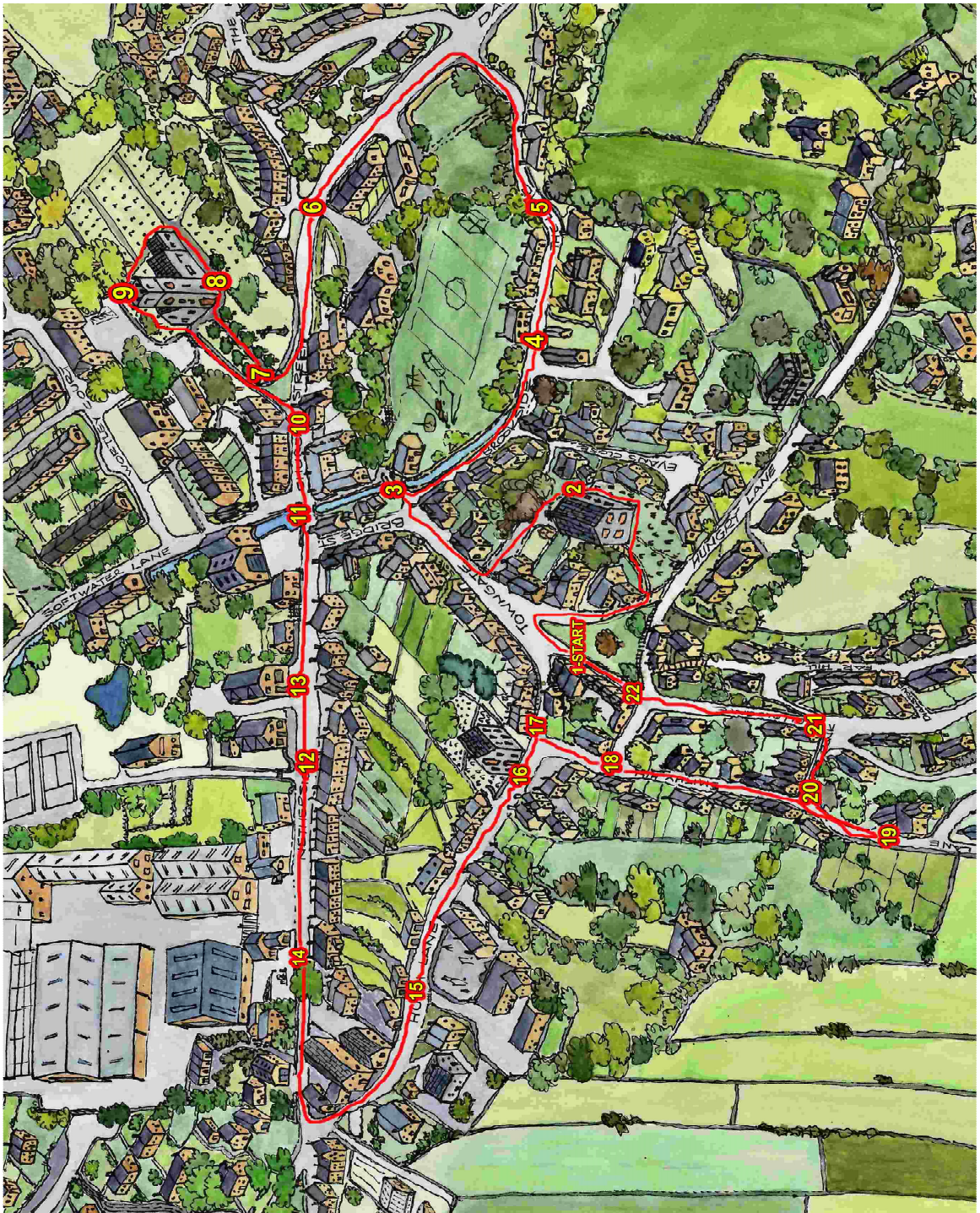


Historical Walk Around Central Bradwell

ROUTE



White Hart Inn, Methodist Hall, Through the back to the Chapel, Town Bottom, WI garden (St Ives Bridge) The Lumb, Church Street, Churchyard, Bridge, Netherside, Town End, Hugh Lane, Yard Head, Smithy Hill, Fern Bank and Hollowgate.

