

SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

AGM 5TH APRIL 2025

OFFICERS' REPORTS

General Secretary's Report for AGM 5th April 2025

We have published our annual *Proceedings* and two editions of our newsletter.

We have continued our programme of regular lectures both live and on Zoom online conferencing software. We are, however, in need of a new Assistant Secretary to manage this programme for the coming years

We have also held a full programme of summer excursions, all of which have been well attended.

We were represented once again at the Rendlesham Revealed celebration event and at the launch of the book *Lordship and Landscape in East Anglia AD400-800: The royal centre at Rendlesham, Suffolk, and its contexts*

We have updated our website software to improve performance.

We have given grants of £5,000 to a joint project with the Historic Towns Trust to produce a historical map of Ipswich; £2,485 to the Freston Archaeological Research Mission to conduct scientific analysis of materials from the site and £3,000 to the Suffolk Napoleonic Volunteers Trust for restoration of a painting of Capt. John Henniker-Major.

We have approved in principle the following grants payable in 2025 to organisations: £10,000 to the Rendlesham Revealed Project towards the cost of specialist analyses of material from the site and £5,000 to the West Stow Museum towards the acquisition of the Bardwell Pyramid Mount.

We are pleased that our Field Group is once again active.as you will see from their report.

We joined with other heritage groups to oppose the closure of the Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft branches of Suffolk Archives, sadly without success. We are now

My thanks to our chair Jo Caruth for her leadership during the year and to all our officers and Council members for their hard work.

Membership Secretary

Membership Type Description	Number of Members
Double	111 = 222
Single Member (UK)	323
Single under 25 years	3
Life Member (single) (UK)	15
Honorary (UK)	2
TOTAL	565
Plus Institutional Members UK + International	35

We are in need of a new Membership Secretary

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SIAH Council Meeting – 5 April 2025 (AGM) – Editor’s Report

1. *Proceedings 2024*

This year’s journal (Vol. 45, part 4) was printed and sent out to members in December.

The print run was for 600 copies at a cost of £5,575.00 (£9.29 per copy). Last year’s print run was for 600 at a cost of £6,251.00 (£10.42 per copy).

We should receive £2,351 back in apportioned costs this year (2023: £1,704).

2. *Proceedings 2025*

2.1 Three archaeology papers are complete, have been edited and are with the authors for final review, as follows:-

‘Excavations at Green Road, Haughley: a Bronze Age waterhole and burnt ‘mound’, Late Saxon farmstead and remains of mere windmill, c.1820–98’, by Tom Woolhouse and Alexander Pullen.

‘A Late Bronze Age settlement at Fornham Park, Fornham St Genevieve’, by Tom Woolhouse, Kerry Boughton and Jon House.

‘Iron Age and Early Anglo-Saxon settlement at Mildenhall Hub, Suffolk, by Chris Fern.

We await a fourth archaeology paper from the author for copy editing:-

‘The archaeology of Lower Brook Street and Turret Lane, Ipswich’, by Graeme Clarke.

2.2 Two history papers are complete, have been edited and are with the author for final review:-

‘The chapel shrine of Our Lady of Woolpit and the ritual landscape of medieval Woolpit in Suffolk’, by Shelona Klatzow.

‘Churchgoing in Ipswich: The Statistical Record, 1777–2005’ by Clive Field

One further history paper has been reviewed and has been returned to the author, and it is hoped that it can be included in the 2025 journal.

2.3 Excursion reports have been received. One book review has been received, and two more are in the pipeline.

3. *Guidelines*

The provisional editor has prepared brief guidelines for authors which are designed to ensure that drafts go some way to complying with the style and layout of the Proceedings.

4. ***Editor of Proceedings***

Proceedings 2024 was Jo Sear's last journal as editor. Nick Amor provisionally took over as editor from the beginning of 2025 (which is when the work on producing *Proceedings 2025* started), but his formal appointment as editor is subject to the approval of members at the AGM.

Nicholas R. Amor and Joanne Sear, 17 March 2025

SAFG ANNUAL REPORT FOR SIAH APRIL 2025

On the 27th April 2024, the SAFG held an open afternoon at the Woodbridge Longshed to celebrate 50 years since the inception of the group. This was well attended and as well as a display of our historical work - photographs and artefacts, the textile group from Sutton Hoo attended in costume, demonstrating the methods of textile production in the Anglo-Saxon period. Our thanks to Carole Winstanley, a member of the group and the SAFG, for arranging this.

For a second season, a few of our members resumed the work of assisting Cotswold Archaeology with the USAF recovery of a WW2 B17 bomber and felt privileged to attend a memorial service for the families of the American crew who lost their lives in the crash.

The group has been busy throughout the year with geophysical surveying, employing both magnetometer and resistivity meters. We continued to train members on the use of both, when sites and weather are suitable. Surveying continued on the Shotley peninsula and at Bulcamp, where we extended our area of interest.

A training group on the resistivity meter, investigated a possible lost chapel site at Flatford mill, owned by the National Trust. The Trust was very welcoming, and a group of volunteers covered a reasonable extent of land before weather conditions changed. Unfortunately, a return was not possible in the autumn as ground conditions were no longer suitable for the meter. We are hoping to resume this in 2025.

In May, the SAFG was approached by the Thurston parish council to help with the location of a known Roman road which was thought to be crossing a playing field. A geophysical survey was successfully carried out.

Following this, we were asked to help with the location of graves at a former Paupers' Hospital in Stowmarket, by a group who has formed a memorial for forgotten inmates. It was decided that magnetometry would not be successful for this purpose but resistivity could be. This has been put on hold until 2025.

In September, we were happy to welcome a number of SIAH members to Bulcamp, thanks to Simon Roberts, the landowner, to see our meters in use and to demonstrate the difference in results between magnetometry and resistivity methods.

Several of our members have been working throughout 2024 and into 2025 at the Archive unit of the SCCAS in Bury SE. They have been assisting Sam Bellotti with the cataloguing of artefacts. Initially, this was to catalogue the private collection of our former director, the late John Fulcher, well-known and respected for his dedication to archaeology in Suffolk, particularly in the Coddendam area.

The group enjoyed the work and so have continued to assist with other collections as they come in.

In October, Gilbert Burroughes and Lynda Bradley gave a talk to the Waveney Valley Archaeology Group on the work of the SAFG. past and present. This resulted on our gaining two more members.

Gilbert Burroughes ran two sessions of artefact drawing, which were both well attended.

There are several geophysical projects in the pipeline for 2025, both reprising work done throughout 2024 and new investigations

Our membership has varied over the past year, with extra members gained from the interest in Rendlesham in 2023 and others lost as they found that they were unable to fit in with our schedules, or due to work commitments.

We presently number 65 members.

Our thanks to the SIAH as always for their continuing support, as well as to SCCAS and Cotswold East for their advice and assistance when requested.

Lynda Bradley

March 2025