

## Issue 182 Newsletter Jan 2011



### Contents:

- Editorial
- New Members
- Winter Lectures
- News & Comment
- Planning News
- The Society's Awards
- The Anniversary Dinner
- Transport for 21st Century
- Waterfront Rights of Way
- Seeing is Believing?
- Hallowe'en, etc
- Some Shorts
- Heritage Open Days 2010
- St Peter's Summer Rota
- In Search of the 'Big Society'
- Modernism at Isaacs
- Building Houses
- Teenager's View of Ipswich
- Signs of the Times
- Air Raid Shelter Museum
- Orwell Park Observatory
- Insulating Historic Buildings
- William Butterfield
- Letters to the Editor
- Committee & Contacts
- Lectures and Outings

# Editorial

2010 was a very enjoyable year for many of our members as we celebrated our half century. It was very gratifying that the range of events and venues helped to attract such a good proportion of our 1200 members. Much of the programme was masterminded and run by Tony and Su Marsden who deserve the Society's warmest thanks.

But it is clear that there will be big new challenges ahead as well as more of the old. As our local authorities become more squeezed financially there will be consequences for Ipswich. Suffolk County Council's determination to 'divest' itself of many of its responsibilities will throw up questions and problems. Radical changes to the planning system brought in by the Government will also have a noticeable effect. Moreover, the Government's emphasis on a 'Big Society' seems aimed in part at the multiplicity of charities, of which we are one. Mike Brain's article in this issue begins to address the implications of the 'Big Society' inspired by the conference he attended in Chester. But I can't help thinking that if the 'Big Society' is to rely on volunteers, they will pick and choose what they want to do, and some things won't be chosen: whereas local authorities have to cater for both the rough and the smooth.

A few words about Giles Circus. You will see elsewhere in this issue that the Society gave an Award of Distinction to this scheme. I know that there are some members who were surprised or disagreed with this decision. Margaret Hancock's letter on page 22 cogently expresses her disagreement. I wasn't one of the judges and don't claim to know all their reasons. But can't we agree that Ipswich with its tight medieval street pattern is very short of public spaces apart from the Cornhill, so Giles Circus makes a second one? And whether or not you like Giles's Grandma statue, it is surely unique? So, making a prominent feature of it contributes to Ipswich's uniqueness and makes us less of a 'clone town', an accusation often levelled at England's towns and cities. In short, Giles Circus has become a place instead of a mere road junction. However, people are entitled to their opinions and the Newsletter will continue to reflect our differences as well as the issues on which most of us agree.

*Neil Salmon*

## Winter Lectures

The remaining two lectures will take place as usual in Museum Street Methodist Church on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm. Once again we would remind members that they are welcome to bring friends along; there is no charge for anyone, not even for the tea or coffee!

### **9 February The River Gipping Trust**

Lewis Tyler, Secretary of the Trust, will speak about the work which has been done and which is planned to restore and care for this historic river and valley. The Trust is greatly involved with improving the river from Stowmarket to West End Bridge, Ipswich, Although that doesn't include the final stretch of the river through the rest of Ipswich, members of our Society are likely to be interested in everything to do with our historic waterway.

## **9 March Suffolk Toll-houses**

Patrick Taylor, Conservation Architect, will speak about his work on the turnpike roads of Suffolk, giving a potted history of the old road repair system, paid for by the taking of tolls, showing how toll-houses are perhaps the last buildings to display the phenomenon of local distinctiveness and then describing the many buildings in Suffolk that were toll-houses or are sometimes mistakenly taken for such.

# News & Comment

## **Bury Road Park & Ride to be buried?**

The County Council's Scrutiny Committee has confirmed that the Bury Road P&R is to close. The various extra car parks in the town, mostly on development sites, are said to provide a disincentive to use P&R (as described in the October Newsletter). But these are mostly temporary and, once lost, P&R will also have been lost. Moreover, visitors to the town from elsewhere who are also familiar with P&R in other towns appreciate the quality of the Ipswich services, and these are some of the people the town needs to attract in larger numbers. Coming off the A 14, they won't want to find their way to temporary car parks along unfamiliar streets!

So, we hope Ipswich Buses can find ways to make some modified use of the Bury Road site, which belongs to mc. There does seem to be a wish by mc to make good the loss which the County is so blasé about. It's ironical, to use a polite word, that the £25m to be invested in improving transport in Ipswich is meant to encourage people to use public transport rather more (see page 9). Does the right hand know what the left hand is doing? Wouldn't a unitary local authority have prevented this anomaly?

## **Tesco and CABA**

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABA) has acclaimed the development by Tesco of their Tesco Extra plus 129 flats and other facilities in Commercial Road. "The design team present a compelling case for a Tesco-led mixed use scheme on this under-used site on the southern edge of the town centre." The Ipswich Society would draw attention to that word "edge". Surely this giant Tesco is not in the town centre at all but it is close enough to harm retailing in the town centre. Yes, the site on the river near the station does need re-development and if the architecture looks good, as it should do, that's fine. But questions remain about the traffic it will generate and what it will do to the real town centre.

# Planning News

## **Fore Street and Duke Street junction changes**

The Society at local members' requests attended various meetings on these contentious changes. Suffolk County Councils' Highways Department was granted a large tranche of money from the Department of Transport if it could design a scheme which reduced traffic flow by 10%. This it did by preventing traffic from Back Hamlet entering the junction and installing traffic lights. Public

consultation was poor even if barely legal and there was much public dissatisfaction particularly by local traders who were badly hit and fail to see any improvement for the £350,000 spend. However these schemes take a little time to settle and that junction may well be a little better. Others will not fare so well (St Helens Street and Cavendish Street).

#### **Marriott's Site, Handford Road**

MacCarthy and Stone's proposals for the site have now been registered after early public consultation. They propose complete site clearance including the former public house which has not been licensed for at least 40 years. They wish to build a care of the elderly facility.

I have received different views on the desirability of the scheme and the Society's letter to the Council will reflect that.

#### **Arclion House, Hadleigh Road**

This will be demolished and replaced by 15 affordable housing units designed by Barefoot and Gilles. This was supported by the Society.

#### **The Waterfront**

The primary developers of the four largest sites are now in administration. No building is taking place now or in the foreseeable future on Cranfield's Mill, Regatta Quay, Shed 8 (currently a car park, between Neptune Quay and the newest university buildings in Duke Street) and St Peter's Port (between Star Lane and College Street next to St Peter's Church).

**Barton Wood**, Stone Lodge Lane, demolition of two houses and replace with 29 dwellings.

Permission was refused. The application did not comply with over 30 different Local Planning Policies, had no transport assessment on Stone Lodge Lane and there were some 65 different local objectors. Most importantly it would have meant the loss of two fine early 20th century houses which are not Listed but are deemed to be of Local Heritage Value.

