



Bradwell News

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Issue 282
December 2025
www.bradda.org

Merry Christmas, Bradwell!!

SWIFT PROJECT UPDATE


With support from Claire Meade (Derbyshire Swift Conservation), local residents carried out a thorough and systematic survey this summer to determine where Swifts are nesting in our village. The results of the survey exceeded our expectations, with 42 active nest sites found on 31 buildings in Bradwell. Surveying is such an important task, as one of the main reasons that Swift numbers have declined so dramatically in the UK in recent years is that nest sites are accidentally destroyed when buildings are renovated. **If we don't know where Swifts are nesting in our village, we can't protect them.** If you would like to help our Swifts and become a Swift surveyor next year, please email: bradwellswiftreports@gmail.com

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN BRADWELL

Another contribution from our "village sage" - Chris Furness. There have been six - now there is only one. Three buildings which once were churches or chapels are now private houses. The six, in order of construction were the Unitarian on Charlotte Lane, the Methodist, on Fern Bank, the Methodist replacement on Towngate, the Baptist on Hugh Lane, the Primitive Methodist also on Hugh Lane and the Anglican, which is the only one still open for services. After the reformation all Bradwell residents were expected to make their way to the parish church at Hope for services. A new church was formed, which believed there was only one God and rejected the notion of God, son and Holy ghost as separate entities. A church was built and worshippers were excused attendance at Hope.

The Wesley brothers caused the next big disruption with their introduction of Methodism. More parishioners converted from Anglicanism and Methodism became quite influential. The Methodists then split, with Primitive Methodism, being a return to Methodism's roots, taking a large portion of its congregation. In the 1860's the C of E realised that it had to do something to reverse the trend, so it decided to increase the number of Parishes and to build many more chapels of ease nearer worshippers. Many of these chapels of ease (including Bradwell) became churches.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Richard and Helen Plant at Stoney Ridge in Bradwell recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Over 30 people attended their celebration and an enjoyable time was

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had by all. Instead of gifts they asked for their family and friends to donate to charity and they chose C-R-Y Cardiac Risk in the Young, and especially the Kyle Hancock Memorial fund to support the very popular local screening days. We are pleased to announce that they raised a magnificent £650 for the initiative, which will all be given to C.R.Y. and are so grateful for their kind and generous support and donation. We thank them so much and God Bless them. Many, many thanks from the Hancock family.

HELP RESTORE THE PEAK DISTRICT

The National Trust are looking for people in the High Peak and Hope Valley to help them grow some of the trees and plants needed to restore nature in the Peak District. The growing project, funded with thanks to the players of People's Postcode Lottery, will bring people from local communities together to do something practical, from close to where they live, to support a healthy environment in the Peak District. The trees and plants they grow will help to provide homes for wildlife, improve soil health as well as protect against climate change and flooding. The National Trust plan to provide support, guidance and training to develop the practical skills volunteers might need. For more or get involved visit: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/peak-district-derbyshire/kinder-edale-and-the-high-peak/community-growing-project-in-the-peak-district>

CHRISTMAS MARKET

On Saturday 6th December from 10am to 4pm at the Hollowford Centre, Castleton. (Best postcode if driving is S33 8WR and follow the signs). There will be a fantastic range of products and produce from local businesses, groups and home crafters including decorations, jewellery, cakes, chutneys, pictures/photographs, artwork, cards and much more. Food and Refreshments are available and Hathersage Choir will be performing during the afternoon.

