

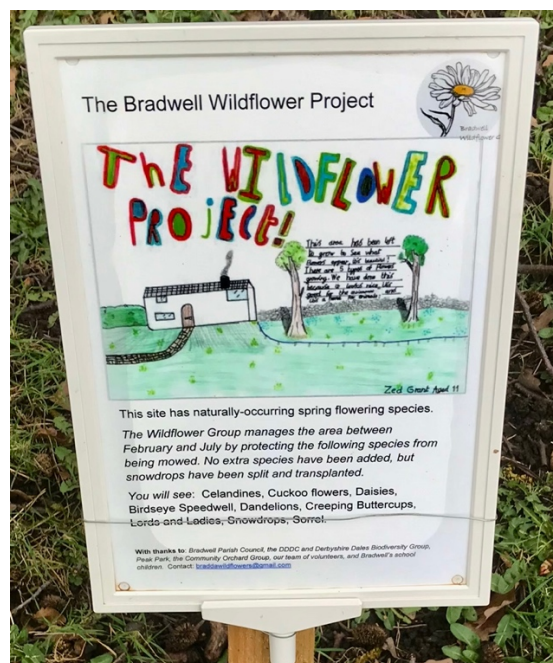
HISTORICAL WALK ROUND BRADWELL

Number 3 TOWN LANE, SMALLDALE AND GRANBY



Route Start from Town End, Town Lane, Smalldale up to Smalldale Halls and back down to Granby Road. Return to Hugh Lane down Charlotte Lane.

Town End up Town Lane (1) Notice the Lime Tree on the triangle of land next to the field known as Beggars Plot (or Bacca Plac). This is one of the Diamond Jubilee trees planted in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. There is also evidence of an old lead mining sough in front of the appropriately named house at the bottom of Hugh Lane called Spring View. Opposite the tree is the house called Homestead Cottage and this was the subject of a painting by New Zealand artist Pamela Mann done as a wedding present for George and Margaret Mitchell who lived in the house. Walk up Town Lane besides the Beggar's Plot (shown as Beggar's Place in a 1807 map) part of which is being developed by the Wildflower Group. **(2)** You can read the informative notice if you enter the Plot at the top when you will find that included in the flowers found there were those called Lords & Ladies. These are normally associated with woodland. They may therefore be survivors from the time when the Forest of the Peak stretched all the way to the east bank of Bradwell Brook.



The Wildflower Group

On the left up Town Lane before Furlong View notice what looks like a tall lamppost with no light fitting, only a metal grid over the top. This is an old stench pipe designed to carry away smells from the sewers.

Bottom of Smalldale (to Granby Road) (3) Right at the bottom of Smalldale is Smalldale End Cottage. In the 1930s this was a shop and one of its occupants at that time was Marshall Elliott. He was a bugle player who played at the war memorial at St Barnabas church on 11th November every year. It is said that Marshall's ghost appears at the top of the stairs in the cottage to play the last post on that day.



Smalldale End Cottage (1935)



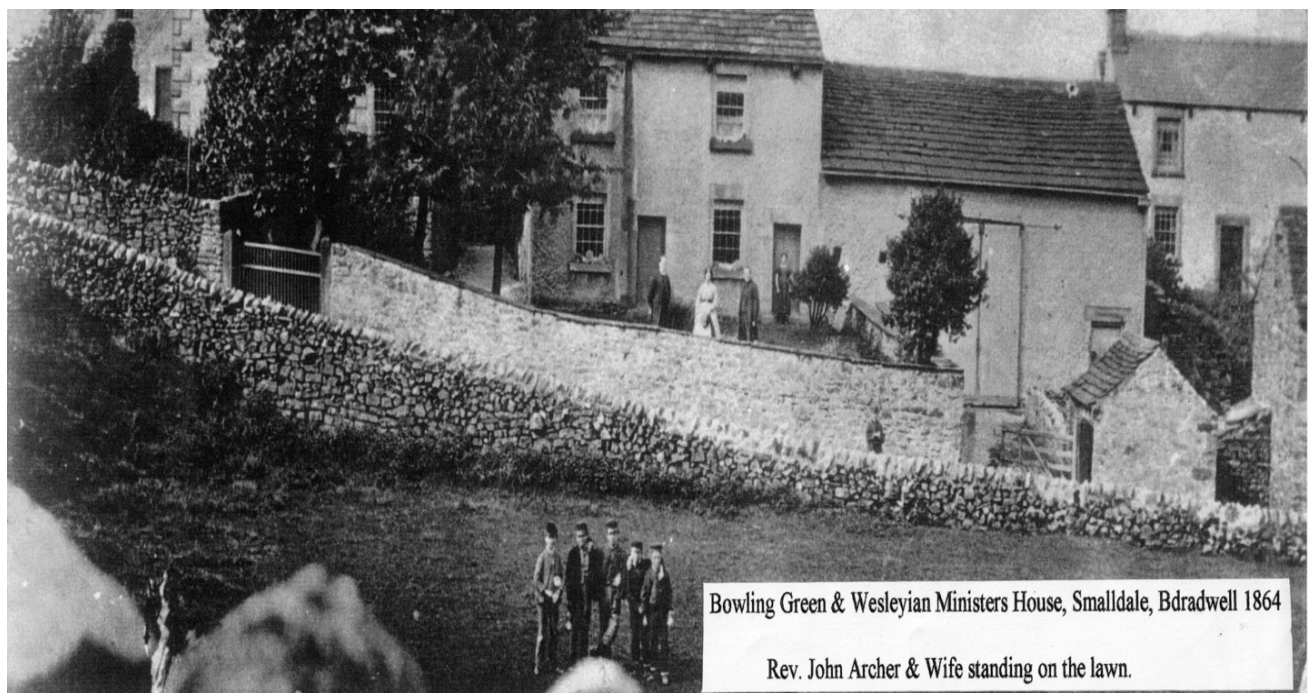
Sketch of Cob Castle by Percy Fischer 1930s