#### **Christchurch Park**

The Parks Department have permission to fell 19 sick trees (some horse chestnuts, weakened by leaf mosaic and a fungus, are succumbing to canker) 10 trees because they interfere with views of the cenotaph and the wetlands and 3 trees because they are in the wrong place. The Friends of Christchurch Park are in agreement.

#### **Oil storage tanks, Europa Way.**

This application mentioned in the October Newsletter has been withdrawn. We have heard, but there is no confirmation as yet, that the Volpak tank farm on Landseer Road will close. If this is true then the Tolly Cobbold Cliff Brewery can be redeveloped as residential.

#### **Tesco Extra**

It is said work will start in January as they have come to a large financial settlement on the Novotel roundabout. There have been no public consultations on this by mid-December.

**Great Whip Street**, to build nearly 400 residential units. The further application for the development of the Graham's site for higher buildings and more units has been withdrawn.

#### **2 Constitution Hill**

This largely invisible and unsatisfactory house built on a garden grab from 77 Henley Road in the 1960s will be almost completely demolished and replaced with a 2½ storey house. The Society welcomes the proposal but has reservations about the height, and the multiplicity of external materials. Further consideration needed before permission should be granted.

#### **Ipswich Borough Council Core Strategy for Planning**

IBC's Core Strategy has been developed, consulted upon publicly and agreed. It was placed before a Planning Inspector for its Examination in Public before becoming the town's Official and Legal Strategic Plan. However, the Secretary of State, Mr Eric Pickles, by scrapping the Regional Spatial Strategies, altered many of the premises upon which it was based. And so the Planning Inspector decided to postpone the examination from midsummer to an indeterminate time until the Borough

had had time to reconsider how the Core Strategy would be affected by such edicts. They are, most importantly, the removal of RSS and its accompanying proposed new house build numbers. These had particularly irritated many rural councils as they could not see the need for the imposition of such large numbers of affordable houses in small towns and villages. Hertfordshire would have been inundated and Suffolk Coastal remains still very far from a solution. (Hence their tacit support for a large development at Adastral Park.) The Borough officers considered whether to alter it to accommodate these new edicts or to rewrite the entire Core Strategy which would not only have been very expensive and time consuming but also have left the town relying on the 1997 plan for its legal planning base which would have hardly stood up to inquiry 15 years later.

IBC's Executive Committee agreed in early October to recommend a change to Policy CS12 (Affordable Housing) reducing from 40% to 35% of affordable housing in developments of more than 15 units and a further strengthening of the infrastructure requirement components in Policy CS10 (Ipswich Northern Fringe) as the appropriate way forward. There will need to be a full comprehensive strategic plan of the entire Northern Fringe by an independent consultant town planner. Public consultation is now open through the usual channels and the Society will be replying before the closing date of 17 January 2011.

*Mike Cook*

## The Society's Awards

**The Council Chamber, Town Hall, 10 November 2010**

What more suitable place than the centre of town for an Awards Evening in our 50th anniversary year? The Council Chamber has long since ceased to be the home for Borough Council meetings but it does still have an air of civic importance.

We were pleased to welcome back Bob Allen as our commentator, partly because he was the first chairman of the Society in post when the Awards scheme began and because he does this presentation so well. Although not one of the judging panel himself, his comments and summaries are made on behalf of the five anonymous judges. What follows here is a selection of his comments on the nominated schemes.

Isaacs, Wherry Quay, restoration of machine room - this loving restoration brings alive part of the story and history of this wonderful collection of old buildings; Isaacs has had various other awards. Salthouse Harbour Hotel, Neptune Quay, new extension - a bold and uncompromising link with the original building and an interesting addition to the dock scene; not so keen on its rear appearance! Athena Hall, Duke St, new student block - bold massing and effective articulation, some striking colour, useful proximity to other DCS buildings. Some judges liked it more than others did. New garage and stained glass studio, 60 Orford St - beautifully detailed craftsmanship, but pediment suggests a temple!

New Baptist Church, Colchester Rd/Sidegate Lane West - worth thinking about, but great cross and windows oddly placed; not sure about 'industrial' roof and prominent drain pipes.

New housing scheme (36 housing units) Clumpfield, Cambridge Drive - interesting massing and nicely pitched roofs; pleasantly curved drive.

New houses, 53-55 Westerfield Road - debatable use of pastiche Edwardian style but they replace a 1950s house and do relate to neighbouring houses; sash windows nicely in scale.

Paving and landscaping Tower Ramparts to Northgate St - paving well done with expensive materials used well; new signage not too tall.

Ceramic tiling, E of England Co-op store, Queensway - unusual replacement for windows but sad to see a shop has to look like this.

New housing, Grosvenor Close, The Albany, Tuddenham Road, 7 houses in curved terrace - fabulous site with trees and good quality materials but odd-looking 'pavilions'.

Jerwood Dance House, The Mill, Foundry Lane - great asset for the town; inviting interior (includes a public cafe); but powdered colour on cladding not very stable?

Suffolk One College, Scrivener Dr/London Rd - a big bold statement with many good features although some detailing doesn't work; difficult to get a good view of the outside.

Enhancement scheme, Giles Circus - an opportunity taken to create a new urban space and make a better setting for the handsome buildings around it; re-siting Grandma to provide seating; efforts made to soften the presence of vehicles.

Children's Centre, conversion and new building, Copleston School- a simple re-modelling; effective frontage but rear side forbidding!

University Campus Suffolk, Block L, new entrance and frontage - quite successful with good detailing of railings.

After these perceptive but deliberately disguised comments, Bob Allen was able to announce the various awards, which were as follows:

**Award of Distinction for the enhancement of Giles Circus**

Client, Design and Contractor - Ipswich Borough Council

**Commendation for Salthouse Harbour Hotel extension**

Client Gough Hotels, Design by Barefoot & Gilles, Contractor ISG Jackson Ltd

**Commendation for Clumpfield new housing scheme, Cambridge Drive**

Client Orwell Housing Association, Design by Barefoot & Gilles, Contractor ISG Jackson Ltd  
(photo below)

**Commendation for 53-55 Westerfield Rd, two new private houses**

Client and Contractor Gary Sallows, Design by Last & Tricker Partnership (photo below)

The awards were presented by the Mayor, Councillor Jane Chambers, after which there was plenty of time for drinks, nibbles and conversation.

