

Chapter 6

Shops and traders



The War Memorial, forge, inn & church in the early 1930's.



Wickett's garage in 1935. The writing reads 'Wireless Etc', 'Motor Cycles', 'Cars' and 'Electrical Goods'. H.J. Wickett, F. Brown, W. Prance.

Right: A 1929 invoice to Charles Cory from Wickett's Garage. The first entry is dated February 1928, but the invoice wasn't issued until October 1929!



Walter Prance and Wilf Jennings in the 1940's



Central Garage and Electric Generating Station,
BRADWORTHY, HOLSORTHY, DEVON.

October 5th 1929

Mr Charles Cory.

Dr. to H. J. WICKETT,
MOTOR AND WIRELESS AGENT.

Patrol Oil, Tyres, etc., stocked. Accommodation Charged. Any make Car or Motor Cycle supplied.

1928

Feb 7	31 X 4 45 B.L. Cover &		
	31 X 4 40 Tube	3	4 9
June 29	1 2 speed Fan with 11 feet		
	Flex Lamp Acceptor	2	12 6
July 20	Charging car Battery		
	& clean of another		5 0
Nov 3	Charging Austin Battery	3	0
	1 Pint K.L. Castrol		11
	4 Gallons Shell Petrol	4	9
Dec 1929	1 Boyce motor meter & things	1	8 6
Jan 31	Make & fitting new low flush drain		1 0
Feb 4	1 31 X 4 45 Michelin cover & tube	3	1 9
"	1 " " " " " "	2	10 3
June 13	Charging & topping off Battery		3 6
"	New lug & sweating on panel		3 0
" 17	1 31 X 4 45 Dunlop Cover &		
	mending puncture	2	1 3
			£ 16 0 2
	1 Pig 52 460		
	1 Pig 10 114		

The Square

H. J. Wickett

The garage opened about 1923 by Mr. Herbert Wickett, selling and repairing cars and motor cycles, petrol etc. For nearly 20 years they supplied electricity to the village. On Mr. Wickett's retirement the garage was taken over by Mr. Walter Prance and Mr. Wilfred Jennings. On the death of Mr. Walter Prance his son Keith became a partner.

Bring your bottles and fill up with
DRAUGHT SHERRY
ARMADILLO MEDIUM & CREAM SHERRY
ST. GEORGE CYPRUS SHERRY

DRAUGHT LOCAL CIDER
INCH'S DRY & MEDIUM STILL CIDER

At Haynes Off-Licence
THE SQUARE, BRADWORTHY

ALSO A FULL SELECTION OF WINES, SPIRITS, CIDERS, BEERS
AND MINERALS.

FOR DELIVERIES: PHONE BRADWORTHY 265. 11

TELEPHONE 10 5 TELEGRAMS: "BALSDON, BRADWORTHY"

Agents for
BIBBY'S MEALS CARES

**FAMILY GROCER
GENERAL MERCHANT
EGG & POULTRY DEALER
PATENT MEDICINE VENDOR**

Balsdon's Stores

THE SQUARE
BRADWORTHY

See Cheque in Station

M 195



This building stood on the site of Balsdon's shop at the turn of the century. Miss M. Barfett is receiving the letter.



C.C. Barfett's shop in the 1910's.

Baldsons

This grocers shop was owned in 1900 by Mr. C.C. Barfett, and it was improved early in the century. In 1921 it was purchased by Mr. A.F. Balsdon who ran it until after the last war when it was taken over by his two sons, Garfield and Fred. On the early death of Garfield his son, John, took over. Fred took over and ran the agricultural feed section for some years before selling out to Crossfields, who subsequently closed down the premises which are now used as stores by Wades furnishings and Wickett's garage.



Fred, Iris and A.F. Balsdon outside their store in the late 1940's.

Doctors Surgery

The present doctors surgery was for many years Walter's shop, which was a very good long established business selling drapery, groceries and seeds. The shop was run by Miss Walter and, later, by Mr. Jim Westaway. In the 1940's this was sold to Mr. W.L. Wickett who sold it in 1954 to Mr. Bert Perkins, who



kept it for several years before selling on to Mr. Clark in 1963. He then sold it to Mark and Jan Haynes who opened a chemist and sublet part for Jana's Hair Salon. This was then purchased by Dr. J. Betts in 1978 and is now a very fine medical centre.



The forge in the early 1900's. Notice there was a house on corner where the toilets now stand.



