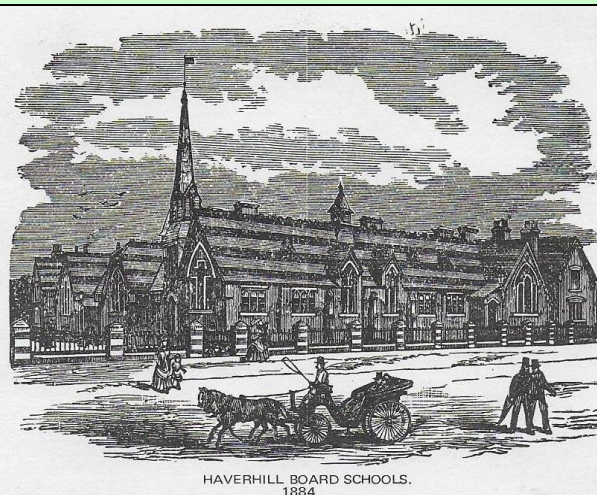




NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

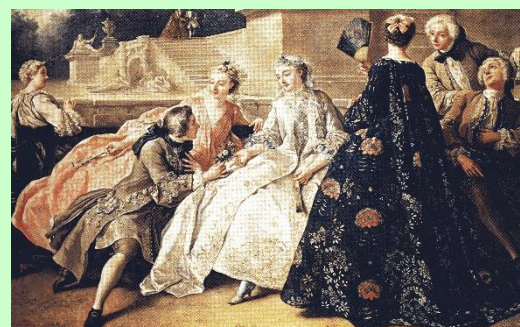
Registered Charity No 1087748

Next Meeting: Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.30pm

(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FROM OUR NORMAL MEETING NIGHT AS THIS CLASHES WITH VE DAY EVENTS IN THE TOWN)

Old Independent Church Hall

‘By George what style!’ With Francis Saltmarsh



Having grown up in a family where we were given the thrills of the theatre, ballet, the Arts and history I have always been fascinated by history and costume through the ages. All the above were showcased in the wonderful array of country houses and palaces we were taken to visit over the years.

I was lucky enough to be a member of the Maddermarket Theatre in Norwich whilst at college and being allowed to wear an authentic 18th century costume really gave me a sense of the way the costume feels and moves, giving a small sense of the ‘space’ it takes up, as well as changing your deportment, too.

All these passions came together when asked by a friend to make her a Tudor costume in which to depict the wives of notorious Henry VIII... one basic Tudor dress adapting to portray each queen with additional skirt-fronts, sleeves, necklines and head-dresses.

From this beginning other talks evolved with my growing collection of authentic pieces of costume and a passion for sharing it with others!

Francis Saltmarsh

The May meeting will be preceded by our Annual General Meeting which I know you will all be pleased to note, does not generally take too long to administer!

Our meeting was changed to the 15th because of the following event.

**Haverhill Town Council will commemorate the
80th Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May.**



VE DAY
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8 MAY 2025



Haverhill Town Council commemorates the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

9.00am
Formal raising of the Union Flags on Market Square.

6.30pm
Bell ringing at St Mary's Church followed by reading and musical performances.

8.00pm
Event closure following the National Anthem.



**Formal raising of the Union Flags
at 9am on the Market Square.**

- Bell ringing at 6.30pm
 - Followed by 'VE Day 1945' at 7pm
- a shared moment of celebration remembered with stories, pictures and music including
- Readings from the Haverhill Echo 1945
 - Videos and visual images
 - Pre-recorded music by Haverhill Silver Band including 'The Great Little Army' 'A Medley of old Favourites' and 'A Nightingale sang on Berkeley Square'
 - Performances by St. Mary's Choir and friends, including the Hallelujah Chorus

**St. Mary's Church, Haverhill at
7.00pm.....FREE EVENT**

A chance to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe (VE Day). This will be an appealing and entertaining evening.

A FREE EVENT..... No need to book - just pop along?



During the afternoon, Charmian and I will be indulging in a cream tea at the Arts Centre café to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Why not join us?

I was pleased to be able to attend the recent Suffolk Family History Society Fair at the 'Hold' in Ipswich which was well attended with a stream of visitors throughout the day. Also took the opportunity to have a stroll along the waterfront. Well worth a visit if you are in the area.

After the Fair was over and stalls were packed up, the Society celebrated their 50th anniversary. It was great to be able to catch up with many friends from other groups throughout the County. Society Chairman Andy Kerridge opened the speeches, welcoming all invited guests. He was followed by Doug Howlett, our Patron. Both thanked all volunteers, trustees and officers of the various branches who had kept the Society going over many years. It was also great to see our group's ex-Chairman and the Society's Baptism Index Co-ordinator Alan Bumpstead in attendance.



