

Parish Recorder for PC AGM – April 21

The pandemic has allowed me time to catalogue the majority of Marion Leeson's collection but I still have a lot of photos to reference. Once Covid restrictions are relaxed and I can visit Marion again, and will be able to complete the job. I have also sorted the archives into headings such as "Landscaping and Buildings" and "Village Groups" etc. At the moment Marion is still hosting the majority of the collection. It would be good to have a more central place to store all of this in the future. I have sent two reports to the Suffolk Local History Council; an initial report and the annual report for 2020.

The Facebook page "Holbrook, Suffolk, Past and Present" has been very successful, thanks partly to people having more time on their hands in Lockdown. We have well over 700 members now. Trying to pull together threads of topics is difficult but probably worthwhile. I am frightened of losing all this valuable information into the ether. To try and avoid this happening, I have started an enormous spreadsheet into which I have pasted comments from the Facebook site under a variety of headings. I can't pretend that it is anywhere near complete yet.

The Parish Papers has been a useful place to advertise my role. I am very conscious that I need to get hold of more contemporary accounts of living in the village; particularly during the last year. However, people are very shy. I am very grateful to Sam Lanier for continuing to write about the history of the village for the Papers. I am also grateful to her for sharing the burden of Facebook administration.

My goal for next year is to make better links with the various groups within the village so that my annual report can be more comprehensively written. I am hoping that events in the Village Hall will start to run again. In particular I hope that the Church Bring and Buy sales will resume so that I can set up a table there to display some of the archive material. In the meantime, I have commandeered part of the village noticeboard opposite the surgery to put up a small piece of information or photo that might be of interest to those who do not have access to social media.