White Hart Inn was built in 1676. **1** Opposite is the **Methodist Hall** built as a Sunday school in 1878. Enter the Hall grounds through the iron gate at the top of the slope. Pass round the Hall on the right hand side, on into the graveyard (remember to close the gates) and round the back of the Chapel passing graves of the Barber family relations of Anthony Barber (former Chancellor of the Exchequer), to reach the graves of Seth Evans and his three wives. (Sadly, the memorial stone for Seth is now hardly legible.) **2**

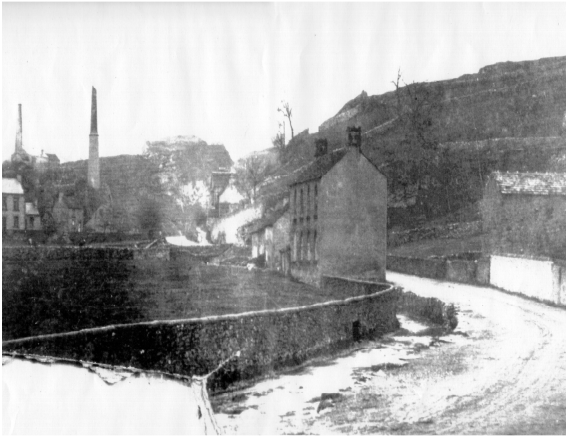
It originally read:

*In memory of Seth Evan
Died 6th Jan 1925
Aged 66 Years
At Rest
He was Justice of the Peace
For this county for many years
A member of the Bradwell School
Board*

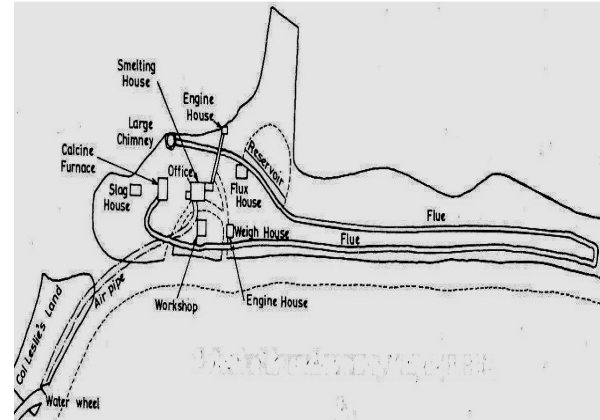
*New Mills School Board
New Mills Urban District Council
Trustee of this Chapel
Author of
Bradwell Ancient and Modern
Methodism in Bradwell
And other works*

Wesleyan Chapel Carry on to the front of the Chapel built in 1807 at the cost of £877 and refurbished in 1891 costing £1358. Exit through the main entrance to the Chapel opposite the shop High Peak Heating in **Town Bottom** (The shop formerly High Peak House.) John Shirt recalls a date on the inside of the building that was in the 1500s. The shop was in the Shirt family of clothiers and drapers until 1983. Continue down the road to **St Ives' Bridge 3** In a small garden maintained by the WI can be viewed an informative map of Bradwell drawn by Keith Brett and Ellie Dunn.

The Lumb (Brook): Walk along the Lumb towards Brook House. On your right you will see The Manse formerly the residence of the Primitive Methodist minister. Brook House **4** was built over the Brook in the 1840s and at times has been the Wesleyan Sunday School, optician's workshop, used by the Constitutional club, the Royal British Legion and the Guides. It is now a private house. The point at which the water coming from above (Bagshawe Cavern) forms Bradwell Brook is on the left down steps and may be visited (*take care!* **5**). It is said that the outflow once powered an undershot water wheel that helped to ventilate the lead smelter on the other side of The Dale



