

Programme

HIGHAM VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP

2025 - 26



**HIGHAM VILLAGE
HISTORY GROUP**

Programme for 2025 - 2026

May 15th 8pm

AGM followed by

'120 Years & Counting - Flying Past - The

History of Aviation in Kent

Guy Bartlett

July 17th 8pm

History of the RSPB

Robin Smith

August 21st 2pm

Cobham Hall tour & cream tea

September 13th

Heritage Open day - Architecture

September 18th 8pm

The Prison hulks of the Medway

Dr. Jeremy Clark

November 20th 8pm

World War 1 "Show & Tell"

Chris Bingham

January 15th 8pm

Will Adams English Samurai

Sue Haydock

March 19th 8pm

Islands of the Medway Estuary

Adam Taylor

'120 Years and Counting' - Flying Past - The History of Aviation in Kent

AGM & Talk by Guy Bartlett

Maybe surprisingly, Kent has been at the forefront of aviation since the 1880s. This talk will explore the history of balloons, airships and aircraft in the county. It includes information about Kentish airfields past and present and gives suggestions for places of interest which you may like to visit. This presentation offers something for everyone who has an interest in either Kent or aviation.

15th May 2025, 8pm

Members : Free

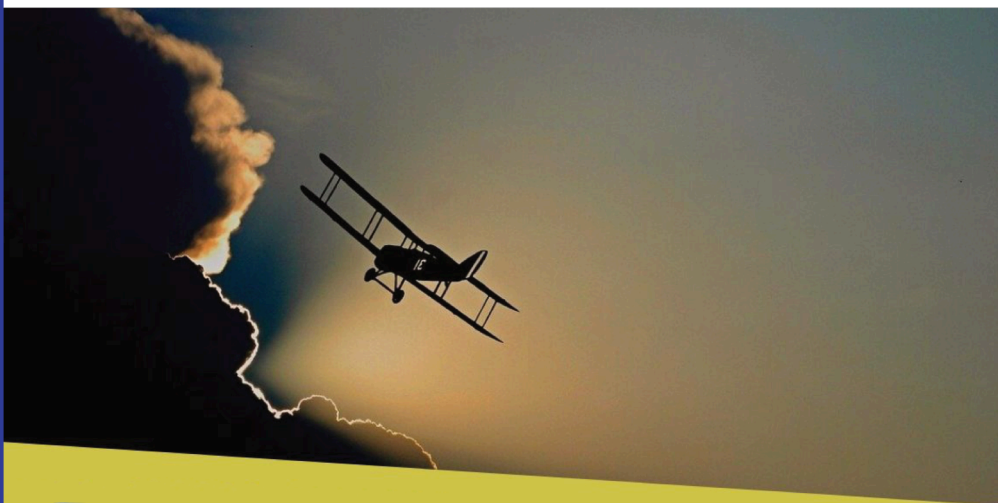
Guests Entrance : £5.00

Inc. Light refreshments

St John's Church Hall

Hermitage Rd

Higham ME3 7DB



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**HIGHAM VILLAGE
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History of the RSPB

by Robin Smith



17th July 2025, 8pm

St John's Church Hall
Hermitage Rd
Higham, ME3 7DB

Members: Free
Guests: £5.00
Inc. Light refreshments

An in depth look at how the RSPB was formed over 130 years ago by a group of strong-minded ladies appalled by the use of feathers in the millinery trade.



www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk

COBHAM HALL TOUR & CREAM TEA



Cobham Hall is an outstandingly beautiful red brick mansion dating from 1584, which demonstrates an exciting combination of Elizabethan, Jacobean, Carolean and 18th Century styles.

The Elizabethan wings date from 1584 while the central section contains the Gilt Hall, wonderfully decorated by John Webb, Inigo Jones' most celebrated pupil, in 1654. Further rooms were later decorated by James Wyatt in the 18th Century.

Many English monarchs have enjoyed the splendour of Cobham Hall from Elizabeth I to Edward VIII, later the Duke of Windsor. Charles Dickens regularly walked through the grounds from his house in Higham to the Leather Bottle pub in Cobham village. In 1883 the Honourable Ivo Bligh, later the 8th Earl of Darnley, led the victorious English cricket team against Australia and brought home the "Ashes" to Cobham Hall.

