



## NEWSLETTER 2019

Dear Members,

I hope you enjoyed our meetings in 2018. For the 2019 programme we have made a few late changes for our first two meetings.

The first event was to have been in March at the Jockey Club in Newmarket with The Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP as speaker. As Matthew is now Secretary of State for Health and a member of the cabinet we thought it wise to re-arrange our plans as his commitments are likely to be 'Brexit' dominated at that time! I am pleased to report that our first event for 2019 will now be an afternoon visit on **Thursday 7 March to the Guildhall in Bury St Edmunds for a talk by retired judge and author, Malcolm Knott, on 'A Life in Crime'**. The talk will be followed by a guided tour of the newly refurbished Guildhall. Dating back to 1279, it is the oldest continuously-used civic building in Britain and has the only surviving World War Two Royal Observer Corps Control Centre.

The second meeting was to have been in April to Great Blakenham to visit the Materials Recycling and Energy from Waste Facilities. Work on significantly upgrading the Materials Recycling Facility is now planned to start in early April so we have decided to postpone our visit to 2020 so we can see the new facility and improved recycling processes. Our second event will therefore be on **Saturday 27 April at the West Stow Country Park and Anglo-Saxon Village** which is one of the country's great archaeological sites. The event includes a guided tour of the Saxon Village and recent archaeological discoveries. After a buffet lunch, there is an opportunity to visit the Museum and archaeology centre and walk around the extensive West Stow Country Park.

For something completely different we have arranged a **'Whisky and Roses' event for Thursday 6 June**. The day will start with a visit to the **English Whisky Company in Roudham** for a guided tour followed by lunch. In the afternoon we will visit **Peter Beale's Roses at Attleborough** for a guided tour and afternoon tea.

Our final event for 2019 will be a visit to **St. John's College, Cambridge on Wednesday 25 September for a talk by Professor Deborah Howard, Fellow of St John's College and University Professor of Architectural History, on 'The Role of Water in Venetian Architecture'**. The lecture will discuss the particular challenges of building on the amphibious site of the Venetian lagoon. It will consider the visual and commercial assets of the presence of water and the problems of fresh-water supply. After lunch in the Central Hall, there will be a guided tour of the College and Fellows Garden.

I must thank David Smith for all his work as Secretary and Treasurer over the past year.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Michael Sullivan