

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Up-coming events

The April talk will be given on Tuesday 16th of the month as usual at 8 pm in the Methodist Hall. Martin Rowley will be giving a presentation with the intriguing title of 'The History of the Gangs of Sheffield.' Martin has written:

The story of the Gang Wars in Sheffield 1923 to 1928 when the city was run by the Mooney Gang and the Park Brigade. The police and council were powerless to challenge them and greed, theft, treachery, intimidation and corruption were the influences in the day.

The establishment of the "Special Duties" squad AKA the "Flying Squad" and the government's man Capt. Percy Sillitoe led to the smashing of the gangs and peace to the city. I look at Sillitoe's career and the feature film being made on the "Sheffield Gang Wars". Be prepared to be shocked and amazed at the violence in Sheffield almost 100 years ago...!

Reminder of Good News

As was mentioned in the Newsletter for March the Bradwell Historical Society has been invited as a beneficiary of a coffee morning at St Barnabas Church. This is to be held from 10.00 to 11.30 am on Saturday 6th April. We are hoping as many members as possible can support this event by bringing along cakes, a raffle prize or simply by attending. People bringing raffle prizes have in the past brought (on the day) bottles of wine, boxes of chocolate, boxes of biscuits, plants etc.

Triumph in Toronto

Through the good offices of Joan Safhill a decorative plaque has been placed in the hands of the BHS. For many years the plaque has been kept by Heather Ramsdale and in this article Les Waining has written an account of the winning of the plaque in Canada:

This relates to an international show that was organised by the Canadian Chrysanthemum Society in 1982. At that time Bradwell had 4 growers at National level, namely Brian Ramsdale, Mick Waterhouse, Fred Waining and myself.

We decided that it would be good to have a go at this show in Toronto, not an easy task as it obviously involved sending flowers by air with problems of temperature and pressure.

The first obstacle was that we had to have our gardens inspected for nematode worms (a Canadian requirement) so a man from the Ministry arrived and duly certified us. It should be noted that these worms are invisible to the naked eye so quite what he thought he was looking for baffled us.

The next problem was how to travel them. Fred and I built a box from plywood with strengthening pieces and hurdles to fasten the flowers to, plus tubes of water to keep them in good condition during their journey. We worked on the principal that some would deteriorate or be damaged during the trip so we needed to get as many as possible into the box which was of a prescribed size. The transport was paid by the organisers.

There was an offer from the Canadians to stage flowers on behalf of any Society who could not send a representative but we didn't need this as Brian and Heather Ramsdale offered to go. Unfortunately myself and Janet couldn't go as we were expecting our first child at the time.

The competition called for 3 vases of flowers with 5 blooms in each vase and when Brian and Heather unpacked the flowers in Toronto they had travelled well and they were able to enter another class for 1 vase of 5 flowers as well.

The plaque shows you the result. We won the international competition, best in show and the other class as well, much to everyone's delight.

Some other Societies from the UK also went and I think it is fair to say that some were a little miffed that a Produce Club as opposed to a Chrysanthemum Society had won. Your club/society needed to be affiliated to the National Chrysanthemum Society to be able to enter and it just happened that ours had been founded during wartime and Dig for Briton hence the name.

Bradwell Produce Club also entered 2 more international completions in 1984 (Risca in South Wales and Liverpool) winning both. So Bradwell can rightly claim to be unbeaten in international competition.

Attached are photos of the front and back of the key fob produced by the organisers with a picture of the best in show vase. A medallion was also struck that is in my safekeeping. A statuette was also presented in Toronto and this is now with my brother Fred.