## The Anniversary Dinner

Intrepid, determined and brave. Perhaps Society members don't easily recognise themselves as fitting that description! But the words are (almost) apt considering that of the 133 members who had

booked in for the dinner on 3 December only six cancelled - with not even the number of absentees you'd expect from head colds, let alone icy roads. The heaviest snowfall of our early winter had occurred on the previous day, but thoughts of a good meal, good fellowship and perhaps the unusualness of the event brought people out of the warmth of their homes. Gresham's proved an ideal venue for such a large gathering. It was originally built by the Guardian Royal Exchange insurance group (their HQ in Civic Drive is now AXA's) as their sports complex on Tuddenham Road, outside the built up area but just inside the Borough boundary - which was important for The Ipswich Society. The main hall was transformed to create a welcoming ambience on a cold night.

here was adequate time for chatting and mixing before our very enjoyable three course meal, after which our chairman, Jack Chapman, reminded us of our celebratory reasons for being there. I then introduced our guest of honour and member of the Society, Sir Trevor Nunn, outlining his career achievements - artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company and then the National Theatre, and perhaps even more widely known as the director of musicals such as Cats and Les Miserables, and still a very active freelance director in the UK and USA. More specifically for the occasion, I recalled my first memories of Trevor and the stage - as a hilarious Dogberry in Much Ado About Nothing at Northgate Grammar School for Boys and his wonderful production of Hamlet at the Art Gallery in High Street next to the Museum. While still a student and with striking initiative he got together a cast of students from various schools in Ipswich to mount an impressive full version of this demanding play. With hindsight we can appreciate that was the start of an illustrious career.

Trevor Nunn's speech was aimed ideally at his Ipswich audience. He re-visited the Ipswich of the 1950s as seen through the eyes of a schoolboy - the Gondolier Coffee Bar, the skiffle group, the working docks, the Town's promotion from the Third Division South to the Second Division and, most significantly for him, treading the boards at the old Arts Theatre as a 13-year-old with Paul Eddington and Wendy Craig. The audience loved it.

The Society is very grateful to Trevor for his continuing interest and his time. And equally grateful to his wife, the actress Imogen Stubbs, who had to come on a later train from London which, because of problems on the line, took three hours to get here, so she arrived just after we'd finished eating. That's being a good trouper - and Imogen's not even an Ipswichian!

Very properly, the evening's 'formalities' were rounded off with a presentation to Su Marsden for organising such an enjoyable occasion, the culmination of our Golden Year.

*Neil Salmon*

## Transport for 21st Century

To provide background to the Government's £21m-£25 investment in upgrading transport in Ipswich, here are some actual quotations from the official document. The proposals have already had a bad press with many motorists lining up to be sceptical or hostile. The Society will consider the proposals carefully because they contain much of interest.

"Scheme concept.

Ipswich is an important and vibrant county town, performing a wide range of roles for its residents, hinterland, and business and cultural communities. It has a long and rich history. In recent decades, it has adapted to the dominance of the car mode. The concept of the 'Ipswich-Transport Fit for the 21st Century' Major Scheme is to implement a coherent and concerted package of measures covering all aspects of travel in the wider Ipswich area. The objective is to achieve a significant shift to more sustainable travel- from car to bus and active modes, while responding to the targets for supporting residential and employment growth. Integral to the Scheme itself are information components to inform and encourage this shift in travel habits..... “

"Town centre travel

The challenge is to offer safe, attractive and convenient walk and cycle links to minimise cross town centre traffic ..... “

"Suburban travel

Ipswich has a dense and constrained radial suburban development pattern, both suitable for serving by bus and unsuitable for the car ..... and there is a challenge to redesign and expand the bus service capacity to serve the town centre, the new residential developments and the edge of town concentrations of employment and commerce.”

"Hinterland travel

Ipswich is a county town providing vital employment ... to the surrounding area. The railway services, the inter-urban bus services and the Park and Ride sites all perform important but limited roles ... The challenge is to expand these roles in an attractive and cost effective way."

[Please note that word 'expand' - **Editor**]

## Waterfront Rights of Way

Barney Grimshaw, Inspector on behalf of the Secretary of State, held a Public Enquiry at IPCity Centre in early December 2010 to hear evidence to confirm, or otherwise, the creating of Restricted Byways and Public Footpaths close to the quays.

Although there is wide agreement that vehicles should be restricted, for example along the northern quays, this position is not universally held. Businesses point out that it is essential that deliveries can be made and that this involves vehicles driving along the Waterfront, and this is obviously right and proper. But what constitutes a delivery - guests arriving at the Salthouse Harbour Hotel for an overnight stay, residents returning to their flats from a shopping expedition, customers of the restaurants dropping off members of their party (particularly those with mobility issues)?

Suffolk County Council Rights of Way Committee propose to create three Restricted Byways ~one along the northern and eastern quays, one along New Cut East (on the Island site) and one along Stoke Quays (New Cut West) and two public footpaths - one on the site of the Promenade (which ran down the Island to the 19th century Umbrella pavilion) and one along Cliff Quay towards Hog Highland. Various parties objected to the proposals, including ABP and Anglo Norden who were both represented at the Enquiry.



You may have assumed that some or all of these quays were already Public Rights of Way. However the majority of the time we spent at the Public Enquiry was to hear debate on their actual status. The inspector received papers and heard evidence from 1805, amongst the original proposals to improve the then open river, and the 1837 Act which created the enclosed Wet Dock. There was a string of various other Acts in the late 19th century, including the creation of the new lock at the southern end of the dock replacing the old lock which had discharged vessels into the New Cut.

An Act of 1913 gave the Dock Commissioners permission to restrict public access to the Island providing they erected a gate close to Foundry Lane within ten years. The Great War interrupted the planned changes and a further Act of 1918 made additional provision and extended the timescale. There is no photographic evidence, maps or plans to indicate that the gate was ever erected and thus it was argued public access was never totally prevented. There were clearly some restrictions to public access as correspondents to the local press between the wars complained but users of the Griffin Ferry and the steamers sailing down river were still able to cross the Island. Considerable evidence was presented to indicate that the public had reasonably uninterrupted access to the Island until the late 1990s when requirements for Health & Safety meant that the public were excluded on an increasing number of occasions until, by the early 21st century, the public were totally excluded. Suffolk County Council used the maxim "Once a public highway - always a public highway". The inspector, having heard a range of diverse evidence now needs to decide if a public Right of Way ever existed, and if it did was it ever extinguished or does the fact that the public have used it reasonably regularly for 150 years create a Right of Way by default?

