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Dear Tony.

I know we have discussed the Archive Problem, I will now, as I promised, put it on paper for you.

1 Mission Statements

I agree with all the points put, I should like to see an article circulated to the local community stressing the importance of handing over for copying purposes, those documents & photos that they keep close to their chests "Ah - I be the honky one to ave this year photo; yes I know they'd like to get their hands on it, but I beant gonna let 'em ave it, so there"

Also point out that the bit of information they keep is only a small piece of the jigsaw, but possible of vital importance to the whole picture.

2 I agree with all points in section 2.

I have thought about producing a booklet based on my talk "The Overseer & the Pauper" which leans heavily on the account book of Shriv Overseers 1738-1758 which I copied and is now in 10x8 photo form.

2

Also, we have the early "Christening Marriages and deaths" 15-60? and the Account book of the churchwardens around 1800 which I feel would also make a good talk & subsequent booklet.

Sadly I fear, those in the village who have this sort of interest, are very few, and it would not pay to publish properly, just make a few copies rather in the style of the Parish Magazine.

3 Fully agree

4 Fully agree

5 This is now a distinct possibility that the RMCS Library would house the Archives.

I would argue ~~strongly~~ against placing the Archives at Oxford or Reading as we have had instances in the past of material being handed over and not allowed later to have the item back for closer study.

We had to pay for Micro-film of our MSS which was out of date almost immediately and the reading devices were all Micro-fisk.

I took on the job of making 10x8 page copies ~~to~~ from the micro-film roll.

You see, it is very time consuming to visit Oxford or Reading for close study sessions needed to provide a talk or a book.

3

6, I am happy with Access suggestions.

7, We have already some tape in our collection both of Bill Knapp builder & Les Todd giving a talk to the Wives Club. Excellent way of obtaining past information albeit not very far back in time.

8, The school has placed some of the census (& work they have done) on computer and could demonstrate to me e.g. how many farm, estate & shopkeepers there were in a certain year, I was very impressed.

The pupils were taken round the village and we discussed things like the wall in Bugs Alley which showed that there were former houses & workshops there.

I aim to take them round Beckelt in the future.

All in all, I think you have produced an excellent missive on the subject and I congratulate you on the stalwart work.

Sincerely

Merlyn