

Chapter 2

Village events



Opening of the Playing Field in 1957. Mrs.Coham-Fleming is cutting the tape.

Bradworthy has a rich tradition of organising annual events. In the early years of the century events were often related to farming or health. Events in the second half of the century tended to have more of a fund-raising nature.

Fairs and markets

Fairs and markets were a regular occurrence in Bradworthy for centuries. They continued to thrive into this century, but gradually died away. The last known fair was held in 1913, and the market came to an end around 1985.



Bradworthy Fair in 1910. The Fair was traditionally held in September.

In 1995 Jane Addy established the Local Agenda 21 Group which aimed to ensure a more sustainable future. In 1996 the Group revived the annual Bradworthy fair, as a vehicle for raising awareness about what sustainability means in practice. The fair is held mainly in the Square & presents demonstrations of rural skills, native breeds of animal & locally produced food and goods.



Bradworthy Fair, 9 September 1908.



Market Day in the early 1960's.

The early fairs were amongst the most important events of the year. One was held in June and the other on 9th September, both on the Square.

The latter event was a large sheep fair with frequently over a thousand sheep being brought in for sale. The sheep began arriving early in the morning by all the roads into the village with a number of men busy penning them. There were cattle also. The villagers



Bradworthy Market. A ram sale in September 1949. Stan Bond, W.J. Cory and Bill Seldon

erected poles across the fronts of their homes to prevent the animals strolling in at the door. Before the 1914-18 War the auctioneer was Mr. R.L. Ashton.

A part of the Square would be occupied by *switchbacks* and *steam ponies*, stalls and coconut shies, and all the usual paraphernalia which made up the fun of the fair.



The last market conducted by W.J. Cory was in 1978. W.J. Cory, Lorna Jenkins and Peter Kivell.

If the corn harvest was finished or well advanced by the day of the fair, the farm workers were given a holiday when the workmen and their wives, the chaps and their maids all had a very jolly time.

The first auction was held in April 1914, when the auctioneer was Mr. J.P.

Seldon. He was succeeded

in the early 1920's by Mr. W. Seldon and Mr. W.J. Cory who formed a partnership (*Seldon and Cory*). W.J. Cory retired in 1978 when he was 95 years old.

After the 1914-18 War a monthly cattle market was held in the field opposite the school (now 'Westholme'). Later, between 1922 and 1924, it moved to the *Market Field* next to the school (now the school car park). Cattle and sheep were driven in from the farms, whereas pigs were brought by horse and cart. A large number of dealers and agricultural merchants attended these markets. The January market was always a 'Prize Day' when prizes, including a cup for best exhibit, were awarded for cattle, sheep and pig classes.

Auction - August 1938

Messrs Seldon and Cory had an entry of 120 sheep and lambs, 12 cows and calves, 40 fat and store cattle, 113 pigs and 500 head of poultry. Quotations as follows: Couples from 54s. to 77s. per couple; lambs to 39s. each; hogs to 43s. each; ewes to 37s. each; cows and calves to £25 5s; heifers and calves to £24 2s 6d; calves to £5 1s each.

Auction - September 1943

Messrs Seldon and Cory had heavy supplies, including 750 sheep, 26 cows and calves, 20 calves, 149 cattle, 8 horses and colts, 2 loads of pigs, etc. There was a very large attendance and good prices were realised. Quotations: Lamb from 53s to 75s each; Wethers to 88s each; Closewool breeders to 88s

each; calves to £4 each; steers from £40 to £65 per pair; heifers from £36 to £62; cow heifers to £30; cows to £22.

Auction - September 1949

The monthly auction was held on Monday when Messrs Seldon and Cory had a good entry of stock comprising 448 sheep, 12 cows and calves, 12 calves, 86 cattle etc.

There was a good selling trade from all stock. Quotations: Lambs from £5 5s to £6 12s each; cows and calves to £66 10s; heifers and calves to £50; calves to £8 each; steers to £115 per pair; heifers to £100 10s per pair; and cows to £90 per pair.

Auction - September 1953

There was a good attendance, and,

in spite of inclement weather, a good demand for all stock. Messrs Seldon and Cory had on offer: 472 sheep, 4 cows and calves, 7 calves, 78 cattle and 5 loads of pigs.

Quotations: Lambs to £8 15s each; Closewool breeders to £9 8s 6d; cows and calves to £83 10s; calves to £6; steers to £140 per pair; heifers to £130 per pair; young cows to £ 61 each.

