



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 1087748

Next Meeting – Thursday 8th September 2022, 7.30pm

Old Independent Church Hall, Haverhill

THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

(A tonic for the nation, or a recipe for disaster?)

With Geoffrey Kay

In 1951 Britain was still suffering from the aftermath of WW11; there were shortages of just about everything and national morale was low. The government of the day sought to lift the Nation's spirits by staging a huge exhibition and festival, to rival the one that had taken place exactly one hundred years previously in 1851. This lecture explores the difficult political climate in which the festival was conceived, the experience enjoyed by eight and half million visitors, and the lasting impact upon architecture, design and the arts. Audience members with very long memories may enjoy relating their experience of going to London's Southbank in 1951.

Dr Geoffrey Kay

First studied ceramics at Wolverhampton College of Art in the 1960's. Over the following forty years he taught practical pottery making in several colleges and universities. In 1988 he took a Master's Degree in Industrial Archaeology from the University of Birmingham, an experience that allowed him to combine his practical skills in pottery making with an understanding of nineteenth century art and industry. In 2007 he gained a PhD by proposing a new theory of craftsmanship in ceramics. At present he has a free-lance practice as lecturer and maker of sculpture and ceramics.

Haverhill Twinning Group



We were recently asked by the Haverhill Twinning Group to host an 'Historic Visit' of Haverhill for their French visitors from Pont St. Esprit. The group met at the Arts Centre for a reception and had the opportunity of looking at our 'Chantry Mills Employers and Employees' exhibition as well as

visiting the Local History Centre who had put on a display of Chantry Mills artefacts courtesy of Charles Gurteen. Following the reception Charmian, our Secretary, took the group on a walking tour of the town centre, Queens Street and part of Camps Road before finishing up at St. Mary's Church where they had a light lunch. While in the Church they were able to listen to some organ music before having the opportunity to 'climb' the tower, watch a bell ringing demonstration and witness the view from the top.

Trip to Ridgewell Museum

This takes place on Thursday 15th September 2022 at 7pm. Cost £5.00 to be **paid for in advance**. For further details please email brian@suffolkfhs.co.uk

The Power of Facebook

Some of you may remember that back in March 2022 we commemorated three airmen who are buried in Haverhill Cemetery. They were members of the crew of Whitley Z9125 NF-A of 138 Squadron based at RAF Stradishall. This aircraft was taking off on a clandestine operation when it crashed killing all but one of the six man crew. Apart from the pilot the crew were all from Czechoslovakia. Jan Janek, Ladislav Fornůsek and Vacláv Jelínek were buried locally.



We had been asked to lay bouquets on their Commonwealth War Graves on behalf of the Free Czechoslovak Air Force Associates. Group member, John Burns, recorded the event on video and this footage was posted on our Facebook Page.

Such was the power of social media that it was spotted in the Czech Republic by Eva Hájková. She was particularly interested in Jan Janek who was born in the house in Pribice where she lives.



To celebrate the 800th anniversary of the village they unveiled a memorial to some WW2 heroes, one of whom was Jan.



She posted some photos taken at a commemorative event that took place shortly after the end of the war. One of these photos shows Jan's parents standing in the centre. Eva explained how difficult it was for them to live. Firstly they were prosecuted and imprisoned by the Nazis and then they suffered further persecution after the war ended when the country was under communist rule.

Sadly, Jan's parents never had the opportunity to visit their son's last resting place. We hope it is a small comfort to those who still remember Jan Janek to know that his sacrifice is not forgotten and that we will continue to make sure that his last resting place is looked after for posterity.



Open Day in Haverhill Library

Saturday 24th September 2022 between 10am-2pm

Why not come along to meet our team of researchers who may be able to help out with some of your 'brick walls'. Beginners always welcome. Expert guidance on where and how to start researching your family tree.



Looking forward to this - the balloon debate will be hosted by the Haverhill Family History Group

Haverhill & District Local History Group

THE STORY OF JOHN ATTERTON
(Atterton & Ellis)

Wednesday 21st September 2022,
7.30pm, in the Studio (next to the café) in the Haverhill Arts Centre.

members £1 visitors £2.50 inc. tea/coffee

EVERYONE WELCOME

Linton & District Historical Society



Linton Village Hall
Coles Lane
Linton
CB21 4JS

Tuesday,
20th September
2022
7.30pm

THE GREAT BALLOON DEBATE

Find out about the passengers in the balloon and decide who should survive.



We recently had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing Neville Haylock of Hatchett Hall Farm. Neville gave a really interesting account of his time as a farmer, living in and around Haverhill and his thoughts on past and present day farming methods. Seen here on the left, Neville is holding some incendiary devices dropped onto his farm during the Second World War. The recording is on the SFHS website and can found by clicking here: -

[Reflections - SFHS - Suffolk Family History Society \(suffolkfhs.co.uk\)](https://www.suffolkfhs.co.uk)



Haverhill Family History Group

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook or visit the Suffolk Family History Society web site. Both will give up to date information on all our events this year.

AUTUMN CONCERT

THE SAFFRON DANCE BAND

PRESENTS

A SUNDAY AFTERNOON OF SWING

SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER, AT 2.30 P.M



AT THE OLD INDEPENDENT CHURCH,
HAMLET ROAD, HAVERHILL

Tickets: £7.50 at the Door

Proceeds to be split between Band & Church Funds

Tea, Coffee & Cake, available at the interval

Saffron Dance Band is a member of the Saffron Walden Bands Society

Next Month –

We will be publishing our exciting program for 2023. Don't miss it!

Haverhill Family History Group

2022 Programme of Meetings & Events

Usually, 2nd Thurs of the month, **unless stated otherwise**, start 7.30 pm,

Old Independent Church Hall (**CB9 9EF**), members £1 visitors £2.50 inc. tea/coffee

8 SEPT 2022	THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN	GEOFFREY KAY
SAT 24 SEPT 2022	OPEN DAY AT HAVERHILL LIBRARY (CB9 8HB) 10AM -2PM	OURSELVES
13 OCT 2022	TO THE HAMMER BORN - CONFESSIONS OF AN OCCASIONAL AUCTIONEER	STEPHEN POULTER
10 NOV 2022	A LONG WAY FROM HOME - LEST WE FORGET	OURSELVES
8 DEC 2022	CHRISTMAS QUIZ A LIGHT-HEARTED SOCIAL EVENING WITH REFRESHMENTS	OURSELVES

Wednesday afternoons, help with your Research at Haverhill Library 2 - 4pm

Guided use of the Internet, especially for newcomers or those 'stuck'

telephone 01440 848095 to book your place