

Talks

£7.50

Introduction to Family History at Suffolk Record Office

Emma Sealy

Monday 30 January 10.30am Ipswich

Monday 24 April 10.30am Ipswich

This talk, which includes a tour of the Ipswich Record Office strongroom, will introduce you to the types of archives available for family history research at Suffolk Record Office. Emma Sealy will answer your questions and show you how to use the finding aids and resources in the searchroom.

The Suffolk Domesday Book, 1086

Clive Paine

Saturday 4 February 10.00am Bury

The Domesday Book contains the answers to a series of enquiries made by William I into the agriculture, population, wealth and ownership of nearly every Suffolk community. This talk investigates how local and family historians can 'crack the codes' and use the information in their research.

Beat of the Street

Borin Van Loon

Saturday 4 February 10.00am Ipswich

We live in a place full of stories and many people don't read what is above their heads or beneath their feet. Artisans, businesses, noblemen and civic authorities have left their marks and signs on buildings that reveal a rich and quirky history. This talk focuses on trade signs, some of them tucked away, obscure or vestigial, found throughout Ipswich, the county town of Suffolk. Artist Borin Van Loon has worked in collage, oils, dip-pen and watercolour; he has been based in Ipswich since 1979. His interest in typography and social history led him to start photographing and researching old signs and lettering in the town. The Ipswich Historic Lettering website has been regularly updated for over 13 years.

The Suffolk Mercury & St Edmunds Bury Post

Dr Pat Murrell

Saturday 25 February 10.00am Bury

Suffolk Record Office has a large collection of historic newspapers as part of the archive holdings. Find out about the printers, circulation, customers and content of Suffolk's provincial newspaper which ran from 1717 to c1740.

The Suffolk Medieval Graffiti Survey

Matthew Champion

Saturday 25 February 2.00pm Lowestoft

Today graffiti is regarded as something anti-social and destructive, but that hasn't always been the case. The walls of our medieval churches are covered in graffiti inscriptions - everything from ships and dragons, to prayers for long dead children - and were both accepted and acceptable by all levels of medieval society. These were no mere doodles by bored choirboys, but the hopes, dreams and fears of countless long-dead generations. They are, quite literally, the lost voices of the Medieval church.

Hugh Aldersey-Williams discusses 'Tide' and 'The Adventures of Sir Thomas Browne'

Hugh Aldersey-Williams

Saturday 4 March

10.00am

Bury

Hugh Aldersey-Williams is a writer and curator interested in the sciences and their overlap with arts and culture. He has written many books, including the bestselling *Periodic Tales*, a cultural companion to the chemical elements. He will be speaking about his most recent books, *Tide: The Science and Lore of the Greatest Force on Earth* and *The Adventures of Sir Thomas Browne in the 21st Century*, both of which have strong East Anglian connections.

Town 'n' Abbey: The 1327 Riots in Bury and District

Clive Paine

Saturday 11 March

10.00am

Bury

The Abbot and Sacrist of the Abbey controlled the town of Bury, using it as a means of income through rents, tolls and taxes. The leading townsmen wanted to achieve self-governing status, a desire always thwarted by the Abbot and supported by Ancient Royal grants. In 1327 the pressure on townsmen was too much and in the period of nearly a year the Abbey was attacked and looted, the Abbey gates destroyed and buildings burned down. Follow these exciting events as one side and then the other has the upper hand, eventually the townsmen were forced to surrender with massive personal and financial consequences.

Tourists and Travellers in late Stuart and Georgian Suffolk

Dr Pat Murrell

Saturday 18 March

10.00am

Bury

Based upon published and unpublished sources this talk will consider who the individuals were, where they went, what they saw and importantly what they thought. Using contemporary illustrations of the places visited, students are able to travel back in both mind and vision.

Where Did all the Houses Go?

