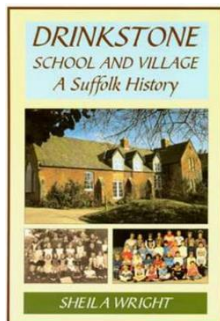
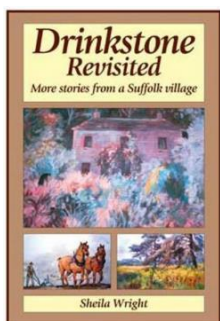


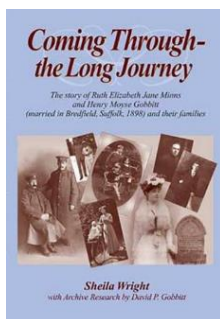
## Drinkstone Book Shelf



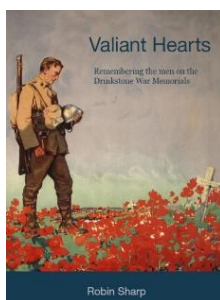
**Drinkstone – School and Village** by Sheila Wright, last head teacher of the School. Detailed history, with excerpts from varied sources, plus fascinating personal memories from former pupils and villagers. Richly illustrated with photographs, drawings, plans and maps. Published 2005, 274 pages. ISBN: 1-902019-08-3



**Drinkstone Revisited** by Sheila Wright. Stories in this second volume largely contributed by readers of the first book, who wrote to the author giving their own memories and research. An enchanting and nostalgic insight into country lives. Published 2007, 198 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9555417-0-4



**Coming Through - the Long Journey** by Sheila Wright. An unusual book motivated by strange events that occurred in Drinkstone. It centres around the true story of Ruth Gobbitt, former head teacher at Drinkstone School, whose life ended in mysterious and tragic circumstances in 1929. Published in 2011, 110 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9555417-7-3



**Valiant Hearts** by Drinkstone resident Robin Sharp. Tells the poignant stories of eighteen Drinkstone men who lost their lives during the two World Wars, whose names are inscribed on the War Memorial plaques in All Saints' Church. Published in 2019, 189 pages, 158 illustrations. ISBN: 978-0-9535821-1-2

## Drinkstone ~ History

There is evidence that Romans settled in Drinkstone and there certainly was an Anglo-Saxon community, with fragments of Saxon pottery found in the stream that runs through the village.



There are three entries for the village in the Domesday Book (1085), all with different spellings – Rengestuna, Drencetuna and Drincestona. A fourth spelling – Drengstun (Saxon for 'Dreng's settlement') – is given in the Little Domesday Book (1086), with the first recorded reference to a church in the village.

The present All Saints' church dates from 1340, with the North and South aisles being rebuilt between 1370 and 1450 in the Perpendicular style. A Flemish bond-brick tower was erected in 1694 funded from the bequest of the Revd Thomas Cambourne. The church contains a beautiful 15th century oak screen, several fascinating monuments and brasses and an historically important organ. The east window is a fine example of high Victorian stained glass and the font is believed to be the oldest man-made structure in the village.

Robert Bacon, grandfather of the illustrious philosopher Francis Bacon, was born in Drinkstone in the 15<sup>th</sup> century at a time when it was "*the seat of ambitious yeomanry*", according to one writer.

Drinkstone boasts a pair of windmills - a post mill built in 1689 (the oldest windmill in Suffolk) and a smock mill built in 1780. The mills became known as 'Clover's Mills' as they were worked by the Clover family for some 200 years.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Drinkstone became a 'squirearchy' and several wealthy gentlemen built large houses, set in beautiful grounds, providing employment for grooms, gardeners and servants.

The painter Thomas Gainsborough was commissioned to paint a portrait of businessman Joshua Grigsby, who had built a grand house at Drinkstone Park. Gainsborough also depicted several rural scenes around the village, the most famous being “Drinkstone Park”, now located in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Drinkstone Park estate was inherited by Joshua Grigsby the Third who, on his death in 1829, was buried in a corner of his garden beneath a mulberry tree.

The village school, next to the church, was founded in 1859. It closed in 1986 and has since been converted into a private house.

The Village Hall was opened in 1922 as the official Drinkstone War Memorial and formerly served as a First World War officers mess hut at Great Ashfield Airfield. At the end of the Great War it was brought to Drinkstone in sections by horse and waggon and re-erected on Elm Tree Meadow in the centre of the village.

During the Second World War, Drinkstone Park house was occupied by American servicemen attached to Rougham Airfield. It was demolished in 1949.

In the last 30 years, the village school, shop and pub have closed. Currently Drinkstone offers no commercial facilities, the nearest being in Woolpit.

### **The Village Archive**

As part of Millennium celebrations in 2000, an exhibition about the history of Drinkstone was put together. Residents were asked for documents, photographs and personal memories, and much information was collected. After the exhibition, it was decided to preserve the material as an archive for the village, for researchers and anyone else interested.

Over the next few years, items were arranged under various headings and information added. When the new Village Hall opened in 2013, replacing the old building on the same site, space was allocated for the collection to be stored.

In late 2021, an archiving group was formed and meets regularly, to expand the recording process, with support and advice from Bury Records Office, and an accessible online catalogue for the collection is being compiled.

The Archive includes documents, books, photographs, posters, pamphlets, wills, maps, newspaper articles and other items, covering many aspects of Drinkstone life: people, places, events both joyous and sad, music, drama, religion, farming, crafts and occupations no longer practised.

To access the Archive, see the Drinkstone village website:

<https://www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk/history/history-archive/>

Access to the physical archive is by arrangement – please quote the archive reference and box numbers given in the database for items of interest.

### **Drinkstone History Group**

This Group offers residents the opportunity to explore the history of Drinkstone and the wider area, through a regular programme of talks and presentations from speakers and performers, and visits to local places of interest. In 2024 the Group celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Details of activities are posted in the Parish Magazine, via the Drinkstone Information Service and on the Village Hall noticeboard.

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For further information about any of the above, please contact:

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*Robin Sharp, April 2024*