The Lumb: chimneys of lead smelter at Dale End and on the Hills



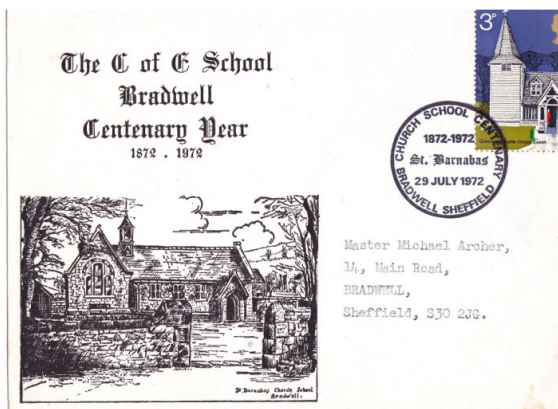
Ventilator pipe from the Brook and flue pipe going down the Dale and back.

Church Street: The original Shoulder of Mutton (now Lyndale House) was where one of the earliest television sets to reach Bradwell was built in the early 1950s by Eric Spencer. The foundation stone for the 'New' Shoulder of Mutton was laid on the opposite side of the road in 1937 and the pub was then transferred to its present position. **6** That road then became the main route into the village from the Dale.

St Barnabas: Built in 1868 at a total cost of £1800. The tower was added later in 1889 at an additional cost of £700. **7** Bradwell is somewhat unusual in that the War Memorial was erected in the church yard. The first two persons to be buried in the church yard were George Edward Bradwell and Jane Maltby Bradwell of Yard Head. Both were early victims of the 'Bradwell fever' (probably typhoid fever) that took the lives of some 70 villagers between 1868 and 1870. The grave had to be moved when the tower was built. Note the north-east buttress (right hand side of tower) will buttress nothing! **8** Carry on anticlockwise around the church. Another notable memorial in the church yard is one to Rev AT Cowen the vicar during WWI. On the memorial can be found the name of Stephen Cowen (the vicar's son) who died of diphtheria aged 13 in 1915. **9** Visit the grave of 'Old' Benny (north east at the back of the church near the vestry entrance) who died in 1883. He was Benjamin Giles who travelled the country as a hawker dragging his wares in a handcart up hill and down dale. His home for his early years in the village was in a small chamber behind a lead smelting works on the Hills (near where Overdale Houses are now found – its chimney can be seen faintly in the background of the picture of the Dale End smelter chimney). When Old Benny died, to everyone's surprise, he left about £350 to Mr. EM Wass of Lea Green whose family owned the smelter on the Hills. After Mr. Wass's death his executors gave money to Bradwell for the purchase of a clock for the newly built Church Tower (1889). They also provided the grave stone for Old Benny you see. Much later, in 1938, the costs of church bells, chimes to the clock and re-enforcing the tower were met by another benefaction this time from Mrs Fanny Jeffrey in memory of her uncle Samuel Fox. As you return to the road look right at the school that opened in 1872 as a C of E school. It now serves the village as

Bradwell Church of England (Controlled) Infant School and was judged 'good' in a recent OFSTED assessment Samuel Fox's cottage is almost directly opposite the church gate on the other side of the road.

Samuel Fox's Cottage: **10** Samuel Fox was born in Bradwell on the eve of the Battle of Waterloo (June 17th 1815). His father William was a weavers' shuttle maker. Aged 16 Samuel was apprenticed at the firm of Samuel Cocker & Sons, wire drawers of Hathersage. One of his fellow apprentices was Joseph Hayward from the subsequently drowned village of Derwent. By 1845 both men had moved to Stocksbridge where Fox set up his own wire drawing company with Hayward as a key employee who held a patent for the Paragon collapsible umbrella. The profits from the sale of umbrellas allowed Fox to concentrate on the manufacture of ladies crinolines with profits eventually amounting to £80,000. The steel works are still operating in Stocksbridge.



