

LOCAL HISTORY RECORDER REPORT 2017

This year I have written three articles of my memories of Redgrave in 1966 when I moved here 50 years ago. I have also written about the Doe family of thatchers, Mellis Railway Crossing, two articles on Post Offices in our villages, Street Farm, 65th General Hospital and three generations of family farms in Fen Street Redgrave.

Duke University, who had the American hospital in Redgrave Park, asked if they could put my article on their website as it included copies of letters collected by George Stebbings praising the hospital for the brilliant work they did on injured American servicemen during WWII including one from President Eisenhower. Duke University contacted Charles Greenhough as former editor of the parish magazine to contact David Orr to ask his permission to put his film about the American nurses on their web site. They had picked this up from a parish magazine article which I had written several years ago.

Quatrefoil had a history exhibition again in Rickinghall Church in July and I did displays on Redgrave Hall and the Holt family. We will be having another history exhibition on September 3rd in Rickinghall Village Hall. Our book launch this year will be a book about shops in our villages and I will make a display on shops in Redgrave. We have now published 13 books on local history in Redgrave, Botesdale and Rickinghall. The Redgrave books are kindly sold in Redgrave Community Shop.

Margaret Stebbings kindly gave me much of the correspondence her late husband George had collected from the association he had with the Doctors and nurses from the American Hospital.

I bought some postcards of Redgrave from a post card collector who was selling off his collection.

I continue to save ephemera about Redgrave in various forms.

Jean Sheehan
April 2017