Auction - July 1968

Seldon and Cory had on offer 124 lambs, 102 cattle and 5 calves. Quotations: Shorn lambs to £6 5s each; wool lambs to £6 14s each; wool ewe lambs to £6 17s 6d each; calves to £18 each; yearlings to £100 per pair; cows to £50 10s each; heifers to £88 each; steers to £87 each.

Carnivals

The first *Bradworthy Carnival* took place in November 1937 and raised £81.

After the 1939-45 War, five more carnivals were held between 1945 and 1952. Just after the War ended the November Carnival was revived, and £100 was raised for the 'Welcome Home Fund'. Over 1,000 people attended the 1946 Carnival, and the event in 1947 was organised by the Amateur Football Club.



J. Cory, A. Oke, W. Bromell and G. Balsdon with hobby horses in the 1920's.

We can talk of little else but the carnival at Bradworthy now. It was easily the greatest event the younger generations - or, perhaps the older folk too for that matter - has ever seen here. The efficient organising committee and the energetic officials deserve heartiest thanks, as also does the whole of our parishioners who with hardly an exception rendered their full and whole-hearted support. Also to the visitors, both those who brought tableaux and those who helped to swell the crowds of spectators, we are very grateful indeed. There must have been well over a thousand present.

The entries in the various classes were remarkable both for their number and variety. Originality was much in evidence, especially in the tableaux *Angler's Dream*, *Old King*

Cole and the *Miniature Wedding*. The *Citadel* was a fine tableau with an historical flavour, in which every detail was consistent with the period it represented. A motor car of 1902 and an old *penny-farthing* bicycle recalled memories of the past, whilst *Brad'ry Vair* was a realistic creation of a scene which would be familiar on our Square on Fair Day fifty years ago.

There was plenty of music, adding zest to the proceedings. Bradworthy, Bude and Holsworthy bands were in attendance, and we had our *Darkie Band* consisting of local 'minstrels'. The barrel organ, which in the charge of Miss C.E. Ashton and party, did such excellent financial work on Wednesday and Thursday morning, was also in the procession. *Bradworthy's Rail-*

way, Captain Lockyer's ingenious model was exhibited on the Square.

At the concert a fine variety programme was given by friends from Bude and Holsworthy neighbourhoods, and many local artists. Mrs. Lockyer (president of the Carnival Committee) presided. Refreshments were served in the hotel room, Mrs Spread being in charge of the arrangements. A whist drive took place, Mr. W.J. Cory being the M.C. A dance followed, the M.C.s being Messrs. J. Cory, R.L. Ashton, and Dr. Norman Betts. Music was supplied by Arthur Codd's Melody Makers from Holsworthy. The dance, which continued into the small hours brought to a close Bradworthy's first Carnival. (November 1937)

The next Carnival took place in 1951 when there was a torchlight procession it was very wet. This was followed, in 1952, by an event that took place in the worst possible weather - high winds and rain. There was a good crowd and proceeds went to the WI, the British Legion, and the Football Club.

The Carnival was revived in 1977, and has been an annual summer fixture ever since.



Carnival Royalty in 1946. Mary Cory, Norman Bond, Maureen Yeo, Nancy Kerslake.



Winnie Colliver was Carnival Queen in 1945.

Carnival Success at Bradworthy - Visiting Queens In The Procession

All roads led to Bradworthy on Thursday of last week, when over 1,000 people, drawn from a wide area, were out for the carnival.

The spacious square lent itself admirably to the varied display of tableaux and all the bright colour and glamour that is synonymous with carnival time. A heavy downpour of rain throughout the day had not

augured well, but a benevolent moon cleared the weather in time for the procession.

The Queen (Miss Maureen Yeo) in full regalia and enthroned in a charming setting was loudly cheered. She was accompanied by her attendants, Miss Mary Cory and Miss Nancy Kerslake, and little page boy, Master Norman Bond. Crowned by Mrs. N. Bowring Betts, who was introduced by Mr. W.L. Wickett, Miss Yeo was presented with a bouquet by last year's Queen (Miss Winnie Colliver).

The torchlight procession was seen to the best advantage as it took a route down through the lower village, along St. Peter's Well Lane, returning to the Square again by way of Holsworthy road. It was headed by Holsworthy Town Band.

After the carnival, concerts were given in the Church Hall by Billy Wheeler and his Merrymakers from Exeter.

A fancy dress dance was held in the Assembly Hall, music being provided by Jack Bromell's radiogram. Judges for fancy-dress were Rev. and Mrs E.W. Robotham, of Putford; and prize-winners were: 1, Miss M. Cleave (Flower Girl); 2, Miss J. Winter (Queen of Hearts); 3, Mr. M. Carter (old fashioned Lady

1846)- 4, Mr. L Shadrick (Huntsman).