Free Entry. www.lindleyeducationaltrust.org

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: bradwellnews@gmail.com 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

Copy Deadline for January 2026 Edition: 19th December

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PC NOTES

Winter: We've had a quiet November following a busy year, but council have been working hard behind the scenes ensuring that the village is ready for winter. We remind residents that there is a flood/snow warden scheme in place for those who would like to help when there is adverse weather. Anyone interested should contact the clerk for more information. If flooding is imminent, sandbags are available for those properties at risk. There is also a flood plan in place, a copy of which is available on the Bradda.org website. Or if you would prefer to have a printed version please ask the clerk. During the recent bad weather the Brook appears to have coped well with all the water after the desilting efforts and seems to be moving faster than before. However, we are aware that a lot of gravel has washed down the hills, so we are now pushing for the Environment Agency to carry out dredging on a more regular basis. Blocked gulleys and drains also do not help the overall water management situation, and we urge residents to please report any blocked drains you might see outside your property. This can be done quickly and easily on the self-serve portal at www.derbyshire.gov.uk or if preferred via the clerk, although a photo and location will need to be given so that any problems are reported efficiently. The grit bins should all be full and ready for the icy spells and if everyone who is able could use the grit around the area in which they live, it really will make a difference, particularly to more vulnerable residents.

Budgets: Council is beginning to prepare budgets for the annual precept, which forms a part of your council tax each year. We always aim to keep any increase as low as possible, but we also want to be able to provide nice things for the village including flowers, Christmas lights and playground equipment for the children. In this context we hope to be providing a couple of new pieces on Town Bottom Park before the year is out.

Safety: We will continue to ensure safety in the village by installing CCTV cameras and Speeding devices.

Community Activities: The parish council supported the recent Halloween best dressed competition and is trying to engage more with the community in ways like this. Any new ideas for projects are welcomed at the council meetings or via the clerk. We also welcome residents to our meetings to observe and listen or to ask questions of council. At the most recent council meeting, Sally from the Hedgehog group attended and gave a brief presentation about the dwindling numbers of hedgehogs and how we can help to encourage habitats in our gardens, and on parish council land to help boost numbers. Our next meeting is on December 2nd at 7:30pm in the War Memorial Hall.

S137 Grant Funding: Council would like to remind any groups in the village that there is still money left in the S137 grant fund. This year we have provided a new carpet for the meeting room at the memorial hall, paid for the clock servicing, given a grant to the Youth group of the Centenary Players and purchased the timber required for the new bridge between Hall Gate View and Springfield Road. Grant application forms can be found on the parish council section of Bradda.org or you can also contact the clerk parishclerk@bradda.org or 07730370759

BRADWELL STREET NAMES

Continuing our series of articles on how some of the streets around the village might have got their names.

3 Bradwell Places and Streets:

Jeffrey Lane – This lane is named on the 1807 Plan of Land having Right of Common and was mentioned in the 1819 Enclosure Award although it may have existed before this time. It is possible the name could have originated from a local figure associated with the area called Richard 'Dick' Jeffrey, who was described in "Bradwell Ancient and Modern" as "a curious make-up of eccentricity, a strange picture but an honest worthy". He was a character of the village with a cheery word for young and old and by his eccentric manner of dress and general character was quite a noted individual, especially with visitors. He wore a hat of enormous proportions painted blue and red and tied to his head with string. He was buried in the churchyard on Good Friday 1885 in the presence of hundreds of spectators. Access to Bagshaw Cavern is from this lane.

Netherside – This was the lower easterly side and limit of the village. There was only the Bridge Inn and a few barns on this side until the early 20th century.

New Road – This road runs from Hazelbadge up the hill to Stanlow, presumably made in 1798. It is known by some locals as "Rally" or "Raleigh" Road.

Rebellion Knoll - This name has historical significance. The name could possibly have originated from an event known as the "Bradwell Rebellion" that took place in the 14th century. During this time, there was a widespread rebellion against the oppressive rule of King Edward III and his heavy taxation policies. The rebellion was led by John Mundy, a local landowner, who gathered a group of rebels to fight against the king's forces. One of the key battlegrounds during the rebellion was a small hill or knoll in Bradwell. It is said that this location became a significant strategic point for the rebels, hence earning the name "Rebellion Knoll". Although the rebellion was eventually suppressed by the king's forces, the name "Rebellion Knoll" stuck and became a part of the local history and folklore of Bradwell.

