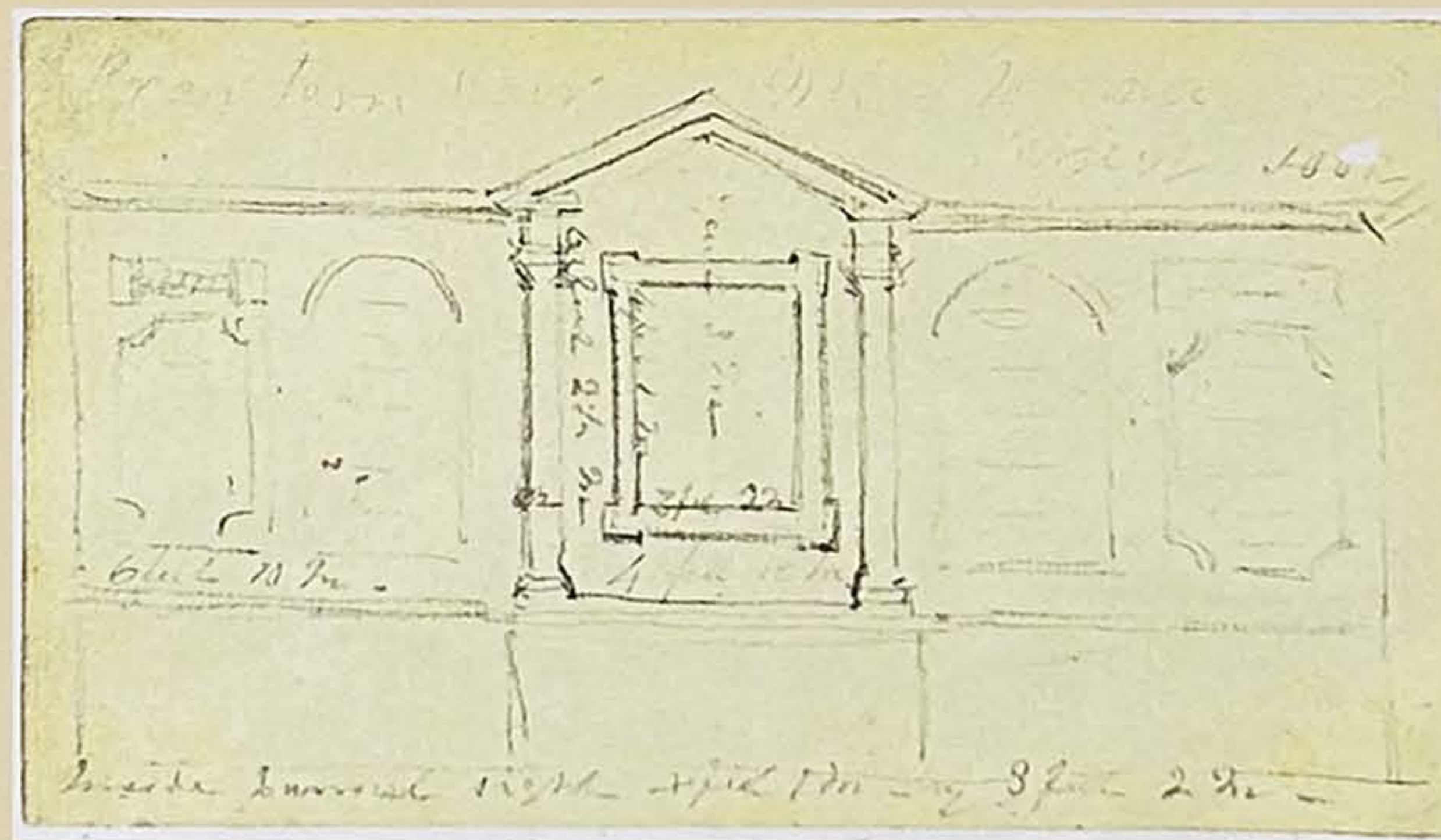


2004 Nayland, coat of Arms William IV: Final fixing. Chris Hunt, Alex Morrison

St James' Coat of Arms Restoration

The Coat of Arms of William IV (overpainted on George II) was cleaned and re-lined in 2004. The work was funded by donations from the Friends of St James, the Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society, the Suffolk Heraldry Society and other friends in the parish at a cost of £3,900.

