THE NORWICH SOCIETY

PROMOTING HERITAGE; SHAPING TOMORROW

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Trustees for 2025

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Introduction from the Chair

Having been asked by the Executive board to stay on as Chairman of The Norwich Society for an additional term, I am delighted to introduce my third Annual Report about the activities of the Society during 2025, and seek your approval for this Report and the independently examined 2025 Accounts to be submitted to the Charity Commission filed in the Society's records.

2025 has been a busy year for the Society. The **Executive Committee** undertook a review of how it operated and has moved to having meetings every other month taking a more strategic approach and focusing on the work of the committees and working groups, leaving the day to day operations to a separate Operations Working Group which meets in the interim months and reports back to the Executive Committee. This has worked well so far.

Significant new developments continue to put pressure on the heritage and public environment of our City, with design quality, building heights, site density and the proliferation of purpose built building student accommodation, all presenting major challenges. **The Planning Appraisal Committee** continues to review every planning application submitted to the City Council, which involves a considerable amount of time, and lack of resource can impact our attention to detail that consultation responses for larger projects require. As a result we are in discussion with RIBA Norfolk, the Norwich Climate Commission and Norwich City Council to re-constitute a Norwich Design Review Panel, to provide impartial, multi-disciplinary advice during the pre-application stage of the planning process.

2025 has been a relatively quiet year for the Society's **Strategic Planning and Transport Committee**, with progress stalled on a number of strategically important development sites and delays caused by the nutrient neutrality issue. However, going forward 2025 may well be seen retrospectively as a period of relative calm before the storm. Work has already begun on the Greater Norwich Development Plan and alternative proposals for the abandoned Western Link Road and the government's plans for local government reform in Norfolk and Suffolk have now been decided, and the Society will need to engage with the new unitary authority

The **Building Conservation Committee** has participated in Norwich's Heritage at Risk Group (along with Norwich City Council officers and representatives from other heritage bodies), appraised listed building applications, and responded to enquiries and issues raised by the public about historic buildings, supporting an application for the domes at Norwich Sports Village to be listed. The Committee, contingent on having enough volunteer resource, would like to support the City to undertake further work on Conservation Area Appraisals and is planning to carry out a listed building audit involving members of the public.

The **Civic Environment Committee** has been finalising its review of both the current accessibility and future opportunities for public access to River Wensum and River Yare. In addition to producing a report, the Committee is now developing a walking guide that makes the best use of the accessible stretches along both rivers, incorporating appropriate connecting routes between them. The Committee has recently begun carrying out an audit of Norwich's alleyways.

We collaborated with NUA (Norfolk University of the Arts) and RIBA Norfolk to organise the bi-ennial **Design and Craftsmanship Awards.** This year the Norfolk Gardens Trust also joined us, in recognition of which we launched a new category for Designed Landscape. The 2025 Award ceremony was held at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, and was attended by 180 people including contractors, clients and consultants for the nominated projects. Out of over 50 nominations received,12 projects were category winners and a further 13 projects received commendations.

In 2025 we were delighted to co-host one of **SAVE's** national events. The full day conference titled '*Building in Context: Delivering Good Growth in Heritage Locations'* took place in May at the King Centre. In response to the uncertain future of Civic Voice, the national body for **Civic and Amenity Societies,** the Society has led on forming a regional group, hosting an inaugural event at the Maid's Head Hotel.

The Society was gifted two **legacies** in 2025 including a substantial legacy from Fred Dustin, a professional photographer and keen supporter of the Society who produced the wonderful photographs for our centenary exhibition in 2023. The Executive Committee has agreed to ringfence some of the funds for project work, proposals include: a Fred Dustin Annual lecture; an Image Archive Project; and a Student Photography Award.

In June we held a social event in the **Carrow House Conservatory** to say thank you to the members of the committees, working groups, speakers, tour guides and writers who deliver the work of The Norwich Society, and our very popular public **Events Programme** included 10 talks on a wide variety of topics, along with walks and tours. The **Publications Working Group** produced two editions of *Aspects of Norwich* and we updated and reprinted our George John Skipper Booklet.

I would like to thank all the members of our committees and working groups for their hard work; the speakers and tour guides for enabling us to deliver a popular events programme; the Forum Trust for ensuing our talks run smoothly; Larking Gown for supporting out membership mailings and IDS Systems for their continued patronage; and all of our members for their support. As you can see from this report, we have a huge amount of important work to do, which is made possible through membership subscriptions and volunteer support. We are always looking for more volunteers to join a committee or working group and help us achieve the successful outcomes that we are working towards.

