

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chairman's Report AGM 2022

Well what a year! But we are still running and managed most of the programme that John Monahan drew up for us, with one unfortunate exception. That we managed so much was an achievement due to the determined efforts of members (and one non-member). We started off by running our 2021 AGM by email and with the co-operation of members all of the processes required by our constitution took place.

We then came to the programme of talks and up until and including the June meeting these were all conducted by Zoom. Paul Downing used the village Parish Council's Zoom account for his talk on the History of Photography used for Astronomy. Thereafter the meetings were curated by Louise Vincent to whom we are very grateful. Tim Knebble told us of the Peak District in the 1950s with particular attention to policing in Bradwell. Next I described the careers of several of the Barber family of Bradwell. Paul Hadley introduced us to names we'd heard of without knowing of their Derbyshire (or near) connections when he told us about transport pioneers. Andy Smith got much colder when he described the importance of 1912 in the History of Antarctica.

This took us up the summer break in talks but not in activities because at the end of July on Carnival Day willing helpers set up the gazebo on Beggar's Plot where we sold copies of our publications (and some memberships of the Society). The highlight of the effort was a 'stick a pin in the map' challenge' capably marshalled by Frank Cooper Snr. The challenge was to show where Horatio Nelson Hornblower who lived on Netherside in the middle of the 19th century came from in Cornwall. (Not a few pins were stuck in Plymouth!)

In September we returned to physical meetings for our talks and the mood was lightened by Mike Storr from Nottingham who talked about the Masters of Mirth. Mike was truly heroic because on his way to Bradwell he discovered the road through Baslow was closed. He seems to have diverted through Curbar! Next Louise Vincent gave us the history of the Snake Pass illustrated with pictures she had taken on the route. A change from the normal course of things met us in November because Gordon Scott told of his life in Advertising (and a little football) but this was coupled with Jennifer Lockhart filling in a more general perspective on the subject.

In November a wreath of poppies was placed for the Society before the cenotaph and this time the laying took place in front of an audience. We helped Ian Hancock in including in his reading the names of men who should have been on the stone but were not. Ian also give the WWI soldiers their first name(s) not just their in initials. Gordon and Jennifer came to the fore again with their decoration of the Society Christmas Tree in St Barnabas. (Several people confessed that they would like one of Jen's angels for their tree!). Next I come to two Smiths – Rosy (and her team) who ensured we had refreshments after our physical meetings and Andy for the admirable accounts you've seen. The year also saw the launch of our Website to which Andy has given so much of his time and efforts and the start of a monthly Newsletter with members communicating answers to some of the questions posed in the letters. All seemed set fair a good year, but unfortunately it ended with us having to postpone our Christmas meal. We did resolve, however, to hold a meal in 2022 as soon as possible but at the same time still intending to return to our December slot making two in the year.