July 2012 Acquisition of John Constable sketch for altarpiece in St James' Church



Paid for re-siting of George V Commemorative trough in High Street



1987: Support for the Nayland Fire Service when threatened with closure.
1991: Financial support for Babergh District Council's "Your Listed Building and You" leaflet, which was re-written in 2003 after prompting from the Society.
1994: Support for the Wiston Exhibition

1988: St. Mary's Church, Wiston towards repairs to the fabric.
1991: Contribution towards the refurbishment of the Church Hall following its rebuilding.



Regular Donations have been made to:

Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Project
Nayland Community Council
Nayland Village Hall Committee
Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Suffolk Preservation Society

Special Contributions were made in response to the following appeals:

1979 Anchor Landing Stage was rebuilt by the River Stour Trust with financial assistance from the Society

1984 Donation to Colchester Castle appeal

1999 Donation to Bury St Edmunds Cathedral Appeal

1996-7 Support for Nayland Primary School Woodland Project and provision of spring bulbs. Donation towards conservation projects at Stoke Middle School

1996 Donation to newly-formed Friends of St James' Church



1999 Donation towards repairs to the Scout Hut roof

1999-2000 Arranged and funded the conservation of the 1757 Map of Nayland Fen Land by Thomas Alefounder (village schoolmaster) and its digital recording onto a CD for posterity. It is kept in the Suffolk Record Office at Bury St Edmunds and was in a very poor condition and unable to be flattened for study.

1999 Donation to Suffolk Wildlife Trust Dingle Marshes appeal

2001 Support for Parish Botanical Survey by Terri Tarpey who Also led a parish wildflower walk.

1997-2000 Annual donations to the Friends of St Mary's

MORE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES SINCE THE 1980s

2004

Purchase of the Nayland Meadow: marketed as 17 acres of potential amenity land. 90 individuals from the parish donated a total sum of £65,000 towards the purchase price (incl. Gift Aid). (See separate panel)

Removal of priority road signs in Nayland: The Society joined with the Parish Council in a successful campaign to remove *priority* and *no waiting* signs in the village centre thus removing unnecessary street clutter and a potential distraction to drivers.

Local List:

The Society initiated a draft Local List of buildings and structures in Nayland and Wiston which was adopted by Babergh District Council on 14th September 2004 following public consultation and an exhibition in the Church Hall.

A Local List consists of buildings, not of national importance, but which contribute significantly to a locality as examples of the work of local architects, as a reminder of events in local history, or as celebrations of a local way of life. Hopefully the existence of a local list will encourage building owners to appreciate the historic value of their properties, and bear this in mind when undertaking alterations that might not require any formal approvals. Buildings dating from after 1840 are particularly favoured as well as earlier buildings which have been significantly altered or through some oversight have been missed from the national lists. Nayland and Wiston Local List includes 66 buildings and historic or industrial structures.

2006

Anglia in Bloom: Members of the Society were invited to help the community by picking up litter and sweeping and weeding pavements in front of their homes. A display of the Society's activities was included in the village presentation and the Hon. Secretary accompanied the judges on their tour of the village. Nayland won an Award for Best New Entry. The award reflected the work done by many residents and village organisations, including the Society, towards the protection of the AONB (Photo: Village tour sets off near the Anchor Bridge)



2011

Jock Neighbour, our Life President, died in April. He made a huge contribution to the Society since joining the Committee in 1987. He became Vice Chairman in 1999 and President in 2001. As Parish footpath Warden he led numerous May Bank Holiday walks and produced a footpath map, which was sold at the Post Office for many years. His wise counsel was very much appreciated.

2013

Suffolk Local History Society Societies Day. Wendy Sparrow attended with Michele Bradshaw and gave a presentation with information about the work of the Society.



2014

Archive Project launched (see separate panel) at the AGM in March. The digital collection, catalogued in 2013, was enhanced with a search facility covering over 20 subject headings, created by Tony Price.

Permissive Footpath to Stoke link created by kind permission of the Tendring Hall Estate and funded by a grant of £1,500 from the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley AONB Project Sustainable Development Fund and £500 from the Society. (Newspaper cutting)

2nd Nayland Test Pit Dig: Scheduled for September 20th & 21st 16 pits planned.



Making tracks on new village link-up

A new footpath, linking Nayland to Stoke-by-Nayland, has been opened. Initiated by Nayland with Wiston Conservation Society, the £2,000 project was financed by a grant from the Dedham Vale sustainable development fund with the society contributing the remaining £500. Villagers from both parishes, including Nayland and Stoke-by-Nayland parish council chairmen Mary George and Una Oakes, watched as Hector Wykes-Sneyd, land agent for Tendring Hall Estate on which the footpath is located, officiated.