Jon Boon, Chair, *April 2026*



THE SOCIETY and our CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

As the city's civic society, The Norwich Society is an independent community-based charity, supporting the preservation, development and improvement of features of historic interest in the city. It also uses the expertise of architects, town planners, surveyors and other industry professionals within its committees to comment on significant planning decisions in the area on behalf of the public. And it encourages exploration and enjoyment of Norwich's history through a range of talks, walks and other events, as well as regular publications.

From saving the historic Elm Hill area from demolition in the 1920s, to recent advocating for better development of the Anglia Square site, the Society has been championing the built environment and public spaces in Norwich and celebrating the city's unique character and beauty for over a century. The Society was founded in 1923 and registered as a Charitable Incorporated organisation (CIO) in May 2020 (registration number 1189593). It is primarily a voluntary organisation, but it also engages a contractor to provide administrative and support services.

OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

The Society has three key areas of work:

- To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest in Norwich and its surroundings.
- To encourage high standards of Architecture and Town Planning in Norwich and its surroundings.
- To encourage public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of Norwich and its surroundings.

GOVERNANCE

The last AGM was held in-person on 29th April 2025.

The Society's governing constitution provides for the management of the Society to be in the hands of an Executive Committee, who are also the Trustees.

The Executive Committee consists of four Officers – Chair, Vice-Chair, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary – and up to eight other members, to a maximum of twelve in total.

Officers (2025)

Chair - Jon Boon
Vice Chair – David Taylor
Honorary Secretary - David Taylor
Honorary Treasurer – Karen Watling

Executive Members (2025)

Michael Jordan
John Howkins
Alan Theobald
Willem Buttinger
Brian Horner

Under the CIO Constitution all Executive Committee member roles are open for election at the AGM 2026

The Society's Patron is Sir Richard Jewson and the President is the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Norwich. These are both Honorary positions.

ENCOURAGING THE PRESERVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FEATURES OF GENERAL PUBLIC AMENITY OR HISTORIC INTEREST IN NORWICH AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

CIVIC ENVIRONMENT

The **Civic Environment Committee** has been finalising its review of both the current accessibility and future opportunities for public access to River Wensum and River Yare. The project originally focused on assessing the routes identified as existing and proposed in the previous Local Plan, which has since been replaced by the Greater Norwich Local Plan–a document that no longer includes comparable mapping.

The Committee is now developing a walking guide that makes the best use of the accessible stretches along both rivers, incorporating appropriate connecting routes between them.

Over the past year, the Society was consulted by Norwich City Council regarding updates to signage and interpretation boards along the Wensum. The Committee submitted feedback on the Society's behalf. While new signage has since been installed, it will be reviewed in detail as part of the Committee's ongoing work.

In addition, the Committee prepared and submitted the Society's response to the Council's draft Parks Strategy, and has recently begun carrying out an audit of Norwich's alleyways and documenting their condition.

PRESERVATION and HERITAGE at RISK

The **Building Conservation Committee** oversees the Society's activity in relation to Norwich's built heritage, including participating in Norwich's Heritage at Risk Group (along with city council officers and representatives from other heritage bodies), appraising listed building applications, and responding to enquiries and issues raised by the public about historic buildings. In addition to these reactive activities, the Committee is also seeking to carry out more proactive work, such as to carry out a review of Norwich's listed buildings and supporting the development of Conservation Area Appraisals for those that do not exist or are out of date.

The Committee Chair, Simeon Jackson, attends Heritage At Risk Group meetings on the Society's behalf. At these meetings, updates are provided by the city's conservation officers on the current status of buildings on Norwich's Heritage At Risk list, and we are given the opportunity to provide suggestions or further information that may be relevant to these cases.

A full list is available on the city council's website, but some of the buildings at risk that have been the subject of activity are Trowse Pumping Station, Trowse Railway Station, The Ferry Boat on King Street, Bethel Hospital, Bishop Salmon's porch at the Bishop's Palace, and several of Norwich's medieval churches. From time to time we also suggest additions to the list.

For the past year, we have not been appraising listed building applications due to lack of capacity. Major listed building applications are already appraised by the PAC, and while it would be good to have additional scrutiny on certain listed building consents that may not come under the remit of PAC, we are limited by volunteer capacity.

