



Registered charity no.268104

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at Nayland Village Hall

Tuesday 11th March 2025 @ 7.30pm

1. **Present:** The Chairman, four Committee members and about 80 members and visitors.
2. **Apologies,** Suzanne Cullen, Mr & Mrs Carpenter, Richard Evans, Mark & Annette Hitchcock, Mr & Mrs Pearson, Sir Bob Russell, Mr & Mrs Slater & Patricia Wilkie.
3. **Minutes of the Previous** AGM on the 11th March 2025 were approved and signed.
Proposed; Chris Hunt, Seconded: Margaret Baker.
4. **Matters Arising:** There were none.
5. **Chairman's Report:** Circulated in advance. Taken as read.

Chairman's Update & Programme for 2026:

The Chairman reported on Thursday the 7th of May, we have arranged a private tour of Smallbridge Hall located on the border of Wormingford and Wiston. This is a fascinating Elizabethan property which had the honour of receiving a visit from Queen Elizabeth the 1st. Final visitor numbers must be agreed by the end of the March so if you are interested in attending please contact me before the 31st of March or indeed see me after the meeting.

In June, we had initially arranged for a talk by Ian Collins, the author of the biography on Ronnie Blyth. Sadly, Mr. Collins recently withdrew but I am pleased to advise you that Beatrice Prosser-Snelling who is managing Benton End, the artistic home of Cedric Morris and the Suffolk School of Art has agreed to fill the gap.

In October, Professor Rowlands will speak on the topic of "Witches and Witchfinders in Essex and Suffolk and at our final talk in November we will welcome Sarah Doig who will speak on the exploration of Suffolk Churches with specific reference to Angles and Demons!

Other significant dates include the Village Hall gardening morning on Saturday the 21st March starting at 9.00 a.m. and our Spring Footpath walk which will take place on Sunday the 10th of May starting at 2.30 pm from Leavenheath when Chris Hunt will lead us on a fascinating two-hour circular walk. Details of the meeting place will be emailed shortly and as spaces for car parking are likely to be limited please try to car share.

Our spring litter pick in conjunction with the Parish Council will take place on Saturday the 18th of April.

Some of you may remember the footpath map of the village and surrounding area that the Society published many years ago. Unfortunately, we have had to delay a reprint as a short but important path between the Nayland Meadow permissive path and Horkesley Road had not been formally recognised as a permissive path by the previous owners of the Anchor. I am delighted to confirm

that the new owners the Chestnut Group have now confirmed that this route is a permissive path and we shall proceed to issue an updated map as soon as possible

6. Hon. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Richard Evans, Hon Treasurer, the Society's Chairman presented the accounts which were approved by the members.

Proposed by James Carver Seconded by Pauline Heigham. Passed unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Richard for his work and also thanked Bryan Smith who audited the accounts each year.

7. Election of Chairman, Officers and the Committee for 2026/27.

The Society's Life President, John Alexander gave a brief speech thanking the Chair and Committee for their work on behalf of the Society.

Thereafter, Vice Chairman Martin Wright took the chair and the chairman was re-appointed. All other candidates had been proposed and seconded and the meeting unanimously approved their appointments as follows.

Chairman: Mike Hunter Proposed by Martin Wright, Seconded by Margaret Baker

Vice-Chairman Martin Wright

Hon. Treasurer: Richard Evans

Hon. Secretary: Mandy Cook

Committee Members: Lucy Carpenter, Suzanne Cullen, Margaret Baker and Patricia Wilkie.

Those present gave a round of applause to thank the committee for their efforts during the year.

8. Any Other Business:

None

The AGM closed at 7.45pm.

Following the AGM members received a memorable talk by Frances Christie, famous for her appearances on BBC's Antiques Roadshow, on the topic of the Value of Art. Vice Chairman Martin Wright gave the vote of thanks and the meeting finished at 9.15 p.m.