

## The history of the Archive

In 1935, in the very top west corner of Essex, a village school teacher married a village wheelwright. The teacher moved from her village of Clavering to Chrishall. And so began a lifetime of fascination with the history of the village.



The teacher was Irene Cranwell (pictured above) and her passion for the village she married into was unending. She collected every scrap and story that she could about the village and her collection forms the basis of the Archive today.

## Virtual and Physical Archive

The Archive has had a few homes over the years, the story of which you can find on our website: [www.chrshallessex.co.uk](http://www.chrshallessex.co.uk)  
A selection of the documents and photographs from the collection are made available on the website on a regular basis so do check back every now and then to see the latest.

In 2017 the Archive were lucky enough to be granted space in the Brand Pavilion sited on Jigney's Meadow in the centre of Chrishall. Here we have a small Archive Office which can be accessed on request. During the summer months we have a 'pop up Archive' where we take over the main room of the pavilion once a month to show larger displays of posters, maps, information and photographs from the collection.

All opening times for the Archive are available on the website.

*Come and say hello*

We are always keen to know more about Chrishall history and we love to chat and exchange stories. If you have contributions for the website or Archive, want to research something, or just fancy a chat and a cup of tea please get in touch:

[www.chrshallessex.co.uk](http://www.chrshallessex.co.uk)  
[rosemarie@chrshallessex.co.uk](mailto:rosemarie@chrshallessex.co.uk)  
01763 838821

Visit us at  
**The Brand Pavilion,  
Jigney's Meadow,  
Chrishall.**

First Sunday of the month Easter to October, 2-5pm.  
All times on the website.



Collecting, collating,  
preserving and presenting.







**Chrishall History**

## Archive Projects



Current projects being undertaken by the Archive:

-  Who Lived Where? - an exploration of the history of the village houses and who were their previous inhabitants.
-  Manorial rights - how were the several manors that covered Chrishall organised? What lands did they include and who were their owners?
-  Cataloguing and indexing the huge collection of material that we have in the Archive.
-  Chrishall windmill - a project looking at the mill owners and the history of Chrishall mill.

Can you lend us a hand?  
Many hands make light work and if you would like to help us by cataloguing a few photographs, working on the index of the scrapbook or arranging a display, do let us know.



## Visit the website

Our website [www.chrshallessex.co.uk](http://www.chrshallessex.co.uk) will give you all the latest information on Chrishall history, plus a veritable treasure trove of photos and information to browse through. Come and listen to reminiscences about being a 'cook boy' for Drage and Kent or watch films from the school taken 50 years ago.

If you are researching your family, we have the census information available on the site and new information is being added all the time. Plus you can sign up for our newsletter.

## Chrishall Scrapbook

The Chrishall Story is a huge scrapbook of Chrishall history compiled mostly by Mrs Cranwell during the 1950s but added to continuously since then.



Since the original is now getting a little frail, two copies have been made which are available for loan from the Archive.

From Bronze Age finds to the Inclosure Act, details of village trades, diagrams of who sat in which pews in church, corn dolly making, the village in wartime... All this and more is included in the Scrapbook. Not just a useful reference, the Scrapbook makes a great read too! To enquire about borrowing a copy, please get in touch.

## What is in the collection?

- Church newsletters from before the first World War to the 1950s;
- Village newsletters from various periods including the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s;
- Photograph collections including the Harvey photographs;
- The Brand receipts - a collection of farm receipts from the early 1900s which give not only an amazing window into the life of a local farm but also businesses in Saffron Walden and Royston;
- Births, deaths and marriage records going back to 1647;
- Various maps including the inclosure map of 1808;
- A collection of letters from a wartime evacuee home to her family;
- Lots of school photographs and plenty more!

If you have a Chrishall photograph or document, we would love to make copies of them for the collection. Please let us know or drop in to the Archive. We look forward to hearing from you.



## Irene Cranwell Memorial Lecture

Each year in the autumn we have a lecture on some aspect of Chrishall history in memory of Irene Cranwell. Previous lectures have included the traction engines of Drage and Kent and local women's roles in the first World War. Keep an eye on the press and/or our website for details of this year's talk.