



Suffolk Cambridge Society

NEWSLETTER 2025

Dear Member,

I am delighted to report that it has been another successful year for your Society. If you have been fortunate enough to attend some or all of our events you will no doubt have your own memories but on behalf of your Committee, I think we can safely say that we successfully achieved our aim of having engaging and highly knowledgeable speakers at interesting venues with good food – and of course for the visits to be very enjoyable social occasions.

Looking back at our events in 2024. The talk by Dr Toby Capwell in April on his research into late medieval English armour was amazing – I had never realised how much can be learnt from the effigies in our churches. In June, we visited the Elveden Estate on a beautiful sunny day for a talk and coach tour with the retired farm manager, Ian Roberston, and after lunch a visit to the magnificent Elveden Church which is a national treasure. In September we visited The Ark at Isleham which is an amazing building and is believed to be the largest green oak structure in Europe built in modern times. How The Ark was constructed as a self-build project involving many volunteers and generous donations was fascinating – and up lifting. We were booked for lunch at The Merry Monk in Isleham but they unfortunately had to pull out at the 11th hour. The two young owners of Worlington Hall hotel Louis and Michael stepped into the breach with an excellent sit-down lunch at our original price. Our final event was in November when we were delighted to have a talk in Bury St Edmunds Cathedral by our fellow SCS member, the Rt Rev Bishop Martin Seeley. We are very grateful to Martin for giving us such an excellent talk about his career and the current challenges facing the Church of England.

For 2025, our first event will be on Wednesday 30th April to visit the Parham Airfield Museum which comprises both the USAF Bomb Group Memorial Air Museum together with the Museum of the British Resistance Organisation. The airfield was used by the USAF from 1943 to 1945 for B-17 (Flying Fortress) bombers. Of the 3500 airmen who served at Parham, 743 were killed or missing in action and 740 became Prisoners of War. The talk will cover the USAF story at Parham and the history of the British Resistance Organisation – the 'Secret Army'.

In June, we are planning to visit the Euston Estate again. We had a very enjoyable visit there in June 2023 but as places were limited it was over-subscribed and many members were disappointed at not being able to attend which we now look forward to putting right. The Estate has been the home of the Dukes of Grafton for over 350 years. The Palladian historic home is set in 10,500 acres of landscaped gardens, parkland, ancient broadleaf woodland and agricultural farmland.

On Wednesday 6th August, our fellow SCS member, Alison Lennox will give us a talk about the history of The Hardwick Estate near Bury St Edmunds. Hardwick House was built on what were formerly the medieval grazing lands of St Edmundsbury Abbey. The manor house, originally built by Sir Robert Drury (Speaker of the House of Commons) was sold to Sir Thomas Cullum in 1656 and remained in the Cullum family until the 1920s. In the afternoon, Alison and Malcolm Lennox have kindly invited us for afternoon tea in their garden at Home Farm House which was part of the Hardwick Estate.

For our final event in 2025, we are hoping to arrange a visit to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, for a talk by Fellow Rory Naismith who is an Anglo-Saxon specialist and numismatic expert. After lunch in the College we hope to arrange a visit to the Parker library which is noted for its collection of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts.

My sincere thanks go to the Committee for their excellent teamwork in organising our events and a special thank you to David for running the Society so well.

I wish you a happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at our events in 2025.



Michael Sullivan
Chairman