

NEWSLETTER 2026

Dear Member,

As another year draws to a close it is time to reflect on our very successful events held in 2025 and to look forward to our plans for 2026. We have been fortunate in having warm (sometimes hot!) weather for each event, highly knowledgeable and engaging speakers, interesting venues and good food. I think we have also achieved our aim of these being enjoyable social occasions and an opportunity to meet with old friends and make new friendships.

Our first event in 2025 was in April for an exclusive group visit to the Parham Airfield Museum near Framlingham. If you missed this event I very much recommend attending one of their open days. The museum is run by volunteers who have in depth knowledge of the history of the airfield and the British Resistance Organisation. Even the existence of this Organisation was kept secret for decades after the end of the Second World War. In June we made a return visit to the Euston Estate near Thetford for a talk on the history of the estate and the Dukes of Grafton, an extensive tractor tour around the estate followed by a wonderful lunch. Our third event was in August for a talk by fellow SCS member Alison Lennox on the history of the Hardwick Estate. Following a buffet lunch, Alison took us on a guided walk around Hardwick Heath finishing at the Lennox's home, Home Farm House, for afternoon tea in their amazing garden. Our final event for the year was in September at Corpus Christi College for a talk by Professor Rory Naismith on 'King Offa of Mercia' and a guided visit to the Parker Library which is internationally renowned for its collection of Anglo-Saxon, medieval and renaissance manuscripts.

The visits for 2026 are already well advanced.

On Friday 6 March, we have arranged a talk by Andrew Casey in the Longshed Gallery in Woodbridge. Andrew Casey is a Design Historian specialising in 20th century design, particularly ceramics and textiles. He is the author of several books including *Susie Cooper* and *Art Deco ceramics*. The talk will be followed by a 2-course lunch in The Boathouse.

Our second event will be a visit to the New Cavendish Laboratory in the Science Park, Cambridge. This will be during the week commencing 20 April (on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday – yet to be confirmed). The Cavendish celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2025 and opened the Ray Dolby Centre – a very impressive building which cost £350m. The visit will include a tour of the laboratory and a talk on the history of the Cavendish. Since 1874, the Cavendish has been at the forefront of scientific discoveries and the home of 36 Nobel Prize winners.

On Wednesday 1 July, we will visit Pakenham Watermill near Bury St Edmunds. It is the oldest surviving flour mill in Suffolk with a history dating back nearly one thousand years. After a talk by Ian Robertson on the history of the mill there will be guided tours of the mill. After lunch in the garden by the mill pond (or Courtyard Barn if inclement weather) there will be opportunity to explore the grounds before afternoon tea.

Our final event for the year will be to Lavenham on Monday 21 September for a talk by Mark Bailey, Professor of Late Medieval History at UAE. After a buffet lunch in the village hall, we plan to arrange a guided tour of Lavenham Church.

My sincere thanks go to the Committee for organising our events – Jeremy Bristol (Sidney Sussex), Philip Draycott (Sidney Sussex), Rosemary Hoppitt (Hughes Hall), Alison Lennox (Wolfson), Don MacBean (Christ's), Neil Watts (Magdalene) and our Treasurer/Secretary David Smith (Christ's).

I wish you a happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at our events in 2026.



Michael Sullivan
Chairman