



SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SUDBURY & DISTRICT GROUP

Update

February 2026

TODAY'S SPEAKER

This afternoon we welcome back Bryan Thurlow with his talk entitled The Perennial Mr Potter.

CHAIRS

We really do appreciate your help in putting away the chairs at the end of the meeting.

TRIP TO SUFFOLK REGIMENT MUSEUM

Following the talk last year by Claire Wallace of the Suffolk Regiment Museum in Bury we thought a Group visit might be a good idea. We can car pool. If anyone is interested please let Helen know and we can compile a list of people interested, then try and get some dates organised. This would be for the Spring/Summer time as the museum can be a chilly place!

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

I was delighted to attend the meeting of the Sudbury Family History Society on Tuesday 27th January to hear Paul White speak about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. I have a personal family connection with the formation of the CWGC dating back to the First World War when it was founded by Fabian Ware and known as the Imperial War Graves Commission in 1917, as we heard from Paul.

My maternal grandfather's first cousin, a young man named Ivan Bawtree (1894-1979) was a keen photographer. Along with two other professional photographers, he was selected by Fabian Ware to go to Flanders and photograph the graves. He worked there between 1915 and 1919. He snapped pictures of the wooden crosses which were erected before the stone ones we are familiar with today. These images were sent home to the bereaved relatives. Ivan even took a picture of one belonging to another of his cousins, Edmund Arthur Howe Lilley, who was killed towards the end of the War in 1918. In addition he took many images of the devastation that the War brought to the landscape as it unfolded.

I was able to have a word with Paul about this at the meeting and to let him know that the photographs and the diaries written by Ivan Bawtree are published in a book called Photographing the Fallen: A War Graves Photographer on the Western Front 1915-1919 which have been compiled and written by Ivan's great-great nephew, Jeremy Gordon-Smith, who is my third cousin once removed. Paul said he was very interested in the book and would be purchasing a copy.

The book is published by Pen & Sword and is available from them or other booksellers online,

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Photographing-the-Fallen-Hardback/p/13920>

You can read more about Ivan's work by following the link below:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4610534/The-unseen-Western-Photos-reveal-WW1-graves.html>

I hope that you will be able to use this piece in your February update as it would have been nice to have mentioned it at the time to the audience!

Best wishes Moira Walshe

NB We have booked Paul White for January next year for his talk on CWGC architecture.

NEXT MEETINGS:

31 Mar	Sudbury in the Sixties While London was Swinging	<i>Ashley Cooper</i>
28 Apr	Lawrence of Arabia...and Felixstowe	<i>Kim Smith</i>
26 May	Arsenic's Toxic Legacy: People, Places, Pests and Peppermints <i>Group AGM</i>	<i>Neil Dickinson</i>
30 Jun	QUIZ – General questions ALL WELCOME	
28 Jul	Suffolk Smugglers	<i>Pip Wright</i>
Aug	No Meeting	
29 Sept	A Country Full of 'Notorious Witches' Witch-Trials of 16 th & 17 th Century Essex	<i>Alison Rowlands</i>

If you have any contributions for Update please email me - Helen

If a meeting needs to be cancelled at short notice (ie due to bad weather) we will put it on our Group Website page.

suffolkfhs.co.uk - Sudbury Group

PLEASE TAKE A POSTER TO DISPLAY

NEED TO GET IN TOUCH?

Sheila Piper: 01787 248260

Helen Richardson: 01787 376287

Sudbury@suffolkfhs.org.uk

helenfh1924@gmail.com