

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER No. 65 July 2026

Up-coming events

In July and August we take a summer break from our talks. Those wishing to do so may follow one or more of the three Historical Walks around the village. These are located on our website that is bradwellhistoricalsociety.org.uk in the About section. The walks take in 1. Central Bradwell 2. The Hills and 3. Smalldale.

Due to ill health I will not be able act as Newsletter editor beyond this issue.

Memories of Keith Hall

Following the passing of Keith Hall our immediate past president we invited members to submit their recollections of the man. This produced several replies that are reproduced here. Not surprisingly some of them focus on Keith's love of motor vehicles.

From Louise Vincent: I have fond memories of doing the tea and coffee at BHS meetings with Keith and neither of us really having a clue! Of sitting next to him at one of the Christmas meals and laughing till I cried at his stories. And walking up that steep hill to his house to hand deliver messages as he refused to look at emails. I will miss him.

From Rod and Anna Smallwood: Keith and his wife Val were delightful neighbours. Keith was always busy, frequently working on his vintage cars, and often telling epic recovery stories after some part had failed. When we went to Tideswell Cinema Club together, he could instantly recognise any car in the film, however old or obscure. One year we had a Japanese - themed party, with women in kimonos, two Ninjas, and the most original - Keith in a Toyota boiler suit.

Keith's ability to date motor vehicles within a year or two also came to the fore when a group of Society members met each Saturday morning to catalogue the numerous

old photographs they had been given. Almost invariably these were undated but were quickly annotated following Keith's eagle eyed inspection if they contained even a hint of a motor vehicle.

From John Monahan: Keith was a proud Derbyshire man and keen cricket follower. I remember a few years ago when Look North made a great thing of a Yorkshire cricket success but made no mention of Derbyshire's. An infuriated Keith wrote to Look North to complain about Derbyshire's omission and received a reply declaring that it was an Editorial Decision. Needless to say, Keith was far from impressed especially as Derbyshire had finished above Yorkshire in the second division table that year!

From Brian Gillham: In the 2010s the Society tried the idea of holding a meeting on the plan of the radio programme '*Desert Island discs*' and Keith was the first volunteer castaway. It was not difficult to get Keith talking of his life! Unfortunately the technology we had available was very basic so our attempt to record it failed. But one of his choices of a track was of Salford-born comedian Al Read and was called simply '*Parking*'. Keith also recalled that as part of his training he went to a college near Windsor. One night as they sat in the pub someone suggested that should go and serenade Marilyn Monroe. At that time (1956) she was filming the '*Prince and the Showgirl*' with co-star Lawrence Olivier. Monroe and her husband Arthur Miller were living at Parkside House on the edge of Windsor Great Park. But it seems unlikely they would have got very close to the lady because Parkside House itself had a considerable estate around which Marilyn would cycle.

