



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 1087748

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm

Old Independent Church Hall

Annual FUN Christmas Quiz –

A light-hearted social evening with refreshments.

Don't forget those Christmas jumpers!



"Three phrases that sum up Christmas are:
PEACE ON EARTH,
GOODWILL TO MEN, and
BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED."

~ AUTHOR UNKNOWN

This year five of us – Jenny, Jeanette, Joan, Pauline and myself - had unique, handcrafted poppies to use as we remembered those who fell in combat during past years.

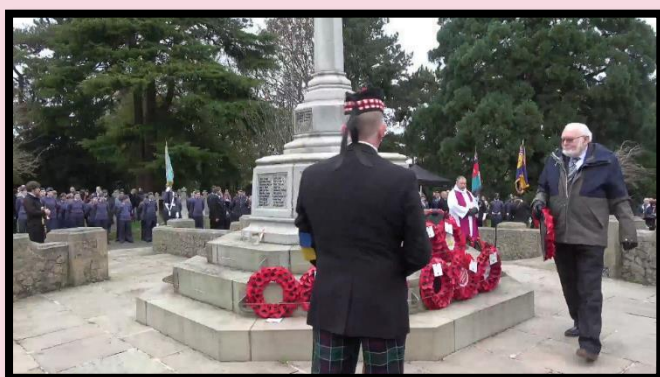
Thanks to The Pottery Shed located in the Clements area of the town, we were guided step-by-step to create a small brooch and larger Remembrance poppy. We really enjoyed our time together getting to know each other better, learning a new skill and drinking coffee.

We had a great time and look forward to using our poppies for many years ahead.

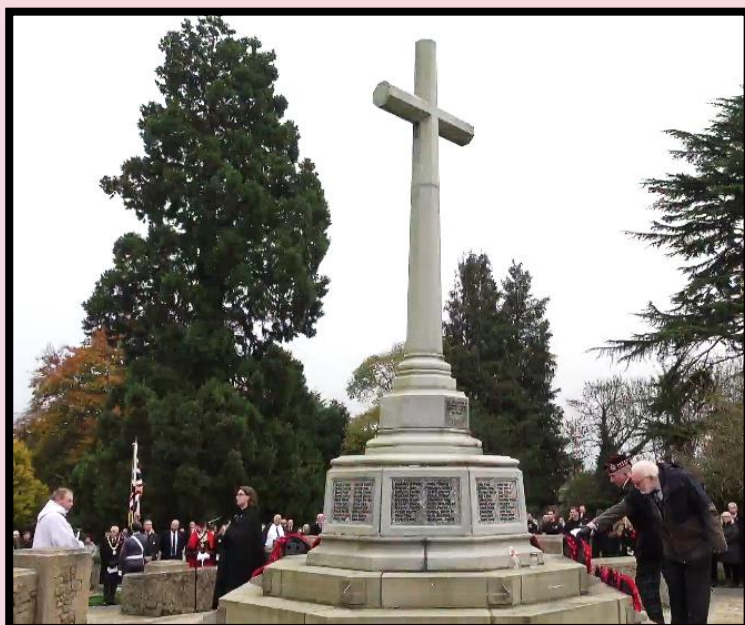


Jenny with her poppy

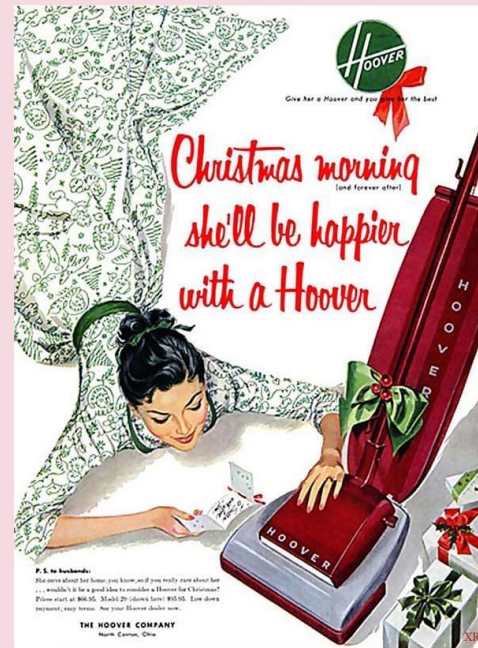
Rosemary Fletcher



Many thanks to Richard Hart who laid a wreath, on behalf of the Haverhill Family History Group, at the Memorial Service held in Haverhill Cemetery on the 10th November 2024.



