

Bradfield Historical Society

The Society was formed 1985 as an adult learning class run by Stocksbridge College with around 15 members, meetings being held in the former Low Bradfield Junior & Infant School.

In 1986 the Society formed in its own right as a non-profit making organisations with monthly meetings which included a speaker on a topic of general interest and the membership gradually increased to around 30 by 1988. Towards the end of 1988 Sheffield City Council who owned the building advised that it was being put up for sale and we would have to vacate the premises at the end of that year and arrangements were made to hire the village hall for meetings as from March 1989.

During the period 1986 to 1989 the Society published 2 books, Bygones of Bradfield Volume 1 & 2 which mainly contained memories and information from local inhabitants who had a general interest in the area. This proved to be the real beginning of the Society and over 1000 of each copy were sold, the profits being donated to local charities.

It was also decided during 1988 that a memorial plaque be sited in memory of those who had perished in the Great Sheffield Flood on March 11th/12th when Dale Dyke Reservoir above Low Bradfield burst resulting in the loss of over 240 lives on the night.

As we had arranged to have our monthly meetings in the village hall from 1989 a two day exhibition was held in the village hall to coincide with the 125th anniversary and help was sought from various places and people who held artefacts and information to display at the event. The event was such a success that it was estimated that almost 1,000 people attended the event and was again held in 1990 on a similar basis. The money collected/donated at these events enabled us to purchase the materials and equipment necessary for this project.

It was hoped to have this in place to coincide with the 125th anniversary but unfortunately the chosen site was not accessible to the public at that stage. However negotiations took place in the ensuing months with Yorkshire Water Authority and eventually the site was agreed and plans began to take shape during the summer of 1990. It was also agreed that a public footpath would be opened up from Dale Road to Blindside Lane which actually passed one end and through the line of the original reservoir and Yorkshire Water Authority would place an information board at the entrance to each footpath around Dale Dyke

Reservoir.

Everything went according to plan and on the anniversary date in 1991 the memorial stone was unveiled along with the opening of the public footpath and the information boards when various dignitaries and members were invited to attend which was followed by a buffet in the village hall.

This event really put the Society on the map and membership quickly rose to around 60 a figure which has remained constant to this day.

In addition to the monthly meetings the Society takes part in other local events held in the area such as Craft Fairs, Galas, Environment events etc. Also group visits are arranged to places of interest to other groups with similar interests and also receive other groups who visit the area (see separate list of events for the year). In 1997 a third volume of Bygones of Bradfield was published. This and other books are available through the Society (see separate list of publications available).

Email: bradfield.history@mypostoffice.co.uk