

# Bradwell News

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Issue 273  
March 2025  
www.bradda.org

## EVENTS


**Sat 1:** Community Coffee Morning: Methodist Hall: 10 to 1130am. All donations are for the community library.

**Tue 18:** Historical Society: 8pm in the Methodist Hall. The Story of Buxton's "Crescent" by Trevor Gilman

## OPEN GARDENS 2025

Bradwell Open Gardens Day always takes place on the final Saturday of Gala Week, which this year is 9<sup>th</sup> of August. For the last few years this event has been organised through St Barnabas Church, with all funds raised used to support the Parish Church. The visitors who come to the Open Garden Day tell us how much they have enjoyed visiting the lovely gardens and our beautiful village, to say nothing of the various refreshments provided. I will contact those gardeners who have generously opened their gardens in the past, but it is always great to be able to add new gardens to the itinerary. Don't worry! No garden is ever perfect; visitors just enjoy getting new ideas on layouts, plants, eco-gardens, even making compost, and see it as an enjoyable day out. If you might be interested in opening your garden please do call me on 621172, or email me at [churchwarden.stb@gmail.com](mailto:churchwarden.stb@gmail.com).  
Jane Dalrymple

## A PRICKLY PROBLEM

 A recent Hedgehog conservation report, published in 2024 by The British Hedgehog Preservation Society and People's Trust for Endangered Species made clear that Hedgehogs are in deep trouble, particularly in the countryside. The strategy states that since the year 2000 Hedgehog numbers have reduced by as much as 75% in some rural areas. Key reasons for their decline include a reduction in suitable habitat and natural food, increased road death, toxic chemical accumulation and genetic isolation. Please help us to find out how our Hedgehogs are doing in and around Bradwell by emailing your sightings in 2025 to: [hedgehogs.bradwell@gmail.com](mailto:hedgehogs.bradwell@gmail.com)

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editorial team. Please send news by e-mail to: [paul@paulandliz.org](mailto:paul@paulandliz.org) or call Paul (623941), Andy (623483) or Steve (620329). You can also leave hand written copy at the Post Office. For questions on advertising please contact Caroline [carolinepreston37@gmail.com](mailto:carolinepreston37@gmail.com)  
**Copy Deadline for April Edition: 19th March**

## ANDREW JUDGE



Andrew was very proud to be Bradwell born and bred, having been born on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1954, to loving parents Joan and John Judge, in 'The Judges' cottage, Bessie Lane, The Hills. Andrew was the middle of three children and was close to both his older brother, Christopher and his younger sister, Elizabeth. Andrew attended school at Lady Manners in Bakewell from 1965. While at school he worked as a tour guide in Treackcliff cavern in Castleton. It was here that he met his future wife

Sheena. The two married in 1975 and went on to have two children, Matthew and Rebecca. Andrew went to University in Nottingham to study Engineering. He continued this interest in engineering into his career, working firstly at Ferodo, in Chapel-en-le-Frith, then at GKN in Chesterfield and later all around the world for Castle Systems. Community was really important to Andrew and he was a huge part of Bradwell life, joining various groups and councils to support the village and making many good friends along the way. He was involved in the Scouts, the Wells Dressing committee and the Players committee, to name but a few. Andrew was heavily involved in the Smalldale Well, petalling on it and often drawing it over the years, enjoying the companionship as much as the task in hand. Andrew could also be seen yearly treading the boards in the village pantomime, which he did for 25 years, having great fun and making wonderful memories. He could often be seen around the village that he loved and would always engage in a chat with you or simply offer a cheery 'hello'. Andrew passed away on 4<sup>th</sup> January, in the home that he built, and with his family around him. His funeral took place on 5<sup>th</sup> February at Hutcliffe Wood Crematorium. Sheena and family would like to thank you for all your kind words and stories about Andrew. He will be hugely missed by many.

*Andrew was also for many years Chair of the Bradwell News committee, providing editorial support and guidance, managing our committee meetings and bringing his own special brand of warmth and humour to the proceedings. Jonathan Bradwell has stepped into the role and of course we'll carry on, but Andy will be sorely missed and somehow things will never be quite the same again. Rest in Peace, dear friend.*

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## PC NOTES

News from the village is fairly quiet on the Parish Council front for February. Hopefully Spring will soon be on its way and we can say goodbye to the frosty mornings and slippery conditions on the pavements and roads. Cllr Harrison has made things a bit easier for everyone by his 'gritting rounds', which he does in his own time, so we thank him on behalf of the village.