C of E School centenary

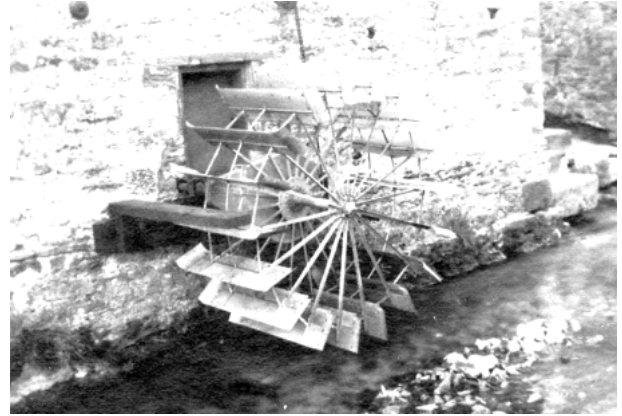


The Bridge Inn c. 1900

Bradwell Bridge: There are a number of notable buildings around the area of the Bridge. **11** In the nineteenth century what are now Brook buildings served as a silk mill. Next to the bridge is Manchester House that started life as a Methodist Sunday School in 1844 replacing the one you saw across the Brook earlier in the walk.. In 20th C it had multiple uses including as a hairdressers. The Hall family carried out a number of businesses around Bridge Street. Joseph Hall was a blacksmith as was his son John. Hannah (née Pearson) his wife started making ice cream in 1899 while John's son Edwin (Ned) diversified into electrical work. He charged accumulators using a water wheel in the Brook. Ned's sister Nellie Hall carried on from her mother making ice cream and when she married Hedley Bradwell, Bradwell Ice Cream came into being. (The N. Bradwell over the shop is for Nellie.) The Old Smithy is where Joseph and John Hall worked. The Bridge Inn (now the private dwellings Bridge House and Bridge Cottage over the road) was closed as an inn for the last time in 1916 when it was said to be overrun by rats and residents had signed a petition that the village had too many pubs.



John and Joe Hall



Water wheel in the Brook

Netherside: 12 The house called Fairway was built in its present form in 1930. During the demolition of two dilapidated cottages on the site an oven dating from the 15-16th C was found. Parts of the cottages were said to be medieval and evidence of a previous thatched roofs was found. Neville Bancroft carried out the rebuilding with the joinery being the work of Bernard Walker. The plans for the building were drawn up by Ned Hall and his wife Marion. The plumbing and electrics were also done by Ned. It is said that a later occupant was unhappy about working in a kitchen designed by her mother-in-law! The name 'Fairway' reflected Ned's love of golf. When he later worked at what was then Newburgh Engineering, he is said to have used a golf club as a walking stick on his way to work.



Cottages that became Fairway

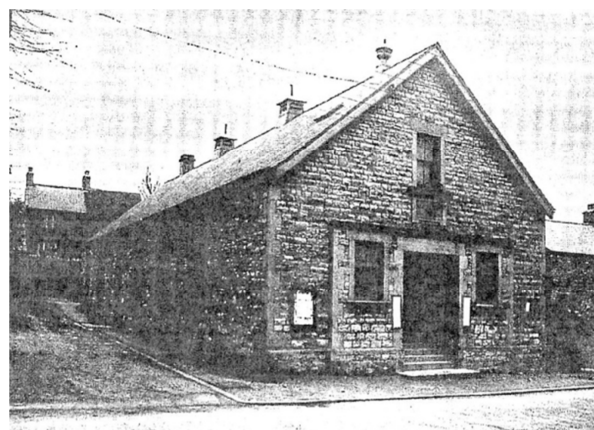


A 15-16th C oven found inside one of the cottages

The Co-op shop **13** was opened in its present position in 1934 and was refurbished and extended in 2019-20.