All prizes were presented by the Queen. Prize-winners in the various competitions were Messrs. J. Turner, Heywood, J. Grills, Miss H. Prance, Miss Jeffery, Miss Shobrooke and Miss M. Cooke.

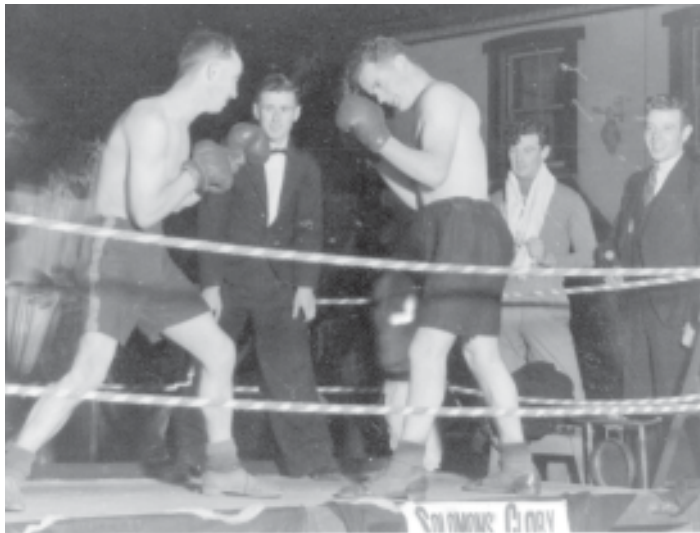
Mrs. W.L. Wickett (wife of the president of Bradworthy United A.F.C.) welcomed the Queens and Judges at tea. Refreshments were also convened by Mrs. E.J. Wade and Mrs. C.H. Cory.

Organisers of the carnival were the Entertainments Committee of the Bradworthy and District United Association Football Club, with Mr. J.M. Bromell as chairman and Messrs. F.W. Slee and L. Edwards hon. secretary and hon. treasurer respectively. Announcer was Mr. G. Plummer, and head marshal (mounted) was Mr W.T. Bromell. Great credit is due to these, as well as to the many others whose names are too numerous to mention, who gave so generously of their time and skill in making the necessary preparations, or gave prizes and cash.

Proceeds were for the Memorial Hall and Bradworthy and District United Amateur Football Club. (December 1946)



Jack Bromell and George Plummer at the 1947 Carnival.



Boxing featured in the 1946 Carnival. A. Gorrell, C. Wade, W. Glover, W. Coles, M. Vanstone



Spectators in the early 1990's



Bradworthy Carnival Queen with attendants in 1952. Back row: L. Edwards, A.F. Balsdon, B. Colliver, C. Jenkins, Mr. Badman. Front row: J. Roberts, A. Balsdon, E. Barkwell.



Tom Cann taking part in the 1991 Carnival.

Bradworthy and District Ploughing Competition

Bradworthy and District Ploughing and Manual Process classes were formed in 1942-43 as educational classes organised by the Devon War Agricultural Committee. The classes were run by Messrs. D. Beale and G. Hingston. They were intended to show farmers and farm workers how they could use material grown on the farm save imported fuel, etc. Mr. Beale took machinery and plough setting classes; for instance a three-furrow plough set properly could be pulled with less fuel than a two-furrow plough set badly. Mr. Hingston took classes for thatching, assisted by Mr. Tom Taylor for hedge making and spar making.



A ploughing competition in 1950. The driver is John Wonnacott.



A hedging competition at Mouldons in the 1950's. The two men in the foreground are Robert Lewis and George Wonnacott. On the far left is Tom Taylor, who is believed to be judging.

On the early committee were Messrs. T. Bartlett, G. Taylor, C. Jenkins, T. Taylor, G. Furse, Dr. N.B. Betts, M. Jeffery, D. Millman, and J. Brimacombe.

The first competitions were held on Billhole Farm, Sutcombe by kind permission of Mr. G. Furse, and moved to other farms each year. Among the early prize winners were W.R. Taylor, O. Jordan, C. Manning, G. Wonnacott, E. Chidley, W. Daniel, and J. Hambly.

In October 1955 the ploughing competition attracted 322 entries. There were 20 entries in the hedge-building section in which R. Lewis retained the cup for many years in the local section. Spar making was also keenly contested.

