BAHS AGM: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
NOVEMBER 2025 – 2026

Another full year has passed by all too quickly with our usual array of Lectures, Publications and Outings – alongside the Website and History Centre. Our Finances are in good order and social media helps to keep us in the public eye.

The Committee has met, on Zoom, once a month except in August. As you will see on the Agenda, **Barendina Smedley and John Andersen** have joined us since last November. In 2019, there were only 5 Committee members; in 2020 it crept up to 7 and now there are 11, so I am glad to report that we are in a much stronger position than we have been.

Andrew Otterburn, our Treasurer, has kept us fully up to date with the all-important figures which he will present separately at the AGM and **Bridget Candy** has assiduously managed the membership. This has not been an easy task as the system is outdated but a new one is scheduled to replace it shortly. By the end of the financial year our membership reached 115. It is now catching up with 88 members (in early October). Renewal reminders have been sent out to another 30 subscribers. Andrew & Bridget have both played a key role in ensuring the well-being of the Society and, in the Spring, we were glad to welcome **John** as Secretary.

The Lecture series has been as varied as ever, ranging from *German Prisoners of War in Norfolk* to the *Warham Camp archaeological excavations in 2023*. Speakers are now in place through to the end of 2027. Thank you to **Jonathan Hooton** for deftly master-minding the Lecture Programme.

In the summer, a new edition of the *Glaven Journal* was published with a striking cover of Parson Woodforde. If you haven't seen a copy, please find one! There are some very interesting contributions about Blakeney Church, Field Dalling, a couple of cottages on Blakeney High Street, the origins of the Blakeney History Group and, of course, Parson Woodforde and his travels around North Norfolk. We are very grateful to **Roger Bland & Richard Kelham** for all their hard work in editing and producing this excellent 20th edition. Thanks too, for the Committee who helped to distribute it and to **Jan Semple** for arranging sales in some of the local shops.

Besides the Journal, **Richard Kelham** has done sterling work in preparing a digital newsletter every month (excluding August & December). It is proving a valuable source of information about events and exploring historical queries.

Caroline Holland has been active in promoting the Society with press releases, social media and, more recently, a smart hand-out card providing details of the 2026-27 Programme. She has also been adept at taking/requesting photographs of BAHS events. These include the Outings which **Andrew** has kindly organised – being a walking tour of Norwich, the Sedgeford Archaeology Site, Blakeney Church and a visit to Kings Lynn. Another form of outreach has been a Survey to Members to ascertain how they engaged with the Society and which aspects of membership they found most valuable.

Enquirers are often very complimentary about the website. It has, however, been a concern in recent months as Richard Daley, who set it up in the first place, is no longer able to host it because of serious illness. We miss his support enormously. It has now been transferred to a new host, thanks to **Andrew** with input from **Sarah Poppy** and, when required, **Barendina,** is updating the contents.

That leaves us with the History Centre which has taken up much of my time this past year. **Bridget, Sarah & Barendina** have variously helped with Accessions and preparing exhibition boards for a Forties evening held at the Royal British Legion in August. We have also begun a project researching the properties on Blakeney High Street. Since the end of last November and early October 2026, the Centre has received 30 enquiries; sometimes the research and emails involved continue for several weeks. **Bridget** helpfully represents the Centre on the Village Hall Committee and, along with **Andrew,** has been in discussion with them about the complicated electrics. Since covid it has, unfortunately, not been possible to open the Centre on a regular basis but a member has recently offered to facilitate this, so watch this space…

Having been Secretary for 15 years, I took over as Chair from **Richard Kelham** in 2024. I have enjoyed an eventful and interesting couple of years but wish to 'retire' before reaching my next decade. At the AGM, I will be handing over the reins to my stalwart colleague, **Andrew** but I won't be disappearing altogether as, for the time being, I hope to continue my involvement with the History Centre.

So, this Report comes with a loud round of applause for all the Committee and their commitment to managing the Society, as well as to our members for your continuing interest and support.

Diana Cooke

5th October 2026