Evidence was given by a member and by officers of Suffolk County Council and this was supplemented by contributions from Ipswich Maritime Trust and Ipswich Society members. The collective local evidence amounted to the various ways in which people enjoyed unrestricted access to both the northern quays and the Island site, and in particular were able to cross the swing bridge of the lock. The Inspector has gone away to make what is almost the Judgment of Solomon. The key words I hope he takes with him are not what has happened or not happened over the past 150 years but what the people of Ipswich want to happen over the next 150 - the ability to perambulate around the Waterfront on a Sunday afternoon, to cross the lock and thus the Island, enjoy a coffee or a pint and watch whatever river traffic is passing at the time.

*John Norman, Vice-Chairman*

## Seeing is Believing?

Whilst the principle of using thermal imaging to identify houses (or parts thereof) that are leaking increasingly precious energy out into the world at large is to be praised, its use to sell plastic windows is perhaps questionable. Looking at the images of my own house, and indeed those of my neighbours, the shock of glowing thermal radiation seemingly pouring out is almost enough to make one send for the salesman.

However, interleaved amongst these horrors, there are images of the even numbered houses on the other side of the street. These present an almost uniformly dark picture of good buildings letting little out. On realising that the street runs east-west, that my house faces south and that these 'cool' buildings face north, the true picture emerges. It would appear that the company responsible took

the thermal images on a bright sunny day, which is far from ideal. In such conditions north facing buildings will appear thermally cool in their perpetual shade, whilst those like mine are in fact showing the effects of thermal warming. The brickwork is bathing in the sunshine and solar gain through the windows is creating warm rooms in behind, all leading to the glowing report given in the pictures.

After such a day of sunsh

ine, simply closing the thick curtains to retain heat is probably far more effective and certainly cheaper than installing double glazing. In fact if the truth is known, approximately 20% of an average house's energy is lost through single glazing and upgrading it to double provides a potential 10% saving in your energy bills. But considering the cost of double glazing this makes for a very long payback period.

A cheaper and much more efficient energy saving measure, applicable to many but not all houses, is a gable warmer, which can save 20% off your bills. All being well, I will present one such as a pioneering example in the next issue.

*Patrick Taylor, Conservation Architect*

## Hallowe'en, etc.

Retail spending on Hallowe'en costumes and associated items now exceeds Valentine's. A reflection of the nation's psyche or just a retail driven success? Hallowe'en related retail spending has risen from £12 million ten years ago to some £300 million last year, 2010. The surge of interest can be traced back to Wal-Mart's take-over of Asda in 2000, the American retailer being well versed in using the pagan festival to sell cheap tat at a healthy premium.

I was going to suggest that the people who pretend to be undead for the day clearly don't understand the significance of All Hallows Eve, but then that's probably true of Dawali, Ramadan or Christmas. Look out for turkeys and parade costumes at Thanksgiving during the next decade.

*John Norman*

## Some Shorts

**Crane's** 44 acre derelict site in Nacton Road is perhaps the most depressing sight in Ipswich. The proposed Crane Park trading estate would re-develop it and provide valuable jobs.

**'Bacon Curve'** - thank goodness the Government has endorsed the new twin-track 'Ipswich Chord' allowing freight trains from Felixstowe to head direct to Peterborough and the north, so avoiding the mainline to London. But it will be 4 years before it opens.

**Ipswich Buses** - we welcome IBC's decision not to sell a stake in the company to Go Ahead. It's true that very few local authorities own bus companies, but ours is too good to lose.

**Retail Head** - the Business Improvement District (BID) has worked with me to create a new post - someone to attract inward investment to fill vacant shops and widen the range of retail offer. All the more necessary in the near future as spending money gets tighter.

**Northern Fringe** - the Government's rejection of Mersea Homes' proposal for 1000+ new houses between Westerfield Road and Henley Road was expected because a masterplan is needed for the whole area. With increased local decision making it's hard to anticipate what will happen eventually but it's surely inescapable that Ipswich needs more houses.

**Squirrell honoured** - the Society's Blue Plaque commemorating artist Leonard Squirrell at 82 Spring Road was dedicated on 6 October. The artist's daughter, Annette Kenny, spoke eloquently about her pleasure in seeing this completed.

**Hospital's name** - Heath Road hospital is now officially 'Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust - a teaching hospital affiliated to Cambridge, UEA and UCS'. This recognises the hospital's important role in helping to teach medical students from the three universities.

**The press in town** - media group Archant producing the Evening Star and the EADT in Lower Brook Street is to re-develop its site but itself stay on site. The decision in 1966 to stay in the town was good for the town then, and so is this decision now.

**Markets on the Waterfront** have taken place on certain Sundays, which helps to attract visitors and remind them that the Waterfront is indeed an important part of central Ipswich.

**Tower Ramparts Shopping Centre** is pleased that the Littlewoods's premises, empty for 4 years, have been taken over by the clothing store, Madhouse. Whether or not it's the store for you, it's a boost for the town centre and especially for this well situated shopping centre.

**St Michael's Church** (large Victorian church in Upper Orwell Street, redundant since 1997) and church hall have been bought by JIMAS, a UK-based Muslim charity. Both buildings will become a community centre. Re-use, costing the charity perhaps £1m, is welcome.

**Irish banks** were major financiers of both The Mill (Cranfield's) and Regatta Quay (Paul's) as well as the sugar beet factory site and SnOasis. No wonder it's in the UK's interest to see Irish banks stabilised!

**The new footbridge** at the railway station was installed in mid-November with the lifts to follow. It will open in the spring. Not before time - as mentioned in the last Newsletter!

## Heritage Open Days 2010

Heritage Open Days in 2010 were very successful, and from the feedback I have received there was an increase in visitors. Yet again, the fine weather that weekend certainly helped. There were 26 buildings participating representing seven centuries in the history of Ipswich.

The Ipswich Transport Museum participated again, supplying a vintage bus to link between some of the properties. Over 300 people used the bus, and there were visitors from America, Hampshire, Norfolk, Essex and Yorkshire, who were all delighted and impressed with the variety of buildings to visit in Ipswich during the weekend.

Isaac Lord's opened their Machine Room for the first time and had over 600 visitors. This was far more than they were expecting and they had to put on extra tours. St Stephen's Church, the Tourist Information Centre, were fully booked for their tours and they had 1200 visitors to the Centre. St Peter's Church, which is now converted into a heritage centre, rehearsal and concert venue, attracted 579 visitors. The Willis building had 1008 visitors and the Custom House 1000.

The Heritage Open Days for 2011 will be as usual the second weekend in September. So those who missed the 2010 event will have the chance to visit all 26 buildings, a few of which I have mentioned.

*Dianne Hosking*

# St Peter's Summer Rota

A big 'thank you' to The Ipswich Society for being on our volunteer rota throughout the summer season. We had a total of 1980 visitors from May to September averaging 18 people per opening day, 300 more than last year. The Charter Hangings continue to be a big draw and we have received many favourable comments in the visitors' book.

