

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER No.32 October 2023

Up-coming events

In October we continue with our series of talks from invited speakers. You may remember that we heard from this month's speaker Tim Knebel via Zoom during covid. At that time he talked about policing in the Hope Valley with particular emphasis on Bradwell policemen. In his talk on Tuesday 17th October his title will be "*In pursuit of a Peak District pensioner criminal*". As usual the meeting will take place at 8.00 pm in the Methodist Hall.

You are reminded that John Monahan has arranged for us to visit the Cuttler's Hall in Sheffield. The visit is scheduled for Tuesday 7th November.

Correspondence

The September 2023 Newsletter included a piece entitled 'Crime in the Peak' in which the works of several crime writers were mentioned. Paul Hadley wrote to say that perhaps one of the Peak-based novels of David J Boulton might have been included. His trilogy are *Fatal Connections*, *Echoes Down the Line* and *Signal Failures*. These are focussed on Whaley Bridge and Cromford and the canals and railways.

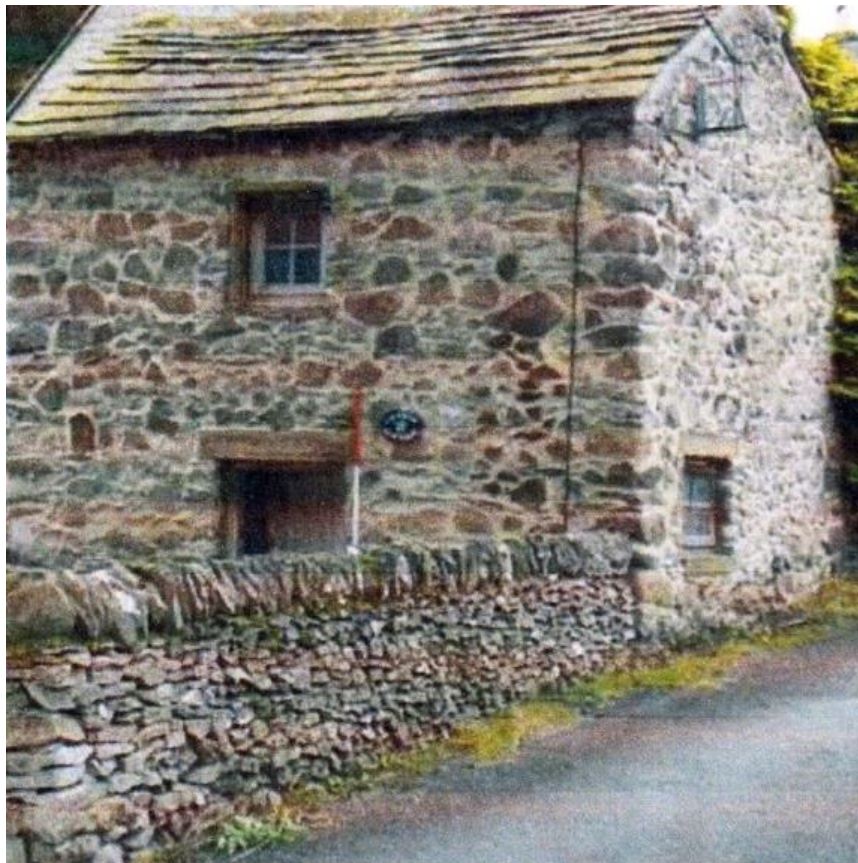
Clare Enright for the Bradwell Community Library is adapting the Crime in the Peak for a display in our library. It will feature one or two of the books fortnightly or monthly. If you can spare copies of any of the books mentioned in the Newsletter or indeed any others on the same theme (Val McDermott or Elizabeth George?) perhaps you can let one of the librarians have them.

Keeping on a literary track Keith Hall has received from Dennis A Davies (Edale born and living in Sunnybank on Smalldale from 1936 to 1948) news

about a three-part book he has written called '*Its all in a life time.*' The book includes Dennis' memories of growing up in Bradwell.

