

## **WICKHAM MARKET AREA ARCHIVE CENTRE**

2025 was been a productive year for the Archive Centre, with continued progress made in improving facilities, expanding activities, and maintaining strong community engagement. We are indebted to our committee members and volunteers for their ongoing commitment.

Our Facebook group continues to grow, reflecting strong interest in local history.

### **Archive Centre and Facilities**

Improvements to the building have included external painting and increased storage capacity through additional shelving, folders, and filing equipment.

Unfortunately, there have been several recent incidents of vandalism, including some targeting the Centre. Following Police advice, CCTV has been installed with support from local donations and partners.

### **Projects and Activities**

The unveiling of the Gibbet Plaque in April was well attended and received local media coverage.

Our programme of talks has continued to be successful, generating income and attracting new audiences. Guided walks have also resumed, helping to engage the local community and encourage volunteer involvement.

The 2026 calendar, themed "*The Old Pubs of Wickham Market and Surrounding Villages*", has been produced and is being promoted through local events.

Cataloguing and digitisation work continues, alongside ongoing reorganisation of archives, including parish records, family files, and photographic collections. Good progress has been made on key archive collections.

### **Finances and Fundraising**

The Centre remains in a sound financial position, with income generated through memberships, events, donations, and sales. Fundraising remains essential, and we are grateful to all who contribute.

### **Looking Ahead**

Plans are underway for the 2026 programme, including further talks and a film show featuring digitised historic footage.

The Committee remains committed to preserving and promoting the history of Wickham Market and surrounding villages for the benefit of the community.

### **Philip Tallent**

Chairman

22 March 2026