

Chair's Report (Friends of Snape Church. 2025-6

I'll start by heartily thanking our members and everyone who has attended any of the events we hosted in 2025 as well as the performers and poster designers who donate their time and talent and, of course, my colleagues on the board, volunteers who do such a great job of sourcing and arranging events.

Another person who has earned fulsome thanks is Tim Beach. Tim is very much missed, having had to retire as Secretary and from FOSC from personal reasons. There would not have been a FoSC but for his recognition that the church structure needed support, his role in getting a team of trustees involved and his patient commitment to working through the requirements and paperwork to set FoSC up as a charity.

The new Secretary is Jackie Allfrey. I would like to thank her for being so willing to add that post to her other responsibilities. Jackie succeeded in accessing for us a grant from Sizewell, to shore up drainage on Church Green. The application was fraught with shifting demands, delays and silences during which the price rose. However, the work is done and visitors to the church can now park their cars comfortably – and for free.

Our next aim is to repair the church's south facing louvres.

We seek business sponsorship for our events. We remain grateful to Ian and Hugh Curle who sponsored the Suffolk Constabulary Police choir and the Songbirds, a great success in the Village Hall. However, the most reliable source of funds continues to be from donations to attend talks - like the history and fauna of Orford Ness – and a range of concerts – most recently the acapella Nota Bene, conducted by Janette Ruocco. We do our best to offer variety. As well as quality. I have been delighted by all the speakers and performers as well as appreciative that they always donate their talents and sometimes renounce reimbursement for travel. They seem delighted with their reception – notably the fabulous Meadow Steep quintet who are keen to come back. The Goldcrest Ensemble have performed for us three times and are happy to return.

A regular event is the FoSC organised, and well attended, *Carols on the Green*. Thanks to Miranda for the 2025 Christmas Tree and those of previous years, to Adie and Amanda for preparing the mulled wine and mince pies, to their neighbour for electricity and a wonderful brass quartet accompaniment to the singing.

Publicity is vital and we put a poster for each event in or on the back page of Ebb and Flow - sometimes with an article. We notify other local circulars and, of course, put the word out on the Snape Village website. Refreshments continue to be served before the start, and admission continues to be by donation.

Tim's departure leaves a vacant place on the board, which we would love a FoSC member to fill. We meet on a Tuesday or Wednesday before a concert and at other times as required.

Georgina Lock

Chair of FoSC. May 18th.