

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 1087748

Next Meeting:

Thursday 11th January 2024 at 7.30pm

Old Independent Church Hall

Fun Quiz for the New Year



We all know that traditionally we hold our fun social night in December but due to circumstances beyond our control this was cancelled. To avoid disappointment, for one year only (hopefully) we are holding it in January. So why not come along and enjoy some hot mulled wine and mince pies!

Please note that our previously advertised presentation for January was going to be a series of short talks given by our own members. This will now take place after our short AGM at the May meeting.

Congratulations to Joan Key

Joan recently received the 'Freedom of Haverhill', a well-deserved award for all the work she has done for the local community. Joan of course has been a stalwart for our group over the years for which we are extremely grateful.

Haverhill People

**VOTED 'GREATEST ASSET TO THE TOWN' BY
HAVERHILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Joan Key

Joan Margaret Lawrence was born on May 9th 1937, in Hammersmith Hospital West London. She was the first born of Edward (Ted) and Catherine (Kitty) Lawrence née Keane and elder sister of Joyce Rosalind (1941), Derek Edward Albert (1950) and Ann Veronica (1952). The family lived at 48, Boarders Road, Hanwell, West London in a first floor, one bedroom flat with an unattached garden.

In 1948 the family moved to 63 Browning Avenue W7. This was a bigger house with 2 bedrooms and gardens front and back. Her brother and sister were born there. In 1951 a family moved in next door and Joan met her future husband for the first time.

Joan attended Greenford County Grammar School leaving aged 16 without any 'O' levels. Joan had a Saturday job at Woolworths, working on the sweet counter, as rationing was still in force this meant cutting out the coupons from the ration books. The pay was 15/- for working 9 to 5.

Joan married George Key on 6th July 1957 at St Mary's Church Hanwell. They set up their first home together in a furnished room at 76 Gorden Road. They had 4 children between 1959 and 1963, Kevin, Jeanette, Sandra and Barry. In 1968 the family moved to Haverhill.



Joan has just celebrated her 80th birthday and also her Diamond wedding anniversary with husband George. She has seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Like her parents, Ted and Kitty, Joan has always helped friends and neighbours and supported local groups. Here are just some of the groups she has been involved with over the years:

PTAs	Swimming Club Committee	School Governor (Castle Manor and Castle Hill)
Volunteer at Clements C P School		Local Volunteer Centre
Founder member of a Coffee Morning and Soup a Lunch, both of which still run		
Volunteer at WRVS – involved with Meals on Wheels for 18 years		
Haverhill Library Committee		Volunteer with the Blind and Partially Sighted Group
Haverhill Family History Group		Walk leader and contact for Stepping out in Suffolk

No wonder she was voted 'GREATEST ASSET TO THE TOWN'!

2017

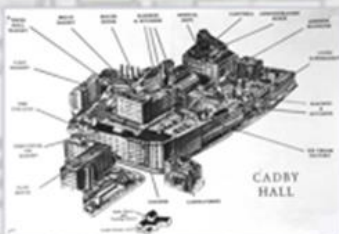
Information and photos provided by Joan's daughters Jeanette & Sandra Key

Joan aged 3 years with her grandmother



Joan was not evacuated during the war, but remembers being hidden under coats in the windowless hallway or going to a neighbour's Anderson shelter when the sirens went. During the war her father worked as a universal grinder making parts for airplanes, and also volunteered as an auxiliary fireman. Her mother worked in a canteen preparing food for the factory workers whilst Joan was at school and Joyce was in a nursery. Her mother also looked after the chickens and grew vegetables. Joan never remembers going short of eggs. At the end of the war Joan and her sister were taken by their father to see lamp posts being lit up again and she was allowed to stay up late on VE day.

After leaving school in 1953 Joan started full time work at J Lyons, Cadby Hall, W14, as a comptometer operator. Her wages were £2 15s per week. The company trained the staff and anyone under 18 went to school one day a week. Joan passed her English and maths 'O' levels receiving 'student of the year' for which she won the complete works of Shakespeare, an Oxford English Dictionary and an Oxford book of prose.



In 1969, Joan found employment as an assembler at Pyes. She made circuit boards and worked a 30 hour week. She was a member of the works committee & treasurer of the social club. Joan left Pye in December 1974 for a new job, one that many Haverhill people will remember her for. On 1 January 1975 Joan started training to become the Traffic Warden for Haverhill and surrounding villages.



1 Jan 2024: Marks 90 years since Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, California, became a federal prison. The prison opened in August 1934 and closed in 1963.