Visitors to the House should not miss the many fine 17th century marble fireplaces and the 18th Century historic Snetzler organ in the Gilt Hall.

The gardens, landscaped for the 4th Earl of Darnley by Humphrey Repton, are being restored by the Cobham Hall Heritage Trust. Extensive tree planting. The Gothic Dairy, The Pump House and some of the classical garden buildings are also being renovated for all our visitors to enjoy

When:

Thursday 21st August, 2pm

Members & Guests: £14.00



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Heritage Open Day

'Architecture'

- **Who built the structures around us?**
 - **Why were they built?**
 - **How were they built?**
 - **What impact have they had?**



Our main display will be at the Congregational Church in Higham on 13th September from 11am to 4pm with a talk by Andrew Rootes at 2.30. We will also have a small display at St Mary's Church.



Join us in 2025 on the 13th September

As ever Ride+Stride is a wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about safely as well as raising much-needed funds to support Grant applications from churches and chapels across the country.

www.kentrideandstride.co.uk

**HIGHAM VILLAGE
HISTORY GROUP**

Tel Secretary: 01634 718285

Email: info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk

www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk



**FRIENDS OF
ST MARY'S CHURCH
HIGHAM**



www.stmaryschurchhigham.com



The Prison hulks of the Medway

by Dr. Jeremy Clark from the Guildhall Museum.



18th September 2025, 8pm

**St John's Church Hall
Hermitage Rd
Higham ME3 7DB**

Members: Free

Guests: £5.00

Inc. Light refreshments

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Former Royal Naval warships were used as floating prisons or "Prison Hulks" on the river medway from the mid 18th century until the mid 19th century. Prison hulks were located at Sheerness, Gillingham & Chatham.



WORLD WAR 1

"Show & Tell" by Chris Bingham



20th November 2025, 8pm

St John's Church Hall

Hermitage Rd

Higham ME3 7 DB

Members: Free

Guests: £5.00 Inc. Seasonal Light refreshments



www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk



15TH
JAN 2026, 8PM



WILLIAM ADAMS
ENGLISH SAMURAI

BY SUE HAYDOCK

St John's Church Hall
Hermitage Road
Higham ME3 7DB



Members: Free

Guests: £5.00 Inc. Light refreshments

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HIGHAM VILLAGE
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ISLANDS OF THE MEDWAY ESTUARY ADAM TAYLOR



19th March 2026, 8pm

St John's Church Hall,
Hermitage Rd.
Higham ME3 7DB

Members: Free

Guests Entrance: £5.00

Inc. Light refreshments

Using historical sources, photos, personal experience, and maps from 1500's to present day Adam will show you the once inhabited islands of the Medway Estuary, the shipwreck of a First World War German submarine, inside the abandoned forts which once defended Chatham Dockyard and some of the stunning natural beauty of this vast wilderness.

A chance to learn about the Medway islands without getting your feet wet!

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HIGHAM VILLAGE
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Annual membership 2025/26 costs £15 per person.

If you would like to become a member or renew your membership of the Higham Village History Group, please either go on line to our web site at

www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk and follow the instructions to join, or

Complete the information below and forward it, with payment, to the Membership Secretary at 12, Villa Rd, Higham, Rochester, Kent ME3 7BS, or

Pay at the next meeting.

NAME:

Address:

Tel No:

Email Address:



The Archive Drop-in sessions are on the first Friday of the month in Higham Library.

All are welcome to drop in anytime between 11.00am and 1.00pm to take a look at our collection of photographs, maps and other items relating to Higham over the years. Members of the Committee will be in the Library to help - just come along or if you have a specific question drop us an email or phone us on 01634 718285 and we can do a bit of research in advance.

As a new venture we have created a library of many of our historical photographs for you to visit online. Each photograph is available to digitally down load to your computer at a small cost of £1:50+vat per image.

Other formats are available online.

<https://highamhistory.picfair.com>



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