

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY Chairman's Report 2022

On reading our Treasurer's report that covers the past year one of the most striking things it contains is the simple number '53'. This relates to the current membership of the Society. Very encouraging to be sure, but what underlies it? I think I can see at least two contributing factors. There is a genuine resurgence in people wanting to know about the village and its history, not only from the new arrivals at Bradwell Springs but also in more established villagers. In addition we have members (including one in Florida) who are not able to attend meetings but want to keep abreast of events.

John Monahan arranged a varied selection of talks and a visit to Sheffield. Marcus Newton told us about 900 years of Sheffield history on an evening in the Methodist Hall (and we thank Sharon and Bruce Hix for ensuring that the Hall was open on time and warm for our Tuesday meetings). Later in the month Marcus and partner Julie Charlesworth led some of us on a walk that took in both of Sheffield Cathedrals. Later in the year we were able to return the compliment by talking Marcus and Julie on a historical walk around Bradwell. John Monahan had to improvise when Brian Salisbury's scheduled talk had to be postponed due to Brian's accident. In this case John brought forward his own talk on Gibbet Rock. In fact John's talk and that by Liz and Paul Downing were both given in the Methodist Chapel not in the Hall. Liz and Paul gave us an insight into their *Cortijo* in Southern Spain. In May my talk on Alan Blumlein and his invention of stereophonic sound was plagued by problems with Hall and laptop related sound systems. I think we have it sorted now. Richard Cornish took us further afield when he told of 10 things we (maybe) didn't know about the crusades. Frank Parker showed us a well-prepared video tracing the history of the Peak's Lost Valley. Our season concluded with two talks from the Salisburys – Brian and Jill - both focussed on less well known aspects of their subjects. Brian made unexpected connections in dealing with the industrial revolution and Jill in talking about Irish Slaves.

In the first BHS Committee meeting of the year in late January plans were made for our display on Beggar's Plot on Carnival Day. On that day several members helped out and special thanks are due to Richard and Sue Cornish for organizing the assembly of the jigsaw puzzle that is our marquee and to Frank Cooper Snr (not himself a member) who acted as a very efficient 'barker-in' for the sticking a pin in a map (this time Scotland) challenge. In our second Committee meeting in November Peter Wallis accepted our invitation to tell us about the newer ways that the collecting and making available of oral histories are taking. Peter agreed to act as an adviser to the Society on these matters.

After several years of organizing the provision of refreshments for our meetings Rosy Smith has decided to step down and she deserves all of our thanks for the work she has done over the years. As do those of you who have answered her call to help on one or more evenings. Jill Salisbury has volunteered to take over from Rosy so please continue to give Jill your support.

Finally I return to the work of Andy Smith both as our Treasurer and also as our Webmaster. I know our accounts are in safe hands (a view shared I think by Les Waining who again kindly agreed to audit the books). To return to my initial theme of increased membership I believe that Andy's approach to posting on the Website and especially indexing has enhanced the process of recruitment.