2011

Footpath Map: a new double sided coloured footpath map was created by Mike Hunter, a committee member. Public footpaths as well as permissive paths were included.

Parish Hedgerow Survey the Hon. Secretary was invited to assist and a copy of the final document was presented to the Society.

One of the best ways of protecting valued historic structures from vandalism is to keep them in good condition.

In January 2011 the K6 telephone box in Bear Street, Nayland, was unexpectedly removed by BT. This led to consternation in the village and after negotiations it was agreed that the Nayland with Wiston Conservation Society should 'adopt' a decommissioned box from a nearby site.

With the help of a grant from Babergh Council, the replacement box was lovingly restored to its rightful place in the street scene, where it is now used as a book and magazine exchange – its contents including back numbers of *Conservation Bulletin*, to which the society is a long-standing subscriber!



Members of Nayland with Wiston Conservation Society with their newly restored K6 telephone box, from left to right: John Padgett (responsible for the refurbishment), Andora Carver (Hon Secretary), John Parsonson (who tracked down the replica 'TELEPHONE' panels) and John Alexander (Chairman).

2007-8

HGV movements monitored in the village Centre with assistance from Stuart Pickup, at the junction of Bear St, Birch St and Mill St and as part of a survey undertaken by Suffolk Highways. Satnav systems partly to blame. Weight restriction also called for by the Parish Council linked to that already in place at Stoke. Written reports of incidents in the village were sent by Society members and residents to Suffolk Highways who contacted hgv companies. Over several years the incidence of hgv damage to buildings in Birch St and Bear St decreased

Elm Trees planted: 3 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.



Richard Wiles with young Elm on the Meadow

2008

Nayland Bygones exhibition, teas and What's It Worth as part of the Village Festival, was held in the Carvers' Barn, Mill Street.

2010

Purchase of the David May Collection of Nayland and Wiston postcards, dating from c. 1900 to the 1970s, at a Reeman Dansie auction in March for £1,205.66. They form the core of the Society's Archive Collection which is now accessible online. A selection were printed as greetings cards.

The Jubilee Tree in Bear Street was felled due to disease. The Society obtained a slice which was inscribed and sanded down by Tony Fryer in 2011. Due to a split across the middle of the wood, we were able to give the other half to Nayland Primary School. (Photos)



K6 Telephone Box was removed from Wiston and adopted for £1 by the Society. It was reinstated in Bear Street near the Fire Station forecourt from where the original BT Kiosk had been removed in error by Babergh District Council. It is used as a book and magazine exchange and information centre. *Conservation Bulletin* (English Heritage magazine) included this article on the Kiosk in the Summer 2013 issue



2005

Nayland Meadow Project Pond was installed and trees were planted in the south west corner of the land by children from Nayland Primary School led by Peter Ennis of the Dedham Vale Project on, 28th and 29th November.



Horkesley Lock planting area management kindly taken over by Richard Wiles (Photo: working party takes a break)

Button Collection presented to the Society by Bob Keith. These had been found in and around the parish with the use of his metal detector. The Hon. Secretary arranged for Colchester Museum to identify the items which were mounted, framed and hung in the Church Hall.

WORKING WITH OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

The Society has often collaborated with other village organisations, especially in projects involving local history or environment. Whether it be tree planting or archaeology, traffic or historical records, there has always been an emphasis on community involvement and sharing. The Society has given financial support to other organisations working on projects that meet the Society's aims.

Local History has always been at the heart of the work of the Society. Suffolk Local History Association Parish Recorders, Blair Lees and Wendy Sparrow, were involved from the start, sharing their records and co-operating with other organisations to collect resources and research.

Nayland Primary School allowed the 19th and early 20th century School logbooks to be researched for Chapter Two of the Society's book **'NAYLAND, Suffolk Town and Village'** published in 1991. These very detailed school journals were also displayed at the **Society's Millenium Exhibition in 2000** and sparked a lot of interest. As a result, the Society made a grant towards printing costs of three books created for the school by Mary George, contributed research by Denis Halliday and Rosemary Knox into earlier parish and charity schools, and allowed the use of some photographs from the Society's collections. Pulling all these resources together created a history of education in Nayland spanning three centuries along with the first detailed profiles of all the men on Nayland and Wiston war memorials.