In 1959 Jack Nott won the ploughing competition. He was already the Plough Champion of Great Britain.

Ploughing matches were often preceded with a lunch for the officials at Lake Villa.



Lake Villa.

Celebrations

Coronation Day 1937

To enable a flag to be flown at half-mast when King George V died in January 1936 a temporary flag-pole had to be tied to one of the tower embattlements because the old one had blown down.

Arrangements had to be made for a new one to be erected in time for the coronation of King George VI.



Celebrating the Coronation of George V in 1911.



Coronation Day 1953

A full day of celebrations at Bradworthy began with a peal of bells at 9.30am.

The Parish Church was crammed for a combined service. The Rev. A.E. Dobson (Vicar) officiated, assisted by the Rev. Bernard Moss (Methodist

Minister). The combined choir was conducted by Mr. H. J. Wickett with Miss Joan Kerslake at the organ.

Large numbers of parishioners, particularly the children and old people took advantage of television which through the kindness of H.J. Wickett was in view all day in the Church Room. Tea was provided for all and the children were presented with souvenir mugs by Miss Cook (President of the Women's Institute).

The new flag-staff was erected by Messrs. Dawson of Bristol. It is a fine lofty pole and rises many feet above the pinnacles. Now it remains to purchase a Union Jack, and it will doubtless have to be of good strong material to stand the strain of rain and storm in that elevated position. As far as I can gather there was a flag-staff on the tower for the coronation of King George V, but about 20 or more years ago this was blown down and was for a long time lying flat across the embattlements. Capt. Wilson of South Hill made arrangements for erecting another, but was killed shortly after in the Great War, and his plans were never carried out. (May 1936)

A programme of sports for young and old occupied the afternoon.

In the evening there were two presentations of a pageant play with its setting in the first Elizabethan era. The writer and producer (Miss M. Balston) and all taking part were parishioners. Musical interludes were arranged by Mrs Winifred Worthy.

The Square was gaily beflagged with arches of laurels at the north and west entrances.

The Grand Finale was a bonfire on Bradworthy Moor with dancing to the music of an accordion band. The fire was lit by 91 year old Richard Bond.

A number of cherry trees were planted on the Broad Hill to commemorate the Coronation.

Mass Viewing

The news that Bradworthy is planning to see the Coronation through communal television must make us wonder whether some of the larger towns and villages in North Devon have completely overlooked the potentialities of such a plan. In Barnstaple, for instance, there is to be no mass television apparently, although it was called for most enthusiastically when the local celebrations were originally discussed. It can hardly have been dropped on financial considerations: If Bradworthy can afford this one-day luxury, surely Barnstaple cannot find it too dear. (April 1953)

2/-

PROGRAMME of

Bradworthy GYMKHANA & SPORTS

(President: DR. N. BOWRING BETTS, F.R.C.S.)

At EAST FIELD, WHITELEY, by kind permission of Mr. G. Bond,

Saturday, August 8th, 1953, commencing 2 p.m.

Over £80 Prize Money

Entries taken on the Field.		PRIZES			
	Entry Fee	1st	2nd	3rd	
1. BEST PONY 13½ h.h. and under ridden by Boy or Girl born 1939 or after.	2/-	£2	£1 10/0	£1	
1a. BEST RIDER (Girl) Class L.	Special Prize given by Mrs. Bolitho				
1b. BEST RIDER (Boy) Class L.	Special Prize given by Mrs. W. J. Cory				
2. RIDING CLASS , Open, any height	2/-	£2	£1 10/0	£1	
3. FLAT RACE , Boys under 15	Extra Entries	3/-	2/-	1/-	
4. FLAT RACE , Girls under 15	may be added	3/-	2/-	1/-	
5. EXPRESS LETTER RACE Horses 13½ h.h. and under.	3/-	£3	£2	£1	
6. EXPRESS LETTER RACE , Horses 14½ h.h. and under.	3/-	£3	£2	£1	
7. 50 YARDS RACE , Ladies	6d.	7/6	5/-	3/-	
8. EXPRESS LETTER RACE Horses over 14½ h.h.	3/-	£3	£2	£1	
9. 100 YARDS RACE , Men	6d.	10/-	7/6	5/-	
10. JUMPING , Horses not over 14½ h.h.	4/-	£4	£2 10/0	£1 10/0	
11. HORN BLOWING CONTEST	6d.	10/-	8/-	4/-	
12. JUMPING , Horses over 14½ h.h.	4/-	£4	£2 10/0	£1 10/0	
13. 1-MILE RACE , Men	1/-	£1 10/0	£1	10/-	
14. PAPER CHASE , 14½ h.h. and under	4/-	£4	£3	£2	
15. PAPER CHASE , over 14½ h.h.	4/-	£4	£3	£2	
16. CONSOLATION EVENT for Jumpers	2/-	£2	£1	10/-	
17. PAPER CHASE (Novice Race) for Horses not having won First or Second Prize in any cross-country event this season.	3/-	£3	£2	£1	

Announcements by
J. BROMELL'S RADIO

Teas, Ices, Soft Drinks, &c. by
BOND'S CAFE, Bradworthy.

