



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 25 NOVEMBER 2021
CHAIR'S REPORT

I am sure we will all have to admit that the past year has been far more challenging than we had hoped. The continuing struggle to contain the Coronavirus has seen us in and out of various lockdowns and subject to many restrictions. During the year, we have maintained a dialogue with Suffolk Archives and have forwarded our members' views on its services during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is as a direct result of our feedback and lobbying that Suffolk Archives have gradually expanded research slots and times. At time of writing, I have been advised that greater access will be introduced from mid-November and consideration is being given for further opening of the archives to users.

As and when auction houses have been open for business, we have continued to identify, bid for and, in many cases, successfully acquire items relating to Suffolk's history and heritage. These include a small collection of indentures and other documents relating to Stone Street in Woodbridge, a bundle of letters (mainly) to Lady Eve Balfour of Haughley (founder of the Soil Association and a pioneer organic farmer), and a diary kept by an official of the Borough of Southwold during the Second World War.

Thank you for staying the course with us over the past year. We value your support, primarily in the form of your membership subscription. Many of you kindly give more than the £12 minimum amount we ask for, which we greatly appreciate. The more money in the coffers, the more we can do to enhance Suffolk Archives' collections and to help its staff deliver services to users.

Sarah E Doig