St Peter's is used four nights every week and every third Sunday in the month for rehearsal purposes. This provides us with much valuable core income. I am planning more free Sunday afternoon concerts and will try to encourage more school parties to use the church and the Charter Hangings as a resource for educational projects.

I hope to re-open from Mondays to Fridays commencing on Tuesday, 3 May. I should be very grateful if you could support us again in 2011.

*Bernard Westren, Manager of St Peter's*

## In Search of 'The Big Society'

The Historic Towns Forum conference on 'Achieving Added Value Through Community Engagement', held in Chester, 23 September 2010

My article in last October's Newsletter closed with a question: might 'The Big Society' bring improved outcomes for local democracy where the Local Government Review and the Local Development Framework appear to have failed? No sooner had that article gone to press than the HTF announced this conference, which I attended on the Society's behalf to see what lessons there might be for Ipswich and Suffolk. Trained as a response to the new coalition Government's agenda which advocates devolution of power down to neighbourhoods, and promoting a 'Big Society' based around social responsibility and community action, the conference posed the questions; 'Is there any evidence that this will work, and are there examples of good practice?'

Chester's response to community engagement has been a resounding 'Yes'. Many significant successes include the re-development of Chester's Old Port, which integrates heritage buildings amidst new residential developments in a derelict industrial area, echoing our own Waterfront, and the Water Tower Gardens in which even the local schoolchildren are now stakeholders. But how were these successful outcomes achieved? Plainly not through the Big Society since, as most speakers acknowledged, that remains even to be defined, let alone established. They undoubtedly demonstrate a great potential for enthusiastic and constructive partnerships between government, the private sector and communities in designing developments to properly satisfy everyone's aspirations. But the point was repeatedly emphasised that all three groups have to want to co-operate, and to achieve proper mutual engagement is not at all straightforward.

For Civic Voice, Tony Burton asserted that 'everyone has the right to live somewhere they can be proud of', but too often solutions are bulldozed through. Only afterwards are communities asked if they are happy with the results, and even then the answers are too often not properly listened to.

Engagement is an attitude of mind rather than a methodology, and it is worth the effort. He closed with a quotation from American anthropologist, Margaret Mead: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'

From English Heritage, Deborah Lamb alluded to the inevitable tensions between local and national or institutional interests, for instance between community 'knowledge' and architectural 'expertise'. Architect Tony Barton urged that from the outset every opportunity to overcome such potential for conflict between interested parties should be taken by engaging them in every available form of constructive dialogue, while Cllr Mike Jones asserted the important but complementary view that such dialogue will succeed ONLY if politicians respect the views of communities (even if they disagree) AND if communities abandon NIMBYism and seek to understand the bigger picture.

These strong messages for the three essential groups encapsulate the significant lessons learnt, but it was also clear that much of the success had been enabled by the recent creation of the Cheshire West and Chester unitary authority, whose councillors told me how many significant barriers to progress under the former two-tier system had simply disappeared. The new unitary system positively calls for community engagement both for its own sake and to promote better value for money. This places the local authority at the focal point for creating the necessary partnerships. But elected representatives and officers alike simply hadn't known how to engage with communities: they had had to learn new communication skills and attitudes, and likewise, communities had had to be encouraged to reciprocate. It had been very hard work, but very worthwhile. Could this be what the Big Society looks like? It is evidently very different from two-tier Ipswich and Suffolk. But if unitary local government is such a catalyst for success, why has the Secretary of State suspended the creation of new ones? If it is good for Cheshire West and Chester, a historic town in a largely rural setting, then why not for Ipswich in Suffolk? Or will the County Council's 'New Strategic Direction' prove to be a comparably successful alternative for Suffolk?

*Mike Brain*

## Modernism at Isaacs

A lovely bright photo of the De la Warr Pavilion in Bexhill greeted us. This archetypal 1930s Modernist building was an ideal introduction to a talk at Isaacs on 13 October by Ken Powell, former Director of the Twentieth Century Society. And we did indeed go on to look at and be told about similar monuments of the Modernist Movement - amongst others, Lawn Road flats in Camden, the Hoover building (its preserved façade now shelters a big Tesco!), Bankside power station (now Tate Modern), the Daily Express building in Fleet Street and Battersea power station (Listed by Michael Heseltine but partly demolished and still awaiting conversion for new uses). But Ken Powell didn't forget that he was in Ipswich and drew our attention to the value of preserving Broomhill Pool, the Listed 1930s lido, and the unique Modernist private house, 108 Westerfield Road, built by Birkin Haward for himself.

However the lecture made a case for respecting buildings of different styles and periods if they are good of their kind and a credit to their context. He instanced the Willis Building with its stimulating juxtaposition with the Unitarian Meeting House - two Grade I Listed buildings which create a doubly interesting context. And even more immediately for us, the presence in our town of both

Willis and Isaacs (we were inside the 16th century Sale Room at Isaacs) makes for an enriched experience. Much more contentious, as he explained, is the continuing existence of a famous building like the Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras, often hated in the middle of the last century but now seen as 'stupendous' in its way and currently converted into flats, with the rest of it due to re-open as a hotel after 50-60 years of disuse.

This provided Mr Powell with a cue to speak about changes of taste and the increasing effect of familiarity, so that it's not always wise to demolish buildings which seem unpopular for a time. Pevsner thought the Hoover Building was atrocious. Summerson only over time came to appreciate the St Pancras hotel. Bankside was very unpopular. The National Theatre has had few admirers, but is it right to re-model it?

Less celebrated buildings which have lost much of their appeal are being appreciated just before they are lost. Ken Powell cited some of the big inter-war pubs which are becoming rarer and, if not demolished already, are being ripped apart internally. As he said, these are usually below the level of High Art but are often examples of well designed vernacular styles. So he is pleased that English Heritage is Listing some of these.

If there was a portable moral in Mr Powell's talk it was that one shouldn't be for or against the old or the new. Each case should be considered on its merits, its context and over a period of time. The Twentieth Century Society itself is helping to save what is good from that century but not always valued .... yet!

*Neil Salmon*

## Building Houses

Conference held at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge

In a room full of Cambridge academics, with beards and bald heads, rucksacks full of scholarly papers, conversation full of complaint, we listened intently to a series of interesting speakers, each with a serious point to put before the audience.

Before its demise the Regional Assembly had set targets for housing in each local authority area. In Ipswich we were charged with constructing 20,000 housing units by 2021. In June the new Government decided that housing targets are best set locally, and the previous high figures have been abandoned (we're all NIMBY s at heart).

