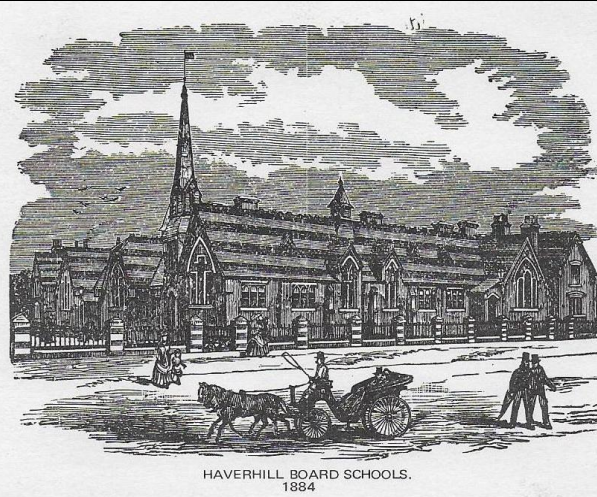




NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 1087748

Next Meeting: Thursday 13th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Old Independent Church Hall

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), its Architecture and its Conservation with Paul White



This presentation looks at CWGC's architecture, in terms of its cemetery layouts, structures and memorials. It highlights the key architects from the First and Second World Wars and looks at

how we conserve our structures today, some of which are over a century old. The CWGC has a global estate and their structures are affected by the different environmental circumstances in different countries.

Remembering a War Hero

Sarah Sands has been researching her ancestry for many years, helped sometimes by Judith Rye at the Wednesday library sessions. Recently she was proud to discover a distant cousin on her mother's side who had a very distinguished military career.

William Richard COTTER 1882 - 1916

William was baptised on the 26th February 1882 at Christ Church, Folkestone, Kent, the eldest son of Richard COTTER and Amy (RICHARDS). He had 2 sisters and was the eldest of 6 sons, all of whom entered the Navy or the Army. Three are now dead and one is serving in Salonica, the other in the Navy.



When Corporal Cotter was about 5 years old, he went to the local Roman Catholic School, where he was much liked by teachers and boys, being always full of fun and life. Upon leaving school he worked for several builders in the district. At an early age he displayed a spirit of adventure and one day ran away from home. His parents were sorely troubled and heard nothing of him for months, so they advertised for news of him. A little later he wrote home to say that he'd been to sea and asked for their forgiveness for causing them so much trouble. He returned home and joined 'The Buffs' and was on the Reserve at the outbreak of War. Called up, he was sent to France, despite the fact he had a glass eye, having lost the sight in his right eye through an accident some years ago when he was glassed in a fight in Dover. He only came home from the Front once, to have his glass eye replaced, and had many narrow escapes. He was a cheery soul who kept his comrades in good spirits and was always ready to help other soldiers. He distinguished himself on several occasions in bayonet fighting and was recommended for conspicuous bravery.

On March 6th 1916, at Hohenzollern Redoubt, 'with his right leg blown off at the knee, wounded in both arms, he made his way unaided for 50 yards to a crater, steadied the men who were holding it, controlled their fire, issued orders and altered the dispositions of his men to meet a fresh counter-attack by the enemy. For 2 hours he held his position and only allowed his wounds to be roughly dressed when the attack had quieted down.

When he died no one in his family knew of any photographs of him, but his sister-in-law found a cigarette card showing the hero in the red coat of The Buffs, which she then had enlarged by a local artist, saying 'it is a living likeness'.

Even more fascinating was his description on a later service record where he's gained some more scars and a tattoo – of a **tomato**!

In a character reference he was described as a good cook.....

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	COTTER v.c.				
	W.R.				

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks
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Medal card of
William Richard COTTER



Buried in Lillers Communal Cemetery, in the Nord-Pas-De-Calais region of Northern France

Many thanks to Sarah Sands and Judith Rye

Information obtained from Find My Past, Ancestry, Wikipedia and the National Army Museum

Suffolk Family History Society News:-

Upcoming zooms

Our next Zooms are as follows –

- 17-Nov-25 **QUIZ**
- 1-Dec-25 **Liz Yule** will talk about an **Ancestral Christmas**

There are some changes to how they arrange Zoom meetings. Talks will now be for members only with the link to join in the members area of our website. *The link will be put in the News section/tab.*

DID YOU KNOW:-

5 Nov 1935 – 90 years ago

The board game **Monopoly** was launched by Parker Brothers. Its inventor, Charles Darrow, was awarded a U.S. Patent for its design on 31st December. (U.S. Patent 2,026,082.) He assigned it to Parker Brothers.

20 Nov 1985 – 40 years ago

Microsoft Windows **1.0** was released.

Its Odd Socks Day - 11th Nov 2025

Odd Socks Day marks the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week. All you have to do is wear those odd socks!

HOT OF THE PRESS – OUR 2026 Programme

Another year of exciting presentations

8 Jan	Ten-minute talks by members (Any subject)	Ourselves
Sat 17Jan (TBC)	OPEN DAY at Haverhill Library (CB9 8HB) 10am – 3pm	Ourselves
12 Feb	London Docklands	Peter Tatam
12 Mar	Snapshots from the life of Lee Miller	Derek Adams
9 Apr	A Sign of the times	Sarah Doig
14 May	AGM The change in your pocket	Charmian Thompson
11 June	“The Development of Helicopters”	Duncan Bickley
July	Visit – (TBC)	Must Book
10 Sept	Paranormal East Anglia Suffolk	Mike Wabe
Sat 19 Sept (TBC)	OPEN DAY at Haverhill Library (CB9 8HB) 10am – 3pm (TBC)	Ourselves
8 Oct	A glimpse into the life of a Registrar of Births Deaths & Marriages	Kim Case
12 Nov	Two Farmers and a Lanc!	Lancaster Restoration Fundraising Team
10 Dec	Christmas Quiz A light-hearted social evening with refreshments	Ourselves

Note: we are still on the lookout for volunteers to do a 10-minute talk of their own choice at our January meeting. Any takers, please let me know.

Brian

You might be interested in: -

Remembrance Sunday 2025

The annual remembrance service will take place on Sunday 9 November 2025.

2:20pm – Remembrance Sunday Parade (From behind the Arts Centre)

3:00pm – Service at Haverhill Cemetery

LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2025



**We welcome Richard Adams who will give us
an insight of the history and what remains of
this important airfield**

LINTON VILLAGE HALL

COLES LANE - 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome



2025 Programme of Meetings & Events

13 Nov 2025	CWGC	Paul White
11 Dec 2025	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