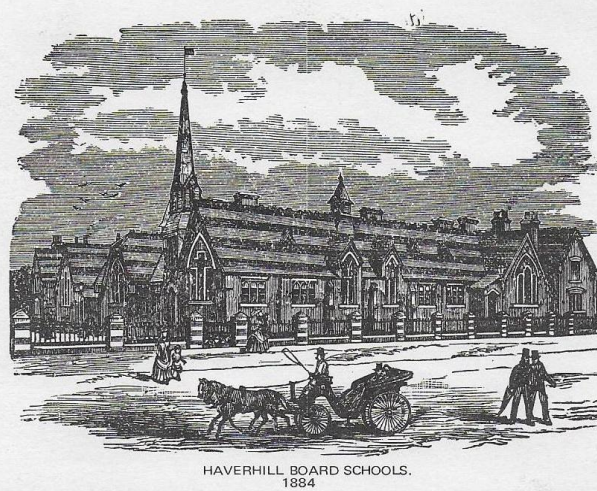




NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 1087748

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th June 2025 at 7.30pm

Old Independent Church Hall

'In the wake of the Mayflower' With Cathy Shelbourne

Over 25 million of us apparently are descended from those who set sail from Plymouth in 1620 on board the Mayflower, bound for a new life in the New World. Maritime historian Cathy Shelbourne will be talking about the voyage itself, the expedition's legacy, and the 'pilgrims' travelling from Suffolk and north Essex.



VE 80 DAY HAVERHILL

Haverhill Library staged a special VE80 window display, with the help of local groups, featuring a large picture of a street party held in the town celebrating the end of the war and first appearing in the Echo 80 years ago, which continues to attract the interest of many passers-by.

Ernie Jacobs was one actually pictured at that party, held in Eden Road, then aged 7 and sitting prominently at the front of the table with his mother and father behind. Ernie visited the library and recalled food was rationed but all the residents of several nearby streets clubbed together with their coupons and helped out, including putting up bunting and lugging tables & chairs into the street. Nothing fancy though, we hadn't ever seen a banana until 1948, then didn't know how to eat it, but they did their very best for us. His father was a leading aircraftsman, stationed at nearby RAF Stradishall from 1940 and continued working there after the war until the base closed in 1970.

Jacko Brown was also at the party, living next to where the local photographer, C.G.Neville took the photo. He recalled a generous helping hand to the catering arrangements was kindly given by Con (Conrad) Barber who ran the bakery and grocery shop at the top of the road, next to the Royal Exchange, which included gifting the ladies a great big jar of 'hundreds and thousands' to sprinkle on their cakes!

Tina (formerly) Gee, spotted her father and uncle on another display of over 300 service men & women from the town who were yet to return after the war, fortunately both did. She attended one of the other street parties in the town, including those at the Legion Hall, Burton End, and West End church, in Withersfield Road, both close

by to where her family lived at the top of Crowland Road. Her family had moved from Norfolk just before the war to run the fishmongers shop in Queen Street.



Christina and Ernie also visited the Family History Help Sessions, open to all and held each Wednesday afternoon at the library, recalling more and also exploring their own family history. Both are

photographed outside, either side of the street party picture, together with (l-r) Marion Jones (F/H Group), Audrey Woodley (Library Manager) & Alan Bumpstead (F/H Group)

The display, thanks to Haverhill RBL, Haverhill Museum & Haverhill F/H Group, continues until 25 May so if you know more about those at this or other celebrations or any of the service men & women listed do please contact the library.

Alan Bumpstead



VE Day celebrations are remembered and relived

Haverhill Library is staging a special VE80 window display featuring a large photo of a street party held in the town to celebrate the end of the war and first appearing in the Echo 80 years ago, which continues to attract the interest of many passers-by.

And one man pictured as a seven-year-old at that party in Eden Road with his mother and father, Ernie Jacobs, visited the library to see it for himself.

He recalled food was rationed but all the residents of several nearby streets clubbed together with their coupons and helped out, including putting up bunting and fagging tables and chairs into the street.

He said: "Nothing fancy though, we hadn't ever seen a banana until 1948, then didn't know how to eat it, but they did their very best for us."

His father was a leading aircraftsman, stationed at nearby RAF Stradishall from 1940 and continued working there after the war until the base closed in 1970.

Christina Gee, who also viewed the library window display, spotted her father and uncle on another display of over 300 service men and women from the town who were yet to return after the war, fortunately both did.

She attended one of the other street parties in the town, including those close to where her family lived at the top of Crowland Road. The display, thanks to Haverhill & Thurlow Royal British Legion, Haverhill Museum and Haverhill Family History Group, continues until

May 25

For those who were unable to attend on the day, here is how the people of Haverhill paid their respects on the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

Follow the link to see the full video.

<https://youtu.be/A7XZ6rkXvWI>



This may help with my spelling!

SPELL CHECKER

Eye halve a spelling checker;
It came with my pea sea.
It plainly marks four my revue,
Miss steaks eye kîn knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word,
And weight four it two say,
Weather eye am wrong oar write;
It shows me strait a weîgh.

As soon as a mist ache is maîd,
It nose bee fore two long.
And eye can put the error rîte;
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it;
I am shore your pleased two no,
Its letter perfect awl the weîgh.
My spell checker tolled me sew!

Author unknown

Armed Forces Day – Saturday 28th June

We will be having a presence at AFD to be held on the Market Square starting at 10am.

Besides our usual stand, we will also have some children's activities. This year the theme is the 80th anniversaries of both Victory in Europe and Victory over Japan days.



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. It's rumoured that there will be a helicopter on display this year! 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 23rd June 2025 at 2pm.

Local events you might be interested in?

HAVERHILL AVIATION SOCIETY
West Suffolk


Stirling House, Training & Conference Centre, Highpoint, Suffolk, CB8 9YL
The former Officers' Mess RAF Stradbally

"The Man who Tested Parachutes"
Presented by author Andrew Colley


By 1940 Britain had fallen behind the Axis powers in parachute design and research. Other than as a means of escape from a doomed aircraft, it regarded parachuting as of little military value. All that changed when the Germans used paratroops, the Fallschirmjäger, to devastating effect in the invasion of the Low Countries. Churchill demanded immediate action.

Charles Agate was a 34-year-old schoolteacher with a taste for adventure, who joined a pioneering group of paratroops at RAF Ringway and Tatten Park near Manchester. The breath-taking risks they took changed the course of the war and the face of airborne warfare. It also came at a great personal cost.

Thursday 19th June 2025 at 7.30pm
Admission free to members Visitors £4 at the door, no need to book
For more information text or email 07784065101
www.havavsoc.org.uk

  www.havavsoc.org.uk 

Haverhill Local History Museum
DIGGING UP HAVERHILL
A talk on the Archaeology around Haverhill

Wednesday 18th June 2025
Haverhill Arts Center
7.30pm
£2 members
£3 non members

Presented by Tracy Sevenoaks

**COFFEE MORNING
& SUMMER BOOK SALE**

**OLD INDEPENDENT
CHURCH, HAMLET ROAD**
Saturday 7th June 2025
10am to Midday

SAMPLE A BOOK AND HAVE A CUPPA

CAKE STALL & REFRESHMENTS
EVERYONE WELCOME, DO COME ALONG!
FREE ADMISSION

Suffolk Family History Society News:- Upcoming zooms

Monday, June 9th at 19:30 : Claire Moores will take the register and the first lesson will be "Studying the three R's: an introduction into School and Education Records for Family Tree research".

Register using this link <https://tinyurl.com/SFHSSchool>

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.

12 June 2025	The Mayflower	Cathy Shelbourne
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