Admission to Field by Programme 2/-

Cars 2/- After 6 p.m. 1/-

Football Match on the Moor at 7 p.m.

Grand Dance in the Assembly Room, 8.30 to Midnight. Admission 2/-
Music by J. BROMELL'S RADIO.

The Committee reserve the right to alter or cancel any event
and do not hold themselves responsible for any accidents.

W. T. BROMELL, Hon. Treasurer.

F. W. SLEE, Hon. Secretary.

REV. CHAS. FENTON, HEBBURN, ENGL.

Gymkhanas and racing

Point-to-point races were held at Newlands for a few years in the late 1950's (the first was in 1955).

Horse races were held at Berridon Park for several years between the First and Second World Wars. These were flat races and proved to be very popular, drawing in competitors from a wide area.



Sally and Amy Schiller at the gymkhana in 1978.

A gymkhana, held at West Down, on Bank Holiday, in connection with a Red Cross fête, was opened by Mrs. G. Corlett, who was presented with a bouquet by little Margaret Lambell.

An excellent display of drill and folk dancing was given by the scholars of Bradworthy Council School, trained by Mr. and Mrs. Worthy. Tea was convened by Mesdames E.J. Wade and C.H. Cory. Pourers were Mesdames C. Jenkins, W. Seldon, A. Blatchford and Jennings. Cutters-up were Mesdames S. Harris, P. Bond, L. Slee, Netherway. The model railway was open for the first time to the public since the war by Capt. Lockyer, assisted by Mr. R. Headon and Lt.Col. Spread. (August 1945)

Motorcycle races were introduced for the first time at Bradworthy gymkhana held at East Park, Whiteley, and proved a great attraction. (August 1947)

An annual Gymkhana was held in 1946 at Berridon Park, in 1947 at East Park, Whiteley, and then at Moorlands until 1953.

In 1978 a *Novice Gymkhana* was held at Lower Worden Farm which was organised by Mrs. Camilleri and Mrs. C. Loader. This has become an annual event taking place on land near the Broad Hill. For a number of years it has been organised, in conjunction with a *Dog Show*, by Sally Schiller.

For Show

A meeting of the committee of the horticultural show, to be held in connection with the Vicarage garden fête took place last week. The President (Rev. A.E. Dobson F.R.H.S.) presided. It was reported that the show is to be considerably extended. There will be 74 classes, and the prizes will include two challenge cups and 21 specials. The show, proceeds of which will be in aid of St. John the Baptist Church, is to be staged in the Assembly Hall. (September 1946)

Hunting

Hunting has long been a popular pastime in the parish. The north of the parish is *Stevenstone Hunt* territory, but the majority of the parish is covered by the *Tetcott Hunt*.

The opening meet of the Tetcott Hunt takes place in Bradworthy every other year. Hunting remains a popular pastime for several local farmers.

Up until 1995 a *beagle pack*, which are used to hunt hares, operated from kennels quite close to the village.

Leaving the Square on the Holsworthy Road. Charlie Woolridge (Huntsman), is followed by Dr. King (Master).



Dr. King making the presentation to Capt. Dudgeon in 1931.



Despite petrol rationing and the prospect of plenty of mud, there was a bigger attendance than last year at yesterday's Tetcott Foxhounds point-to-point meeting.

The going was heavy on the all-grass course at Newlands, Bradworthy. The favourites won the first three races, but in the adjacent hunts' maiden, Confidence, the favourite, fell out with saddle trouble, leaving Sandy Bay (5-1) to win, returning tote investors a dividend of 29s for a 2s unit. (March 1957)



Left: Hunting in 1931, with W. Heywood, J. Heywood, Arch Blight, Lewis Blight, Nora Blight, Martin Jenkins, Tom Wickett.

Poultry and Horticultural Show

A *Cottage Garden Society* was founded in 1895, and the first show was held at West Down House by permission of the Bosanquet family.

