

LOCAL HISTORY RECORDER'S REPORT 2023-24

Basil Brown, who discovered the Sutton Hoo burial ship, lived in Rickinghall all his life after arriving here when he was four months old. In May a Blue plaque was unveiled by Quatrefoil on the house, Cambria, where he lived with his wife May for most of his married life.

Quatrefoil was formed to research and record local history in the villages of Botesdale, Redgrave and the Rickinghalls. Their 17th book in the series 'Recording Local History' was published this year and was launched at Quatrefoil's annual history day 'Bringing history Alive' held in Rickinghall Village Hall on the 3rd September. The title of the book is '*The Real Basil Brown, From Rickinghall to Sutton Hoo and back*' written by Sarah Doig.

On October 20th Storm Babet hit both Botesdale and Rickinghall, causing flooding in both villages. In Botesdale the water poured down Crown Hill past the Chapel of Ease, it also flowed down Bridewell Lane, crossing the Street going into Fen Lane where it flooded two houses. Bridewell Lane used to be called Waterslede Lane in the medieval period. The 'lede' part of this name probably means 'water channel' so Water Channel Lane. It is probable that it has always been prone to flood in heavy rains.

In November the Rector retired from the Parish of Redgrave cum Botesdale with the Rickinghalls. He had been off sick for several months with Long Covid. It appears that our Parish will be joining with North Hartismere which has seven churches in their benefice already. Their rector also retired just before Christmas.

The remit of Local History Recorders is to see that the present is adequately recorded which means recording and photographing events that happen in the villages and collecting any items of historical interest which might otherwise be overlooked or lost forever. Recorders also collect any items of historical interest from earlier years. So if anyone is turning out their loft, or that of a relative, please don't throw away any bills, letters, leaflets, old photographs or articles that have been hoarded, take them to the local history recorder – me! If people do not want to part with the original objects these can be scanned or photographed for our records.

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