We have responded to various enquiries from members of the public. The most significant request was to support the the application for the domes at Norwich Sports Village to be listed, based on their unique design by Swiss engineer Heinz Isler.



Following this request, we carried out research into the domes' significance and submitted a letter of support to Heritage England. Subsequently the domes were listed in February 2026. We hope to invite an expert on concrete domes such as these to provide a talk for the Society later this year.

Our most significant proactive project at the moment is a proposal to carry out a *'listed building audit',* where members of the public are given a listed building (or several) to visit over the course of a weekend or two, with a questionnaire to help them look at the building more actively than they might normally. While in some cases this could come back with useful information about some of Norwich's listed buildings, its main purpose would be to engage the public in Norwich's built heritage.

We are also aware that Norwich City Council intend to update some of the city's conservation area appraisals in coming years. We would like to build a team of volunteers who might like to help with this. The areas that may be reappraised in coming years are Newmarket Road, Mile Cross, and the City Centre, so people with particular knowledge of these areas would be particularly welcome.

The committee met three times in 2025 (February, April and August), and a further planned meeting in November was postponed to 2026. Membership of the committee has been fluctuating, and it would be good to stabilise the committee membership so that the committee has better capacity for action.

ENCOURAGING HIGH STANDARDS OF ARCHITECTURE AND TOWN PLANNING IN NORWICH AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

GREATER NORWICH STRATEGIC PLANS

The year 2025 proved to be a relatively quiet year for the Society's Strategic Planning and Transport Committee. There were few new Norwich City Council policy initiatives that required any formal Society comment. Meanwhile, the City Council continued to maintain an air of secrecy in its dealings on each of the strategically important development sites where progress has been effectively stalled for a number of years.

The complications and long delays caused by the nutrient neutrality issue has not helped matters, but the Council appears increasingly unwilling to volunteer any public updates on numerous sites and on matters such as the East Norwich project area which are critical to Norwich's future.

At County Council level, 2025 saw the final, welcome abandonment of the Western Link Road scheme which the Society had opposed. The County's search for more modest alternatives is only now getting under way and will form part of the Committee's future work programme when options emerge.

In retrospect, 2025 may well be seen as a period of relative calm before a storm and there are a number of strategic matters that will occupy us increasingly over the next two years. Work has already begun on the first review of the Greater Norwich Development Plan with a public call for new development sites to meet significantly increased house building targets. Though much of this development will lie outside the current city boundary, the potential impacts of this growth on Norwich will also need to be carefully assessed.

At the time of writing, the Society is also awaiting news of the government's plans for local government reform in Norfolk and will need to engage with whatever form of unitary authority eventually emerges.

PLANNING RESPONSES

PAC continues to provide regular consultation feedback to the Planning department for projects which have an impact on the public realm. Thanks to Stephen Osborne who has taken on the task of reviewing and submitting comments for all the applications on the Council's portal, and filtering those which we need to comment on.

Two members stood down from the Committee since the last AGM, but we are delighted to welcome two new members in their place - David Marris and Chris Heuvel, who are both architects.

The Committee has continued to review all the submitted planning applications on Norwich City Council's planning portal, and considera those which merit a consultation response, whether in support or objection. Most are dealt with by exchange of emails, but larger or more complex applications are added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Design Review Panel

This review process involves a considerable amount of time, and we have insufficient resources to give the attention to detail that larger projects require and deserve. We are therefore in discussion with RIBA Norfolk, the Norwich Climate Commission and Norwich City Council to re-constitute a Norwich Design Review Panel – this would arrange impartial, multi-disciplinary panel sessions during the pre-application stage of the planning process.

Projects of interest

Over the year we have received several presentations from developers, including for some of the following significant schemes:

- Victoria House Queens Road Norwich NR1 3QQ (former Marsh building) (ref. 25/01187/F) - Redevelopment for up to 432 residential units (Class C3) including student accommodation and build-for-rent. Demolition is now complete and we await further developments.

  We supported the outline design proposals; the new building will be set back in a similar position to the existing, with the open space retained and opened up for public access. Again we would question the need for more student accommodation, but welcome the introduction of business and retail uses in the ground floor.

- Orford House, Orford Place, Norwich NR1 3RZ (Former Debenhams building) (ref. D24/00012/F) - Demolition of existing building to lower ground floor and redevelopment to provide retail/leisure space on the ground/lower ground floors and up to 377 units of student accommodation above.