5 Feb 2024: 100 years ago, the 'pips' Greenwich Time Signals (GTS) were first broadcast by the BBC.

4 Apr 2024: In 1934, 90 years ago, the first use of 'Cats eyes' on UK roads. Laid by Percy Shaw on a road near Bradford the day after he patented them.

6 June 2024: The 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings by the Allies.

2024 is also the 110th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

By what term is the period between 30 January 1649 and 29 May 1660 generally known? Answer at the end of the newsletter.

We are hosting another open day on Saturday the 20th January 2024 between 10am and 2pm. If you need any help with your research, do come along. Our friendly team will be ready to help.

**Saturday 20th January 2024
10am-2pm, Haverhill Library**



Free event. Whether a beginner needing help to start their family history research or a seasoned researcher requiring assistance, all are welcome.

NO NEED TO BOOK

**Family History
Drop-in Surgery**

Enquiries: haverhill@suffolkfhs.org.uk

Early memories

My mother is 97 years old and her memory is still razor sharp. Recently she was recalling the *first* man from Africa she met. He was a neighbour in Edlington, Yorkshire, and she was barely 4 when he died so this must be one of her earliest recollections.

She couldn't remember his name, but she recounted times when she visited him to play in his garden. She also recalled a time when she fell over on some gravel and he picked her up, sat her on his lap and cleaned her grazed knees. Her eldest sister who would have been about 10 at the time told her in later years that he was a professional footballer in his younger days...but he was so much more.

Arthur "Kwame" Wharton wasn't difficult to track down – 'black footballer, Edlington, 1930' found him easily. So who was he?

This photo is how my mother remembered him.

Arthur 'Kwame' Wharton was born in Accra, Ghana on 28th October 1865. His father was Henry Wharton, Grenadian-Scottish, a minister and missionary.

His mother was Annie Florence Egyriba, Ghanaian, a member of Fante royalty.



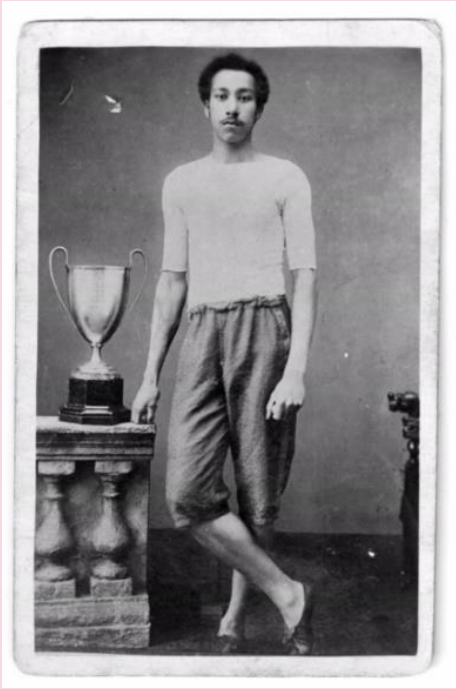
In 1883, he moved to England to train as a missionary at Cleveland College, Darlington. It was there he began his amazing sporting careers, competing as a 'gentleman amateur', but soon abandoning this in favour of becoming a full-time athlete.

In 1890, he married Emma Lister from Kimberworth, Rotherham.

Like many athletes from the period, he pursued a number of field and team sports such as track and field, cycling, cricket, and eventually football.

ATHLETICS

Arthur became the fastest man to run 100 yards when he ran a record time of 10 seconds dead on the 3rd July 1886 at Stamford Bridge, London. This World Record stood for over 30 years.



He was also the *first* black Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) champion. Arthur proudly received the Prince Hassan Cup, a trophy presented to the winner of the 100 yards (now metres).

CRICKET

Arthur Wharton played cricket for Cannock and Darlington Cricket Club, but it was in the Yorkshire and Lancashire leagues where he earned a summer living. From 1889, Arthur played cricket professionally during the football close season. He played for Greasebro' for six seasons from 1889 to 1895.

He signed as a professional for Stalybridge Cricket Club in 1896 and within weeks he was their star attraction. Despite this, he did not play for them after the 1896 season and for the rest of his time in Lancashire played little or no cricket.

After leaving professional football in 1902 and returning to Yorkshire, cricket took pride of place in Arthur's affections. In 1914, Arthur was offered a job, coaching cricket in County Durham, which he turned down due to a lack of work to supplement his wages.

Nevertheless, Arthur continued playing cricket and running. Even in his fifties, it was reputed that 'he could catch pigeons'.

RUGBY

Arthur played rugby for Darlington, Rotherham and Heckmondwike.

FOOTBALL

The football skills of Arthur Wharton was *first* spotted at Darlington Football Club, where he was selected to play as goalkeeper and described as 'magnificent', 'invincible' and 'superb'. There was no league championship then and the FA Cup was the main competition, along with district and county matches.



