

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 28.4.26

HOLBROOK SOCIETY

2026 marks the fourteenth year of Holbrook Society. The essential aim of offering a wide variety of talks and activities that celebrate life in this rural, Suffolk village remains the same, but its delivery is evolving. We work with a range of groups and individuals to produce an increasingly wide variety of activities.

Talks in the last year covered a fascinating History of All Saints Church by Cynthia Anderson, a memorable talk by local sculptor Sean Hedges-Quinn and a lurid evening exploring the extraordinary life of wasps! This year, so far, we have been introduced to the history of the River Stour by Simon Page and Alan Chatten, had valuable advice on detecting and avoiding scams by the Trading Standards Authority and enjoyed a talk by irrepressible Dr Chris Gibson on the wildlife and conservation of the Suffolk and Essex coastal region. (Did you know that Essex had the longest coastline in England? I certainly didn't!)

Along side these, we once more arranged for St Peter's Band to play at the fete 2025 and organised the cream teas (help for these this year will be gratefully appreciated).

We had an excellent day out in Sudbury, having a guided tour of the Gainsborough collection followed by lunch at a local tavern and then a guided walking tour showing us something of the history of the town. Our thanks to Chris Ambrose for organising this.

We were delighted to welcome Fran Williams on to the team and helped her peripherally with the organisation of the fabulous Archive Day in September. There are two ongoing projects connected the this. The first is to enable a reprint of Warry Page's wonderful 'Story of a Village', which covers the first part of the 20th century. The second is to produce a sequel covering the rest of the century. All contributions welcome!

We were also very pleased to help support Simon Hooton's drama team present a thoroughly entertaining Murder Mystery Afternoon in the autumn. If we're lucky we'll have another one next winter.

Alongside all this, driven by the tireless energy of John Ambrose, there have been eleven village meals and ten village film nights. The village meals are an enormous success, regularly catering for about forty people and providing both varied and delicious meals as well as a really happy, social evening at a remarkable low cost.

The film nights are not always so well attended which seems attributable largely to the films on offer. In the future, we might offer fewer films, selecting only the most popular.

The team is always pleased to welcome new members: the more you are involved, the more you get from the events. Do let us know if you'd like to join us.