

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER No 46 December 2024

Up-coming events

As always the key event in the December calendar is the annual dinner this year at the Shoulder of Mutton. This will take place on 17th of the month beginning at 7 pm. If you wish to attend but still haven't let John Monahan know that you would like to please contact John (621708), anytime up to 6th December, after which date please contact Lynne Smith at the Shoulder.

Once more Jen Lockhart and Gordon Scott have volunteered to present our Christmas tree. The tree will be displayed in the church along with offerings from many of the other groups in the village and may be viewed from Saturday 14th December onwards up until just before Christmas. Jane Dalrymple is asking for volunteers to act as stewards in the church. You can sign up on the rota in the church.

Our AGM will be held on 21st January 2025 and once again we will be trying to be as close as possible 'paperless' for this meeting, so you will find such things as the chairman's and financial reports, minutes of the last AGM and the programme for next year online at our website early in January.

At the BHS committee meeting held in November the way forward for the future management of the Society by its elected committee was discussed in light of the present chair having indicated that he would not be standing for re-election in 2025. All of the members of the committee were present (except *ex officio* member, President Keith Hall) and separately indicated they would stand for re-election at the AGM. At the same time none of them was prepared to take on the full range of tasks that had gathered around the present chair over the years. It was suggested that in the future there should be two co-chairs who between them would take on the more formal roles of the Society such as introducing speakers and laying poppies etc. The role of the treasurer would remain as it is, as would the task of organizing refreshments. In order to reduce the amount of work falling on the secretary/chair someone from the committee would take on the paperwork for example the

preparation of agenda. A group would be set up in the committee to identify future speakers. The present chair would join the committee *ex officio* as editor of the Newsletter. At the AGM you will be able to comment on and it is to be hoped approve of this way forward and elect a committee to manage it.

A Christmas theme

In a book of newspaper cuttings kept by Walter Rowland we find with the date 24th December 2001 with the headline 'A Sublime Christmas Celebration' accompanied by the following text:

On Saturday 15th December St Barnabas Church was alive with the sound of music!

The music was in fact the glorious sound of a performance of Verdi's 'Gloria' given by the Peak Singers. And their exceptionally gifted guests.. The superb soloists were soprano Mary Shearn, whose lovely voice had the rare quality of clarity that brought the beautiful Vivaldi Score vividly to life. Then the rich tones of the contralto, Lynne Bradbury enchanted everyone who was fortunate enough to be present.

The Peak Singers responded to their soloists by singing the wonderful choruses with great sensitivity and feeling.

As always Alan Eost, one of the area's leading organists, accompanied with his impeccable musicianship that delights the ear.

Nancie Salt was the musical director and is to be warmly congratulated on the high quality of this beautiful performance. Not content with merely giving us the magic of the 'Gloria', the choir and soloists then sang the Christmas music from Handel's 'Messiah' which proved another musical treat.

The concert concluded with a selection of glorious Christmas Carols to the delight of the audience who had travelled long distances to join the Hope Valley residents, for the musical feast. They were certainly not disappointed, judging by glowing comments as people departed into the cold December night.

It is an amazing fact that performances of this quality can be heard so often in the villages of the Hope Valley.

Long may our local musicians and choirs continue to bring such pleasure to audiences with their stunning concerts.