

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Up-coming events

This month's talk by Sylvia Mason will cover a little known episode of Derbyshire history. Her title is 'The Pentrich Revolution – England's Last Armed Rebellion. Two of the three leaders of the uprising were from South Wingfield and the other was from Sutton in Ashfield. The talk will start at 8 pm on Tuesday 7th in the Methodist's Hall.

VE day eighty years ago

Much attention was paid last month to the ending of WWII in Europe (VE day) eighty years ago. It is interesting to find how the event was reported in the Derbyshire Times back then. In a piece published on the 11th May 1945 the banner headline reads

THE war with Germany officially ended on Tuesday
The "Cease Fire" being sounded at one minute past midnight.

For Bradwell we read: The celebration was a gay affair. Flags were flying everywhere, and bunting and streamers bedecked every street and highway. Newburgh Hall was illuminated with dozens of coloured lights, and a big Union Jack, in the centre was lit up in a Victory "V". The Parish Church was floodlit as was "Rockside". Church services of thanksgiving were held every two hours. A combined service for the congregations of the Wesleyan and Bethlehem Methodist Chapels was conducted in the Wesley Chapel by the Rev J Baines Atkinson. Members of the Youth Guild took part in the service. Telegraphist Leslie Bradwell, home on leave and Mr Charlie Bland read the lessons and Miss Mary Evans and Sgt Kenneth Elliott announced the hymns. There was a large congregation.

In the newspaper for the following week (18th May) more of the celebrations were described : To celebrate Victory in Europe the workpeople of Newburgh Eng. Co. Ltd. Bradwell were entertained to a victory tea and concert in Newburgh Hall on Thursday week. After tea a concert was given by Mr. M Levi and his troupe of ENSA artistes (*Entertainments National Service Association. This was a UK organization*

established in 1939 to provide entertainment for British armed forces personnel during World War II.) Mr Isaac Middleton extended a welcome to the guests, and a toast to "Our glorious victory" was proposed by Mr. C A Hanson. A dance in Newburgh Hall, Bradwell, on VE Night realised £36, which has been handed to the local Red Cross Fund.

Organised by the ATC (*Air Training Corps*) an excellent concert was given in the Memorial Hall, Bradwell on Saturday, by the Killamarsh Male Voice Choir, assisted by Miss Norton (elocutionist) Mr William Norton (elocutionist), Mr William Glossop (baritone), Miss Ryder (pianoforte). Violin solos were given by Mr Smith also conductor of the choir. Mr H Turner announced the items. Mr Cyril Evans in thanking the artistes on behalf of the Comforts Fund Committee, for which the concert was given, mentioned that in addition to paying their own expenses, the party had also made a donation of £3 0s 6d in the fund. Thanks were also extended to Mrs Firth who paid for the hire of the Hall and to Cathie Jones and Margaret O'Brien who by the sale of victory emblems had made £1 1s for the effort. The sum of £19 was raised.

In a short note appended to these reports it was mentioned that Pte Tommy Bough (Sherwood Foresters) of Church Street, Bradwell arrived home last Sunday after being a Prisoner in Germany for nearly five years. (In fact this is slightly inaccurate because although Tommy was held prisoner by the Germans it was in Poland not Germany. You can read how Tommy was captured in the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940 and of his confinement in Poland on p 236 of 'After Seth'.