

## **WORLINGWORTH VILLAGE RECORDER REPORT**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING April 2019**

The Suffolk Local History Council (SLHC) is an umbrella group for all things historical. Their members are individuals, local history societies, family history societies and museums in Suffolk. They initiated the Recorder's Scheme in 1953. The aim is to have a volunteer Recorder in each parish – approximately 510 of them – and to record what happens in a parish and what changes occur during each calendar year.

Ironically Geoff and I are joint Secretary for the scheme on behalf of SLHC. We are often told that nothing happens in small rural villages and yet changes are going on all the time. Equally we hear people say “it's not like it used to be!”

I don't know if the weather is different overall, but in 2018 we experienced extremes, with The Beast from the East in March resulting in the village being snowed in for 3 days, while in summer we had the hottest and longest heatwave for many years and finally in November we experienced the fringes of Storm Diana. Could it be climate change?

I have only lived in the village for 8 years, but I know there was a village shop in the area of Cordy's Meadow and also the Shop and Post Office in Bedfield run by David Tye. Apart from vegetables from Bickers and eggs from Jack's or Worlingworth Hall, if anything else is needed it will require a drive (or for the energetic and probably young – a bicycle ride) to the shop at Horham, Stradbroke or Framlingham. A change that has been accepted in the last few years has been ordering on-line and more frequently I see vehicles from supermarkets – Waitrose or Tesco usually – delivering groceries to the door. A few decades ago it would have been a boy on a bicycle! In fact pretty much any goods you want can be ordered without leaving your house and delivered to your door, often within a day or so and without talking to anyone.

Rubbish collection has also seen changes – no longer do we have dustbin collected by a large, strong man, who worked alongside a smelly dustcart. Now we have wheelie bins, in fact three of different coloured ones, to collect general rubbish, recyclables and green waste. Although I would argue that recycling is not a new thing it has just changed – before we became a 'throw away' society, all sorts of things would be save for future use and things would be worn out before being replaced.

Communication is constantly changing – at one time only a few houses had a telephone, or land-line as they are now known. Most of us have mobile telephones which can be used as a camera as well – computers and iPads are also part of our equipment to enable us to download music, keep up to date with the news or sport, pay our bills without visiting a bank, send photographs and have visual conversations with each other. An irritation in Worlingworth over the last few years has been poor mobile reception and slow broadband – that finally changed in 2018.

Entertainment is very different today too, no longer can parishioners visit The Swan for a drink, chat or to listen to music. The football club which used to be very active, no longer operates as it is believed there are other things to do – watch the many television channels available or play electronic games – no longer do you see young children congregating to explore the countryside, go for a bike ride or kick a football around.

One of the biggest changes this year in the parish, which the Parish Councillors probably feel, is the number of building applications which have been submitted, some of them contentious. It has caused the Parish Council to have a number of extraordinary meetings. The White House development finally got started and despite objections regarding the clearance of the site, it has caused us to lose what really was an eye-sore. Some of the houses are being lived in and the White House itself is now very visible and very nice it looks too.

What makes a village nice to live in is its people. Of course, over the last year we lost several friends who had lived in the village for many, many years and as some move away, new people come to live amongst us. Many of our residents work very hard to keep the church, community centre, clubs and societies running and there is a lot going on our small village, even though it is continually changing.

Janette Robinson