

BUILDING IN BRADWELL

New builds

Hope Station opened in 1898 and this brought building activity to the Valley. In Bradwell more expensive houses appeared mainly on the Hills, some of which were built to include the use of domestic servants. The largest was Hill Stile. Using his workmen for the construction work Mr. Hodkin of Hodkin and Jones, who then owned Outlands Head quarry, built Moorlow Tor in 1905. Known then as The Bungalow it had a tennis court in the garden. The house was used in WW I to house families of Belgian Refugees.

The population of Bradwell was growing, after 50 years of decline as the lead mining failed it had shrunk to 837 on the 1891 census and there were several empty houses and in several cases more than one family per house. By 1901 it had reached 1033 and then by 1911 it was up to 1330 as a result of the influx of workers for the Derwent Valley dams.

After the First World War more modest houses were built such as the bungalows on Town Lane. Mr Jones of Hodkin & Jones built Edgecot well up The Edge, a building that embraced the then popular idea of letting in a lot of fresh-air. It was to this house that the Hodkin family moved from Sheffield to escape from the blitz in the Second World War. This bungalow burnt down and was replaced by a much larger house.

The first public housing appeared in Gore Lane with '*Homes fit for heroes to live in*', these six pairs of semi detached houses built on land purchased from Mrs. Walker for £330 in 1920 have very large gardens compared to the later building. The stone came from demolishing all the buildings from the unsuccessful lead mine at Windmill which has therefore completely disappeared. The original builder went bankrupt and the work was finished by the local firm of Fred. Evans. He then built himself a house on Hungry Lane in the latest Art Deco style, with a flat roof surrounded by an ornate balustrade. This has now disappeared but the house remains, the only flat roof in the Valley as the trend did catch on. The original Co-op also built by Fred. Evans in 1934 was a flat roofed building with Art Deco touches, later alterations and additions in 1960s and 90s have completely obliterated its original appearance. After considerable work at fund raising the Memorial Hall was opened in 1923, some demolition being necessary to clear the site. Wm. Eyre, founder of the corn-milling firm at Brough had Nether Moor House built in an imposing Neo-Elizabethan style with stone quarried from land on the family owned Within Farm, just across the road from Outlands Head quarry. Unfortunately he died soon after moving in and the house was occupied by his daughter Florence. In 1937 the New Road was built to by pass part of Church Street and the new Shoulder of Mutton was erected, the only red brick structure in the village, it would appear that the plans for a typical suburban pub of the period was used and it became something of a sore thumb.

The economic climate of the 1930s meant that there was little building in Bradwell, the Hallgate View council houses being completed on the eve of WW II. These were not homes for those who found the housing market too expensive, with hot water, bathrooms and flush toilets they were much better than most of the cottages and were therefore more expensive to rent.

After the War it was the age of austerity and there was little building, even timber was rationed to save on foreign exchange. Ground floors had to be solid. The land for Elliott Avenue and The Crescent was acquired by compulsory purchase but stood unused for some years, a useful pitch for impromptu football matches. The houses were built in 1951, using a lot of stone but The Crescent built 1952/53 did not.

The post war housing shortage brought caravan dwellers to Bradwell, not as holiday makers but permanent inhabitants to a field on Hungry lane above Heatherlea. It was comprised of caravans old and new and wooden huts, the newly created National Park Authority took exception to this and the site was cleared. The fire station was built in 1957 and still functions despite threats, the police house of the same year has become a private house, are we now more law abiding?

Macmillan's *'You've never had it so good'* slogan of 1959 ushered in a period of economic expansion and Bradwell enthusiastically joined in, more houses were built in the following decade than ever before or since, 70 houses being built. Building activity in the 1970s was quite as prolific with 80 houses being built. The first old peoples' accommodation was built at Springhead in 1962. More bungalows were built at Wortley Court in 1971 and additional ones in 1987. The stock of council houses increased in the 1960s. The Victorian vicarage was sold and a new one built in the grounds in 1987 but the rate of new building slowed in the decade.

In the 1990s Michlow Drive was built by a Housing Association on the last publicly owned land in the village. Attempts have been made since to find land on which 'affordable dwellings' can be built as young couples find Hope Valley houses too expensive. Property prices have other impacts too there are only 33 children in the Infants School.