Co-op opened July 1934



Memorial Hall opened July 1924

What remains of the Newburgh Engineering works that Ned went to are on the right as you walk along Netherside and is now Nuclear Energy Components (NEC). Here part of the precision engineering work begun by Isaac Middleton in 1938-9 is carried on. In earlier years amongst other things Newburgh Engineering supplied assemblies for the Dounreay & Calder Hall atomic reactors and components for nuclear submarines: nuclear engineering remains one focus for NEC. On much of the rest of the original engineering works is a newly built housing estate called Bradwell Springs. The Bradwell Community Land Trust (CLT) is in partnership to own a number of the houses to provide affordable housing for rent. Beyond the entrance to NEC is the haulage company started by Brian Charles **14**. Just a little further on is Pennine Workshop, a joinery producing high quality wooden products including furniture for gardens. This cluster of businesses emphasises Bradwell's heritage as a working village. The most recent group of workers in the village are 'workers from home'. These include financial advisers, IT consultants, artists and a sculptor among others. The number of 'workers from home' increased dramatically in the coronavirus pandemic of 2020. On your left is the War Memorial Hall opened in 1924 in memory of those who died in WWI. Alterations have been made over the years most notably in the 1980s.

Hugh Lane: Turn left up Hugh Lane to pass the School on your right that was built in 1894 **15**. When the excavations were being carried out for the building of the school a pig of Roman lead was found and can now be seen in the Sheffield Museum and a replica in the museum in Buxton. The building is now known as Bradwell Junior School and like the Infant School was judged 'good' in a recent OFSTED assessment. On the other side of the road is a building that was successively the Baptist Chapel and then the Primitive Methodist Sunday School. For a while from 1872 a Board School was based in the building until it was moved to its present position on the other side of the road in 1894. The Primitive Methodist Chapel **16** is further up on the left (built 1845 at a cost of £700 and extended and renovated in 1878) is now a private dwelling and note that the inscription of the plaque has been

defaced as was required, when it was deconsecrated, to remove the words 'Primitive Methodist Chapel'



Primitive Methodist Chapel 1920



Former Presbyterian Chapel

Roselea Cottage **17** at **Yardhead** was opened as a poor house in 1819 (having moved from Eden Tree) and continued until 1841. There are notches in the inside beams where presumably the looms were located, It seems that the Hallam family was living in Roselea cottage in 1868 when the Bradwell fever hit the village and brother and sister Willie Herbert and Ann Alice Hallam succumbed in March 1869. You may now complete the walk by proceeding down Hugh Lane to the White Hart. Otherwise turn right up Smithy Hill.

Smithy Hill: Notice the Old Post Office on your right **18**. A little higher on the same side is Weavers Cottage. This may mark the site near which in about 1800 Robert Hill and his sons Hugh and Isaac owned a two-storey mill housing 8 spinning jennies. Eventually Smithy Hill becomes Charlotte Lane and at the junction (on the left hand side) **19** is a building that has a long history in Bradwell. It was built as a Presbyterian (dissenter) Chapel in 1662 for William Bagshawe the 'Apostle of the Peak'. It was the first chapel dedicated to public worship in Bradwell. In 1714 the building was wrecked by 'a Popish mob from Hope ... who smashed the windows, pulpit and seats to pieces'. Following its restoration the building was used as a Unitarian meeting house but was badly damaged by fire and the date of 1754 on the stone over the scout sign refers to its further restoration. Much later, in the 1960s, the Duke of Devonshire reopened it once more this time refurbished as a Scout Headquarters and Bunkhouse, but it is no longer used for Scouting. A little further up Charlotte Lane on the left is Fox House where Charlotte Fox lived (not related to Samuel). Return to Fern Bank.

Fern Bank: Was once known as Treacle Street (for Treacle Cottage - or the toffs who lived there?). The cottage on the left is Chapel Cottage. This was the first Wesleyan Chapel in Bradwell, built in 1762. **20** On the bottom two houses there are rather fine carved stone plaques. These are copies of bas-reliefs found in the Sculpture Gallery at Chatsworth House and made by Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen. They represent Day and Night **21**



Day



Night

Hollowgate: Turn left into Hollowgate that in earlier times was a very popular part of Bradwell. Older property had been built close to lead mining and the presence of these properties attracted places of worship, public houses and an early post office. Pass **The Gutter** on your left and the area that was known as '**Hell Fire Corner**'. A house at the bottom of the Gutter was in earlier times the Green Dragon Inn (now Green Dragon Cottage). **22** Finally arrive back at the **White Hart Inn**.



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