



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY - Registered Charity No 1087748

Next Meeting:

Thursday 11th June 2026 at 7.30pm

Old Independent Church Hall

The Development of Helicopters: with Duncan Bickley

Duncan is a retired Commercial Helicopter Pilot, Instructor, Examiner and Instructor Trainer with over 20 years and 7,500 hours of onshore helicopter flying experience. He ran his own helicopter company based at Cambridge airport for most of his career and flew sorties that included commercial charter, photography and filming tasks, geographical surveys and critical component delivery. In addition to being a pilot he has worked in Merchant Banking, as a DJ, MC, Entertainer and Event Commentator besides being a serial quiz show contestant!



I was sorry to miss Sarah Doig's "village names" talk and in support of the "Thompson" village sign shown in the last newsletter, here's a pretty awful sign of "Wingfield", Suffolk, original seat of the Wingfield Family, who are understood to be present there at the Normal invasion.



A DNA test result that I sent to the Wingfield family society to see what branch I belonged to (Suffolk, Derby or Chesterfield), informs that I have not a single strand of Wingfield DNA in me!

Alan Winfield

Anyone else have a sign with their name?

**Last chance to book your place for the joint trip with the
Local History Museum to Ashley Cooper's**

Gestingthorpe Roman Villa and Museum

Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 7pm.

Cost £5.00

If you are interested, please let me know.

Brian Thompson

Suffolk Family History Society News

(For members and non-members)

Upcoming zooms

Our next Zooms (all at 7:30 pm UK time) are:

- **15th June Vicky Holmes Coroners Inquests**
- **13th July Janet Few Are You Sitting Comfortably?:** Writing up your family history

Please register for Vicky Holme's talk using this link: **CLICK HERE** to register for Vicky's presentation . We will switch back to manual approval.

Please register as soon as you can, **I will close registration at 18:00 on Monday evening 15th, no need to leave it the last minute.**

Andy Kerridge

Dr Vicky Holmes, Assistant Professor of History at Notre Dame London, The University of Notre Dame (USA) in England. "I am a social and cultural historian of nineteenth-century Britain who has recently appeared in the latest series of "Who Do You Think You Are?", helping a well-known actor navigate a challenging family story uncovered in an inquest. My own research, since completing my PhD on fatal household accidents in Victorian Suffolk, utilises coroners' inquests to reconstruct the intimate, everyday lives of the working class both behind and beyond the front door (my current research is looking at rough sleeping). My first book – In Bed with the Victorians (2017) – explored the life-cycle of working-class marriage in Victorian Suffolk and Essex, before moving on to explore the presence of the lodger in the home in Living with Lodgers (2025). Many of the findings in my research shed a different light on family stories than the census has often suggested: "married" couples who were never wed and housekeepers who served as "tally wives," to lodgers who had most certainly "got their feet under the table," as well as the odd bigamist! "

Suffolk FHS Fair - report

'An enjoyable day with two fantastic talks and great stalls. However, attendance was definitely down on last year which was disappointing. Parking sorted, the park & ride route changed and was advertised high and low, and of course it was free but still attendance was still very low.'

Personally, I only recognised one person from the West of Suffolk area which was disappointing. Do you have any views about the fair and what would make it more attractive? Comments, positive and negative, would be gratefully received. Please reply to **brian.thompson43@btinternet.com**

