



Our archives continue to grow with material supplied by local people and now that the Suffolk Record Office Neil Langridge is again able to dig deeper into our past. Where appropriate this material is added to our website for everyone with an interest in Stowupland's local history to read.

We are grateful to our secretary Gerry Voden, who has introduced an element of oral history onto our website with his monthly audio files. These are mainly a review of our meetings, but he is increasing his subject matter, check out Jerry's Jabbas.

We continue to share information from our archives through the pages of Telstar but are aware that we are limited in the amount of detail we can share this way. So this year we introduced a series of talks entitled Stowupland Stories. We continue to host invited speakers to share their knowledge of Suffolk's wider histories at our monthly meetings, but some months committee members will share our knowledge of Stowupland's past. We hope some members will contribute their own memories or knowledge.

Over the last year we have had talks on woodworking, from building and restoring medieval properties to researching the animals carved into church benches. We have heard the story of Stowmarket's poor house and its transformation into a hospital, the beginnings of health visiting, firefighting and the WW2 Lumber Jills. A underlying thread through many talks was medieval Suffolk.

We often get material from unexpected sources. In the 19th century the village of Onehouse, on the other side of Stowmarket, was the site of a workhouse, Stow Union. Recently research has been carried out there to try to find the names of people buried in their Pauper's Graves. A lady from near Ipswich had contacted the team caring for the paupers Graves, she was researching for a dissertation on Paupers Burials for a Masters degree. Thanks to this work we now have the names of people from Stowupland who were buried in Onehouse's Paupers graves between 1813 and 1835.

This has prompted our group to try to ensure that we record local efforts to commemorate the lives of our residents who are no longer with us. Many of whom don't make it into the official records but if they mattered enough for family and friends to commemorate them with e.g. a bench then we should try to remember them in our archives.

Mindful of how stretched some people's purses maybe we kept our annual subscriptions at the same level as the previous year. We continue to support the wider local history organisations such as FOSA, SLHC and BALH and when possible, our members enjoy visiting other local history societies and sharing our own research with them.

We are extremely grateful to the support of all our members and our committee of volunteers without whom there would be no Local History Group

Sandra Walker (SLHG Chair)

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Stowupland Parish Meeting May 2025