Walters shop in the 1950's. Miss G. Cornish, Mrs. A. Perkins, Mrs. D. Slee

A branch of the Walter family were also blacksmiths. Mr. William Walter was succeeded by his sons Roger Burgoyne and John. They had a smithy attached to the premises of A.F. Balsdon, but later located in Mill Road. Both Roger and John sang in the Parish Church choir.



Will Oke outside the forge in the 1920's.



The church side of the Square in the 1910's.

The Old Cafe

The house on the corner leading to Lower Village was at times a shoemaker's shop (Mr. Sanguin), a tailor's shop (Mr. L. Trewin), a fish & chip shop (Mr. Bond) and a tea room (various owners). It is now a tea room run by Shirley-Ann Cobb.

The Old Forge

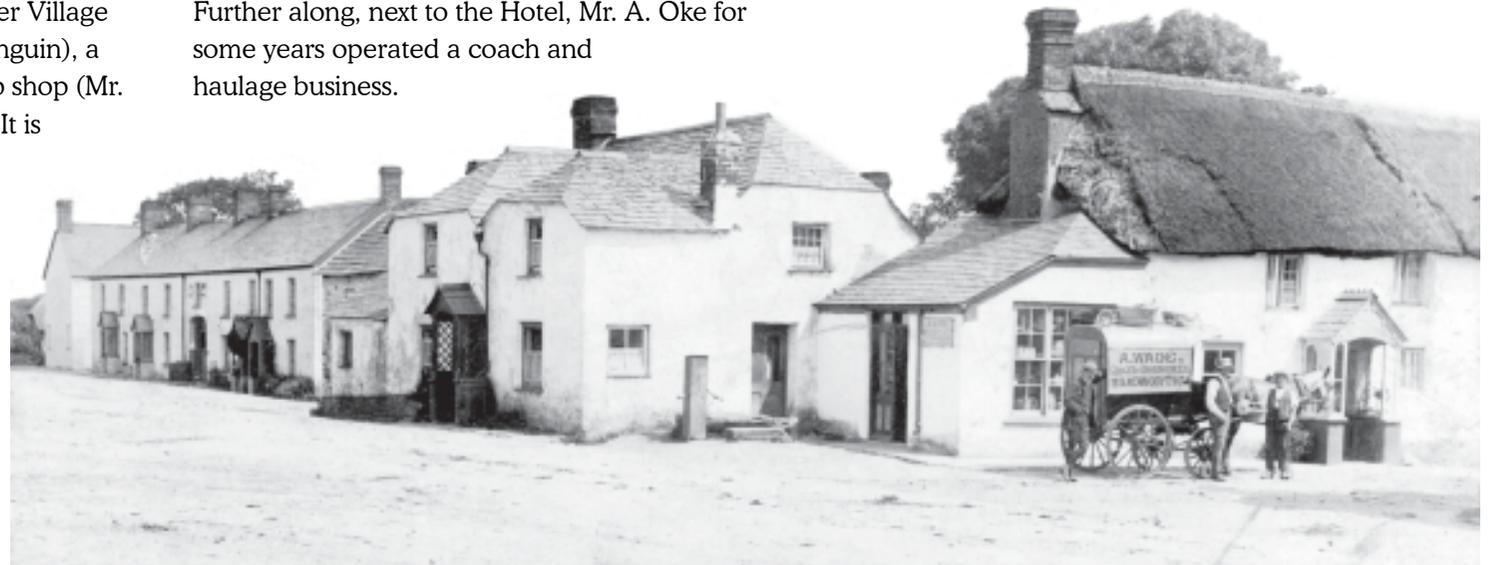
In the Square at Forge Cottage was a blacksmith's shop owned by Mr. Richard Oke. On his retirement in 1942 the shop was run as a metal repair shop Mr. Hartill for a time by and was then closed. Since the late 1980's, the building has been used by Crowley Graphics, a printer.

Mr. A. Oke

Further along, next to the Hotel, Mr. A. Oke for some years operated a coach and haulage business.



For a time in the 1930's the house next to the inn was a petrol station.



Albert Wade's horse and cart in the 1910's. Notice in the middle of Higher Terrace there was once an archway.