However by not building new houses we make life difficult for the working population. Broadly speaking, as the economy contracts, older people choose to stay put rather than move house. On retirement (or soon after) a fair number of people choose to move to the country, the seaside or to downsize. But whilst the value of their property is less than it was in the summer of 2007, there is a reluctance to sell; thus the property ladder sticks. This simple premise is compounded by an increase in the older population (the baby boomer generation are now retiring), more and more people are separating and living in two separate housing units, and people are living longer. Take for example the number of people per house:

2001-2.38 2009-2.31 2031-estimated 2.17

Well over 90% of the older population live in mainstream housing, occupying less than the available number of bedrooms. The demographic shift means that households are getting smaller, the number of housing units with single occupancy is rising sharply and the available housing stock is thus reduced.

In 2010 we will build fewer new houses than at any time since the war, and yet we probably need more. We certainly need new houses to accommodate the working population, to attract new employees into towns and to house the twenty-something-year-olds who are building a successful career.

It is interesting to add that the proposed rise in the cost of university courses will exacerbate the problem. Graduates are likely to accumulate debts of £50,000 after a three year course. Bang goes the deposit they would have otherwise used to buy a house. When ex -students earn £21,000 per year they begin to re-pay the student loan (at 9%), an amount that would otherwise fund £45,000 of borrowing.

Just before the last time the economy collapsed in the late 1980s, the typical age for buying a first house had gone down from 24 to 21 years old. It is currently for unassisted first-time buyers 38! The deposit required for a new first-time buyer's house has increased to almost the equivalent of a first-time buyer's annual salary. No wonder they cannot afford to buy a house until they are in their 30s.

The sting is in the fact that these first-time buyers, irrespective of the age they reach when they sign their mortgage, need to rent until they do! And this will have serious implications for the UK property market, moving towards a continental system of residences.

*John Norman, Vice-Chairman*

[**Editor:** perhaps the numerous new flats in town will all be occupied - if the rents are right!]

## Teenager's View of Ipswich

Reading the last Ipswich Society Newsletter I thought I'd contribute an article from a youth perspective about the county town of Suffolk we know so well. For my generation, Ipswich shops are pretty decent. It's no Oxford Street but it still has a lot to offer. People from Colchester and other towns surrounding us often come to Ipswich as we have a wide range of shops which other towns may not have and therefore they are attracted to Ipswich.

We are still attracting new shops such as Paperchase and White Stuff which are new faces to Ipswich and have been warmly welcomed by 10Gals. JD Sports has moved into the old Zavvi building, leaving yet another vacancy down the Regent end of town. Ipswich is forever changing, which is a wonderful thing as we don't want to get stuck in our ways!

There is a problem though. Apart from Poundland, there is not a lot to encourage people down the Regent end of town in comparison to the town centre. As we have lost Woolworths and the Co-op we are losing interest in that end of town. The way forward purely from my point of view is to develop the old Odeon into something fantastic in order to draw people from the town centre. This

would encourage new shops, cafes and such. What to do with the old Odeon is however another article! There were rumours of another cinema, a shopping mall or a bowling rink. I personally thought the bowling rink would be a brilliant plan as something to do on those cold boring moments in town.

More things to do in Ipswich seem crucial as at the moment shopping and the cinema are the main options. Having roller skating or ice skating would be a definite popular attraction. But it's purely a question of space and funds. Over the Christmas period we do turn the car park opposite the football ground into an ice rink but this is only for a month or so. A more permanent thing would be best to entertain locals and tourists.

A couple of months ago, a friend and I went on a tourist route of Ipswich. We visited the Museum, Christchurch Mansion and had lunch in the park. These things are clearly underestimated by people of my generation but are a brilliant slot filler for a dull day.

The Ipswich docks have really developed into a lovely place to be on a Sunday morning! It has a range of cafes and places to eat. Walking around the docks is very peaceful and has an exotic feel about it, slightly like a Spanish marina. Dance East and the university have brought new genres of people down to the docks, which is a short walk from the town.

Transport into and around Ipswich is regular and reliable and is frequently used by locals and people from out of town. Buses are probably the most common form of transport after cars and therefore having a good bus system is necessary. Ipswich train station is just under a half hour walk from the town centre and is frequently used by people coming into Ipswich who live a while away. I think that clearly Ipswich is an underestimated town. I wouldn't want to live here for ever, but I sure am going to defend it when a boy in my science class says (in not so many words) that it's awful.

***Francesca Smith***

## Signs of the Times

Have you ever noticed how real people are useless at giving directions? People you ask are either tourists - or locals. Visitors don't know but don't want to let you down - so they guess. Locals have a very clear idea of how they would get to your intended destination but they are usually lost in their own little world: "Left where the post office used to be; right just past my brother's old house." Distance is always a problem and this is where real people confirm just how useless they really are at estimation. There are two grades of indistinctness - "not too far", which could be any distance from 100 yards to a few miles; or alternatively "Ooh! It's quite a way" (any distance from 100 yards to a few miles).

Signs aren't much better. Sat Navs can find a route to your front door clearly stating expected time of arrival, distance and weather en route, but at the other end of the scale are rural signposts, calibrated using an elastic tape operated by knowledgeable local authority officers who live in the next county and who have probably never been to this road junction. A finger post is likely to point



in the direction of the last hurricane, or one quarter revolution back from where it was before the local tractor boy reversed into it.

Ipswich is about to become different however. A new set of master maps and monolith signs produced by AIG (Applied Information Group) are being erected about the same time as this Newsletter reaches you. And these are not just ordinary signs. They are integrated with downloadable apps (applications for your i-phone) so you can take the map with you as you wander beyond sight of the map. There are also paper maps, town plans that are exactly like the maps on the signs, so you don't have to translate numerous symbols. The maps on the monolith are orientated in the direction of travel, so as you approach the sign the top of the map is the way ahead: buildings on the left of the sign are to your left, and important buildings are drawn in 3D so they are instantly recognisable.

The Ipswich Society welcomes the installation of these new signs. Clearly they will be of benefit to tourists but they will also inform locals, highlighting buildings of distinction in the immediate vicinity.

*John Norman, Vice-Chairman*

## Air Raid Shelter Museum

It was a bright sunny morning, the first Saturday in September, and I was lying in bed listening to the Today programme on Radio Four. One of the main features was the 70th anniversary of the start of the Blitz on London. A thought occurred to me. I hadn't been to the Air Raid Shelter Museum for ages, and as it was the first weekend in the month it would be open that very morning. So I got up, had a quick breakfast, leapt on to my bicycle (got to keep my carbon footprint low) and pedalled over to Clifford Road School.