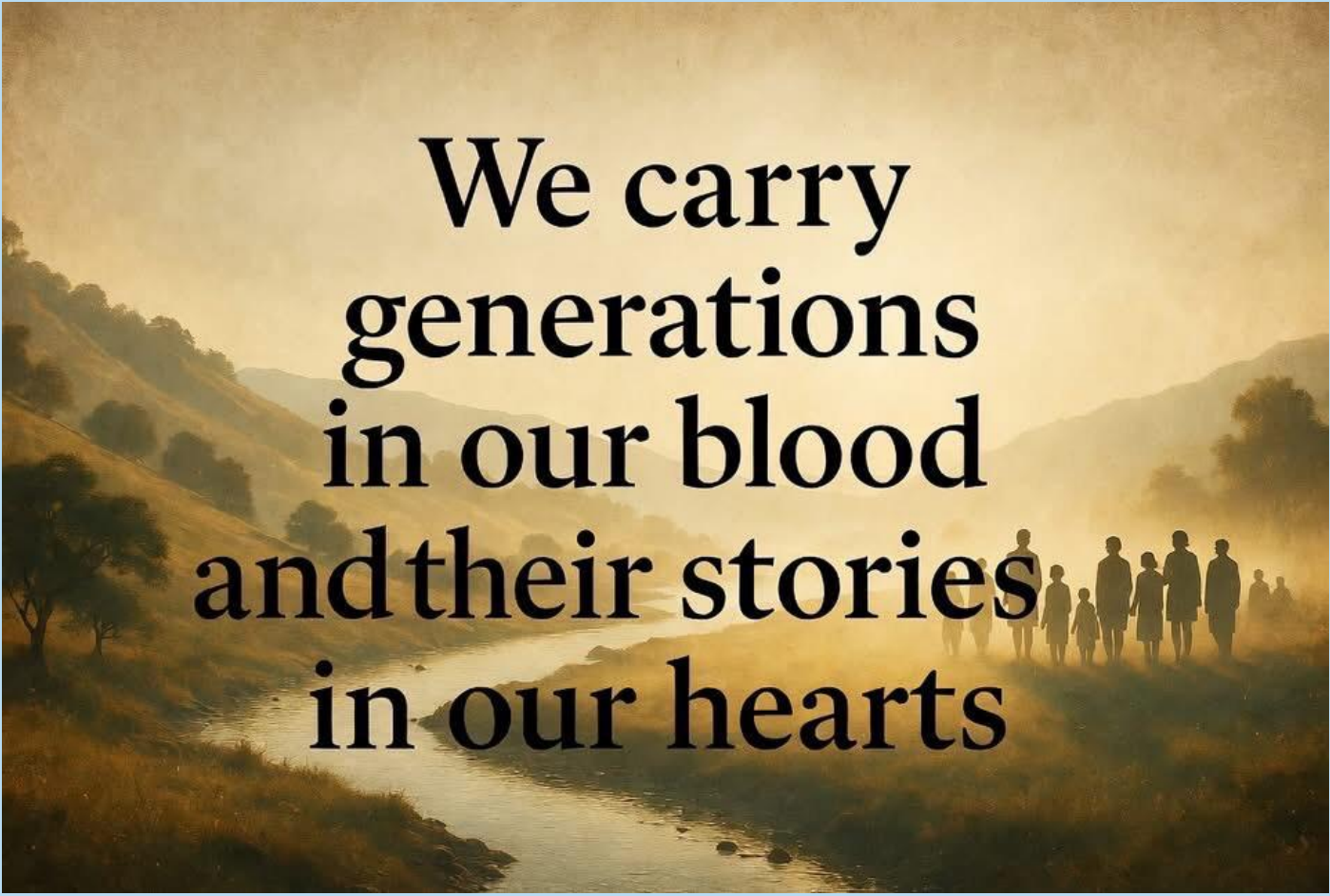
Armed Forces Day – Saturday 27th June

We will once again be having a presence at AFD to be held on the Market Square starting at 11am.

Besides our usual stand, we will also have some children's activities.

The Town Council are, once again, organising a convoy of military vehicles which will end up on the square, where there will be music and many other activities. Why not come along and show your support? It's a great day out.

The start of Armed Forces Week will take place at the Market Square with the raising of the flag on Monday 22nd June 2025 at 2pm.

A painting of a river valley with a group of people standing on a hill in the distance. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text 'We carry generations in our blood and their stories in our hearts' is overlaid on the image in a large, black, serif font.

We carry
generations
in our blood
and their stories
in our hearts

We have been asked to share this awareness event.
If you are interested, please let me know.

If you would like to attend please let Brian Thompson have names before 9th June 2026 so that places can be confirmed.

OPERATION REPEAT

Reinforcing Elderly Persons Education at All Times

Fraud & Doorstep Crime Awareness Raising

Interested in keeping you and your family safe from fraud?
Need to understand how the cyber and AI criminals target you ?
Is that a real person on the phone?
Worried you may get conned?
Doorstep Criminals. How do they work?
Want to learn how to STOP these criminals?

*"The best
training
course I've
ever
attended."*

*Snr
Professional*

Come along to our **FREE** awareness event and get the facts!

Learn about how these criminals worm their way into people's lives, how they befriend and groom people and then exploit them financially.
Understand the methods they adopt and the simple steps you can take to keep safe.



Award Winning expert information and advice that is supported by both Police and Trading Standards

"I have been training Health and Social Care sector workers since 2012 and helping them to raise awareness amongst the elderly and vulnerable to Fraud and Doorstep Crime. With funding now available I am able to widen our remit and bring this information directly to you. Simple messages and methods of how to protect you from these crimes and prevent you from becoming a victim in the first place" Reg Burrell – Director.



The training covers all areas of Fraud including Internet/Cyber and Telephone fraud; Romance and Courier fraud, Social media data harvesting and Doorstep Crime including Bogus Officials, Distraction Burglary, Criminal (Rogue) Traders, AND the advancement of AI related crime heading in your direction.

And the bonus about this training, it's **FREE!** Yes **FREE.**

*"Excellent course.
An absolute must
for all."
Health care
professional*

Monday 22 June

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Haverhill Arts Centre

High Street, Haverhill, CB9 8AR

Haverhill Family History Group

2026 Programme of Meetings & Events

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, Marriages & Deaths	Kim Case
12 Nov	Restoring a Lancaster	Kelly Bennett + 1
10 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