- Book 1 A History of NAYLAND SCHOOLS 1707 to 2004
- Book 2 NAYLAND SCHOOL AT WAR
- Book 3 FOR KING AND COUNTRY

One thing leads to another. Nayland and District Branch of the Royal British Legion asked Mary George to co-ordinate a local history exhibition as part of the **national commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War**. Several village organisations worked together for this event. The Conservation Society provided exhibition boards and shared research and photographs. The Parish Council shared information from Council Minute Books. Nayland School allowed extracts from school publications to be added to more recent research. There were two exhibitions in the church during August 2014 and November 2018 with two illustrated commemorative books entitled **1914 REMEMBERED** and **1918 REMEMBERED**. These books are now out of print but are available online on the Nayland and Wiston Community website. Copies are in the Imperial War Museum Library and Suffolk Record Office.

Nayland with Wissington is fortunate to have an unusual memorial in St James' Church listing the names of all the men who served during the Great War, not just those who died. This list, together with official records, old newspapers and family documents were used to create a permanent online memorial to all of them on the Imperial War Museum website. Women were not included in previous local memorials but Nayland Red Cross nurses and VADS were added to the IWM database. There is free public access to the IWM digital memorial, either by entering an individual's name or by using the community search link. Separate community pages for Leavenheath, Polstead and Stoke by Nayland were added as many of the families in those villages were interlinked. The Society sponsored all research costs and fees and allowed the use of some photographs.

Community: Nayland-with-Wissington, Suffolk | Lives of the First World War (iwm.org.uk)



NAYLAND-WITH-WISSINGTON, SUFFOLK
Commemorating the men of Nayland and Wiston who served and are named on the Roll of Honour, those who died and are named on our war memorials or are missing from memorials, local Red Cross nurses and VADS. Research sponsored by Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society.

COMMUNITY NO. 7192 CREATED BY: MARY129186

Over recent years the Society has organized several archaeological surveys, Community test pit digs in gardens and one major excavation at Court Knoll. Nayland with Wissington Parish Council allowed a test pit to be dug at the allotments and another on unconsecrated land at Nayland Burial Ground. Nayland Scouts assisted experienced volunteers at the allotments. Parish Councillors assisted at the Burial Ground. Classes from Nayland School visited the Court Knoll site while excavations were in progress. There is a detailed record of the Court Knoll excavations on the Conservation Society website.

The restoration of Horkesley Lock Pool and footpath bridge in 1991 included a tree planting scheme. Nayland Scouts were among the volunteers who planted the small woodland area beside the lock pool. Nayland School logbooks record that all classes visited the site as part of their rural studies lessons.



Tree planting at Horkesley Lock

When the Society raised funds to purchase land beside the river and set up the **Nayland Land Company Meadow Project in 2005**, another tree planting scheme involved pupils, parents, staff and governors from Nayland Primary School. This area is now known as Richard's Wood.

Each of these small woodland areas has matured well to provide a mixed habitat for a wide variety of birds, small mammals, insects and plants close to the river and public footpaths.

The impact of heavy traffic, particularly on the listed buildings in our medieval streets, has been a concern of the Society since 1970s. In the early days, members carried out traffic surveys and photographed any damage done to jettied medieval houses in Birch Street and Bear Street. The Parish Council set up a campaign group called **H.A.L.T – Householders Against Lorry Traffic** with representatives from Parish Council, the Society, and the District Council. The Society gave a grant towards the cost of printing flyers distributed to households and encouraged members to write to Suffolk County Council Highways.



Lorry trying to negotiate Mill Street T junction

The aim was to appeal to Suffolk Highways to minimise the number of huge lorries using our village as a shortcut between A12 and A134. There was overwhelming support from residents who took part in a letter-writing campaign.

Unfortunately, Suffolk Highways and the County Councillor responsible for Highways at that time were not sympathetic. The weight restriction that had been in place at Stoke by Nayland for many years meant that no restriction could be authorised on B0168 through Nayland. Houses continued to be hit by high lorries, although in later years the introduction of bollards and advisory signs for HGV drivers at A134 junction entrances to the village reduced the number of heavy lorries travelling through the village to and from Felixstowe Port.

NAYLAND COMMUNITY LITTERPICK

Saturday 15th October

Meet at 1.30pm
at the Village Hall Car Park

All welcome to help collect litter from
the village and footpaths.

Equipment provided but please wear gloves.

Contact mary@naylandwithwissington.suffolk.gov.uk
or 01206 262712 for more information

Community Litterpicks are now a permanent fixture in the village diary in April and October. The Society and Parish Council work together to organise volunteers who pick up litter on footpaths, open spaces and in village streets using equipment provided by Babergh District Council. The Society is also one of the village organisations that takes care of a section of the village hall garden on the perimeter of the car park.

