

Village Echoes

Interesting Artefacts from the Archives

1) Coat of Arms

As well as documents, photographs and pictures, the History Society houses artefacts relating to the two Villages. They are stored safely but hardly ever see the light of day. This occasional series will highlight some of these items.

The first example is shown below –a Coat of Arms of the Society fashioned in marquetry by Ken Bronwin, the archivist in the late 1960s and through the 1970s. Although dated 1964 it was presented in July 1973 at the AGM. Members present 'agreed that although not authorised by the College of Heralds, it was a real work of art and hoped that Mr Bronwin would produce it at all future meetings'.



The sign features two white horses, the old Jutish symbol of the Kingdom of Kent. It was the emblem of Horsa, brother of Hengist who defeated the British King Vortigen near Aylesford. These Germanic brothers were said to have led the Angles, Saxons and Jutes in their invasion of Britain in the 5th century. Other features of the design reflect the locality with hops and an oasthouse. The diagonal across the centre of the shield with two symbols is rather a mystery. Can anyone help?

Mr Bronwin was a man of many facets, regularly called upon to work the projector for speakers. He was also in the habit of bringing along items for examination, such as a shoemakers' vice formerly used by Amos Mercer, the village snob (cobbler) in the early 1900s. A silver horn previously owned by Mr Christopher Hussey, the Society Chairman at the time, was blown into life by Ken after being mute for many years. A paper-makers frame was brought for members to guess what it was. In the picture below he is in the centre of a group finding and recording local old milestones.



His house had a very intricate sign designed and made in metal by Ken. In 1974 he won a National Topiary Competition for thirty one sculptured shrubs in his garden on Balcomb's Hill. They featured a variety of animals such as penguins, a tortoise, a dolphin and a man sitting in an armchair. The display raised hundreds of pounds for the Seven Springs Cheshire Home in Tunbridge Wells. Ken died in 2013 and rests in Goudhurst where he added so much to the village Community.

Goudhurst & Kilndown Local History Society

Email: info@goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org

Website: www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org