

Local History Recorders Report for 2016

Recently I went to a Recorders study session and it reminded me that in all the years that I have been the official History Recorder for Hartest, following in the footsteps of my Uncle Ernest Pask in the late 1970's, I have given only a few reports to the Annual Parish meeting. As recorder over the years I have taken photographs of changes, collected an enormous amount of information which is stored in year boxes and when donated, given house room to memorabilia which is from residents past and present.

At times I have deposited documents with the Record Office in Bury where they can be given or just lent on a long term basis – but in whatever way, they are available to the Public for information and research.

I have got to the point where I would like to put all the information I have on a data base and I have commenced this – but as you can imagine it is an enormous task! The Lawshall recorder has devised an amazing spreadsheet, which she has shared and which is a good model to follow. It is therefore my plan to put an article in CONTACT to see if anyone in the Village would like to devote some time to help me.

Should anything happen to me before I achieve my goal you will be comforted to know that this wealth of information will not be lost as I have left instructions in my will for it all to be deposited at the Record Office!

Attached is the annual report for 2015, which I have sent to the Suffolk Local History Recorders Secretary.

Jo Pask April 2016

LOCAL HISTORY REPORT FOR SLHC - 2015

Clubs and Activities – most take place in the Boxted and Hartest Institute

All information is saved in 2015 year box held by the Recorder

- **The Hartest and District Women's Institute met on the first Thursday of each month through the year. There were approximately 26 members, some from Whepstead who joined after their branch had closed. Activities ranged from interesting speakers, the WI 100 year celebration with the making of a Banner, outings and social gatherings. One valued member Zillah Tebbit died and she is sadly missed.**

- Carpet bowls club continue to meet weekly and average of 16 members. Again the year is peppered with a BBQ and Christmas party. One member had a special BD for which the gift of a tree was given plus a cake and a party!
- Children's Club – fairly well supported this meets every two weeks.
- Art Club – this club is well supported with active teaching by an Artist. For the cooler days they meet in the Institute and in the summer out of doors. An exhibition was held on Fete day.
- Friends of Hartest Church. This group has been formed to raise money to protect the fabric of All Saints Church, which is a Grade 1 listed building. The fund raising activities include and monthly 50-50 draw, an annual lecture, musical evening and Harvest supper
- Boxted and Hartest Institute Charity Committee are responsible for the good running and letting of the Hall to groups and individuals but also fundraising. Annually they invite Eastern Angles Theatre Company who this year brought the production of Oysters to the Village. Another successful fund raising initiative is to encourage people to donate their small change in specially labelled jam jars! The building was also used as a polling station this year.
- Gardening Club meet monthly in the Institute, with interesting speakers. They also have two garden visits in the summer, a vegetable and produce show in the autumn and end the year with a Christmas meal. There is a membership of at least 50 people
- Hartest Cafe – to raise money for preschool and the School, a group of Mothers commenced a cafe twice a month in the Institute during term time.

Farmers Market A Farmers and Craft Market is held monthly in the Institute.

Houses bought and sold 10 houses were bought and sold during the year. Some land was sold i.e a fishing lake in Brockley Road opposite Pear Tree Farm in the Village - comprising of 4.5 acres and with planning permission for recreational development to include holiday cabins with a guide price of £170.000, and bought by a private individual.

Deaths There were 5 deaths during the year. In 2014 Geoffrey Clarke RA Sculpture died. Obituaries were published in the National Papers and it was in a programme on Radio 4 called Last Words.

Births Numbers unknown

Road works the local roads were temporarily closed three times for work.

Parish Council Although there should be 7 members on the Parish Council, only 4 people were nominated, all previous Councillors, who were returned and there was no election.

Planning applications 10 planning application were considered through the year. Some for extensions to small houses and some for alterations to listed building of which there are quite a few in the Village.

There was a pre planning discussion for a Mobile phone mast to be erected on one of the hills that surround the Village which are part of the Glem and Stour Valley environment. The plans were dropped by the company. BT have begun to put in fibre optic cables for broadband.

Hartest Neighbourhood Plan Commenced two years ago the plan continues to be formed and community involvement is encouraged. Out of this currently a sub group are discussing how to slow down the traffic that exceeds the 30 mph speed limit through the Village on the B1066

General and District Elections

James Cartlidge was elected as M.P. South Suffolk. Tim Yeo was previously the M.P. for the area. For the District elections James Long was returned unopposed for the Chadacre Ward and Richard Kemp remains as a County Councillor.

Long Melford Horse Charity ride – came through the Hartest, stopping at the Crown en route, for refreshment.

All Saints Church Three Hartest Charities, namely Sparkes Charity, John Corder Charity and Thomas Wrights Charity are administered by three Trustees. Decisions are made to award small donations with a limited income.

- Church Bells - In 2014 one of the 5 bells dating from 1600's cracked. In 2015 it was removed, repaired and put back into place. Funding was raised through the Friends of Hartest Church and anonymous donations
- To commemorate those who died in the 1st world war, a tribute is placed in the CONTACT the Glem Valley magazine, in the appropriate month. In conjunction with this a bell is tolled, in the evening on the date and the appropriate year.
- The Church with the School, planned and held the annual fete on the Green on August Bank holiday Monday . It was opened by Terry Waite who is a resident in the Village.
- The Church is a stopping off point for the Historic Churches Bike ride

Hartest Church of England Primary School

- A Fathers day took place in June
- The Children took an active role by the War memorial on November 11th

Gifford's Hall Vineyard Received many accolades for their wines.

Community Defibrillator Money was raised by the community through donations, training seminars were held and the defibrillator has been put into place in the porch at the Doctors surgery.

Seniors Christmas Dinner at the Crown Public House. For many years a free Christmas dinner has been provided for the retired and those who live alone, which was quite pertinent when for many, incomes were poor. Paid for by fund raising through the year, it has been decided that this year's meal is the last one, as it is deemed that the need of the population has changed.