

## BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### NEWSLETTER No.22 December 2022

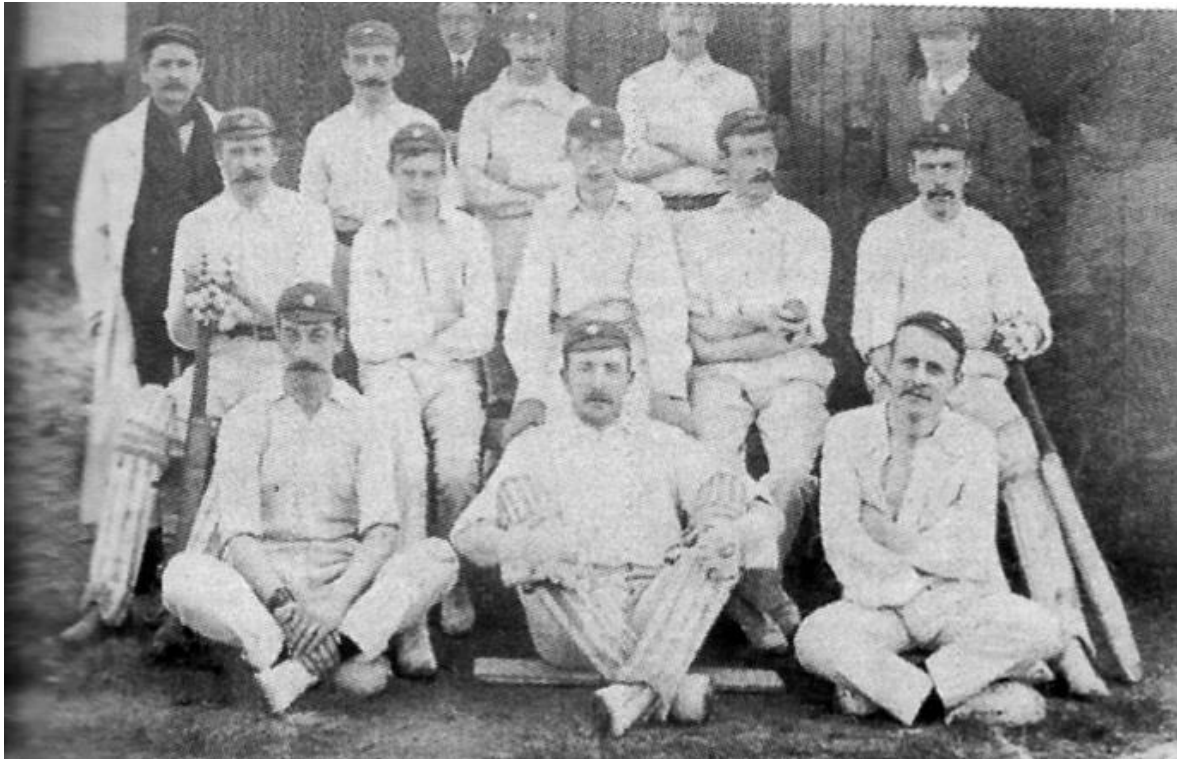
#### Up-coming events

The main focus for this month is the annual meal in the Shoulder of Mutton at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Most of you will have already let John Monahan know about whether you are planning on coming and your choices for the courses, but if you haven't you can always contact Lynne Smith directly at the Shoulder to find if she has any places still available (01433 620427).

Once again Jenifer Lockhart and Gordon Scott have agreed to undertake setting up of our Christmas Tree in St Barnabas. Judging by the standard set by the pair in previous years this will be well worth a visit (as will the other trees in the church). About the festival Jane Dalrymple writes 'The festival will run from Friday Dec 9<sup>th</sup> until Christmas Eve, however the times that the church will be open and the trees lit up are still to be confirmed, as volunteers are needed to supervise the church, but we aim to open it at least 3-4.30 every weekday, and maybe longer at the weekends. If you feel you would like to help out on the rota, sheets will be at the back of church.'

#### Service in the Second World War

Continuing the stories of Bradwell servicemen collected by Walter Rowland we find a newspaper cutting dated February 1946 about (Acting) Lieutenant Ralph Fielding Sanderson of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR). In the 1939 data collected in the preparation for issuing rationing books we find that 22-year old Ralph was living in 1 Cross Lane Villas with his parents Charles and Violet and Violet's sister Lily Morton. Father Charles' occupation in the records for 1939 was stated to be a retired quarry engineer whilst Ralph was a Training College Student.



*1906 photograph of the Bradwell Cricket Team with Charles Sanderson second from the left on the back row.*

Ralph enlisted in the navy in August 1940 as an ordinary seaman. He was commissioned (Acting) Lieutenant in May 1942. He volunteered for mine disposal duties and served in the Admiralty section of Torpedo and Mining . He was probably based in Lowestoft at the Stone Frigate HMS *Europa* (as was Ron Wharton). Ralph was seconded away from Norfolk for three short periods during his service. In 1944 he was engaged upon work in the building of sections of the Mulberry Harbours. He was then posted to a group investigating unfamiliar underwater weapons. Finally in 1945 he was appointed as an instructor at the Royal Naval Bomb Disposal and Demolition School in what was then Cumberland. This was another Stone Frigate based at Holmbrook Hall (not far from Whitehaven) with the appropriate name of HMS *Volcano*.



*Ralph Sanderson 1946*

Intriguingly 1 Cross Lane Villas also features in *After Seth* on p 247 in which is related. the arrival of 15-year old Dawn Herbert. She had been evacuated from Southend. Dawn went on to become one of the troupe of dancing girls known as the Bluebell Girls. The photograph below shows Dawn executing one of the high kicks for which the Girls were famous. The photograph was taken in 1951 when the troupe was appearing at 'The Lido' in Paris.




*Dawn Herbert in Paris in 1951.*

For the coming festive season we include the sheet music for 'Peace O'er the World' and a 1904 Christmas Card. Does anyone know who was 'H (Horace?) Middleton' the arranger of the music?

**Peace o'er the World**

Arranged by  
H. MIDDLETON



1  
Peace o'er the world, her olive branch extends,  
And white-robed innocence from Heaven descends;  
Swift flies the years, and arise the expected morn,  
Oh, spring to life, the auspicious babe be born.

2  
Hark a glad voice, the lonely desert sheers,  
Prepare the way, a God, a God appears,  
A God, a God the vocal hills reply,  
The rocks proclaim the approaching Deity.

3  
The Saviour comes by ancient seers foretold,  
Hear Him ye deaf and all ye blind behold;  
He from thick films shall purge the visual ray,  
And on the sightless eye-ball pour the day.

Figure 9.21: The 'Bradda Anthem'

Carrying on with the Christmas theme: this Christmas Greetings card was sent by Walter Wood of Church Street to Marmaduke Eyre of Smalldale in 1904. In the 1911 census Walter is described as an auxiliary postman whilst Marmaduke and brother



William Eyre are both described as corn millers. It is notable that a card sent by a postman in Bradwell was franked in Sheffield at 8.15 pm on Christmas Eve and almost certainly was delivered in Smalldale (by Walter himself?) on Christmas Day.

