

## Local History Recorder's Report 2018

In April Brian Chandler who had been the Local History Recorder for Botesdale from the 1980s died. He was a very knowledgeable local historian and he will be sadly missed in the village. I shall be the recorder until another can be found. If anyone reading this would like to do this please contact me.

The Local History Recorder's remit is to see that the present is adequately recorded for future generations. This involves recording events that occur throughout the year in the village, taking photographs of anything of interest, such as new houses being built or alterations to old ones, and collecting any 'ephemera' which will help to record the life of the village today.

Recorders also collect any items of historical interest from earlier years about the village which might otherwise be overlooked or lost forever, items such as old Newspaper articles, bills, flyers etc. 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. Jean Sheehan is the recorder for Redgrave and I am the recorder for the two Rickinghalls and also, at the moment, for Botesdale. If people do not want to part with the original objects these can be scanned or photographed for our records.

One of the projects at present is to copy and record as many house deeds as possible. These are often left in a house when it is sold but sometimes they get lost so it is important to record them. Some deeds are better than others but all add to the history of the house and so add to the history of the village.

During the year Access Cambridge Archaeology, an outreach unit at the University of Cambridge, came to do excavations in Botesdale and Rickinghall. They have been excavating in different villages throughout East Anglia for the last 12 years. The pottery and artefacts found are recorded and analysed to acquire information about the historical development of the villages. Students aged from 14 to 17 from local schools excavate one metre square test-pits in local gardens. 24 Students excavated pits in six gardens in our two villages for two days and on the third day went to Cambridge for lectures and visits to some of the colleges. This gives them a wonderful experience of archaeology and they also get the opportunity to see Cambridge University first hand.

Each year members of the Suffolk Historical Buildings Group visit a different village to look at some of the older buildings. In July they came to Botesdale and Rickinghall. The day started with a talk about the history of the villages given by Sarah Doig. During the day several houses were open for members of the society to visit to examine and discuss. In the afternoon a talk was given in the Chapel of Ease about its history and the history of Botesdale market.

Quatrefoil's 14<sup>th</sup> book in the series 'Recording Local History' was published this year and was launched at Quatrefoil's annual history day held in Rickinghall Village Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The title of the book is 'Shops and Shopping, Four Hundred Years of Retailing in Botesdale, Redgrave and Rickinghall' so the theme for the day was shops and businesses in our villages.

Diana Maywhort