We were disappointed that this scheme received planning consent, as we continued to object to several aspects of the proposals, including that the demolition of the original building was not sufficiently justified and its proposed redevelopment would cause harm to the surrounding historic environment. We were also concerned at the further proliferation of student housing in the city centre, and lack of affordable housing.

- Nelson Hotel, Prince Of Wales Road, Norwich NR1 1DX (ref. 24/01050/F) - Phased development of new hotel and student accommodation works.

  We welcome the redevelopment of this rather dated and under-utilised site, and supported the creation of a new riverside walk, additional public open space, and connections through the site to Mountergate and King Street; we were however disappointed that residential accommodation will be yet more student housing. We also call for re-consideration of the hotel façade treatment, which is not in line with the application's local character studies.

- 125-133 King Street, Norwich (Ref. 25/00520/F) - Retention and regeneration of the existing listed buildings to King street/ Old Barge Yard

  We are generally supportive of these proposals which are broadly consistent with the form of surrounding redevelopment, and conserve a valuable listed building forming part of the historic King Street frontage.

- St Faiths House, Mountergate Norwich NR1 1QA (Ref. 25/00590/F) - Conversion to 6no self-contained flats and construction of 3-storey block of flats.

  St Faith's House is a magnificent Georgian mansion and we fully support its restoration and its conversion into 6no. flats. However we strongly object to the placing and façade treatment of the new block which severely compromises the appearance and setting of the listed building.

- Former Woodside Campus, Plumstead Road East, Norwich (Ref. 25/01138/F) – Re-development for an affordable housing scheme with extra care units, supported living units and general needs homes

  We are fully supportive of this scheme, which is a welcome collaboration between local authority, NHS and developer. To the north end of the site there is an NHS surgery, a pharmacy and a care home, so these facilities greatly enhance the site of a social housing scheme of this type.

- Demolition of the old Anglia Square is now well under way, and the Council have confirmed that they intend to build Phase 1 of the scheme in accordance with the Weston Homes approved scheme. We continue to monitor ongoing developments and hope there will be scope for re-consultation in relation to future phases which have only outline approval.

Sustainability and Climate Change

We are continuing to develop our householder's guide to sustainability for minor projects (i.e. extensions and new-build schemes of less than 10 units) and promoting this to the City Council as a supplementary planning guidance.

Design & Craftsmanship Awards 2025

Much of PAC's resource was taken up by their role in the Steering Group for the Design Awards.

This year, RIBA Norfolk, The Norwich Society and Norwich University of the Arts (NUA) were joined by the Norfolk Gardens Trust for the Design and Craftsmanship Awards 2025. These biennial awards are a celebration of outstanding buildings and places throughout Norfolk that positively affect our built environment and make Norfolk a fantastic place to live and work.

The award categories included: Houses and Housing, Non-residential, Conservation, Community, and new for 2025 – Designed Landscapes. An award for Sustainability was introduced in 2023 for projects selected from all categories which demonstrate the highest standard of environmental design. There was also a Student Award category for the best design work by a student studying architecture at NUA.

The 2025 awards ceremony was held on 13th. November 2025 at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual



Arts, and was attended by 180 people including contractors, clients and consultants for the nominated projects.

Out of over 50 nominations received, 12 projects were category winners and a further 13 projects received commendations. The list of winners demonstrates the range and quality of the nominations and the standard of work which is being carried out within Norwich and Norfolk.

The event is managed by a Steering Group made up of members from each organisation, and this year included Jon Boon, Mary Ash and Michael Jordan from The Norwich Society, Charlotte Dunn and Jonathan Mawer from RIBA Norfolk, Claudia Morgado from NUA, and Vanessa Trevellyan from the Norfolk Gardens Trust.



The Norwich Society's SIR BERNARD FEILDEN AWARD for outstanding conservation projects in Norwich, was presented to architects Feilden+Mawson for Norwich Castle, a major refurbishment of the Grade 1 Listed Norman keep.

Some of the event profits is invested to finance initial expenses for DCA27, principally the updating of the Design Awards website.

The remainder is donated to charity, who for DCA25 were **Shelter** - who provide advice and support on a range of housing issues and homelessness - and **Norwich Open Christmas** - who enable people who are alone or homeless to enjoy a free Christmas dinner.

The event was supported by a range of sponsors to whom we give our thanks, including Vantage as the main event sponsor, IDS, Bauder Roofing, VMZinc, City Bookshop, R A Brown and Anstey Horne. John Wright provided all the printing for the event free of charge.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Norwich Society collaborates with a number of groups and has representatives in organisations with similar goals to effect positive change and champion the historic character of the city.