Lisa Wall

Saturday 25 March

10.30am

Ipswich

Many large country houses have vanished from Suffolk over the last 100 years through fire, demolition and changing economic circumstances but this talk will look at other buildings that have disappeared from Ipswich, and beyond. The talk will focus on the journey of a Tudor house from Carr Street, sold in 1906 and originally thought to have left the country but which remained in England. Lisa Wall will examine other buildings or parts of them that have moved, as well as examining the trade in architectural salvage in the early 20th century.

Paint and Paper, Brush and Roller: Tales of Home Decorating in 19th Century England

Dianne Lawrence

Saturday 25 March

10.00am

Bury

This talk focuses on a largely neglected topic, the history of the home-decorating trade. By using bills, diaries, estimates and letters we examine the experiences of both the decorator and his client. The discussion draws on research conducted in Public

Record Offices from Bury St Edmunds to Dorchester, and from Barrow-in-Furness to Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Search for Thomas Alert

Louise Kennedy

Saturday 8 April 10.30am Ipswich

Seven year old Thomas Alert was a young African slave who was brought half way across the world in 1846 and given into the care of the local vicar in Lowestoft. His baptism entry raises many unanswered questions. The search for Thomas stretches from Africa to Brazil to England taking in Liverpool and Lowestoft, then heading back to Africa before a final surprising twist to where Thomas is eventually found.

Bury's Urban Renaissance

Dr Pat Murrell

Friday 28 April 2.00pm Bury

Experience the changing urban landscape of late Stuart and Georgian Bury St Edmunds by exploring the appearance and upgrading of some of its public, private, charitable, religious and commercial buildings.

The Reformation in Long Melford 1547-1558

Clive Paine

Saturday 6 May 10.00am Bury

Long Melford has the most detailed range of documents relating to this turning point in English history. There are detailed accounts of the churchwardens - the parish officials charged with implementing the cleansing of the church. Local parishioners show their reaction in their wills. The removal of church 'gear' is reflected in a detailed series of inventories. Above all there is the unique description of Long Melford church before the reformation, by Roger Martin of Melford Place.

At the Sign of the Pestle and Mortar

Dr Pat Murrell

Tuesday 9 May 2.00pm Bury

This talk looks at the apothecary's business in late Stuart and Georgian Suffolk. Growing in status among the medical fraternity and the population at large, it considers the training, stock, patients and ailments encountered by men like Thomas Macro senior and junior of Bury St Edmunds.

Bartholomew Gosnold of Bury - The Founder of America

Clive Paine

Saturday 13 May 10.00am Bury

The Gosnold family lived in East Suffolk, but Bartholomew married a Bury girl and was living in Northgate Street c1597-1606 where all the children were baptised at St James' Church. Through links with his mother-in-law Martha's family he financed sea adventures. In 1602 he discovered and named Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. In 1607 he commanded 'The Godspeed', one of three ships taking colonists to found Jamestown, the first English settlement in America.

The Perennial Mr Potter - The Story of a Suffolk Gardener

Bryan Thurlow

Saturday 13 May 10.30am Ipswich

A poignant fifty-minute performance piece told in a Suffolk accent. Born in 1900, the young Horace Potter narrowly escaped the horrors of World War One and spent all his working life as a full time gardener in a large Suffolk garden. Inspired at an early age, Mr Potter shares his passion for plants and his dream of restoring a much-neglected old knot garden.

Attempted Murder in the Great Churchyard, Bury St Edmunds

Dr Pat Murrell

Saturday 20 May

10.00am

Bury

In March 1722, lawyer Arundel Coke and his accomplice John Wooburne were executed at Bury St Edmunds under the 1671 Coventry Act. Their crime? A bungled attempt to kill Coke's brother-in-law Edward Crispe, who was left so badly disfigured by the vicious attack on his life that the case became a cause célèbre of its day.

Hawstead, Hardwick and Horticulture

Dr Pat Murrell

Tuesday 23 May

2.00pm

Bury

A rare opportunity to learn more about those green fingered Cullums whose interest in horticulture also included correspondence with John Evelyn, Sir Joseph Banks, Sir James Smith and other leading botanists of the day. Based upon documentary sources and books in the Cullum Library at Suffolk Record Office Bury St Edmunds.