To be Continued

ST BARNABAS CHRISTMAS

Christmas Fair: Saturday Dec 6th at the Memorial Hall. 10-11.30am. Come and see Santa! Father Christmas and his elf helper will be there as usual, plus seasonal stalls, Teddy Tombola, raffle, delicious cakes/refreshments. A really sociable morning for all to get us in the festive spirit.

Christmas Tree Festival: Runs from Friday Dec 12th until Dec 24th. Open Weekends and Christmas Week 11am - 5pm, Monday 15th - Friday 19th 3-4pm. Refreshments will be available, proceeds to Crisis at Christmas. For more details ring Jane 01433 621172.

Carol Service: Sunday December 21st at 3pm. A traditional lessons and carols service, lit by the Christmas trees. Refreshments will be available after the service and everyone is welcome.



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Children's Crib Service: Christmas Eve at 2.30pm in church. An informal service for the children (and adults too!) of the village. We look forward to seeing the children dressed up for this Christmas service!

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion: 11.30pm. A traditional way to welcome in Christmas Day.

BRADDA AT ITS BEST

A few weeks ago, I was taken ill and collapsed while walking by Beggars Plot. I'd like to say thank you so much to everybody who came to help me, both people I know and people I don't (including the driver of the Bakewell bus and two Bradwell firefighters!) I also received some delicious chocolate biscuits from the Ebeneezer Bradwell Bequest. They have nearly all gone but I've still got the box to remind me of the kindness in this village. Steve Hepworth.

ART TRAIL BY RAIL

On Saturday, 27th September, I was involved in launching our very first 'Hope Valley Art Trail by Rail' and over 150 people came along to get involved. The idea was simple: hop on a train, or bus in the case of Bradwell, explore our beautiful villages, meet some incredible local artists, and maybe even have a go at something creative yourself. The day was all about celebrating art and encouraging use of local public transport to connect communities along the Hope Valley train line. From Grindleford to Edale, people were hopping off at different stations to join workshops, visit studios, and enjoy the day in their own way, whether by train, on foot, or by bus. We had 18 amazing artists taking part, offering everything from sketching and collage to painting and open studio visits. Huge thanks to all of them for opening their doors and sharing their talents. We hope to include more villages and artists in 2026 as Bradwell has lots of creatives. Thanks to our partners at the Community Rail Partnership and Friends of the Hope Valley Railway Stations, plus the fantastic support from High Peak CVS who all made this event possible. Karen Perkins.

MABEL ELLIOTT

Mabel was born in Bradwell on 8th October 1941. She lived with her parents Stanley and Nellie and older brother Gerald at Northcliffe at the bottom of Smithy Hill. After the death of her parents she continued to live in the family home with her beloved dogs for many years until she moved to Michlow Drive. After leaving Bradwell Council School, she worked for a short time at Bamford Mill but many people will remember Mabel working at Ormes grocery shop on Netherside, now "Mr. Carpet". Later on she worked in the canteen at Blue Circle Cement, where she made many good friends. In her younger days Mabel enjoyed going to the Saturday night dances in the Memorial Hall. She loved going on theatre trips and on cruises with friends. She had a wide and varied social life and was part of a large group of Bradwell residents who socialised and holidayed together at home and abroad. Some of the holidays were organised by Pam and

Brian Fletcher from the White Hart, which was a favourite meeting place. Mabel loved quizzes and was a member of the White Hart quiz team. She had a playful sense of humour and could deliver a one-liner with a smile. She was a kind and supportive person and a true friend to many. Mabel died at home on 12th October 2025, aged 84.

HALLOWEEN



Well done to everyone who entered the spooktacular best dressed Halloween House competition. There were so many fantastic entries and it was hard to choose the winners. The winning entry was by Jeff and his family for their campervan "Come die with me" on Church St. Second place was 22 Bradwell Head Road and third was 10 Michlow Close. The winners each received a cash prize (thanks to Jonathon Woodhouse for the kind donations), and everyone that entered won a small gift bag. We hope to run the competition again next year but with a slightly different format. A very successful evening and there was no reported trouble. All the children were well behaved and polite and Bradwell expressed its generosity to its younger residents by providing them with enough sweets to last a lifetime.



