

LOCAL HISTORY RECORDER'S REPORT 2023-24

Basil Brown, who discovered the Sutton Hoo burial ship in 1939, lived in Rickinghall all his life after arriving here when he was four months old. In May a Blue plaque was unveiled by Quatrefoil, the local history group, on '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. Around Rickinghall Inferior Church, several houses were flooded as was the Church itself. These floods are a rare event in the village. Records show that the last time the school building and Rickinghall Inferior church flooded was 1968, before that it was 1912, and before that 1879 so it was never a regular occurrence.

In October and November the tiles were replaced on the chancel roof of St Mary's Church, Rickinghall Inferior. Luckily this had been done by the time the storm hit so the roof was watertight even though the flood water came through the door to a depth of two inches. A new lime plaster ceiling is being put in and lime washed over the next two months.

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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