Andy Kerridge



Doug Howlett



Andy & Doug getting ready to cut the cake

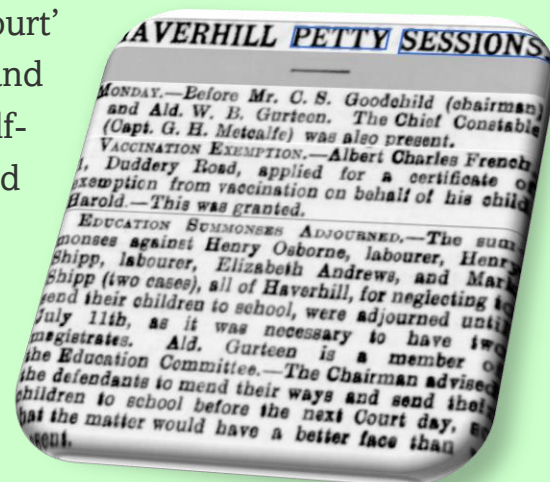
Following the recent talk on 'Breaking the Law' I thought I would include this article this month.

The Development of the English Court System: Petty Sessions, Quarter Sessions, and Assizes

Petty Sessions

The lowest court, the Petty Sessions, or 'Magistrate's Court' were presided over by local magistrates. Untrained and unpaid, these men (exclusively men until 1919) were self-selected, their authority based upon their wealth and social status.

The Petty Sessions gave people the chance to settle legal or civil matters outside of the courts. Often conducted within a magistrate's home, victim and accused could make their case in private. This system was intended to ensure that minor offences or grievances could be settled quickly and without using court time.



Resolutions to these cases would be based upon the personal judgement of the sitting magistrate and the circumstances of those involved. If a case was deemed to be too serious to be resolved in this manner, it would be elevated to the Quarter Sessions.

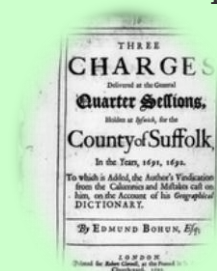
Quarter Sessions

Held four times a year, the Quarter Sessions sat above the Petty Sessions but below the more serious Assizes.

These sessions would, again, be presided over by a local magistrate or 'Justice of the Peace' but would also require the presence of a jury. Unlike the juries of today, however, jurors were pre-selected and needed a certain amount of wealth to qualify.

The Quarter Sessions also played an important civil role. Until 1888, when the Local Governments Act created the first County Councils, these sessions would also inspect gaols and lunatic asylums, maintain a county's roads and highways, and give licenses to public houses among other duties among other duties.

Often dealing with petty thievery or drunken brawls, this court didn't have the power to preside over cases where capital punishment or life imprisonment might have been sentenced. The most serious offences would be elevated to the Assize courts.



Assizes

Unlike the Petty and Quarter Sessions, the Assizes were presided over by a professional, legally trained judge, visiting the Crown Courts in London. Held two times a year, the Assizes tried the most serious offences such as murder, burglary, or arson.

Judges would travel in circuits. These were routes that judges would take, visiting various courthouses and presiding over different Assizes throughout the country. Their dramatic ceremonial arrival would be attended by hundreds of locals, with large horses pulling carriages, armed soldiers with pikes, and other important legal professionals.



Assize court judges had the jurisdiction to pass the harshest possible sentences. With more legal authority, judges could pass the sentence of transportation to Australia or even capital punishment, even to children as young as 7 years old. Traditionally, judges would wear a black ribbon hanging down this sentence, to show the gravity of their decision.

Where did they go?

In 1972, the Quarter Sessions and Assizes were replaced with the Crown Courts. The Petty Sessions remain in the form of the 'Magistrates Court', which mainly deal with what are known as 'Summary Offences'. This could include motoring offences or minor criminal damage.

Despite their absence today, the Quarter Sessions and Assizes leave a lasting legacy. The stories of those that passed through these courts changed the course of history and helped to shape the society that we live in today.

Some more events you might be interested in?

Haverhill Local History Museum

Next Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025
7.30pm in the Studio at Haverhill Arts Centre.

***"They Came at Night -
The Zeppelin raids on
Bury St Edmunds,
Haverhill
and Kings Lynn."***



With Paul Bond

In the early stages of WW1, the German Zeppelin raiders were untouchable. Without prior warning bombs could fall from the sky bringing death and destruction. This resulted in widespread panic; in most cases the fear was worse than the reality of the damage and deaths caused by the raids. The talk will explore raids on Bury St Edmunds and Kings Lynn and you will discover just how Haverhill became the unlikely target of one raid.



Everyone welcome

Join us in the Studio,
Haverhill Arts Centre on

Wednesday, 16th April 2025 at 7.30pm



LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TUESDAY 20th MAY 2025



HISTORY OF ASHDON WINDMILL
Presented by Bill Wilsden

**LINTON VILLAGE HALL
COLES LANE - 7.30 p.m.**

Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

Friends of St Mary's are delighted to be
joined by Haverhill & District Twin Town
Association to welcome back



Brassability

Three generations are
once again showcased in
this lunch time concert.

Archie and Ivy will be
joined by father Tim and
grandparents Diane and
Richard.



1pm, Thursday 29th May 2025

Tickets: £4 on the door

Special rate for Friends of St Mary's / HTTA: £3

includes tea/coffee and biscuits

Doors open at 12.30pm

FOSM helping to look after this historic building

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.

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