Poverty and Petty Crime

Dr Pat Murrell

Friday 2 June

2.00pm

Bury

A look at the not so genteel side of life in late Stuart and Georgian Bury St Edmunds, using the evidence of settlement examinations and sessions papers from the archives.

Celebrating Queen Victoria's 1897 Jubilee in the Empire, England and around Bury St Edmunds

Clive Paine

Saturday 10 June

10.00am

Bury

In June 1897 Victoria had been Queen for 60 years, when the Empire and nation celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. Victoria, as Queen, Empress and head of the largest empire the world had ever seen and on which the sun never set, drove in procession to St Paul's Cathedral escorted by representatives of colonies from every corner of the globe. Preparations were made for the celebrations culminating in public teas, entertainments, gifts and sports. Funds were raised for lasting memorials. Using illustrations from newspapers, drawings and photographs from national and local studies we relive the events of June 1897.

Paupers and Poets in Suffolk

Clive Paine

Saturday 17 June

10.00am

Bury

The condition of the rural poor in the 18th and 19th centuries is well documented. This talk concentrates on the way poets in the period depicted rural life and the impact of enclosure, emparking and the poor laws. Examples will include local poets such as George Crabbe of Aldeburgh; Robert, Nathaniel and George Bloomfield of Honington; George Fulcher of Sudbury, Samuel Sparke of Barton Mills, who described the

'anatomising' of an elderly pauper and, rarest of all George Withers of Fordham who was himself a pauper.

The Bury St Edmunds Pageant of 1907

Clive Paine

Saturday 24 June

10.00am

Bury

Bury was one of several historic towns to stage a pageant, written and produced by the Edwardian 'Pageant Master', Louis Napoleon Parker. The local nobility, gentry, clergymen, townsmen and women organised and supported the event. Many also took leading roles among the cast of 1,800, or singing in the 200 strong choir and chorus. The episodes ranged from the (so far undiscovered) Roman Villa at Bury to the visit of Queen Elizabeth in 1578, via the death of Saint Edmund, Abbot Samson, Magna Carta, Queen Mary Tudor and King Edward's School. Relive the inspiration, organisation, personalities and performances of a week in July, 110 years ago.

Record Office 10 week courses

Medieval Latin Palaeography - Beginners Term One

£105

Dr Kate Jewell

Starts Thursday 12 January

2.00pm

Ipswich

A gentle introduction to reading different class of document, written in Latin, which were common at manorial level from the 13th century to the early 17th century. No previous experience of palaeography or knowledge of Latin is necessary.

Medieval Latin Palaeography - Beginners Term Two

£105

Dr Kate Jewell

Starts Tuesday 10 January

2.00pm

Ipswich

This term is for those students who have already attended term one of Kate's palaeography course. This course is a gentle introduction to reading different class of document, written in Latin, which were common at manorial level from the 13th century to the early 17th century.

Late Stuart Suffolk c.1650-1714

£75

Clive Paine

Starts Monday 30 January

2.00pm

Bury

Starts Thursday 2 February

10.00am

Bury

The themes of this course will include: the Interregnum, the restoration of the monarchy, town government, plague, religious changes, the 'Glorious Revolution' and toleration. There will be two visits to local sites.

Great Works of Fiction from the 19th-Century

£75

Ulrike Horstmann-Guthrie

Starts Thursday 12 January

2.00pm

Bury

This course seeks to fill the gaps left by many studies of 19th-century classics by focusing on Gaskell's greatest novel, *Wives and Daughters* (1865), Henry James's enigmatic story *The Turn of the Screw* (1898), and *Buddenbrooks* (1901), an astounding work of fiction written by 25-year-old Thomas Mann.