There has been some demolition in the twentieth century, the row of cottages opposite the White Hart were very early victims and cottages had to be cleared to enable the Memorial Hall to be built. The Post Office and Chip Shop stand on the site demolished shops that had become rather dilapidated. The Royal British Legion building has completely gone from the Butts. Five houses on Towngate and round the corner on the Gutter were subject to a local authority demolition order on 18th February 1938 but were not demolished for nearly twenty years, together with an adjoining barn, the stone of which was used to build a house in Taddington. A row of very low cottages at Yard Head has gone, it is now a car park. In Smalldale Cobb Castle was reduced from its three stories to one and the stone used for barn conversion. Three cottages were demolished and the site built on just below New House. A row of cottages on Back Lane that abutted 'By the Way' and appear to have been built on the road have disappeared. Ferndown further up Smalldale is built on the site of two cottages that simply fell down. Lafarge quarry has swallowed up Far Cotes, Nether Cotes, and Ashcote and other property at Smalldale Head has gone. Moorhill stands on the site of the 1909 bungalow demolished as not up to modern standards. Buildings have been removed from the 'Bacca Plac' when it became a playing field these were in the top corner at the junction of Town Lane and Gore Lane and at one time included a traditional caravan, a large barn stood where the entrance is at Town End. For many years up to the 1940s a small gypsy caravan stood at Windy on the now small piece of disused road near the junction, lived in by 'Owd Bez'.

Changes of use

Towards the end of the century there has been a number of buildings whose function has changed, usually to become dwellings. Smalldale Hall Barn has become holiday accommodation and Smalldale Old Hall Barn has been demolished and then rebuilt to appear almost unchanged as part of the living area. Elmtree has incorporated the barn into the house and extended the accommodation. Matchcroft, originally a farm building, was made into two garages and is now a house. New View was also a farm building made into garages, these were knocked down to make way for the house built in 2000.

Cobb Barn is converted from outbuildings. On Netherside one former barn is the N.E.C. Gatehouse and the other has had several uses it was a workshop, then the upper floor was The Liberal Club, The Newburgh Dance Hall. It became the works Social Club and finally an

Antiques Centre which closed this year, it is now empty. The former pub The Newburgh Arms next door has become a house. Johnson's hardware shop, known as 'Bradda Woolworths' was then a clothes shop and after that Trevor Bastock's car accessories, it too has become a house. The Old Forge was Hall's blacksmith shop then incorporated into the garage and is now a house. The Sunday School built over the Brook has long been a hairdressers. Pashley's bus garage is a joiners shop and the industrial buildings have become Butts Court houses. Hancock's shop on the corner of Church Street is a house.

Brook Buildings which was once a silk mill is now all housing. Opposite the Church a shop became a hairdressers, it is now a house together with buildings 'Round the Back'. The Old Shoulder of Mutton closed when the new one was built opposite in 1937. The Olde Coach House on Bessie Lane is a conversion and a studio has been made on Edge Lane. Brook House has had many changes, first a Sunday School, an opticians workshop, Constitutional Club, British Legion, Guides' meeting room, hairdressers and now a house. Brookbarn opposite was that before it became a house. Brookside Cottage was a butchers and the Evans builders workshop. Pashley's original bus garage is currently being converted to a house. Next door Walker's shop became a shop to hire tools and is now two cottages.

Just up Towngate the farm buildings have become houses. On the other side where the Bull's Head was subsequently been a house, then a butchers shop and now a hairdressers. The building above is now a house before that it was a car accessory shop and a joiners shop, having started life as a farm building. Opposite was Tom Bradwell's grocer's shop, adjoining the present Gate House and that too became a joiners shop and then a house. Hillhead Cottage has incorporated the barn into the house. The farm buildings on Far Hill were made into a house in 1996.

Building materials used

Since 1951 the Peak District National Park Authority have rigidly controlled what can be built and where. The where is necessary or urban sprawl would cover the Valley. Innovative architecture is rarely permitted, when it has been it is on a site that is not visible to passers by. Building stone was too expensive for most people and in the 1960s the material was Davey blocks, these are concrete blocks faced with small pieces of limestone, by the 1970s artificial stone had taken over and roofs were tile. In the 1980s natural limestone became the required material, hydraulic splitting produced squared off stones at reasonable cost and blue slate became the preferred roof. Slate came with the railway before that the roofs were gritstone, called grey slate, not because of its colour but because it was the right stuff. No new grey slates are being made locally but expensive projects can use imports from India or second hand ones from redundant farm buildings.

Numbers of Houses Built in each Decade.

1900 - 10

1910 - 20

1920 - 30

1930 - 40

1940 - 50 Awaiting final figures.

1950 - 60

1960 - 70

1970 - 80

1980 - 90

1990 - 00

2000 -