Following the enthusiastic reception of his September talk Jerry Youle has written with two links: one to an online version of the diary on which he based his talk [Growing Up in Iraq \(bisi.ac.uk\)](http://bisi.ac.uk) and a talk in the Mallowan series by the director of Archeology Nicholas Postgate - [The British Institute for the Study of Iraq \(bisi.ac.uk\)](http://bisi.ac.uk)

Cannon Cottage



The building now called Cannon Cottage has a long history in Bradwell but in recent times its exact location and original purpose have been matters of some speculation. The first written reference to a road called Cannon Street on which Cannon Cottage stands is found in a newspaper cutting dating from the early 20th C when it is recorded that one of the village parades walked along that Street. The context of the cutting confirms that the street was on The Hills. A poem of the 1960s by Charles Bradwell Ashton is entitled 'Cannon Street'. Charlie's poem can be found in our second Newsletter dated April 2022.

Towards the end of the 20th C an application was submitted to the Peak Park Authority to redevelop a parcel of land with two buildings on the Hills. However one of the buildings on this land was locally thought to have been a hat 'factory'. If this were the case it would represent the sole example of such

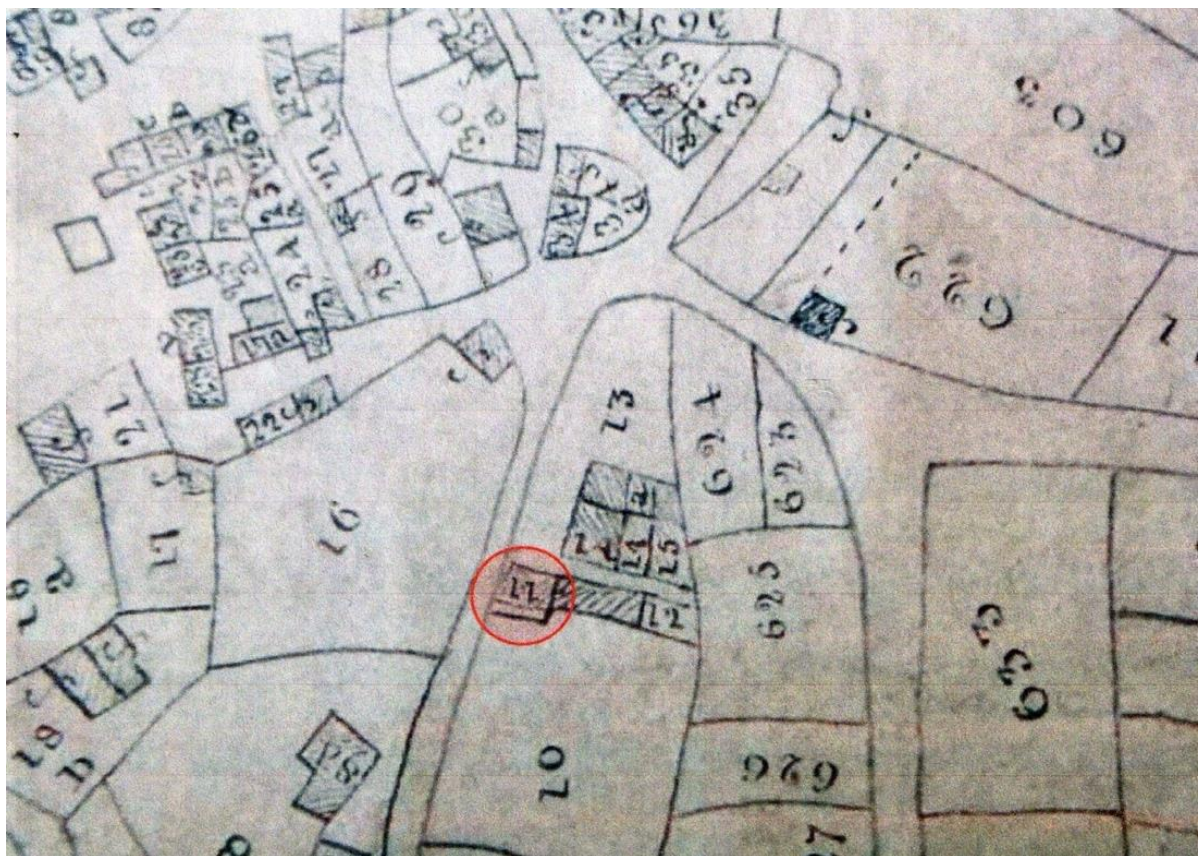
a building still standing and therefore of considerable interest to the village. As a result the Peak Park Authority sent two of their Industrial Archaeologists (of the Archaeological Research Services) to access Cannon Cottage. They were Alvaro Mora-Ottomano (of Spanish ancestry) assisted by Anthony Brown. Their report was published in August 2016 and is available on the Peak Park website.