In the 1920's and 30's there was a flourishing *Poultry and Horticultural Show* which attracted a great number of exhibitors from over a very wide area. It apparently came to an end due to high costs incurred in the poultry section. There was also a horse show held on the farm of Mr. Thomas Blight at Worden.

Bradworthy Garden Show Rivalry - Two in a Fortnight

Those who are not familiar with local affairs are somewhat puzzled and surprised by two posters displayed in various prominent positions at Bradworthy, one advertising 'Bradworthy and District Horticultural Show' and the other, 'Bradworthy Annual Horticultural Show'.

There has been no mistake. Though probably without precedent in this or any other village in the locality, there will actually be two horticultural shows this summer, one being held within a fortnight of the other.

For several years a horticultural

show has been staged in conjunction with the Parish Church Fête. It began at the Vicarage in the days when fêtes were held on its grounds. Later the show was laid out in a hall in the village, and it was only this year that somebody presented a conundrum - 'was it, or was it not, a Church show?'

The principal figures directly concerned with the organisation in past years appear to have considered that it was not necessarily a Church show. Then whilst doubts, rumours and controversy spread and grew, the Church Council took a decisive step by forming a show committee, with the local doctor as its president. Their show will be held on the day of the annual fête. Not to be

The Horticultural Show was revived when the Rev. A.E. Dobson consented that this should be held in conjunction with the annual garden fête in the Vicarage grounds. It was very successful for a number of years prior to the 1939-45 War. It is recorded that there were 300 entries in 1956, 400 in 1957, and in 1964 there were 500 entries and 200 people paid for admission. The Horticultural Show continued until the late 1960's, and the garden fête continues at various locations to this day.

outdone, however, the hon. secretary and hon. treasurer of previous shows went ahead with their own plans for a show.

Now we have the unique position of both parties claiming that theirs is the 'original' show. Queerest of all in this queer tangle is that the name of the previous Vicar of Bradworthy (the new incumbent is not yet in residence), who has left the district, appears as president, not on the posters of the Church show, but on those of the 'Annual Horticultural Show'.

So a conundrum remains - two in fact. 'Whose show is whose?' and: 'To which show do the challenge cups belong?' (July 1958)

Other events

Club Days were big annual events which combined business with pleasure. There were the *Tradesman's Club*, the *Men's Club* and the *Women's Club*. Club membership enabled the villager to obtain medical insurance and financial assistance in times of sickness. These clubs disappeared as national health insurance schemes developed, the *Women's Club* lasting until 1947.



Vicarage Garden Party in the 1900's.



Vicarage garden party in 1908.

Small circuses travelled quite frequently in rural areas in the early years of the century and were very popular. Sometimes the animals would be paraded around the Square. The last circus came to Bradworthy towards the end of the 1950's.

In common with many other rural villages, Bradworthy has had to provide much of its own entertainment. Garden parties have occurred regularly throughout the century, particularly at the Vicarage, and at Berridon Hall.

The *Vicarage Garden Party* was quite a red-letter day. In the early years of

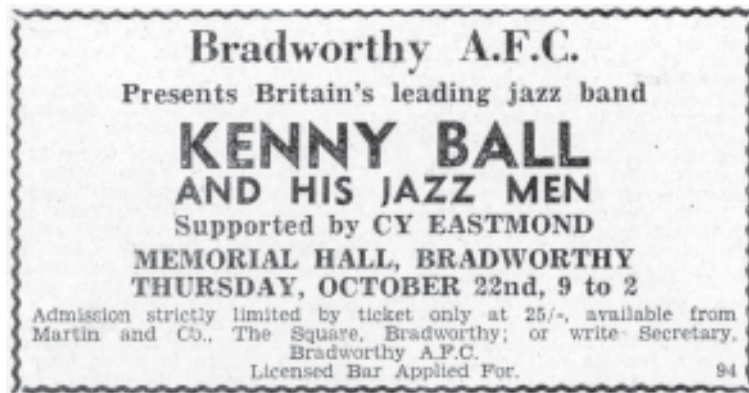


In May 1929 a plane landed at Leyland.

Early in the century Mr. Thomas Blight's Lympscott Stud Stables flourished and his *Annual Mare and Colt Show* was described as an 'exhibition of rare quality and sterling worth'.

