

Local History Recorder's Report 2017

The Church Recorders from the Diss NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) finished recording St Mary's Church, Rickinghall Inferior after two years. They recorded, photographed and researched the history of the contents of the church, including memorials, metalwork, paintings and windows. Five copies were made of the research these went to:- Historic England, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The Church Care Library, The County Diocesan Archive and the church itself. In February a service was held in the church and the book containing this research was presented to the Rector and PCC.

The Village Street was resurfaced in June. This caused quite a lot of disruption as many people have to park in the street because they do not have off road parking. However it was done very quickly with the most enormous special vehicles. This is very different from earlier days of the 20th century when two men, who lived in the village, were employed to fill in any pot holes. These holes were firstly filled with stones and, once this was done, tar was heated in a brazier, this was then poured onto the stones and a steam roller used to flatten it.

In August the Post Office and Newsagents shop closed, due to the owner's ill health. In October one of our pubs, The White Horse, also closed. It had closed for a short time in 2014 but reopened again. This pub has been in the village since the 18th century and had probably moved from Botesdale where there had been a White Horse Inn since the 14th Century. Both owners had tried to sell their businesses but had not managed to do so. In April the Hardware shop in Botesdale also closed.

To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday two events were held in the village. In June a service was held in Rickinghall Inferior church followed by a strawberry tea. Luckily the weather was lovely so people could sit outside. In August a concert entitled 'Music for a Golden Queen, looking back to the 'glorious' reign of Queen Elizabeth the First' was held in the same church. This was given by the early music trio Hexachordia, who sing and play 16th and 17th century music with instruments such as lutes, tabor and virginals.

Quatrefoils' annual history day was held at Rickinghall Inferior church on 9th July 2016. The theme this year was 'Memories'. People were encouraged to bring in any family photographs which were then scanned. Hopefully a book of these will be published next year. Quatrefoil published two local history books this year (Numbers 12 and 13 in the series 'Recording Local History'). The first, Number 12, was '*James Scarfe of Botesdale, One of the Noble Six Hundred*'. James Scarfe grew up in Botesdale and as a young man joined the army. He took part, and was wounded, in the charge of the light brigade in 1854. The second book, Number 13, was '*Arthur's Airings, Tales of Botesdale, Redgrave and Rickinghall 1930-2016*' by Arthur Bryant, who has lived in the villages all his life.

On 4th September Sarah Doig's book 'The A-Z of Curious Suffolk' was launched in the village Hall. Sarah, who lives in the village, was commissioned to write this book which is part of a country wide series.

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