



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 14 OCTOBER 2025
CHAIR'S REPORT

Despite the considerable sadness at losing the Suffolk Archives branches in Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft, the past year has seen the county's archives consolidate their holdings and improve their service at The Hold in Ipswich. We look forward to hearing an update on all aspects of Suffolk Archives' work over the year at this AGM.

Since our last AGM, we have had some success in acquiring documents for the Suffolk Archives' collections. These include: bundles of sales particulars covering various Suffolk estates in parishes such as Great Thurlow, Wenhamston, Kessingland and Bungay; four early twentieth-century Felixstowe building plot sales catalogues; the 1833 diary of William Bacon Wigson, a farmer and landowner in Horsecroft (Horringer); a 1608 grant by King James I to Clement Hyrne of Haveringland, of the Manor and Hundred of Lowestoft and its dependencies; a collection of documents relating to the manors of Wiston and Nayland; and ten mounted black and white photographs of the 1930s house at Stoke Park (now demolished). Our most recent purchase was an indenture and Court Baron documents relating to a house and land of the Woodbridge Priory, ranging in date from 1693 to 1785.

We have suffered from a dwindling membership in the past few years, for a variety of reasons. We are therefore 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. Even a small charity like ours needs a committee to keep it running, and to help promote the work we do to a wider audience. I am grateful to the current committee for their hard work and enthusiasm. I am particularly grateful to Neil Langridge who is stepping down from the committee and his role as Publicity Officer. Earlier this year, he masterminded the work of the FOSA rebrand, together with design and production of our new publicity leaflet.

Sarah E Doig