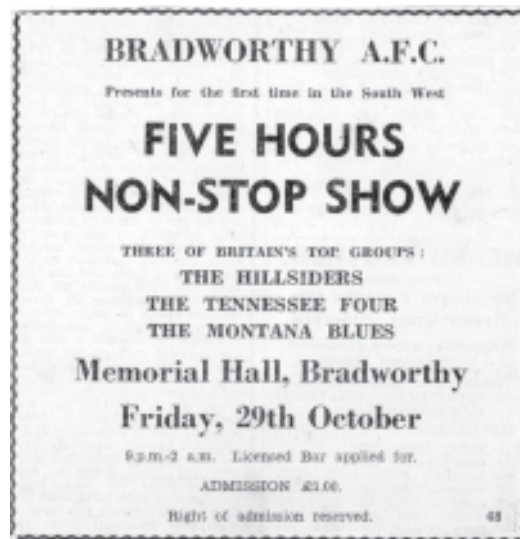
the century the churches of the Deanery supported each other, so there could be a dozen clergy at the garden party. In 1894 it was

reported that between three and four hundred people paid for admission. Typical events included Maypole dancing, a bicycle gymkhana - with the entrants wearing fancy dress and riding gaily decorated bicycles, a baby show, an outdoor concert, a cricket match in the afternoon if the weather was favourable, dancing on the lawn and a fireworks display. The *Church fete*, a continuation of the Vicarage Garden Party, has been an annual fund-raising event since the 19th century.



Leyland, and in the 1930's Alan Cobham's Air Circus landed on Bradworthy Moor and took people for joy-rides.

With the twin assets of a fine Memorial Hall and a large village square which can accommodate 200 or more cars it has enabled organisations to venture into



In 1929 Leslie Runciman, the son of the Liberal candidate Mrs. Runciman, landed a plane in a field near



ambitious projects, but even prior to this the Assembly Rooms, owned by the Wade Family, was the venue for visiting drama groups, concert

parties and even weekly film shows which augmented fund raising whist drives, dances and socials.



In the 1960's a talent contest was held in the Memorial Hall. D. Jones, L. Codd, Mrs. M. Johnson, A. Collins, J. Brown, A. Lang, F. Brown, A. Jones, J. Lang, R. Neal, W. Dunn.



In 1985 the BBC's 'Any Questions' visited Bradworthy. Jeffrey Archer, Mr. G. Davies, John Timpson, Carole Stone, David Penhaligon, Baroness Phillips.

A venture by the Football Club in the early 1970's brought many world class groups and bands to Bradworthy with huge crowds in excess of 500. The first group were *The Nashville Teens* (top hit Tobacco Road), followed by *The Searchers* (3 number one hits including Needles And Pins and Sweets For My Sweet), *Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen* (Midnight In Moscow) and *Adge Cutler and the Wurzels* (I've Got A Brand New Combine Harvester).

Bradworthy also became a centre for country and western music and a second home for the *Hill-Siders* (voted number one in the country) and many individual performers such as *Little Ginny and the Tennessee Four*.



'This is your life' presentation to W.J. Cory in the mid 1960's. *Back Row:* T. Cann, G. Bond, A. Saunders, J. Cory, G. Jacobs, R. Kivell, A. Cann, C. Collacott, R. Pomeroy. *Middle Row:* Mrs. S. Cory, Mrs. D. Harris, Mrs. F. Boundy, R. Shaddick, Miss. S. Cory, Mrs. V. Schiller, J. Clarke, Mrs. M. Jenkins. *Front Row:* Mrs. W. Bromell, Mrs. E. Gardener, Mr. W.J. Cory, Mrs. W. Seldon, Mrs. H. Nethercott, W. Wickett.

Rescue Helicopter at Bradworthy - Man Was Seen To Bale Out

The village of Bradworthy, quiet and peaceful in the afternoon sun on Tuesday, was suddenly transformed into a place of high activity and excitement.

It all began with a few people having spotted an aeroplane, from which a man was seen to bale out south of the village. Mr. H.J. Wickett went out in his car, returning shortly after with a navigator, who, on the instructions of the pilot, had parachuted from the aircraft, the engines of which were giving trouble.

Later, the rescue helicopter of 257 Search and Rescue Squadron, based at Chivenor, arrived over the village, and, guided by the white sheets which had been spread, it landed in Blakeys field, close to the Square. By this time about 150 people had converged on the village to see the first helicopter ever to visit Bradworthy.

It was fortunate that all ended happily. The navigator returned, of course, with the helicopter, whilst it is understood that the plane got back to Chivenor all right after all, and the pilot was able to land safely. (June 1957)

American artists who were in the country to entertain at US air bases were regular visitors including *Randy Boon* from the *Rawhide* TV series alongside *Clint Eastwood*.

