

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chairman's Report: AGM 2021

Because the Chairman sometimes finds it hard to be short when he can be long in these reports they have in the past tended to the verbose. But this has been so because so many people who have worked for the well-being of the Society required their due acknowledgement. But the year 2020 has been such a wretched one and so it might seem that my report would be quite brief this year. But in fact the plans had already been drawn up for the programme (and indeed some had already come fruition) and quite a lot of work had to be carried out to postpone or cancel events and most importantly to keep you the members informed of what was happening (or not). So my report will still run to its traditional single full page!

The year began as usual with the AGM and later in January the newly-elected committee held a meeting in the Shoulder of Mutton. At this meeting plans were set for a trip out and participation in Carnival Day. In addition committee member Paul Hadley explained how holding members email addresses would provide a convenient method of keeping them informed about Society activities. He went on to point out that any such holding of emails must be carried out securely and with permission. Then in February the scheduled talk on 'The work women did in Victorian times' went ahead with a dramatic talk (no slides) by The 'Bustle Lady.' Thereafter we had to begin to address the problem alluded to by Paul Hadley of keeping members informed about what was going on as planned meeting after meeting had to be cancelled due to restrictions brought in to combat the coronavirus infection. We now have a set of email addresses of members with their permission to keep them to allow us to further the aims and objectives of the Society. The only other 'meeting' the committee held was a virtual one in November. This took place by means of the Zoom computer app and was hosted by Louise Vincent too whom I'm extremely grateful. At this meeting John Monahan showed us that many of the speakers scheduled to give talks in 2020 had agreed to defer them until 2021. At the same time John told us of all the work Lyn Smith and her staff at the Shoulder of Mutton had put in to draw up contingency plans for our annual Christmas dinner and if effort alone could have ensured a dinner we certainly would have had it, but the law prevented it. At the same meeting Andy Smith explained the preliminary work he had carried out to determine the possible ways the BHS might set up a Web site. Since that meeting Andy supported by Paul Hadley and the Chairman have carried forward our plan for a Web site and this should be ready to launch soon.

The Society continued to honour the tradition of laying a wreath of poppies at the War Memorial in November (but with few witnesses). Jennifer Lockhart and Gordon Scott once more provided an outstanding Christmas tree for display in the church in December.

It is clear that electronic means have been an important way for all of us. A good example of this was the development of 'Down memory lane' for Bradwell on Face Book. Much material previously known only to their owners was shared and the Chairman was able to keep up a BHS presence on this site. A series of photographs taken by Walter Rowland in the 1970/80 of sales visits to the village where particularly well appreciated.

Brian Gillham
Chairman 2020