**Carnival 2025:** The first planning meeting is 7:30pm on March 12<sup>th</sup> in the Gallery Room at Bradwell War Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and we hope there may be some new faces this year. The council carnival committee are responsible for organising the parade and the field on Gala Day. All carnival related questions should now be directed to the clerk. If you would like to volunteer to act as a marshal on the day, which this year is on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, please could you contact the parish clerk. Also, if you would like a stall on the field or have any other questions or offers of help please contact the clerk. Her email address is [parishclerk@bradda.org](mailto:parishclerk@bradda.org).

**Youth Activities:** On behalf of the Youth Activities committee, council would like to thank everyone who attended the February coffee morning at St Barnabas' Church and donated to the great cause which is Youth Activities. **£388** was raised, which will enable the group to engage in some more exciting and challenging activities. The programme is run but not funded by the council, with Cllrs Salvage and Taylor leading the way. It is open for teenagers aged 11 to 16. The group is great fun and is also a great thing to put on your CV as it encourages skills such as teamwork, confidence and courage.

**Vandalism:** The recent vandalism to the door on the ladies' toilets on Town Bottom Playing Field has weakened the door hinges so much that it is damaged beyond repair and will have to be replaced at some considerable cost. The incident has also been very time consuming for council and due to this and other incidents Council have decided to install a CCTV system on the toilet block. In the next few weeks letters will be sent to houses in the immediate vicinity of the park, and a risk assessment and data policy have been developed. It is hoped that this system will discourage and deter problems with vandalism at the toilets and cafe. It should also mean that the toilets can be reopened once again in the evenings. The CCTV system is required to be in a locked unit, viewable only by the clerk and police in the event of an incident. FOI requests will be available if made in writing to the clerk.

**Council Meetings:** As always residents are very welcome and encouraged to attend all council meetings, including specific committee meeting. Full council meets once a month on the first Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Methodist Lounge Towngate. For reference the next meeting is on March 4<sup>th</sup> but the meeting dates are all available on both village noticeboards, as well as the agendas and meetings when they are published. This information can also be obtained from the village website.

<https://www.bradda.org>

For queries, questions, advice and assistance on any matters relating to the village please contact the clerk on 07730370759 or [parishclerk@bradda.org](mailto:parishclerk@bradda.org)

## HOPE VALLEY CLIMATE ACTION

Issues with Your Bus? We were very disappointed to learn about the recent service cuts by Hulleys. They have created difficulties for many passengers and have highlighted ongoing bus problems in the Hope Valley and elsewhere in Derbyshire. There are things you can do. Bus companies are expected to meet the standards outlined in the [customer charter](#) or Google Derbyshire Bus Passenger Charter. If your bus is late, doesn't turn up, or has other issues, you can complain to the operator. If your complaint is unresolved you should contact Derbyshire County Council. Finally, you can escalate to Bus Users UK (details in the charter). To strengthen your complaint, consider keeping a bus diary of issues with those from other people in your village. Collated reports can be shared with your MP, DCC, or the East Midlands Mayor. Although complaining about individual services may seem like small beer it can lead to results. The DVSA (Driver and Vehicles Standards Agency) is holding a public inquiry on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 into Hulleys' performance as a result of the large number of complaints. Hope Valley Climate Action (HVCA) is pressing DCC and the operators to address unreliable services and improve access to accurate information. This is a challenging time, as responsibility for bus services transitions from DCC to the Mayor. Take Action: Better Buses East Midlands has launched a petition for bus franchising in February. This would mean bus timetables being specified by the Mayor's office to meet local needs. Find the link to the petition and updates, and join the campaign through the group's facebook <https://www.facebook.com/betterbusesem>