Carrying on up Smalldale we come to a branch to the left up Little or Back Lane going a short way up the Lane you'll see a notice describing what was the three storey Cob Castle. At different times this has been a hat factory (Bradda Beavers protective headware for the miners), a boot factory and also an optician's factory. (In this context opticians were people who made optical instruments such as telescopes, not spectacles). Return to Smalldale and continue past what was called WYBMDIITY cottage (will you buy me a drink if I tell you?) but is now Owl Cottage The garden gnomes and other articles in the next cottage are carefully maintained and from time to time added to.



The Olde Bowling Green Inn (c 1960)

(4) Continue to reach the Olde Bowling Green Inn. This once again has the air of an ancient pub but what you see now was only done in the 1960s. However the building may have been in the hands of either Godfrey Morten or Ottiwell Yellot who each kept inns in Bradwell in 1577. But we don't know where either of these two landlords was located. By 1753 Robert Francis was named as a licensee living on Smalldale when the property was known as the Rose Tree. The present name was only adopted in 1846 by George Bramwell when the village Bowling Green was being established across the road where two bungalows now stand. In a photograph taken in 1864 bowlers holding what look like cannonballs can be seen.



In the background is the Wesleyan minister and his family standing outside what was the manse (now replaced by cottages). In the extreme left of the photograph what are now Rainbow Cottage and The Rockery can just be made out.. The Rockery at an earlier time consisted of two (three?) cottages and the lower of the two/three (Oak Cottage) is the oldest dated cottage in Bradwell (1640) (5). In front of the Rockery is another of the Diamond Jubilee lime trees. It can be seen as a sapling in the picture of the cottages dating from about 1900. Optician Joshua Evans lived in what was Oak Cottage in the middle of the 19th C.



Rockery and Oak Cottages (c 1900) with 'Miss Eyre's cottage' now Rainbow Cottage on the right.

Immediately above The Rockery and set at right angles to the road you'll find Ashcroft. The story is told that in 1885 a man and his wife were living in Ashcroft when the neighbours began to notice the absence of the wife. When asked the man replied that she had walked out on him and wasn't returning. Rumours began to spread that the wife had been done away with. This led to a police investigation that came to nothing. Even so it seems that the man could not stand the continuing neighbourly innuendo so he hanged himself. In the church records the man's burial is described

as being by 'coroner's order' i.e. after an inquest and appears to have been in an unmarked grave at St Barnabas.

Further up Smalldale on your right is South View which was once the home of local bard Isaac Hall who in 1914 wrote a long poem warning the German Kaiser what was in stall for him when 'The Bradda Lads get up'. Isaac was an overseer at the cotton mill at Bamford.

Upper Smalldale Further up Smalldale there is a turning on the right to Kiln Lane (6)



Kiln Lane (c 1900)

This is a former occupation road that gave workers access to a set of Lime Kilns. Continuing past Granby Road carry on up Smalldale and on the right catch a glimpse of Cresswell Knoll, rebuilt by George Ashton and his sons Charles and Leslie in the 1960s. The story goes that the joiners who made the stairs found that they couldn't be taken into the house whole so they had to saw them in two! A little further up also on the right hand side of Smalldale you'll see an open space with small 'cliffs' leading up to the houses above. It is said that in earlier times a pack of hunting dogs was kept in caves in the

'cliffs'. The final visit up Smalldale is to the two joined Smalldale Halls (7). The lower Smalldale Old Hall (dated 1671) is where the Cresswell family lived for a while in the 18th century, Thomas Cresswell being the churchwarden at Hope around 1789. Joined onto the Old Hall is Smalldale (New) Hall and above it is a recent barn conversion. The land above the Old Hall was enclosed in the 19th C and awarded to the Cresswell family and was known as Cresswell Part and the road running from Smalldale Head Road towards Castleton is still known as Cresswell Part Road. Now retrace your steps to Granby Road.



Smalldale Old Hall (right) and Smalldale Hall (left) (c 1960)

Granby Road On the left of Granby Road as you walk along is Granby House (8) where until recently lived the person who probably knew more than anyone in Bradwell about its babies, for she was a mid-wife and in 2015 the first baby Nurse Joyce Gould delivered in the village reached his 60th birthday while his midwife was still living. In 2010 Joyce Gould was the proud recipient of Maundy Money from Queen Elizabeth II in Derby Cathedral. Joyce was also a leading light in quilt making in the village.



Bradwell Junior FC mouse

(9) Further along Granby but on the other side of the road is the house called Ruthavon where Kitty MacBride lived. Kitty was a potter famous for her Beswick Ware mice and several Bradwellians are owners of Kitty's mice made especially for them. These include the Bradwell Junior Football Club who have a mouse kitted out in the Bradwell colours of black and white stripes. She also did a mouse poster for the WI.



There used to be a mouse door knocker on the front door of Ruthavon but the door has recently been bricked over (although the mouse has been preserved). The final house to see at the far end of Granby is Moorlow Tor. This was built in 1905 and during WWI it was made available to some of the Belgium refugees who came to the village – about 25 all together but not all in Moorlow Tor! (10)



Return to Town End Opposite Moorlow Tor turn left down Charlotte Lane and continue past Fox House to follow the route described in the first of these pamphlets down Smithy Hill to Hugh Lane. Here turn left and walk past the Junior School (11) back to the start of the walk at Town End.



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