

Hello I am Penny Summers I have just taken on the role of Ringshall Parish Recorder. The Local Recorders Scheme is administered by the 'Suffolk Local History Council'. This scheme maintains a network of voluntary people in the County to ensure the survival of valuable material for future local historians.

I am to gather current information and note physical changes so that present times are adequately recorded at local level. I am also to be on the look-out for older records of historical interest and memories from the past.

I have to produce a short report at the end of each calendar year, giving an account of activities in our Parish and the changes that have taken place. The reports are kept with the Parish Records in the nearest branch of the Suffolk Record Offices. When Recorders resign, the materials they have collected are deposited for safe keeping with the Record Office in the name of the Suffolk Local History Council.

Ringshall Parish has not had a recorder for many years, if at all. I have been asked to write an Initial Report to set out the Parish in context for future Annual Reports. This will involve noting how I 'see' the parish, describing the housing stock, estimating the current population and what facilities there are, ie school, church, village hall, Post Office, Library, Bus Stops etc and if there are any businesses. Also what activities take place such as local clubs, history society, WI etc. Where people go to shop.

I have already made contact with some very **helpful** people.

Dave Smith - Parish Clerk

Liz Hitchcock - advised on Trees & Farms

Brian Robertson - advised on the Village Hall and the new sewage treatment unit, which I have recorded.

Maureen Wills - Has been so helpful regarding her knowledge & her book [on Ringshall – ed.].

Clare Morrin - Wattisham Flying Station, HQ Welfare Officer and Coordinator. Has given me details of the current set-up. She is keen to share & advise future events & activities.

Maggie Aggiss - Wattisham Station Heritage Centre - is very keen to help with the History of how the Airfield has evolved, links with the Village and how the land was taken.

I have also spoken to Sarah at Orchard Barn who is keen to provided information about their site & activities.