



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 21 OCTOBER 2026
CHAIR'S REPORT

Thank you for your continued support of the work of the Friends of Suffolk Archives. We are grateful to those dedicated members who continue to contribute a minimum of £12 each year, and especially to those who give much more, to allow us to support the work of the Suffolk Archives service. Please encourage anyone who is a user of the archives, or who is interested in the rich history of our county, to join our small charity.

We maintain a regular and open dialogue with Suffolk Archives staff, and I urge any of you who use the service and who have feedback on any aspect of the service to let us know. We are very interested to hear from regular and occasional users alike.

Our main activity continues to be purchasing documents - at auction, from antiquarian dealers and privately - for the Suffolk Archives' collections. In the past year, we have continued to have considerable success in acquiring documents which will prove of great use to researchers. These include: three handwritten ledgers concerning the disaster involving the fishing boat which sunk off Lowestoft in 1891 with the loss of all but one of its crew members; an archive of documents dating from the nineteenth century relating to a farm in Monewden and Hoo; a 1425 transfer of title for a piece of land in Chelmondiston; a leather-bound, early nineteenth-century copy of Robert Hawes' early eighteenth-century original of History of Framlingham and Loes Hundred - one of only six known copies; and a minutes/meeting book for the Suffolk Congregational Union covering the period 1847-1864.

We look forward to a presentation at this AGM by Geoff Cooper, one of the team of archivists at Suffolk Archives, on some of our recently acquired items.

Sarah E Doig