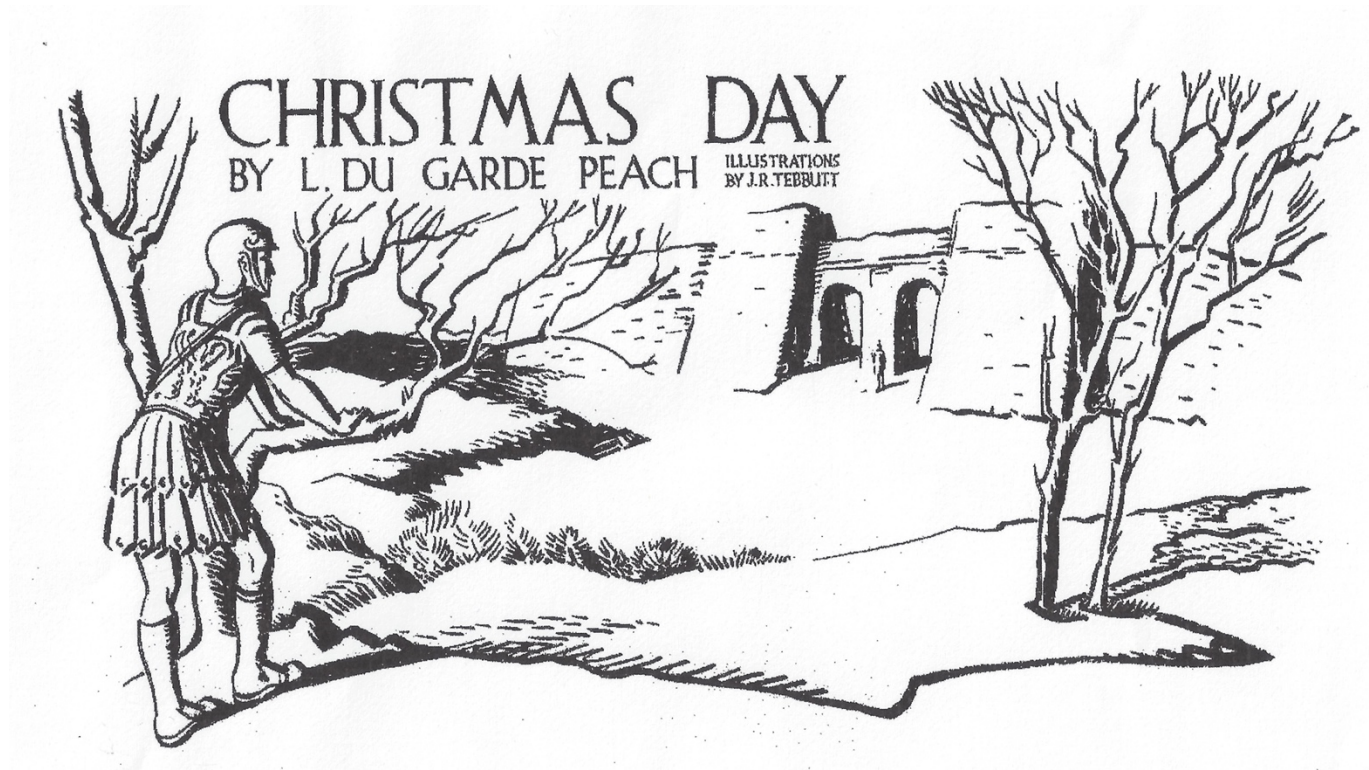
To anyone who would listen Keith explained how his father came to be in possession of all three of the WWI medals 'Pip' 'Squeak' and 'Wilfred' despite only having served in the Army for less than three days. Before the War Keith's father worked on a farm where he had a bad fall from the hay loft. This meant that he walked with a distinct limp. Nevertheless when the call went out in 1914 to join the army, on a Saturday he and his mate walked to Bakewell to enlist. The recruiting officer was happy to sign them both up but that had to be agreed by a medical officer (MO) and none was available. Could they come back on Monday? So they walked back to Bradwell as soldiers and duly returned to Bakewell after the weekend. The MO considered that the limp was too severe and so the short stay in the army was terminated. In the 1930s there was an outbreak of robberies in the Hope Valley and some of the stolen items were recovered by the police including Pip, Squeak and Wilfred inscribed to someone called Hall. Despite repeated efforts the law had not been able to locate the owner. So they said that Keith's father might as well keep them.

[As was promised by Jerry Youle after his talk in May he has supplied a bibliography on](#)

[NAVIO – THE ROMAN FORT AT BROUGH](#)

In his recent talk, Jerry Youle mentioned a ghost story set at Navio. It was written by *L Du Garde Peach* and was published in 1947 in 'Out of Doors' magazine. It can be found on the

website of Archaeological Research Services who carried out a rescue excavation at the Breedon shale quarry in 2019. Here it is - [Christmas Day](#)



The main scholarly source of information about the fort and the civilian settlement is **'Navio: The fort and vicus at Brough-on-Noe, Derbyshire – Martin Dearne** [*no 234 of British Archaeological Reports Series, published in 1993*]. This was a heroic attempt to hunt down and synthesise all known investigatory work, much of which had never previously been published.

A much shorter and readable history of Navio can be found in **'Roman Derbyshire' - Mark Patterson** [2016]

The story of the military diploma found in Sheffield is set out in **'The Stannington Roman Diploma of AD24' – Michael Dyson** [2022]

'Roman Britain - A New History' – Guy de la Bedoyere is a well-illustrated overview of Britain under the Romans

All these books can be found on Amazon.

The story of Bill Sanderson's strange timeslip back to Roman times is told in **'An accessible wilderness – life at Stanage and the North Lees Estate – edited by Jenny Edgar** [2003]. Unfortunately, this may be more difficult to track down.

We also have our own account by **Ken West** on the Society's website, covering the lead industry, the road network and Navio - [The Romans in Bradwell](#) [2024]

Finally, if anyone wants to take a closer look at the road network, go to the website of the **Roman Roads Research Association**, including on [Navio to Templeborough](#) and [Navio to Buxton](#).