The museum is situated in underground tunnels that formed part of the school's air raid shelters during the Second World War. Now covered by the black tarmac playground, all you see above ground is the triangular concrete entrance, some flag bunting and a sign saying 'Museum Open'. I descended the steep steps down into the shelter, turned the corner and there was Jacqui Gallington sitting at the reception desk with a big smile on her face. She is the lady, a volunteer, who actually runs the museum and does most of the hard work. Like all the other volunteer helpers she is dressed in period costume; in her case a Paisley housecoat, headscarf and a 1940's style cardigan. The enthusiasm of all the volunteers to recreate the atmosphere of the 1940s really brings the shelter to life, concentrating as it does on the experience of people on the home front during the war.

Jacqui told me that the shelter museum was doing very well. The slow but constant trickle of donations of 1940's bits and pieces from members of the public, quite often after they have visited the museum, has enabled Jacqui to constantly evolve the themed displays of wartime memorabilia. For example, a newly developed feature displays a number of wartime newspapers. Whilst we were chatting there were regular arrivals of paying customers. There is a small entry charge to help with running costs.

Having left Jacqui I had a quick look round and then before I left I couldn't resist taking another 'journey' on the Underground 'train' (made from bits of a genuine 1938 London Underground carriage). "Mind the doors!" calls out Reg, looking very smart in his railway uniform, before he starts the sound and light effects. It's funny how something so simple can fire the imagination of visiting school children. The 'journey' over, I made my farewells, left the 1940s and ascended the stairs back into the sunlight.

*Louis Musgrove*

## Orwell Park Observatory

We have driven past the observatory at Orwell Park School countless times and always glanced wistfully at the observatory wondering what it was like inside. Thanks to the Ipswich Society evening meeting on Thursday, 30 September, we now know. And we were certainly not disappointed!

The meeting was hosted by Peter and Nicky Richards and two other members of the Orwell Astronomical Society with 25 Ipswich Society members present. Peter first gave an account of Colonel Tomline (who owned the Orwell Park estate and built the observatory) in the Belvedere Room and showed some of the amateur telescopes, including one made by members of the Society. He then led us up to the main observatory floor to see the telescope itself, and gave us an account of its construction and operation. Built in 1875, it was at that time 'state of the art', with Ransomes building the equatorial mount. Originally powered by clockwork, tracking is now done by electric motor - this and a camera mount are the only concessions to more modern times. Otherwise the telescope is still in its original state. Amazing fact: the light collected by the telescope makes objects appear c.2,000 times brighter than they do to the naked eye! The dome was no less impressive, with the interior lining of mahogany, possibly fitted out by a local ship builder. The dome is rotated manually and the viewing aperture opened by means of pulleys.

The highlight of the evening, despite earlier thin high cloud, was viewing Jupiter and its four moons, crystal clear and shining bright - the first time we had ever seen the moons. Jupiter was the closest to earth it has been since 1963, about 370 million miles away. Apparently, for demonstration purposes on cloudy nights, the telescope is focussed on to the Butt and Oyster pub at Pin Mill! The Society must be congratulated on all the restoration work done since it started using the premises - a major contribution to historical astronomy. Unhappily, structural repairs to the building need to be undertaken, and we do hope the talks in partnership with the school are satisfactorily concluded.

Peter started astronomy at an early age, saving from his paper round to buy his first telescope, and has been active at Orwell Park for some 25 years. He was an eloquent, stimulating and most knowledgeable speaker and guide - and this was a fascinating meeting. He certainly deserved his round of applause at the end.

*Roger Dixon and Rosemary Gwyn-Thomas*

# Insulating Historic Buildings

Environmentalism is not about saving the planet. It's about saving mankind. This planet will do very well without us!

The Historic Towns Forum in Oxford held in October explored the rationale and methodology of insulating historic buildings to meet modern ecological requirements - or not, as the case may be. Conference started with a basic premise - half the world doesn't believe in global warming, half the world doesn't understand it and at least half don't listen! And even those who do are not yet prepared to give up their comfortable life styles to adopt green technologies. Almost all sane thinking scientists and politicians now believe that we have to create a low carbon economy or we won't have an economy, an environment or a planet fit to live on.

A second premise is that a considerable number of historic buildings are inherently thermally efficient, a premise endorsed by Prince Charles who sent the opening message to the conference - "Historic buildings have thick walls and small windows built by local craftsmen, true vernacular". N.B. This is obviously a Cotswold point of view (stone walls) rather than the half timbered Suffolk cottage with nothing but fresh air between the studs.

The UK has set a target to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. While there is a zero-carbon target for new buildings there is no such target for existing building stock, yet over 70% of the building stock of the future already exists today.

But many historic buildings are not inherently energy-efficient in day-to-day use. However, as the Prince of Wales' Regeneration Trust's 'Green Guide for Historic Buildings' demonstrates, they can be sensitively adapted to reduce energy consumption whilst still retaining their special historic character. Those with thicker walls have thermal mass which helps to even out changes in temperature and if the floor and roof are well insulated, the windows and doors fit properly, and the walls are pointed or lime-rendered sufficient enough to resist driving wind and weather, the building will stay warm and dry without unnecessarily high energy usage.

(to be continued)

***John Norman***

## William Butterfield

I would expect most Society members will be aware of which buildings in the town are of Listed status. However, in talking with visitors to St Mary at Stoke Church, few are aware that it is a Grade I Listed building - one of the only two Anglican churches in the town to have this distinction. It is not so Listed because of its rare beauty but because of its architectural and historical importance - what antiques collectors might call 'provenance'.

Up to the middle of the 19th century it was a small typically Suffolk village church with seating for a hundred or so congregation in box pews. A painting by F Davy in 1854 clearly demonstrates this. But in around 1844 the railway arrived in Ipswich - in Stoke - and the population of Stoke village rose ten-fold within two decades and the served population of the parish increased to over 3000.

In 1863 at the expense of the Gwydyr family of Stoke Park, Charles Foote Gower and the Rector, the Revd Stephen Croft, a major repair and alteration was carried out, with all the furniture and fittings being replaced and a north transept being added, providing a significant increase in capacity. But within only seven years, it was obvious that more had to be done and it was determined that the building was still not large enough given the local population growth. After a search for a suitable architect, William Butterfield was commissioned to design and build an extension which would push the seating capacity to over 500.

Butterfield - who trained in London and set up business there in 1840 - quickly attracted some important commissions, being awarded the Royal Institute Gold Medal in 1844. Despite a nonconformist upbringing, he favoured a rather High Church approach to his designs during the Gothic Revival period. Over the next 25 years or so, he designed and built all or part of several important colleges - two in Oxford - and scores of notable public buildings right across the country. He designed the Afghan Memorial Episcopal Church in Bombay (Mumbai), of cathedral proportions, commemorating the 16,000 British and Indian soldiers who died in what were described as the "three pointless and bloody Afghan Wars" fought there between 1835 and 1843. Additionally he later designed a number of magnificent churches in London, with two cathedrals in Scotland, two in Australia and one in Canada.