The Society's website provides more information and highlights the connections with organisations including SAVE Britain's Heritage, Civic Voice, Norwich Preservation Trust, Norwich Heritage Alliance, River Wensum Strategy Partnership and Mousehold Heath Conservators amongst others.

The Society also works in collaboration with Heritage Open Days and the Norwich History Festival.

We were delighted to co-host one of **SAVE's** national events, together with Glasgow, Sheffield, Plymouth, London, Liverpool and Rotherham, to celebrate their 50th. Birthday.



The full day conference titled ***'Building in Context: Delivering Good Growth in Heritage Locations'*** took place at the King Centre on 15th May 2025 and explored how we can build in historic places in ways that respect sensitive town centre heritage locations, support local communities and drive economic growth. A list of eminent speakers included two former RIBA Presidents, Ben Derbyshire and Sunand Prasad, and Wayne Hemingway addressed an evening reception at the Hostelry in the Cathedral.

We have been members of **Civic Voice,** the national body for Civic and Amenity societies, for some years and have valued their lobbying at high government levels in support of planning initiatives for heritage protection and community involvement. However it is currently facing significant financial challenges, exacerbated by the resignation of its Chief Executive, Rob Hattersley, in August 2025. His efforts to resolve its issues highlighted the inherent financial weaknesses of Civic Voice's funding model, particularly the imbalance between income from membership subscriptions and the costs of running the organization. The Board of Civic Voice has announced a period of engagement with its membership to secure its financial position for the next year.

In response to this, Norwich Society hosted a meeting in March at the Maid's Head to consider the formation of a Norfolk/Suffolk regional group; it was attended by 9 societies, representing over 2500 members, with another 7 societies asking to be kept informed. We discussed what the societies' roles might be within or outside the organisation; there are good reasons to set up a Norfolk and Suffolk Forum now to align with the Government proposals for a combined mayoral authority for Norfolk and Suffolk.

A regional group of Civic Societies would therefore potentially have some influence, act as a forum for sharing information and resources, and work together on critical issues that arose. It could also support the national Civic Voice, depending on that organisation's future.

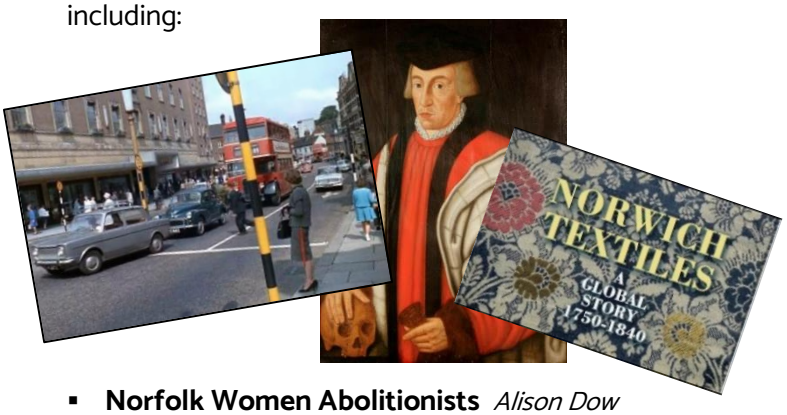
Our thanks to David Taylor, our Vice Chair, for his help in setting up that meeting, and to Anna Gunn and Rick Morrish of the King's Lynn Civic Society for their input on the day. The Ipswich Society will be hosting the next meeting in June this year.

ENCOURAGING PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND CARE FOR THE BEAUTY, HISTORY AND CHARACTER OF NORWICH AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

EVENTS

Thanks to the work of the Publicity and Events Working Group, the speakers and the tour guides, the 2025 Events Programme was a great success with many events selling out.

The **Talks** series included a wide range of topics including:



- **Norfolk Women Abolitionists** *Alison Dow*
- **Norwich in the 1950s & 60s** *Pete Goodrum*
- **Doing Different in Wartime** *Victoria Manthorpe*
- **The Norwich Guild Feast, c. 1560-1730** *Victor Morgan*
- **The Norwich of Augustine Steward** *Professor Carole Rawcliffe*
- **Sir Peter Eade** *Phyllida Scrivens*
- **Caring for the Sick in Norwich** *Vanessa Trevelyan*
- **Horace Woodward** *Matt Williams*
- **Norwich Textiles** *Dr Michael Nix*
- **What the Normans did to…. And for Norwich** *Adrian O'Dell*



Thanks to the staff at **The Forum** for ensuring our talks go smoothly. The Forum is a fantastic venue for holding talks and having a regular presence there has been instrumental in attracting new members.