BRADDA DADS



Thanks to everyone who came along to the bonfire and fireworks, and to everyone who helped make the event a huge success. Special thanks to Doug for a spectacular display, and James for organising everything.

Boxing Day Duck Race - Now we have water back in the brook and a newly dredged channel for the ducks to follow the boxing day duck race will be on! Watch out for further details nearer the time on our Facebook page. We'll no doubt be selling tickets on Saturday mornings leading up to Christmas once we get ourselves organised!

Last call for Pensioners Lunch, please let us know if you'd like to attend at the Memorial Hall on Friday 5th Dec. We can't guarantee there will be space for you if you just turn up on the day without telling us in advance!

Bradda Dads would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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FRANK COOPER



Frank was born in Bradwell on 24th July 1938 to parents Winnifred and Francis and in 1944 sister Annis was born. As a child he helped his father feed the pigs, cows and chickens before and after school and in the summer he helped with the hay-making. For several years after the War, Mrs. Cooper ran a fish and chip shop in Church Street. Many a time Frank's game of football in Town Bottom playing field would be interrupted by a message from his mother to say that she was running out of chips. Frank would have to run home to fetch a couple of buckets of peeled potatoes. After leaving Bradwell Council School Frank joined Newburgh Engineering as an apprentice. His next job was in railway track maintenance on the Hope Valley Line. This was where he spotted his future wife, who travelled daily between Bamford and New Mills. Frank married Bamford girl Jennifer Hawranke in 1959 and they enjoyed 66 wonderful years together. They had 2 sons, Garry and Frank and daughter Andrea. Along the way seven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren joined the family. In 1963 Frank began working at Hope Cement, later becoming yard chargehand. He made another career move within the works in 1978 when he became a lorry driver delivering cement. He took redundancy in 1991 aged 53 but a year later the company asked him to return as a lorry driver. He did this for a further 10 years before taking early retirement, aged 64.

Football played a big part in Frank's life. Throughout the 1950s he played for several Bradwell teams, including the

Under 18 team and in 1970 he became a founder member of the Derwent Valley Junior Football League. A village team, the Bradwell Rovers Junior Football Club was created and Frank was elected committee chairman. Inspired by the work of the Royal British Legion, in 1978 Frank gathered together nine Bradda men and the BRADWELL 10 was set up. The aim was to raise funds for, and provide assistance to, people or organisations within the village. One fund raising idea was the now "World Famous" Duck Race down Bradwell Brook and in 1979 they raised over £5,000. Frank was a part time Bradwell firefighter for 22 years, 1965 to 1987 and in 2003 his book "Bradwell Fire Service 1939 to 1989" was published. He was part of a team set up to produce the book "After Seth", published in 2008. Frank wrote the section about Bradwell pubs and carnivals.

Frank died on October 20th 2025, aged 87. He loved his family, he loved Derby County, he loved to laugh and to tease, he loved to help and, ----- he loved Bradda.

MAUREEN KIRKLAND

Steve and Maureen's family would like to thank all who attended Maureen's funeral service. We were very pleased that she had made so many friends in village and our thanks for the donations, which totalled £764 and which will be donated to Bradwell preschool.

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS

St Barnabas Church hold coffee mornings throughout the year where we like to support local charities or organisations. They are held in the church on the first Saturday of the month with refreshments provided by church volunteers. If you support such a charity and would like to be considered in 2026, then please contact Lynn Lawless lynn@roselea.org or Jane Dalrymple churchwarden.stb@gmail.com

St. Barnabas Church: December 2025

7th	11:00	All Age Worship
14th	10:00	Benefice Communion (Hope)
21st	15:00	Carol Service
24th	14:30 23:30	DIY Nativity Midnight Communion
25th	10:30	Benefice Christmas Communion (Hope)
28th	10:00	Covenant Service (Edale)

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