

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER No.17 July 2022

Up-coming events

In the absence of a Tuesday meeting this month the main event will be our presence on Beggar's Plot on Carnival Day on Saturday 30th July. We will be asking visitors to stick pins in a map of Scotland and selling books, pamphlets, cd's and memory sticks. We hope that members will be on hand to help in the pitching of the tent, the sticking of the pins, the selling of the products and taking the tent down. We will be putting up the tent from 10.30 am, opening the stall from 12 noon until 4 pm with packing up from 4 pm onwards. If you will be able to help in any of these tasks please let us know via email or by telephone on 623345. We hope you will be able to spend about an hour with us during the day.

Commentary

It is not often that Societies look at their written constitutions but an occasional review can be useful in particular to verify that current activity remains consistent with stated aims. The structure of our constitution was agreed, but not written down, at our formation on 19th September 1994. The formal constitution was agreed and written down on 21st March 2006. In this later version we find as an aim the enabling of members to get together to develop their enjoyment and understanding of local and general history. The constitution goes on to indicate how these over-arching aims are to be achieved. Included in these was to be an annual programme of talks and activities, generally held once a month at a local hall. These were to cover a wide range of historical subjects. It is always as well to reflect whether the balance between areas of local interest and more general historical interest is being struck. It might seem that in 2022 the balance has tipped in the direction of general

history and away from local history. But it should be bourn in mind that an important aim is to sponsor interesting talks by speakers who are willing to present their material. If you feel that there is an area of local history that could to be brought to the attention of members John Monahan will be pleased to hear from you. One arm of the BHS activities that has been very largely local is to be found on the Website. All of the material here is about Bradwell and neighbouring villages. Consultation of the 'People and Places' section index shows there are links to at least a thousand names of 'People' with a Bradwell connection. In addition the 'Places' section is mainly limited to the local area.

Bradwell Bands

In the sections about Bradwell Bands on our Website and in "After Seth" attention has been paid to the various bands that have come and gone in Bradwell since the middle of the 19th century But from time to time fresh information about the operation of the bands emerges and is well worth recording.

We know that two Bradwell Brass Bands played on the occasion of the coronation of King George V on 22nd June 1911. The recently reconstituted Coronation Band supplied the music for the celebrations in the village whilst the 'Old Band' visited Bamford, Ashopton and Derwent.

If we go back to another royal occasion in 1863 that was the wedding of the then Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) we find that this celebration was recalled in verse by Adam Hill Cooper (Bradwell Ancient and Modern p 71). He wrote:

The Wesleyans and Primitives by this shook hands
Were parading the town with both Bradwell Bands.

Other evidence suggests that at about that time one was a Brass Band and the other a Pipe and Drums Band. In 1914 the *Derbyshire Times* was able to identify some of the Brass Band performers of the earlier time. These included Frank Palfreyman, Robert Furness (who fought in the Crimean War) Sam Middleton, George Pearson with Obidiah Stafford as the drummer. Three names of members of the Pipe Band were also recorded. These were Alf Morton and kettle-drummers Aquilla Marshall and Robert Jeffery.

In the 19th century bands closed and others formed. The next bands to be identified dated from 1874. At that time the Old Band was still playing but another was formed in connection with the Good Templar Lodge which was a temperance organization and identified itself as the 'Pride of the Peak'. It was predicted by the older members of the Lodge that such a band would end in ruin. But the 'young bloods' were in the majority and the countryside was scoured for subscriptions with the girls setting up a bazaar. By these and other means the money was raised and instruments purchased. There were 24 subscribing members, and here are eighteen of those who signed the pledge as players. Alfred Morton, Seth Evans, Thomas Henry Middleton, Frank Palfreyman, Humphrey Hallam, Leonard Hall, William H Middleton, Joseph Maltby, Abraham Cooper, George Middleton, Samuel Hill, James Allen Bancroft, Caleb Morton, Abraham Hall, Thomas Cheetham, Joseph Higgs, Cheetham Cooper and Isaac Cooper. Francis Palfreyman was its first conductor and on his retirement Thomas Henry Middleton took over. Several members of this band later came together as the 1911 Coronation Band that played in Bradwell that year.

Because of the detailed minutes of the Old Band kept by Leslie Ashton and annotated by his niece Christine Skerrow we can follow this other band on that day in June 1911 when they marched out of the village:

'The Band marched out of Bradwell to the strains of the quick march "Loyal Hearts" and (presumably) once out of sight were discreetly transported to Bamford, marching through that village to the same music and pausing to play a lively schottische called "Pleasant Pastime". The stately progress continued into Ashopton accompanied by "The Flag that Braved a Thousand Years", and at the Ashopton Inn a polka "Brillante" was played which must have pleased, as a donation was collected. The Band completed the journey by marching into Derwent, but was not too exhausted to then perform the Coronation Selection of 27 items: marches, waltzes, galops, polkas, lancers and quadrilles, finishing with the Bradwell Waltz and of course the National Anthem, arranged by Horace Middleton.' (*Has anyone heard or heard of the Bradwell Waltz?*)



Ashopton



Derwent Hall