During the 1885-86 season, whilst still a Darlington player, Arthur was selected for the prestigious Newcastle and District team. At that time, it was the best in the city and far superior to the West End and East End sides that later combined to form Newcastle United.

Like many other great goalkeepers before and after him, he gained a reputation for

being eccentric. Apparently, he would wait in a crouching position at the side of the goal before rushing out to save the ball.

Spotted by Preston North End he joined them as an amateur, and was part of the team that reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1886-87.

Though part of 'The Invincibles' of the 1880s, he left Preston in 1888 to concentrate on his running, and therefore was not part of the team that subsequently won the double in 1888-89.

He returned to football in 1889, joining Rotherham Town, signing as a professional remaining with the team for five years.

In 1894, he moved to Sheffield United where he was understudy to regular first-team goalkeeper William "Fatty" Foulke. During the 1894-95 season, Wharton played three games for Sheffield United, against Leicester Fosse, Linfield and Sunderland.

The Sunderland match being a First Division game, made him the *first* black/mixed race player in the world to play in the top flight.

In 1895, he left for Stalybridge Rovers but after falling out with the management moved to Ashton North End in 1897. In 1899, Ashton went bankrupt and Arthur returned to Stalybridge Rovers, before seeing out his career playing for Stockport County of the Second Division in 1901-02.

A versatile player, Arthur would also occasionally feature outfield as a winger, as well as playing in goal.

LIFE OUTSIDE OF SPORT

Arthur Wharton pursued a few business endeavours during his soccer career. In 1891, he was the landlord of the Albert Tavern in Kimberworth, Rotherham. In 1901, he and his wife were running a tobacconist's business in. Having developed a drink problem, Wharton retired from football in 1902 and found employment as a colliery haulage worker at the Yorkshire Main Colliery in Edlington.

By 1911, he was employed as a collier (hewer) and living 12 miles away in Moorthorpe, with his wife Emma. When World War I began, Wharton joined the British Home Guard, volunteering to give his life in the defence of Britain if called upon. They returned to Edlington where Arthur would have worked alongside my grandfather in Yorkshire Main Colliery during the late 1920s.

Arthur 'Kwame' Wharton passed away in December 1930 aged 65. His grave in Edlington was initially unmarked until he received a headstone in 1997 as part of the Football Unites, Racism Divides campaign. He was part of the 2003 class of the English Football Hall of Fame in recognition of the impact he made on the game. His wife Emma returned to Rotherham where she died in 1944.



Charmian Thompson

Suffolk Family History Society News - ZOOM TALKS

Two interesting presentations coming up, particularly if you want to know the benefits of subscribing to Facebook and also if you are considering a family history package to help with your research.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY TO JOIN THESE PRESENTATIONS.

8 Jan 2024: Valmay Young returns to talk once more about **Facebook Family History**

The link to register is here: <https://tinyurl.com/Valmay2>

22 Jan 2024: John Hanson covers the topic of **Choosing a Family History Package**

The link to register is here: <https://tinyurl.com/FHPackage>

2024 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

11 Jan	New Year Quiz A light-hearted social evening with refreshments	Ourselves
Sat 20 Jan (TBC)	OPEN DAY at Haverhill Library (CB9 8HB) 10am – 3pm	Ourselves
8 Feb	Celebrating the International day of Women & Girls in Science. (11th Feb)	Ourselves
14 Mar	Growing Old Disgracefully	Rex Freeman
11 Apr	Winifred Challis, Morals, Marriage & Mass Observation in WW2	Terry O'Donoghue
9 May	AGM 8-10 minute talk by members on any subject, interesting finds, hero, etc.	Ourselves
13 June	Tea for the British... with a little twist of Suffolk the story of the tea trade in Britain	Miriam Stead
16 July	Guided walk around Bury St. Edmunds (Must Book)	Adrian Tindall
July/August	A Guided village walk – (TBC)	Must Book
12 Sept	It's on the cards	Vanessa Mann
Sat 21 Sept (TBC)	OPEN DAY at Haverhill Library (CB9 8HB) 10am – 3pm (TBC)	Ourselves
10 Oct	Harvest time and Horsemen's' memories, rural life in 1900	Ashley Cooper
14 Nov	Generals, Leaders and people who had an impact in WW1 (110 years since the start of WW1)	Ourselves
12 Dec	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

The Answer:-

The Interregnum which was the period between the execution of Charles I on 30 January 1649 and the arrival of his son Charles II in London on 29 May 1660 which marked the start of the Restoration. During the Interregnum, England was under various forms of republican government better known as the period of the Commonwealth.