

## **The Rockery, Smalldale**

1. Names: Brian and Helen Gillham
2. The name and address of the house: The Rockery, Smalldale, Bradwell S339JQ. Source of name is not known. Until 1985 there were two joined (but separate) cottages named Oak Cottage (lower) and Rockery Cottage (upper, renamed The Rockery in 1951) when the two were combined in 1985 they became The Rockery. It is convenient for identification to refer to the upper cottage as Rockery Cottage prior to 1985 even though this not strictly accurate.
3. Any outbuildings: There is a double garage with a loft above added to the west end of the Rockery Cottage in the 1970s. A photograph from about 1900 shows two small outbuildings in roughly the position of the garage but set further back. In addition there is a garden shed that used to house a goat in the 1950s.
4. Date lived in the Rockery: April 2003 to date (August 2013)
5. Previous occupants: It is convenient to divide this up into two parts (a) occupants of The Rockery (1970 to 2011) and (b) occupants of Oak Cottage and Rockery Cottage.

### **(a) The Rockery:**

2013 – (2022) Lewis and Janet Hamilton

2003-2013 Brian and Helen Gillham

1997-2003 Patrick and Gillian Docherty. (In addition Gillian's father Mr Turner lived in The Rockery for some of the time)

1985-1997 Jonathan and Lillian Southwell

### **(b) Oak and Rockery Cottages:**

1970-1985 (Oak Cottage) Edna Hammond (inherited from father Arthur who died in 1970) may have lived with parents previously.

1969-1985 John Duncan Southwell (it is not clear when father John handed over to son Jonathan)

1956-1970 (Oak Cottage) Arthur and Elizabeth Hammond (Elizabeth died in 1969)

1966-1969 (Rockery Cottage) Paul Charles Nichols (no wife mentioned in documents). Owner, but don't know if he actually occupied Rockery Cottage.

1952-1956 (Oak Cottage) Jack Derbyshire (no other name e.g. wife mentioned in the sale). Owner, but don't know if he actually occupied Rockery Cottage

?1935-1952 (Oak Cottage) Edith Walmsley

1951-1966 (Rockery Cottage) Herbert Walmsley (bought the cottage from himself and his sister Edith who were joint trustees). The owner but may not have been the occupier.

The period 1905 until 1951 is difficult to piece together because the title deeds were lost. It is known that Robert Walmsley (watchmaker) died in 1905 and his sons Herbert and Arthur became his executors. It seems likely that although the two cottages were not sold neither son lived in them but they continued as trustees under the will. 1935 Arthur died and his sister Edith became trustee with her other brother Herbert.

Round about 1930 John Johnson from the North East came to lodge in Oak Cottage and was joined by his wife Isabel. They were to become Molly Johnson's (Wilson's) parents. Molly was born in 1932 in Hollowgate and so by that time the Johnsons must have left Oak Cottage.

? -1905 The 1901 census for Bradwell shows a Robert Walmsley living in Smalldale (presumably in Oak or Rockery Cottage) with his wife Annie. They were aged 70 and 71 respectively (Annie died in 1916 and perhaps continued to live in Smalldale until then).

Oak Cottage has a date of 1640 carved into the lintel of a former window of Oak Cottage but the history of the Cottage is uncertain up to Robert Walmsley (his name does not appear in Bradwell censuses prior to 1901), but he may still have been the owner because he had property in Manchester.

The 1843 tithe map shows the land and buildings of Oak/Rockery Cottage as belonging to Charity Andrew, but she may not have been living there because the 1851 census shows a Charity Andrew resident in Tideswell but none in the Hope section of the census (included Bradwell in those days). The extent of the buildings shown suggest that Oak Cottage and the first part of Rockery Cottage were on the site by that time.

Another bit of information about the land comes from (a copy) of a document dated 'the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July in the ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne' (6<sup>th</sup> July 1711). This is an indenture between Thomas Marriot of Uphill in the Chapelry of Bradfield (gentleman) and a host of persons that included William Bagshaw of Ford (strange because the Apostle of the Peak had been dead for several years at that time, perhaps a son?) and Thomas Goss of Bradwell. In it Thomas Marriott gives parcels of land around Bradwell (many on Smalldale) to the benefit of said trustees of the Nonconformist churches. Much of the land passed to the Unitarian Church. It is not clear from the description in the indenture where the land was but a map drawn up for the Unitarian Church in Sheffield (probably in the late 1960s) shows land in which they had inherited an interest in Bradwell (from the by then defunct Unitarian Church in Bradwell) included land behind and to the side of the properties now known as Ashcroft and The Rockery. In 1971 J.D. Southwell (Rockery) and Bruce Perkins (Ashcroft) bought the land nearest to their properties.

6. Date built: The date of 1640 carved into the lintel of a window of what was Oak Cottage suggests that this is when that part of the property was built. The dating of the addition of the first part of Rockery Cottage (to the west of Oak Cottage) is likely to be pre 1840 (see above re tithe map). There is an oak lintel of what must have been a window in the west wall of the first part of Rockery Cottage (the window would have looked up Smalldale) and this is clearly very old because the oak still had its bark attached. A second stage of Rockery Cottage was added presumably some time after 1840 west of the first part of Rockery Cottage (when the oak lintel became part of a partition wall). The addition is clearly present in a photograph dating from about 1900. A rear lounge, a rear bedroom and a double garage were all added by John Duncan Southwell in the 1970s. In part this building was on land purchased from the Unitarian Church at about that time.



Date Stone Lintel : 1640



Date c. 1900



Date c 1910



Date 2003