We organised a number of **Walks** over the summer months drawing on the knowledge and expertise of experienced tour guides Paul Dickson, Jonathan Hooton and Roger Smith, including:

- **George Skipper in Cromer**
- **Shardlake's Norwich**
- **North City Walls**
- **The Catholic Cathedral**
- **Ale Tales: A tour of Norwich pubs**





We also had a fascinating guided tours of **The Great Hospital** and **Earsham Hall,**



We have also been working in collaboration with **Norwich Cathedral** to offer specialist tours delivered by their expert guides.

The first of these specialist tour was in October and focused on **Graffiti**. Many more tours are planned for 2026.

PUBLICATIONS

A huge thanks to the Society's **Publications Working Group** (PWG) who commission articles for, write, edit and design the twice-annual ***Aspects of Norwich*** Membership publication.

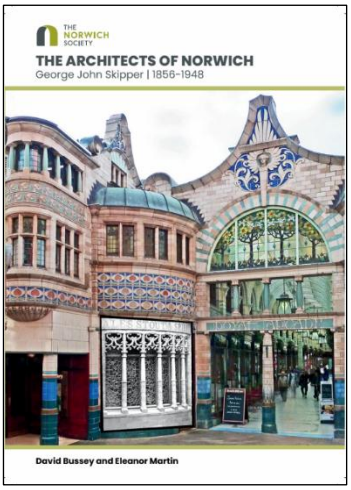
The publication includes illustrated articles across a wide variety of topics focusing on Norwich's history and the influences which have shaped today's city.

The 2025 editions of Aspects of Norwich included articles about:



- butterfly collector **Margaret Fountaine** *by Matasha Scott-Stokes*
- artist **Leslie Davenport** *by Peter Baldwin*
- the **BBC coming to Norwich** *by Paul Hayes*
- **Prince of Wales Road** *by Mary Ash*
- **Humphrey Repton** *by Simon Gooch*
- **Burlington Buildings** by David Bussey
- **Norwich's 'Great Blow' of 1648** by Andrew Hopper
- **Balloon Mania** *by Ian Smith*
- **The Chalk Pits of Norwich** by Matt Williams
- the **Medieval Bishops Palace** by Andrew Ferrara; **Anna Sewell** and **Mary Wright Sewell** *by Victoria Manthorpe*
- painter **John Opie** *by David Bussey*

In 2025 the Society's popular booklet on ***George John Skipper 1855-1948***, the first in ***The Architects of Norwich*** series became out of stock.



One of the original authors *David Bussey* working with former Society Coordinator, *Rachael Cochrane* who is responsible for the design of all of our publications, undertook an update, and it is once again on sale at the **City Bookshop** in Davey Place, Norwich, with the Society's other publications

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Society's social media presence continues to grow. As of April 2024, as a result of Vanessa Trevelyan's hard work, the Norwich Society Facebook page (@TheNorwichSociety) had over 8,200 followers. Social media is now an established tool in communicating the Society's events and updates as well as providing a channel to inspire the public with our passion for Norwich's heritage.

YouTube

The Norwich Society's YouTube channel hosts recordings about the city's history including some talks from speakers who also gave live talks in The Forum.

As of April 2025, the Society's YouTube channel had over 750 subscribers and had received over 26,000 views.

MEMBERSHIP

Member subscriptions are the main source of revenue for the Society.

On 31/12/2025 there were 695 individual members including Life Members, postal Members and Members who have joined on-line via the Society's website.

The Membership list, in particular Life Members from whom we generally do not receive any correspondence, underwent a thorough check in 2025 and has been updated accordingly. Sadly we discovered we had lost a number of members since the last review. The subsequent updating of the Membership list accounts for the apparent drop in membership numbers when compared with 2024, where as in actual fact we had a higher number of new members in 2025 than in 2024. The previous years membership totals were: 775 in 2024, 827 in 2023, 741 in 2022, 732 in 2021. The significant increase in 2023 was as a direct result of the centenary celebrations and the Norwich 100 exhibition. Over 30% of these have remained Members.

In June we held a social event in the **Carrow House Conservatory** to say thank you to the members of the committees, working groups, speakers, tour guides and writers who deliver the work of The Norwich Society.