So it was that in 1870 Butterfield set to work to produce what we still have in Stoke today, the only church in Ipswich that appears to have benefited from his prolific output. However, he seemed to have been especially attracted to Suffolk and carried out at least nine other major church restoration works on buildings across the county, with a hundred or so others elsewhere in the UK. In addition to many of his trade-mark fixtures and fittings, he obviously loved using Minton encaustic floor tiles. Those to be found at St Mary's are fairly ordinary and others of the same or similar design can be seen in his numerous Suffolk projects, with some fine examples in Sudbury. But he also had consignments shipped across the world to India, Australia and Canada. Many of the more ornate picture designs produced by Henry Minton can command a high price in the collectors' market today.

For other local examples of the work of William Butterfield, pay a visit to the churches at Bacton, Ellough, Great Waldingfield, Lawshall, Ringsfield, Sudbury (two), Trimley St Mary and West Stow.  
*John Barbrook*

## Letters to the Editor

### **Questioning the Society's Awards**

From Margaret Hancock

Congratulations to the organisers of the Society's awards presentation evening at the Town Hall and to Bob Allen for his first class commentary. As usual I found myself agreeing with some of the judges' decisions and disagreeing with others! However this year I particularly disagree with some verdicts and I wonder if other members share my views.

First was the decision not to give an award to the excellent renovation of machinery at Isaac Lord's. A huge number of visitors were impressed by this project during Heritage Open Days and especially

enjoyed the enthusiasm of John Jackaman who, with the help of his son, has spent hours working to bring this fascinating part of Isaacs' history to life.

Secondly was the Award of Distinction to IBC for the Giles Circus paving scheme. A laudable enterprise but is it really worthy of the top award? In his commentary Bob seemed to suggest that no award was given to Isaacs because the building had received a number of previous awards. Does this not also apply to paving schemes completed by the Borough or is my memory of earlier occasions inaccurate? Also, the Council is surely simply using funds received from Haven Gateway on town improvements that we have every right to expect. The work at Isaacs was completed at private expense and as a labour of love. What a pity that the Society's 50th anniversary year was spoiled for me by such seemingly unfair decisions.

### **Living Over the Shop** From Ann Petherick

As an Ipswich Society member and founder of the 'Living Over the Shop' project (1989 to 2007) may I be permitted to correct a statement by David Ireland in his February talk to the Society on 'The Challenge of Empty Homes'? David said, 'There are many empty flats above shops ... ' There are indeed some in every town but the great majority of vacant space over shops is exactly that - vacant space. The space is not in the form of habitable flats as it is rarely self-contained, has little in the way of services and facilities, and doesn't meet current building regulations.

This confusion between empty homes and empty space is highly damaging since the processes involved in bringing them into use are entirely different, and the continuing myth of thousands of empty flats over shops is sadly one which has bedevilled and undermined Government policy in recent years.

He is however absolutely right to say that work on space over shops was pioneered in Ipswich by Bob Kindred in the 1970s and it was my awareness of this work when I lived in the town which prompted me to set up the national 'LOTS' programme, now sadly defunct.

### **Scientists and the Climate Debate** From M L Chelk

When Mr Brain replied to my letter in the July issue of the Newsletter he referred to the alleged manipulation of climate data, saying that the University of East Anglia had been vindicated of wrongdoing and such false impressions are at odds with the evidence. The evidence, however, is not in dispute. This shows that Professor Jones at UEA asked colleagues to delete emails received from him, devised means to withhold data that should have been provided under the Freedom of Information Act and used an unorthodox statistical technique to "hide the decline" in global temperatures. The Institute of Physics was highly critical of these activities. As governments have committed so many billions of pounds to schemes based on the hypothesis of global warming caused by human activity it is not surprising that there was a rapid reaction to deal with the public disquiet caused by the Professor's actions.

One of the disturbing features of the climate debate is that scientists who maintain the warming hypothesis regard those who do not share their view as enemies and cast doubt on their motives. That was the view at UEA and Mr Brain himself suggests there is a "perverse eagerness to find reason to doubt what is becoming increasingly evident." In The Times on 16 November Professor Jones claimed that many people "want to be deceived" because they fear having to sacrifice their high-emission life styles. There is clearly something wrong when scientists attempt to undermine opposing views not by science but by casting doubt on people's motives. There are many scientists who do not accept global warming. To my mind climatologists should make their case by

publishing their data and methods so that it can be assessed by their professional peers and considered on its merits. If they have to fall back on allegations about other people's motives they should not be surprised if their conclusions are distrusted. Professor Jones also said that his next report in 2013 will arrive at the same conclusions as before although the evidence for this has still to be received.

Climatology is not the only area where questions have arisen about scientific practice. In medicine clinical trials are the basis on which the authorities decide whether pharmaceutical products are approved for general use and billions of dollars of sales are at stake in their review. Here we have the case of Dr Scott Reuben, a Massachusetts Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, who has admitted producing fictitious research on drugs for pharmaceutical companies for thirteen years, publishing his findings in specialist scientific journals. These included Vioxx which is now known to cause fatal heart attacks and has been banned. In the USA there is also the practice of employing PR companies to produce research papers which academics then put their names to. Then there are the skewed results of research, where 80% of trials funded by manufacturers are favourable compared with 50% of trials funded by other sources. There are many ways of controlling the outcomes of trials and many ways of presenting the conclusions drawn. Bias and misconduct in science and the way the media report on them have now been identified as an area for research at Edinburgh University where Dr Fanelli has found that 5% of scientists admit falsifying the results of clinical trials, up to a third have manipulated data to improve results, and another third had observed misconduct in others. It is clear that scientists are subject to the same pressures and temptations as everyone else and we cannot assume that every scientist is to be trusted.

Mr Brain offered to send the letter he wrote me, three pages with two enclosures, to anyone interested but omitted to mention that I had sent him a four page letter with enclosures in reply. This too is available to anyone who may be interested.

## Lectures and Outings

8 Feb Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall at 3 pm.

15 March Olympic Site Tour

16 April Felbrigg Hall

21 May Rye and Great Dixter House

15 June Felixstowe Museum and Landguard Fort (afternoon)

21 July Geology Walk in Christchurch Park (evening)

24 August Down House

15 Sept East Anglian Transport Museum and Felixton Aviation Museum

4 October Olympic Site Tour