

Wickhambrook Local History Society News, April 2026

After a swift AGM we were delighted to welcome Ben Archer to talk on the Suffolk flag.

All counties now have a flag and these are flown outside the Houses of Parliament from 23-26th July for Historic County Flags Day each year.

Suffolk was quite late in adopting a flag and Ben gave us an overview of the process of choosing the emblem, a golden crown pierced by arrows on a blue background. Three crowns had been shown on banners since the Wuffingas ruled East Anglia around 600AD and when King James the first granted arms to Bury St Edmunds in 1606 three crowns were used for this.



Figure 1: Ben Archer with the Suffolk Flag

In 1954 Princess Margaret presented a banner to the 54th Division of the Suffolk Regiment and again this showed three crowns.

When the final design was chosen, 21 organisations across Suffolk gave their backing to it. Wickhambrook Local History Society was one of the organisations to give their assent so our place in history is assured!

It was first flown on Suffolk Day, 21st June, in 2017. This date, the longest day, was chosen as Suffolk is the first county to see the sunrise each day. The flag can now be seen widely across the county on that day and is also seen on many public buildings and used by Suffolk organisations such as football clubs, Suffolk Schools Athletic Association, Suffolk Darts, Scouts, Guides and the ATC as well as the town, district and borough councils.

Dorothy Anderson