SPONSORSHIP AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Society is currently supported by 12 businesses and not-for profit groups.

In 2022 the Society introduced Business Patronage as a new level of membership designed to demonstrate a significant further commitment to the work of the Society. **IDS systems** was the first Business Patron and continues to support us.

The Trustees would also like to extend a special thank you to **Larking Gowen** for their generosity in providing the Society with postage administration and costs for our membership mailings.

The Society would like to thank the following for their ongoing support.

- **Feilden+Mawson LLP**
- **Heathfield (Norwich) Limited**
- **John Jarrold Trust**
- **Lanpro Services Limited**
- **Loveday & Partners**
- **Maids Head Hotel**
- **Plantation Gardens Preservation Trust**
- **Point Roofing Limited**
- **Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures**
- **Target Follow Estates Limited**

FINANCE

Year ended 31 December 2025

The Society's total gross income for the year ended 31 December 2025 was £34,827, compared to £41,152 in 2024, a decrease of £6,325. This was primarily due to lower income from publications and events, which fell by £3,501 and £2,265 respectively.

Membership fees continued to represent the Society's main source of income. Total membership income for the year was £19,163, a slight increase from £18,849 in 2024.

The Society's gross surplus for 2025 was £26,803, compared with £31,040 in 2024, a decrease of £4,237. This was largely driven by the reduced publications and events income, partially offset by lower directly associated costs. This is reflected in the publications gross margin, which fell from 48.0% in 2024 to -102.0% in 2025, as direct associated costs exceeded the income generated. In contrast, the events gross margin improved from 35.6% in 2024 to 44.5% in 2025, demonstrating stronger cost control over the expenditure directly linked to events.

It is worth noting that the fall in publications income was driven by the fact the Jarrolds book department, who used to retail the Society's publications in their local history section, shut down their book department in early 2025. This reduced our ability to retail our publications and therefore directly impacted sales income.

Looking ahead, it is also worth mentioning that the event ticket prices were increased in September 2025, and we have started paying event speakers. Although this represents a direct cost, the talks and walking tours have mostly been sold out. Therefore, we are projecting a better performance from events in 2026.

Overheads for 2025 totalled £29,389, compared with £37,605 in 2024, a decrease of £8,216. The main contributors to this decrease were lower co-ordinator costs of £2,927, and the cessation of Society project expenditure, which amounted to £4,352 in 2024. Rent costs also fell from £2,539 to £1,332, although this was partly offset by a new contribution to utilities of £1,148, compared with £0 in 2024. Office costs also reduced significantly, from £1,657 in 2024 to £818 in 2025, reflecting improved cost control in the second year of occupancy at the new premises.

Gift Aid reclaims remain an important income stream for the Society. The Gift Aid claim for 2025 amounted to £3,600, which has been received from HMRC in 2026.

Overall, the Society incurred a deficit before legacies of £2,586 in 2025, compared with a deficit of £6,565 in 2024. However, in the year two legacy payments of £2,000 and £53,001 (totalling £55,001) was received during the year, resulting in an overall surplus of £52,415 for 2025.

Although the Society did not achieve the budgeted break-even position before legacies, the shortfall of £1,043 against budget is considered satisfactory. The shortfall was mainly due to the unexpected Civic Voice subscription of £600 and lower than expected net publications income of £383. All other income and expenditure were broadly in line with budget expectations.

At 31 December 2025, the Society's total reserves stood at £87,442, compared with £35,027 in 2024. This included total cash at bank of £85,565, up from £31,791 at the end of 2024, placing the Society in a strong financial position entering into 2026 and beyond.

LEGACIES

The Norwich Society received two legacies in 2025, including a substantial legacy from Fred Dustin, a professional photographer and keen supporter of the Society who produced the wonderful photographs for our centenary exhibition.

Some of the funds will be ring-fenced for project work. These are some of the proposals the Executive Committee has discussed:

Fred Dustin Annual Lecture The legacy will cover speaker and venue costs for an annual lecture; the inaugural lecture *'Norwich – city of gardens'* was given by Vanessa Trevelyan in February 2026, using many photos taken by Fred.

Image Archive Project The Norwich Society has photos, slides, plans and digital images which it would like to identify, evaluate, catalogue and make accessible to the public in collaboration with the Norfolk Records Office.

Student Photography Award The Executive Committee agreed that the Society should look to the future as well as the past and is exploring the potential of working with the Norwich university of the Arts to provide a regular bursary or a competition for a photography degree student to generate contemporary photos and/or videos of Norwich.