I spoke to Alvaro when he was conducting his survey. He said that as he drove up to the building, externally it had all the appearances of just another old barn. However when he entered the building he could see that was far from being the case. He could see that there had been chimneys in the west and east faces of the building but there were now only remnants of the west chimney. At that time he could see no corresponding chimney stacks on the roof. But I was able to show him photographs taken in the early 20th C with the expected chimney stacks at both ends. His investigations showed that flues for the two fire places had been integral structures within the masonry of the existing building rather than being later adaptations or insertions. He also noted that close to the southward facing wall of the building had been a structure corresponding to a latrine that had its own drainage system although the structure itself had been long removed. Neither the chimneys nor the drainage system seemed appropriate for a barn or domestic use but both together pointed to the use of the building for commercial purposes. Very likely, they suggested, used as a 'hat shop'.

To complement their physical findings the two archaeologists collected together the documentary evidence that might support their conclusions. For this purpose they assembled a series of maps of the Bessie Lane area of the Hills around Cannon Cottage. These included an Enclosure Award map issued in 1819, the Tithe map of 1844, and Ordinance Survey maps of 1880, 1898 and 1922. On all of these they were able to place a circle around the building indicating its continuing presence since at least 1819. Of particular interest from a historical point of view is the Tithe map because of the numbers inscribed on the map. These can be used together with the accompanying Tithe Apportionment document to indicate both the ownership, occupancy and use of the buildings and gardens, meadows etc. From this it can be seen that building number 17 (Cannon Cottage circled in red)) was owned by Jacob Hallam but was rented from him by Isaac Furness and its use is described as "Hat Shop". Next to that along Cannon Street on the same side of what was then the south side of the road is an unidentified building and then one owned by Thomas How but the use of this building is not shown. On the opposite (northern) side of Cannon Street are three buildings, two both numbered 14 and one 15. The two buildings 14 were owned and occupied by Thomas How. In the 1841 census Thomas Howe aged 45 is shown to be living on the Hills with his wife Lydia (also aged 45) and their children Mary, Jonathan, Abraham, Charlotte and Henry. Number 15 (now called Stonecroft) was a house owned by Jacob Hallam and occupied Isaac Furness (close to his business). Over what was a front door in Stonecroft remains a marital lintel dated 1739 can be seen.

There are one or two other interesting points about the area around Cannon Cottage on the map. Number 16 on the other side of Bessie Lane and stretching to the Green is a piece of land designated Bessy Croft. On the far side of Bessy Croft facing the Green is plot number 22 which was a garden owned by Abram Dakin but in the use of Joshua Ibberson. John and Janis Ibbotson now live on the Hills but don't appear to be related.

The Tithe Apportionments also show two Cupolas (lead smelting?), one numbered 21 and owned by Barnsley & Co but rented to Thomas Hill. This is located close to where the house called The Mount now stands at the top of the Shart. Cupola number 19 is owned by Isaac Royce and is found where now stand Overdale Houses (just off the map). The chimneys corresponding to these two Cupolas can be seen in 19th C photographs of the Hills.



1844 Tithe map of part of the Hills (Cannon Cottage red circle)