

Village Echoes

We Won't Expect Flowers!



The History Society is embarking on an exciting new venture this month. Our parish of Goudhurst and Kilndown is in the fortunate position of owning a large archive of local history. It has been accumulated over many years with contributions added by early chairmen such as Bob Brown, Gordon Batchelor and Len Pierce. From time to time we receive items from the public, often when clearing out a house or moving away.

Unlike villages such as Marden, Brenchley and Headcorn, who all have dedicated buildings, that has never been available for us. Until now our archives have been stored in the houses of the archivist at the time. Although they are available to look at by appointment it is not an ideal situation as researchers cannot browse through the records. However, this will shortly change with a new facility opening at the Goudhurst Club.



Current storage (some of these boxes are very heavy!)

The Club Committee have agreed that we can use a room upstairs in their building to store the collection in a suitable way, which will allow access for residents or outside researchers alike. This is enormously generous, as we have been searching for many years to make this happen. At the moment we are about to prepare the room for our use, which until now has

been used for storage. It is hoped that this won't take too long and a timetable will be set up for visitors with help available from a member of the History Society. Watch this space.

The archives are already consulted by people for diverse enquiries such as family or house histories, local events over time, village development or church histories. These are just a few. Why the title of this article? Well, this was a thankyou gift from a young girl who was researching a school project. It was a pleasure to show her relevant documents and in this case a short film on DVD about the subject. It is one of the main reasons that we are passionate in preserving evidence for future generations.

www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org