

WICKHAMBROOK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT
FOR APRIL 2024 TO MARCH 2025 FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL.

Once again we have had an excellent year as a Society. All our speakers have been excellent, also the Visits, with 38 Members boosted by friends and visitors supporting us in every way.

Members have the chance to Visit other villages with the Suffolk Local History Council, this year 4 had an entertaining day at Worlingworth in September where we saw in action one of the very first Fire Engines of the 19th Century in action.

We also attend each year the History and Records Day at Elmswell held in March and April each year.

The Society also thanks the Wickhambrook Parish Council who kindly supported the Application of a £500 Grant, which passed through the Society's Bank Account, towards storage in the MSC Hall for The Village Recorder, Dorothy Anderson also our Chair Person. A Display Cabinet is now on display in the Dulcie Smith Room to improve accessibility to local history for residents.

April 2024 we commenced our year with the AGM followed by a talk with Captain Karl Lumbers, 'The Trinity House Story', a charity dedicated to safe guarding shipping and seafarers, and providing support, education and welfare in England, Wales, the Chanel Isles and Gibraltar.

We heard of what led up to 'The Rural Rebellions: 'The Tithe Wars of the 1930' for May with Ashley Cooper.

After our Summer Visits we returned in September with Graham Higgin's and his Talk 'The Hare and the Hounds'- a Potted History Through the Centuries.

October we joined with the Horticultural Society for 'Death in the Garden' with Michael Brown.

In January 2025 our own Jenny Barley spoke of the 'Stuart Monarchy in Suffolk', so many new facts we had not heard before.

For February, Kevin Pulford spoke on 'Regency Low Life in Bury St Edmunds'.

And to end our year in March, Gainsborough House from Sudbury spoke on 'The Life and Times of Thomas Gainsborough'.

Our December Christmas Supper of Soup and Puddings provided by the Ladies of The Committee was in the WI Hall was enjoyed by all.

Our visits were again successful, and thanks go to CLASP.

June – we visited Stoke by Nayland where we walked the origin Old Street that is rich with Tudor Buildings, and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin Church.

July – 22 members travelled by bus and car to Pakenham Water Mill where we enjoyed the tour and prepared lunch. We then drove for the afternoon to Thelnetham Wind Mill, where we enjoyed a Cuppa with Scones.

August – We visited the Records Office at Bury St. Edmunds before its closure for good and transfer to Ipswich.

Next April the History Society will have been formed for 40 years. We are proud of this achievement and will be Celebrating on Saturday 15 May 2026 with a Day Event for the village, and an evening Meeting for our members.

My thanks go to our Committee, our Members and Visitors who work hard to make our Local History Society a great success.

You Won't Know What You've Missed Until You Come Along.

Gillian Cooper – Secretary of Wickhambrook Local History Society.