ADMINISTRATION

The Society moved to Carrow House, King Street in October 2024, where it has an office and a meeting room and is able to book the conservatory for events.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Rachel Kirk manages the day-to-day operations and provides administrative support to the Trustees and committees. The nature of the work means that Rachel often works from home, but is available to speak to in person at the office upon appointment as well as via email and the telephone.

CONTACT US

Carrow House, King Street, Norwich NR1 2TG

Norwichsoc@outlook.com

07503 951195

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THE NORWICH SOCIETY

THE NORWICH SOCIETY CIO
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

		Y/e 31.12.25 £ Budget	Y/e 31.12.25 £ Actual
Subscriptions		18,800	19,163
Events:			
Income		8,000	9,516
Less costs		(3,600)	(5,286)
Net events income		**4,400**	**4,230**
Donations		500	292
Grant			
Bank interest		960	901
Publications:			
Advertising		250	
Sales income		1,500	1,355
Less costs		(2,750)	(2,738)
Net publications income		**(1,000)**	**(1,383)**
Gift Aid		3,500	3,600
Gross surplus		**27,160**	**26,803**
Overheads:			
Website development costs		550	576
Advertising and promotion			22
AGM costs		225	234
Independent examiner		200	200
Co-ordinator		21,852	21,963
Office costs		800	818
Printing, postage and stationery		800	866
Rent		1,332	1,332
Society projects			
Contributions to utilities		900	1,148
Telephone and internet:	Vodafone	237	247
	Cloudways	480	453
	Zoom	187	116
	NetNorth	30	30
	MS Office licence	60	
	Dropbox	96	
Public liability insurance		454	484
Subscriptions:	SurveyMonkey	300	300
	Civic Voice		600
	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce	200	
Total overheads		**28,703**	**29,389**
(Deficit) for the year before legacies		**(1,543)**	**(2,586)**
Legacies			55,001
Surplus/(deficit) for the year after legacies		**(1,543)**	**52,415**

Statement of Financial Position
The Norwich Society
As of 31 December, 2025

	As of 31 December 2025	As of 31 December 2024 (PY)
Fixed Asset		
Tangible assets		
Office Equipment Cost	5,028.06	5,028.06
Office Equipment Depreciation	(5,028.06)	(5,028.06)
Total for Tangible assets	**0.00**	**0.00**
Non-current Assets		
Amortisation of Society branding	(14,880.00)	(14,880.00)
Society Branding	14,880.00	14,880.00
Total for Non-current Assets	**0.00**	**0.00**
Total for Fixed Asset	**0.00**	**0.00**
Cash at bank and in hand		
Barclays Current	5,046.15	2,476.52
Barclays Savings	0.00	0.00
Barclays Savings IAS	0.00	0.00
Cash on hand	0.00	0.00
COIF account	21,432.97	21,432.97
Co-Op Current	6,064.57	7,860.41
Co-Op Deposit account	53,021.67	21.37
Total for Cash at bank and in hand	**85,565.36**	**31,791.27**
Debtors		
Debtors	113.10	180.00
Total for Debtors	**113.10**	**180.00**
Current Assets		
Gift aid debtors	3,599.74	0.00
Prepaid Expenses	0.00	3,596.50
Stock Asset	0.00	0.00
Uncategorised Asset	0.00	0.00
Total for Current Assets	**3,599.74**	**3,596.50**
NET CURRENT ASSETS	**89,278.20**	**35,567.77**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Current Liabilities		
Accruals	1,836.00	
Accruals and Deferred Income	0.00	541.00
Total for Current Liabilities	**1,836.00**	**541.00**
Total for Creditors: amounts falling due within one yea	**1,836.00**	**541.00**
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	**87,442.20**	**35,026.77**
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	**87,442.20**	**35,026.77**
TOTAL NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	**87,442.20**	**35,026.77**
Capital and Reserves		

Opening Balance Equity	105,163.19	105,163.19
Retained Earnings	(70,136.42)	(63,570.74)
Profit for the year	52,415.43	(6,565.68)
Total for Capital and Reserves	**87,442.20**	**35,026.77**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Norwich Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the The Norwich Society (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of theTrust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Adam Piercy

Name: Adam Piercy

Relevant professional qualification: FCA Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and

Date: 27th March 2026

Wales

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Norwich Society

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Signed: Adam Piercy
Name: Adam Piercy
Relevant professional qualification: FCA Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Date: 27th March 2026