

VILLAGE ECHOES

Where is History?

How do you define history? If you ask a group of people this question you will probably get several different answers. Something that happened in the past is likely to be the most repeated reply but how far is the past?



The picture above is of less than half of the Goudhurst & Kilndown archives, the half that lives in the archivist's garage. It is the perfect location to refer to if an enquiry comes via the website. It isn't a perfect location to allow residents or other members of the public to inspect them. It isn't the perfect location if the archivist changes or wants to leave the neighbourhood. It isn't the perfect location because the height of the shelves makes it dangerous to access the upper levels and it will get more difficult as the archivist and her husband get older!

The second half, less frequently referred to, is kept in a committee member's oast house.



The contents are tremendously varied as you might expect – photographs, documents, maps, books, postcards etc. and they grow almost weekly. The Society is regularly contacted with offers of items found in their attic, no longer needed, their space required, left by an elderly resident who used to live in the parish etc. Personal recollections are especially welcome.

A glimpse of the archivist's report to the Committee from November 2019 shows the variety of items that were dealt with – a visit from a Sackville College group in East Grinstead revealed a connection with their past warden and A J Beresford Hope, both members of the Ecclesiological Society, which installed the embellishments at Christ Church and Sackville, back in the day. Also listed - a request for a copy of a talk given on Goudhurst Mills by a paper mills specialist, a lady who found a photo of her grandfather on our website who wanted to know if we had any others and an enquiry from a lady to have more information about Margaret Carwithin, commemorated on a window in Christ Church, Kilndown. All these items are answered after reference to the archives and then recorded afterwards, especially if more details come to light.

Many photographs were taken of the Villages during last year's Coronation celebrations. The History Society mounted a display of previous Coronations with material from the archives. No doubt King Charles' pictures will appear at William's Coronation display.

We have helped students and book authors with research, people interested in the history of their family or house and minded a very well-behaved child whilst her father researched an article he was writing.

So where is this article going? Is this a worthwhile collection to keep? Will future generations thank us? How and where is the best place to keep it? All suggestions gratefully received. NB must be inexpensive.....

Goudhurst & Kilndown Local History Society

www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org