For a brief period Berridon Country Club flourished with such acts as *Long John Baldry* (Let The Heartache Begin), *Roy Castle* (Record Breakers, BBC 1) and even an authentic *Caribbean Steel Band*.

It is slightly ironic that a flourishing village has often struggled to provide a cafe or restaurant despite numerous attempts. One such venture was opened by *Clement Freud* (the TV gourmet and Liberal MP), but like others, before and after, it was a short lived enterprise.



Bradworthy won the Best Kept Village award in 1972. F. Petherick is on the left, and Mrs. L. Elliot is receiving the award from Mrs. Studholm

Miniature Wedding At Fête

The annual garden fête in connection with St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Bradworthy, was held on the Vicarage grounds on Thursday, by permission of the Vicar (Rev. A.E. Dobson). A horticultural show also took place in conjunction with the fête, at the Assembly Hall.

A feature of the fête was a miniature wedding ceremony arranged by Miss M. Balston and performed by the Sunday School scholars and their friends. The 'bride', Ann Slade, was given away by her 'father', Eric Oke. The 'bridesmaids' were Julia Knight, Margaret Lambell, Janet Plummer and Ruth Perkins. The 'bridegroom' was Kenneth Glover and 'best man', Norman Bond.

Raymond Vanstone made a convincing 'minister'. Jennifer Wickett acted as cushion bearer. A realistic touch was provided by Mr. C. Manning playing the wedding march on his accordion. A stall of presents given to the 'happy couple' and the bride's bouquet, were afterwards auctioned by the announcer, Mr. E. Plummer. (August 1947)

The annual summer fête in aid of the funds of St. John the Baptist Church took place in the Memorial Hall on Saturday. The weather unfortunately prevented it from taking place at the Vicarage as arranged. There was a good attendance, and television had been installed in the Hall to keep contact with the World Cup match. (August 1966)

Many projects have been based on TV themes - such as *It's A Knockout*, which attracted huge crowds in the playing fields over a number of years, with local teams competing against each other. *This Is Your Life*, *Old Time Music Hall*, *TV panel games* and even *Burns Nights* have added a range of entertainments.

In 1962 the BBC broadcast *Any Questions* from the Memorial Hall, the event being attended by about 300 people. The panel consisted of Jack Longland, Nancy Spain, the columnist 'Cassandra' (William

Connor), and Colin Welch of the Daily Telegraph. Freddie Grisewood was the Question master. Questions were asked by C.T. Collacott, R.L. Ashton, David Quance, Denis W. Slee, Mrs. K. Ashford, Mrs. C. Kinsman, Rev. Brian Gameson, and Alan Cann. Mrs. N. Bromell asked the 'test question' prior to the broadcast. The questions were selected from the 123 that had been submitted.

Any Questions returned to Bradworthy in April 1985, when the panel comprised the Liberal MP David Penhaligon, Baroness Phillips, the novelist Jeffrey Archer, and George Davies. John Timpson was the Question master, and Carole Stone was the scorer.

For two years Kimworthy was the venue for Banger Racing enthusiasts. Sponsored by the Memorial Hall it attracted competitors from all over the South West with local driver *Paul Trewin* seeing off all comers.

Other outdoor activities have included an annual Tug 'O War across the river at Waterlands in aid of school funds. This first took place in the Summer of 1981, and was a regular event for a number of years.

The Memorial Hall was the venue for snooker enthusiasts with local players and invited guests pitting their skills against world champion Terry Griffiths from South Wales, who was later a member of Barry Hearn's Matchroom Squad.

In recent years Cabaret evenings with up to 150 enjoying a sit down meal before being entertained by 'stars' from TV and stage.

Bradworthy won the *Best Kept Village* competition in 1972 and 1980, and was runner-up in 1982. It also received the Pertwee award in 1980 and 1982, a trophy awarded to the best previous winner. The trophy was presented by Lady Studholme.

In 1995 the 50th anniversary of VE Day, when the long-drawn-out hostilities in Europe ceased, was commemorated. In the early afternoon the church bells rang out and an open air service followed on the Square, a large number of people having assembled. Blessed with glorious sunny weather, a variety of games and competitions were held on the Square. Tables were set out in the open and a sumptuous tea was provided by the ladies for the

children and veterans. War-time memorabilia was on view in the Memorial Hall, uniforms and dresses of the period were worn. An American Army vehicle stood on the Hall forecourt, where an evening barbecue concluded a most memorable day.



VE Day celebrations in 1995. Alan Balsdon, Alan Cann, Ian Downing, Gus Haynes, John Cann, R. Wright.