

SIAH AGM – 24 April 2021

Editor's report

1. Proceedings 2020

Vol. 44, part 4 of the *Proceedings* (2020) was published in December 2020 and circulated to members. It seems to have been very well received, a number of people contacted me with positive comments.

2. Proceedings 2021

Proceedings 2021 is moving forward.

Papers

Three papers have already been finalised, as follows:-

'The dating of an Early Bronze log coffin burial from a barrow near Poor's Heath, Risby', by **Richard Brunning, Andy M Jones and Sue Anderson.**

'Roman Wenhaston 'springs' into life', by Graeme Clarke.

'Medieval Suffolk and the North Sea World', by Brian Ayers.

Two other papers (one full paper and one shorter contribution) have been promised and I am awaiting the final versions of these.

Other Items

There will also be several book reviews, four of which have already been received.

The usual section on excursions will not be included (as these could not take place), however, that section will be replaced with comprehensive notes from the discussion groups which did take place during the year.

Archaeology in Suffolk will be included, as usual.

Joanne Sear
28 March 2021

SAFG Report for the SIAH 2020/21

The Field Group was unable to start their planned season from April 2020 due to the lockdown and decided to postpone all excavation work until a future more certain period.

However, some geophysics surveying did go ahead as planned, as it was felt that a very small team of three maintaining a distance, would pose little risk.

A survey at East Bergholt which had commenced in 2019 was therefore resumed between lockdowns in 2020.

This further established the presence of intriguing features which Bryan Knibbs who led the survey, hopes to continue in 2021.

Bryan and his team also surveyed land at Tattingstone which confirmed the interesting crop marks already noted. This was carried out between lockdowns and will hopefully be resumed in 2021.

The work on both sites is being done to try and establish dating for the features.

We are grateful to Bryan and his team (made up of varying volunteers) for continuing to keep some presence for the SAFG in the field.

The SAFG committee has met on zoom during the past year and a meeting in April will determine when we will resume our planned 2020 programme.

We are hoping that it will be in the summer months.

The SAFG continues to number just over forty members fluctuating slightly as new members join and others leave.

Lynda Bradley - Secretary to the SAFG April 2021

Membership Secretary's Report : April 2021

It is encouraging to be able to report that membership continues to grow and currently stands at 503. At the end of 2019, we had 435 members which rose to 489 at year end 2020. If my maths is correct, we have had 14 new members since January 2021 which is excellent. The Winter Lecture programme via Zoom has proved to be very popular with large numbers attending. In addition, the Wednesday discussion group has attracted a lot of people so membership this past year has certainly been value added.

There has been little opportunity for publicity during this pandemic year. However, our flyers have been included with purchased SIAH volumes which is helpful.

The Lavenham Group who handle our membership database are planning to create a new up-to-date system this year which will, amongst other benefits, simplify membership renewals. In addition, we are looking to improve the SIAH website membership pages.

Rosemary Mees

19th March 2021

Hon Gen Secretary's Report: Jane Carr for AGM 2021

Adapt and Survive has been our motto this past year. We managed to hold our final March 2020 lecture, and business meeting before the covid-19 pandemic interrupted normal life. We held our most rapid and first ever AGM by Zoom in April, to be followed by regular fortnightly Discussion Group sessions, the brainwave of our chairman Nick Amor, who quickly mastered the technology, found erudite speakers and choreographed these events with aplomb. Resumés will be published in the Proceedings. Many remote members have taken part and found this new means of communication hugely beneficial.. Our five winter lectures, arranged by Miriam Stead, have taken place on the same platform, and likewise Council meetings.

The excursion programme was, inevitably, cancelled, and it was agreed to postpone the 6th Wheeler Conference to Sept 2022, when it would be held at The Hold, Ipswich.OldHold Our joint Conference with the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership, celebrating 1000 years since Cnut's re-founding of the abbey, could not proceed in October, so devolved into four separate monthly lectures, given by Dr Rik Hoggett, Dr Abby Antrobus , Canon Professor Sarah Foot, and our President Professor Mark Bailey. These were recorded by the speakers then streamed via St Edmundsbury Cathedral .They were watched by c.1000 viewers and subsequently seen by thousands more via a Youtube link.

Our connection with this Heritage Partnership continued, with our professional input into a proposed Overarching Plan for the entire Abbey area for the next 10 years. SIAH is now represented on Working Groups informing and developing this Plan. It was also agreed to have reciprocal representatives at the Council meetings of the Suffolk Record Society and SIAH, having areas of similar interest.

Dr Joanne Sear edited the Proceedings, and vol 44 part 4 was distributed in December. The Spring and Autumn newsletters were produced by Bob and Jane Carr, printed and circulated through the Lavenham Group. The SIAH can be proud of this year's achievements in producing or enabling the publication of: *Suffolk Medieval Deer Parks* by Dr Rosemary Hoppitt; *Shaping The Past*, a Festschrift volume for David Dymond, and presented to him in his garden; *Keeping the Peace in Medieval Suffolk* by Dr Nick Amor, and *Hitcham* by Edward Martin. Our website, Twitter and Facebook, accounts, as well as the Chairman's monthly Mailchimp message all contribute to positive and welcome communications with our membership.

Grants this year have been awarded to Alette Blom, £300 for research analysis of the diet of leprosy patients in Anglo-Saxon Ipswich. Grant aid up to £2,500 has been promised to the purchase fund being raised by Halesworth Museum for exceptional Iron Age coins, part of the Treasure hoard known as 'near Blythburgh Hoard' Nick Amor was granted £200 for purchase of image rights for his book *Keeping the Peace...*

Our Field Group remains vibrant and as active as current restrictions allow, as their report shows.

After 12 years in post, this is my final General Secretary's report and I'm delighted to record another busy, productive and successful year for the SIAH.

This year's AGM is virtual: ' Please let me know by email how you wish to vote on each of the motions on the agenda which is set out in the Spring Newsletter and which I summarise below. If you want to vote in favour of all motions, just say so.'
chairman@suffolk institute.org.uk

The AGM motions are as follows:-

1. To approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM as set out in the Spring newsletter.
2. To accept the 2020 accounts.
3. To elect the following:-
As Chair – Joanna Caruth
As Hon. Secretary – Nick Amor
As Excursions Secretary- Jane Carr
As members of Council - David Gill, Jude Plouviez, Peter Wain

Members are welcome to put forward other candidates for election to these positions

N.B. Following the Business meeting, Excursion 1 proceeds with a virtual tour of Hitcham and its church, and the Historic bell frame, with Edward Martin and Nicky Curry.