Record Office 5 week courses £37.50

Introduction to Family History

Tutored by Record Office staff

Starts Monday 16 January 10.30am Lowestoft

Find out about tracing your family through civil registration, census, parish registers, wills and probate records, school records and Poor Law documents. This course provides everything to get you started on your research and will include access to primary sources as well as the internet.

The Parish, its Officials and their Records

Clive Paine

Starts Monday 8 May 2.00pm Bury

Starts Thursday 11 May 10.00am Bury

This course covers: Parish government and administration; details the roles of the churchwarden, constable, highway surveyor, and overseer. A chance to examine the records created by each official and how they can be used by local and family historians.

Workshops £12.50

House History

This two hour session uses a variety of maps (tithe, enclosure and district valuation), tax returns, census and directories, to help you find out the social history of your property back to 1800.

Thursday 16 February 2.00pm Ipswich

Friday 24 March 10.30am Lowestoft

The History of Handwriting

Explore the history of handwriting and look at older alphabets using prime examples from Record Office sources. Useful to both family and local historians.

Thursday 23 March 2.00pm Ipswich

Ancestors in the Workhouse

This two hour workshop will explore the records of Suffolk's Workhouses helping you to understand old and new Poor Law. The session will use original archive materials to show you how to use the records to find your ancestors.

Monday 5 June 10.30am Lowestoft

Walks

£7.50

The Back Streets of Victorian and Edwardian Lowestoft

Ivan Bunn

Sunday 14 May

11.00am

Lowestoft

Join local historian Ivan Bunn on a fascinating two hour tour exploring the world of Lowestoft's back streets during the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Forgotten corners of Pakefield

Ivan Bunn

Sunday 2 July

11.00am

Lowestoft

Join Local historian Ivan Bunn on a fascinating two hour walk and discover the history of the forgotten corners of Pakefield.

Free Sessions

The Brecks from Above: Using Air Photos to Map Archaeology in the Breckland Wilds

Sophie Tremlett

Saturday 28 January

10.00am

Bury

This illustrated talk will show how aerial photographs and lidar (light detection and ranging) are being used to discover and map a fascinating wealth of archaeological sites in the beautiful region of Breckland. Sophie Tremlett present results from the 'Brecks from Above' air photo mapping project, which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the 'Breaking New Ground' Landscape Partnership.

Archives: Colour with Us!

Monday 13 March

12.00-2.00pm

Lowestoft

Colouring in for grown ups! Come along and get creative with Suffolk archives. This two hour drop in session provides an oasis of calm in your busy day. Discover the beautiful images taken from our original historic archives and manuscripts which have been re-produced and are ready for you to add your artistic flare. Enjoy a cup of tea and bring your packed lunch along for a gentle and mindful lunchtime session.

Adult Learners Week - Americans in East Anglia: Introducing the Second Air Division Digital Archive

Libby Morgan

Tuesday 13 June

10.00am

Bury

Seventy-five years ago in 1942 East Anglia was "invaded" by American servicemen and women of the US 8th Army Air Force. The 2nd Air Division Digital Archive is a unique collection that tells the story of the men and women who served in the 2nd Air Division, which was based in Norfolk and Suffolk during the Second World War.

Tour Through Our Treasures: Festival of Learning

Enquire in branch for dates and details

Ipswich

From recycled music scores, a workhouse truncheon, printing blocks to illuminated manuscripts come for a tour of our most unique archives.

Taster Sessions

£7.50

Family History Taster

Friday 7 April

From 10.30am

Lowestoft

Book a half-hour slot with one of our family history specialists who can show you how to make the most of our resources for your family history research.

Census Taster

Friday 28 April

10.30am

Lowestoft

A short session introducing our online census resources. Discover the wealth of information available from the census taken every ten years between 1841-1911 and its value to family history researchers.

Suffolk Record Office Refund Policy

If you cancel your booking it is non-refundable. In the event of Suffolk Record Office cancelling we will offer you the opportunity to book another course or have your payment refunded.