

**FRIENDS OF SUFFOLK RECORD OFFICE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 2019  
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Over the past year, the Friends of Suffolk Record Office has continued to support all Record Office staff in their work. We therefore made a grant of £1000 towards cataloguing staff costs for this year, as we have done in previous years. We were also pleased to help secure £150k from the Garfield Weston Foundation which will be used to create and fit out an exhibition room and special display spaces in The Hold, the new archives centre currently in construction in Ipswich. FOSRO is also continuing with efforts to raise money for the fit-out of the John Blatchly Local Studies Library, which will form a prominent part of the new searchroom in The Hold. I am particularly grateful to our former Chair, Dr Paul Simmons, and FOSRO member Vic Gray for their work on this campaign.

Acquiring archives relevant to Suffolk that would otherwise pass into private hands remains one of our key aims. I am delighted, therefore, that over the past year we have been successful in purchasing several documents which are now deposited in the Record Office. These include an account book dating from the mid-1800s for Ridleys the grocers in Bury St Edmunds and two nineteenth-century accounts ledgers relating to farming and brewing. We were also very pleased to secure, at auction, an eighteenth-century Court Book for Thorney Hall, thanks to pledges of financial support from two interested local history societies, as well as a FOSRO member.

We have a relatively small but loyal membership. Many of our members give significantly more than the annual £12 individual membership for which we are very grateful. Others offer their time and expertise, including by serving on our small, dedicated committee. Thank you to all committee members, but especially Betty Milburn, my Vice-Chair, our Secretary, Robert Houlton-Hart, and Treasurer, Frances Gander. Robert and Frances have both indicated that they wish to stand down from these roles at, or before, the next AGM. So, we are now on the look out for a new Secretary and Treasurer. If you feel you can help by offering to undertake one of these roles or you are just interested in serving on the committee, please get in touch with me. You would be very welcome!

**Sarah E Doig**