## CASTLETON/HOPE VALLEY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March to Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March award winning former Guardian Newspaper photographer Denis Thorpe will once again be displaying a selection of his stunning photos at the Café Adventure in Hope. There's also an opportunity for you to treat yourself to a delicious coffee and cake while you browse the photographs. The Café is open weekdays from 9am to 4pm (but closed on Tuesdays) and on weekends from 9am to 5pm. Denis is an Honorary Life Member of the Photographic Society, which meets at the Peveril Centre in Castleton on the second Thursday of every month. Visitors are always welcome (there is a nominal entrance fee), so why not come along, see what we're all about, and enjoy regular presentations from some excellent speakers (many of whom are professional photographers). We also display exhibition photographs in Hope Church during Wakes Week and in Bradwell Church during their Gala Week.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

One of the activities organised by your Parish Council is the youth activities programme, which has been mentioned a number of times in this newsletter through the years. We are delighted to announce that the community coffee morning held on 1st February raised an amazing **£388** in support of this venture and the organisers would like to express their grateful thanks to all who donated.



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## WHERE ARE ALL THE WATER MILLS?

There used to be four mills in Bradwell parish. Two have been redeveloped into housing, one into industrial units and the fourth has gone altogether. The three which have been redeveloped were over the brook and would therefore have been short of power in the summer, unless they had a pond. The fourth, and possibly actually the first, was at the south end of Bessie Lane. It is evidenced by a house name "Millmeadow" near where it once stood and by the remains of the now breached millpond which drove it. The pond gathered water from the soft water stream which issues from Deadmans Clough on Bradwell Edge – later used in the 19th century for Bradwell's water supply. The mill was probably used for grinding corn for the village but may have been replaced by Brough corn mill. Chris Furness

## POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER

Having now retired from the post of poppy appeal organiser for Bradwell, I am still looking for a successor. I know that, as a village the Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony and also Armistice Day are important dates in the calendar, and I would dearly love this tradition to continue for many years to come. Therefore, I am asking for someone to volunteer to take on the position and to continue this very important role in supporting the Royal British Legion's yearly poppy appeal. You do not have to be a member of the British Legion, or be in the military or be ex-military to operate in this role. So, if anyone would like to take this on please contact me and I will assist in anyway that I can. I can show them what is involved and hopefully continue this tradition for Bradwell. Finally, I would like to thank all the house-to-house collectors, shops, businesses, coffee mornings, churches etc. in Bradwell for all their kind donations over the last 14 years in raising a total of £31,574.77 for the Royal British Legion. Well done Bradda! Keith Brett.

## SHEFFIELD'S HUMAN GUINEA PIGS

*Many thanks to Brian Gillham for this article.*  
When Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain introduced the National Service (Armed Forces) Act to parliament in September 1939 he was fully supported by both houses. The then Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Gordon Lang welcomed the clause allowing for Conscientious Objectors (COs). At the same time it was established that would-be COs must make their case before a properly constituted Tribunal. The *Derbyshire Times* for that year reported that an appeal by a resident of Bessie Lane to not be called up had been rejected. It had been explained to the Tribunal in Derby that he was the sole employee of a grocery store in Tideswell, possibly implying that the store would have to close without him. He went on to state that as a member of the Methodist Church in Bradwell he believed war was a futile thing altogether and no good would come out of it. But when, as a religious man, he was asked to give a quotation from the Sermon on the Mount he was unable to do so – case dismissed.

Nevertheless the contribution of a group of men whose cases as COs were accepted, arguably made a much more significant contribution to the war effort than if they had been called up. They became known as the Sheffield Human Guinea Pigs. Their previous occupations had included a milk rounds man, a ladies hairdresser, a baker, an electrician, a maths teacher, a laboratory technician and someone who'd 'tried everything from spot welding to winkle boiling'. The idea to assemble this group in a house in Broomhill, called Fairholme was that of Kenneth Mellanby who was an entomologist working in the University, who had been placed on the register of reserved occupations. Such people were usually the likes of physicists, who would clearly be working on radar, but no one had a clue what to do with an entomologist. This did not suit Mellanby who asked around the City about diseases for which neither the cause nor the treatment was really understood. One answer came loud and clear – scabies (also known as 'the itch'). There was a high incidence amongst returning soldiers. So Mellanby's idea was to recruit this group of COs to wear and sleep in the uniforms and pyjamas of affected soldiers. So the paradoxical position arose that men who did not wish to serve in the military spent most of their time in uniforms. Officers visiting the Unit set up in Broomhill where the COs were living appreciated the sacrifices these men were making on behalf of the military. The original plan was once the 'itch' appeared for them to be treated with the only treatment available at that time. This was quite as painful as the disease itself. So there was a great focus on prevention. For this reason they were not just passive sufferers in the study but were soon able to recognise the mite causing the disease in the population and in the laboratory (with which the house Fairholme was equipped).  
*To Be Continued.....*

