



NEWSLETTER January 2024

What an exciting year this will be. We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary and there can't be many groups in the Town that can boast such longevity!

Some of the events to look forward to are 'Open' days which we hope to organise throughout the year, SLHC Societies' Day, Suffolk Day, Armed Forces Day and the Haverhill Show. This is in addition to our normal monthly meetings.

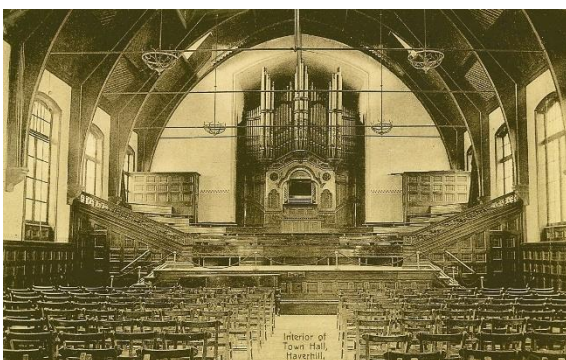
We will, of course, be highlighting our anniversary at all these events but in addition to these we will be hosting an exhibition later in the year which will focus on the past fifty years. In June we will be hosting the Association of Suffolk Museums AGM. What better way to showcase our achievements!

That's all to come. However, over the past few months we have been busy.



In September we were involved in two heritage events. Firstly, in partnership with the Family History Group and Chantry Mills, the public had the opportunity to see 'Caroline' the steam engine, an exhibition about the past workers at Chantry Mills together with artefacts from the Gurteen's private collection.

Paul Sadler also gave a demonstration of rope making using equipment from the old rope works in Haverhill.



Later in the month we presented a talk about the 140th Anniversary of the Arts Centre/Town Hall with tours behind the scenes following the presentation.

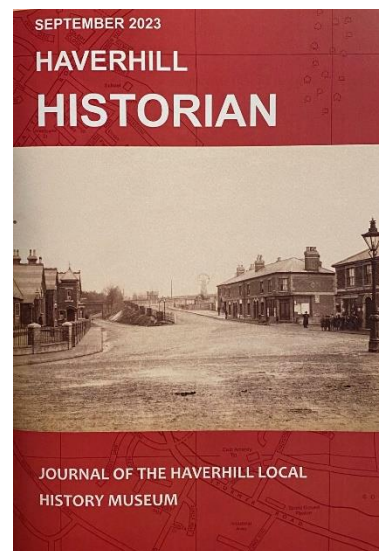
Both of these events were well received. Thanks are expressed to all volunteers who assisted to make them enjoyable events for the public.



We have also had the opportunity to reach out to various groups with Paul Bond giving a talk to the Kedington Breakfast Club and Charmian Thompson who visited the Women's Institutes in both Kedington and Sturmer.

It is always pleasing to see younger ones interested in history and we had the pleasure of meeting eight 6th Form Students from Samuel Ward Academy Trust who visited the Museum to see what resources we had that might help them with their studies.

We also saw the September edition of the Haverhill Historian published for which we have to thank our Archivist Tony Turner. Don't forget if you have an article you would like to see published, however big or small please let us know.



Our membership has steadily been increasing and we presently have 68 members as well as three Corporate memberships.



Adam Kimber, Mansols (Performs) Ltd Managing Director, thanked us all for the work we do for the community.

Lee Wade, MD of TAIT stated that the Company is keen to get involved in the Community and also agreed to become a Corporate member.



We are very grateful for the extremely generous donation received from both Companies.

More recently, Withersfield History Group have also become a corporate member.

We are also indebted to the **Haverhill Town Council** for their grant which enables us to cover the rental cost of the Museum and also some of our running cost. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to continue without their support.

Occasionally we get artefacts donated by the public and in recent months we were pleased to receive a special book of photographs donated by the son of the late Rev. Eric Graves. The album was in a very fragile state so we have had it re-bound which, will hopefully, preserve it for many years to come.

We continue to hold our regular monthly meetings with some great speakers and presentations. However, the room hire cost and speaker expenses (if we have an external speaker) may prove prohibitive if we cannot encourage more people to attend on a regular basis. Even though we are attracting more people now these meeting are currently running at a loss. Please do come along if you are able too.

Whilst on the subject of meetings, you will see in the list below that following our AGM in May we hope to have some short presentations by our own members on the subject **‘In the News’**. We hope to attract at least five speakers who can give a ten-minute presentation on a subject of their own choice about something they have found in the news. If you would like to have a go, please let me know. Help will be given with the presentation if required. It will be a pretty boring meeting if we don’t have any volunteers!

Brian Thompson
(Secretary & Treasurer)

Wed 21st Feb 24	Memories & Anecdotes of a common interest.	Ian Hammond and Mike Boutle
Wed 20th Mar 24	50 years of local history	Patrick Crouch
Wed 17th Apr 24	History of the fire service	Susan Paddon
Wed 15th May 24	AGM followed by ‘In the News’	Group members

The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, 7.30 pm start. £1 members; £2.50 non-members