

VILLAGE ECHOES

New Beginnings, Whilst Looking Back

As the end of the year draws near the tradition is to plan for the future, to look forward. However, the newspapers are usually full of events that have happened during the preceding year. At the History Society we are usually looking at history far beyond a year. The past eighteen months have seen the culmination of a long-term aim to house our archives in one place with easier access for all the residents of our parish as well as outside researchers. For about seven years the large accumulation of records has been housed in plastic boxes in two locations, i.e. members houses. Not an ideal arrangement where even the archivist has been unable to fully see all the contents.



Now, thanks to the generosity of the Goudhurst Club we have been able to combine everything in one by renting one of their upstairs rooms. It has been a long job, renovating a room with half the ceiling missing, improving lighting, cleaning off years of spiders' webs and dust, decorating, laying flooring and obtaining the necessary furniture to hold the collection. This has been mostly accomplished by members of the Society with a generous grant from the Parish Council and free lighting from B & K electrical contractors. Not to mention some members of Goudhurst Club who helped our rather older crew lift heavy filing cabinets up the stairs! It has felt like a whole community effort. Many thanks to all who helped in one way or another.

The work is now in progress to empty the contents of the boxes and arrange them in an orderly manner. It is hoped that sometime in the New Year we will be open for business. Look out for announcements in this space!