## EDALE PANTO

Who or what is ex-spoon-ifer, will Arthur defeat the beastly Barons of Bolsover, will Gwen never marry and how to cure a lovesick dragon? Find out at Edale Panto 2025. Downfall Production's *Cam-a-lamb-a-lot* or *The Spoon in the Stone* runs from **Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th March**, with standard tickets £10 and child/concession tickets £5 on Weds and Thurs. To book email [stephen.snow.edale@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.snow.edale@gmail.com) stating the day and the number of tickets you want. Your place will be reserved and you will be sent a payment link.



## BRADDA DADS



Wolfspit Fell Race - Sunday 9th March 2025 - Entry this year will be via Fabian4 as usual. The link will be published on our website ([braddadads.wordpress.com](http://braddadads.wordpress.com)) and Facebook in the next few weeks. All the volunteers last year did a super job and we couldn't have managed it without you! Thank you. If anyone is interested in marshalling this year you will be very much appreciated. Please contact Stu on 07590 047104

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**RONALD STANLEY SIDEBOTTOM**  
**16th Jul, 1949 to 13th January, 2025**  
**"Stan"**



Stan was born at Rushup Edge, the first child of Ronnie and Madge who farmed there before moving to Netherwater Farm in 1954. Stan was the elder brother of Robert, Peggy and Sheila. He attended Great Hucklow Primary School and then Bishop Pursglove School in Tideswell. He left school at 15 to work on the family farm full time. Around the age of 17 he started to work for himself, contract baling

and sheep shearing and he then became a straw merchant. By the time he was 21 he had expanded his operation to include haulage, plant hire and ground works, and over the years he diversified into civil engineering and quarrying. He employed over 60 people, mainly local, at the height of his business career. Stan married Esther Byrne and went on to have two children, Helen and David. The family lived in Tideswell and Bradwell before returning to Netherwater in 1990, where Stan remained for the rest of his life. He was a keen darts, dominos and pool player and was a member of the domino league. He was a well known local character who enjoyed socializing, with a Guinness, in the local pubs. Stan frequently went to Normandy for D Day and was very knowledgeable about the history of the First and Second World Wars.

Having battled cancer, Stan passed away peacefully at Ashgate Hospice. The family would like to thank the staff of Ash-

gate Hospice, along with the staff of Valley Care and the Evelyn Medical Centre for their kindness and care.

**BRADDA BINGO 2025**

Following the huge success of our Bingo Sessions last year, and by public demand, the Bradwell War Memorial Hall invite you to come and join us for more "fun" evenings commencing this month. Admission (same as last year) is only £10 which gives you twelve opportunities to be a winner each evening. You are also invited to participate in a further two optional games during the evening. Tea and Coffee are available but unfortunately, we do not provide a licenced bar. However, you may bring your own alcoholic beverage and nibbles and we will provide the glasses. Please note these dates for our second season, all Thursday evenings, commencing 7.30pm. Doors Open 7.00pm. 27th March; 10th and 24th April; 8th and 22nd May; 5th and 19th June; 3rd and 17th July; 7th (Carnival Special) and 21st August; and finally Party Night on 4th September. Please note that our licence only allows those over 18yrs of age to participate. We hope for another successful event to support the maintenance, running costs and further development of your Community Hall.

**COFFEE AND COMPANY**

Do you ever feel like getting out, having a chat over a cuppa? If so, why not come along to the Memorial Hall Library extension on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>? We have recently received funding from Breedon, and will be running a weekly drop-in from 12-3pm each Friday until further notice. Just pop along and have a brew!

**St. Barnabas Church: March 2025**

**Contact Us:** churchwarden.stb@gmail.com

2nd	11:00	All Age Worship.
5th	19:30	Communion with Ashing (Hope)
9th	10:00	Benefice Communion.
16th	09:30	Communion
23rd	10:00 16:00	Celtic Worship Outdoors (Hope) Said Communion (Castleton)
30th	11:00	Mothering Sunday Service



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