I fear I would be in deep trouble if I even thought of buying a hoover!



We were delighted to see so many people come along to our November meeting when Taff Gillingham and Lyndsay Knight gave a really interesting insight to the history of the Cenotaph and behind the scenes look at the Remembrance Day event in London.

Taff and Lyndsay are both involved in the GREAT WAR HUTS project at Brook Farm Camp, a ground-breaking First World War museum and



visitor centre in the heart of the Suffolk countryside, in Hawstead near Bury St Edmunds.

Great War Huts provides a unique setting in which to learn about the personal, military and social history of the conflict and is well worth a visit. For further information use the following link:- [Military Museum | Great War Huts | Bury St Edmunds](#)

**For those of you who have trouble transcribing
Wills, Deeds etc., have a go at this:-**

**Fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a
stornng mnid.
Sdtueis swohs taht popele wtih
an ineigtlience
lveel aobve namrol cna raed
wrods whtiout hvaing
teh ltteers in teh crocret oedrr.
In fcat, olny teh fsrit adn teh lsat
letetr nedes to be
in pclae, tehn yuor brian wlil
tkae crae of teh rset.**

Simple?

Christmas in Risbridge Workhouse (Reports from the newspaper)

1897

TREAT TO WORKHOUSE INMATES - On Friday evening the inmates of Kedington Workhouse were entertained to a substantial meat tea in the dining-hall, which was prettily decorated for the occasion. The treat was organised by Dr. and Mrs Hargrave, and the arrangements were most satisfactorily carried out by Mr and Mrs Balaam, the Master and Matron. A concert followed. Miss D. Gurteen and Miss Agnes Gurteen presided at the piano. Songs were sung by Mr D. M. Gurteen, the Rev. M. Smith (chaplain to the Union), Miss Smart, Miss Keeler, Mr Beaton, Mr Boardman, Mr Balaam, and Mr Badminton. Mr Thomas Mason came out as Father Christmas, and Mr W. Gurteen amused the inmates with comic songs. The old men received tobacco and the women tea, whilst the youngsters had toys distributed amongst them.

1902

On Christmas Day the inmates of the Workhouse, Kedington, were given the usual 'Xmas dinner, consisting of roast beef and plum pudding, fowls for the infirmary inmates, a pint of beer for each adult inmate, 1oz. of tobacco for the men, oranges, sweets, etc, for the women and children. There were 137 men, 35 women, and five children in the dining hall. The infirmary wards, dining hall, and old women's wards had been tastefully decorated by the officers in charge. Some very handsome.

HOBSON'S CHOICE

Earlier this year I visited the Museum of Cambridge and one of the many artifacts they had there was this 17th Century portrait of Thomas Hobson together with this note.



Thomas Hobson was a Cambridge based carrier and a generous benefactor who lived between 1544 and 1631. He delivered letters between the University and London with great energy. He was also well known for hiring out his horses on a strict rota:

He made it unalterable rule...that every horse should have an equal share of rest and fatigue, and therefore would never let one out of his turn... [it was] this [horse] or none.

This system of 'this one or none' became known as '**Hobson's Choice**', meaning that customers could take the horse they were given, or go without.

Incidentally I can recommend the museum. Well worth a visit.



**On behalf of the
Committee of the Family
History (Haverhill) Group
can I wish you all a very
merry Christmas and a
great New Year!**

2025 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

NB members £2, visitors £3 from September 2024.

9 Jan 2025	Nursery Rhymes	Ourselves
13 Feb 2025	Eglantyne Jebb British Social Reformer who founded the Save the Children organization at the end of WW1	Margaret Woodley
13 Mar 2025	Breaking the Law and Transportation	Charmian Thompson
10 Apr 2025	It happened here in Suffolk	Pip Wright
8 May 2025	AGM By George what style	Francis Saltmarsh
12 June 2025	The Mayflower	Cathy Shelbourne
July 2025	<i>Visit (TBC)</i>	<i>Must Book</i>
11 Sept 2025	History of Art	Edel Pinnock
9 Oct 2025	Borley Rectory the most haunted house in England	Bryan Thurlow
13 Nov 2025	CWGC	Mac Macdonald
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