

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Up-coming events

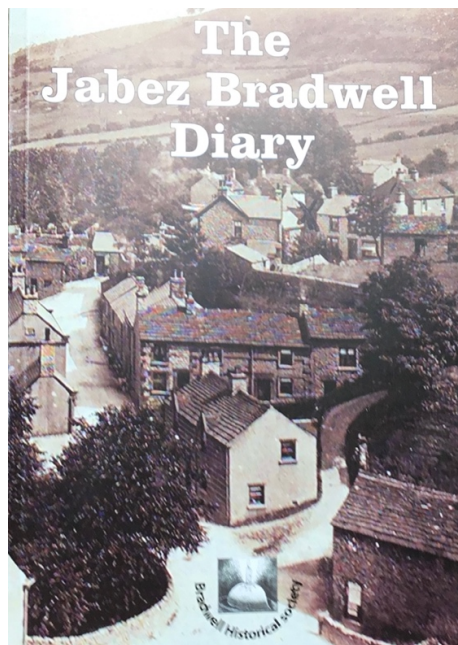
There is no event scheduled by the BHS for July. You may wish, however, to buy a copy of one of the three pamphlets describing historical walks around the village and follow these. They cover central Bradwell, The Hills and Town Lane, Smalldale and Granby. These can be obtained from Cheryl at S & F Stores. Towngate.

At this time we must prepare for the mounting of our stall on Beggars Plot for Carnival on Saturday 3rd of August. We hope to set up our marquee at 7 pm on Friday 2nd August but since it won't be secure those items we aim to sell: Books, Pamphlets DVDs etc will be laid out at about 11 am on the 3rd. We will also be able to offer for sale The Jabez Bradwell Diary that we've recently reprinted (see below). In addition we will be offering our challenge to stick a pin in a map, this time of the Isle of Man. So any help you can give with the marquee of Friday and its taking down at about 4 pm of Carnival day would be great. Coming along at some time between 12 noon and 4 pm to help steward the stall will also be very much appreciated.

Living in Bradwell in the 19th Century

One of the earliest projects undertaken by the BHS after its formation in 1994 was the transcription of pages of a diary kept by Jabez Bradwell between 1877 and 1886. The barely readable pencil-written loose pages were discovered by Ben Wilson whose cottage was 'Townend' at the bottom of Town Lane. Ben showed the pages to Lilian Riddall who painstakingly deciphered much of the content. Thanks to this heroic effort the Society was able to print the diary in 1996. How many copies were printed and by whom is not clear (copyright is with the BHS and the ISBN is 0 9529227 0 3) but the sales must have been good enough to warrant a reprint that was made in 2004. However in 1996 and also 2004 the preparation of text for printing was in a relatively early stage of development and by 2024 no electronic copy could be located. When contacted George Dawn of Mensa Printers of Abbeydale Road Sheffield offered to unbind one of the 2004 reprints (the printer used at that time – laser-jet was superior to the bubble jet used in 1996). This allowed him to scan the pages (72 in all) in a form suitable for his printing set up. The 2004

reprint had a very plain cover whereas the original had a 1913 Harry Sunderland photograph of Dale End looking towards the church. Using the original Sunderland postcard Mensa have been able to marry the 1996 cover with the 2004 text to produce a 2024 reprint. This they are now printing and we are hoping to have copies for sale at £5 for Carnival Day in August. Mensa has also taken the scans they generated and subjected them to optical character recognition (OCR). This generates a much cleaner text but suffers from the well-known problem with OCR: that of word recognition and this is exacerbated by many of the 19th century words no longer being used. George Dawn has provided the OCR file for the BHS. We would like to hear from any Society member willing to undertake the corrections necessary to allow this to be stored in our archive.



Part 3 An impatient vicar

A research group of the Hope Historical Society including Joan Clough, recently produced a report entitled “A Tale of Two Vicars’ of Hope. Joan has sent the BHS a copy of their report on Francis Orton who was ‘a diligent man performing most baptisms, marriages and burials himself. Indeed he baptised several of his own children describing his occupation as a ‘servant of Jesus Christ’. In 1836 the Rev Orton’s diocese included both Smalldale and Bradwell there being no Anglican Church in those villages. 1836 Rev Orton wrote to Mr Jackson of Smalldale concerning the will of Mr Jackson’s late father. But then he continued in the letter to address some questions Mr Jackson had asked earlier about religious matters in Smalldale and Bradwell. We haven’t a copy of the letter Mr Jackson had addressed to the vicar but it is easy to deduce this from the tenor of the response.

...I take the opportunity of saying that I have given the subject you mention full consideration and have concluded to decline any extraordinary efforts in the way of Preaching at Smalldale or Bradwell, both on account of my health and also because if the inmates of these two places were disposed there are two full services in the Church (*St Peter’s*) on Lord’s days, and if they only took this opportunity of hearing my exhortations and would practise them in the ensuing week, I am sure no more would be necessary. And with respect to Class Meetings you mentioned I should not like to be responsible for the propriety of any religious instructions imparted by any person than myself: the generality are so ignorant of the true doctrines of the Gospel that I should not have confidence in them which I ought to have before I employed them to act for me. All I can say is that it will be a satisfaction to me to visit those who regularly attend God’s house in their health, when laid in bed in sickness – and to any during the long nights of winter I shall be happy to lend books if they apply themselves – and if any such are destitute of the Word of God, or want prayer books for the church, I shall let them have them at (the) reduced prices of the Christian Knowledge Society which is about half price.

Believe me Dear Sir
Francis Orton
Hope Vicarage
Oct 15th 1836

Apparently the Rev Orton’s exhortations had not been sufficient for their recipients to teach others!