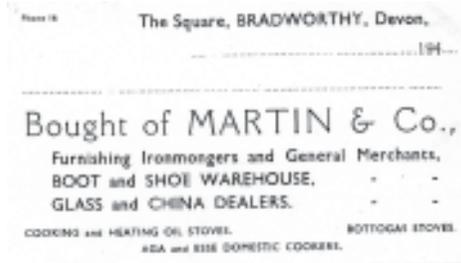


This photo of the hunt in the 1900's shows the view to the south of the Square - first the Assembly room and then Wade's showroom have replaced the bank.

Wades

Mr. Wade's furniture store has been going since the 1918 war, their present shop was built in 1967. Four generations have owned the business. Mr. Albert Wade, his son Edmund, then his son Claude and after his death Peter. They also had a Billiard Room and sold cigarettes and sweets etc.

Where the road from Holsworthy enters the Square, in the building that is now used as a store by Wades, there were once



Alan Balsdon rebuilt Wades Showroom in the 1960's.

three workshops. The first was used for many years by Mr. W. Slade, a shoe repairer who also sold footwear. The next was used for some years as a cycle shop by Mr. R.L. Prouse who later built a workshop and moved to St. Peter's Cottage. Mr. Knight also used the workshop for some years for cycle repairing. The other workshop was used between the two wars by Mr. Fred Gliddon, a saddler.

Martin and Co.

This business started in the 1870's



Wades store and Assembly room in 1967-8.

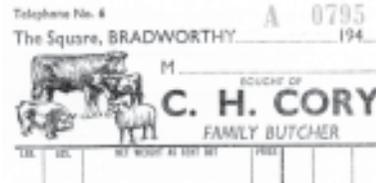
by Mr. Reuben Martin, then taken over by his son John who built the present shop in 1908, they were also shoemakers. He owned it until his death when his daughter Grace took over. Mr. Tom Cann went into partnership and when Grace married Mr. H. Wickett he purchased the entire business. This he ran for many years until it was eventually taken over by his son, John, when John Wellington also became a partner. Their main goods are hardware, furniture, carpets, shoes etc.



Martin & Co in 1936. The shop next to Cory's is still marked 'Jennings-Butcher'. The shop in the corner is no longer Barfett's but Balsdon's. There are 6 dogs on Square!

Cory's

Cory's, the butchers, have been going for most of the century. First at Lyles and then at the Temperance Hotel (now Eastways) by Mr. Hayman Cory, then in the early 1920's his son Mr. Charlie Cory, built the present shop. This was carried on by his daughter and son in law, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Schiller and now their daughter Linda.



This view of the Square was taken about 1908. Notice that Cory's hadn't been built, and that the building now used by Penbode is not yet a butcher. Wade's Hotel is unmarked except for an 'Autocycle Union' sign.

Penbode

For many years between the two wars Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jennings ran a small grocers and sweet shop on the premises now owned by Penbode, the Vet.

Eastways

Eastways, formerly the Temperance Hotel, was built by Mr. E. Westaway just before the turn of the century. It was owned for many years by Mr.

Hayman Cory (also the butcher) and family, then taken over by his son Mr. Stanley Cory. In 1938 the property was sold to Mr. Charles Wade who ran a haulage business. On the death of Mr. Wade, 1965, it was purchased by Mr. John Dunn who turned it into three residences. In 1981 these were purchased by Mr. and Mrs. John Cann.

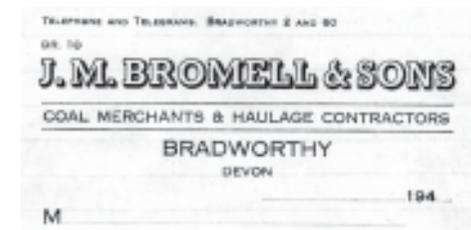


Wades Hotel in the 1940's.



Mr. V.G. Ham ran a successful butchers business for some years in the courtyard of Wades Hotel. This closed early in Second World War when he was called up.

Arcot (known as 'Ascott') lived at Fair View, off the Square and was a saddler. He was also a noted beekeeper and shipped large consignments of honey from Holsworthy station.





The staff of Martin & Co in 1972. Susan Downing, Marlene Harris, Diane Bryant, Maureen Yeo, John Cann, Tom Cann.

The agent for the Post and News for Bradworthy and district is Mr. R.L. Prouse, Newsagent, etc., Mill Road, who will be pleased to deliver the paper on Fridays on request. (August 1932)



John Jennings, in 1920, was the old village carpenter.

D.F.M. Motors

Dick Feather started DFM in 1980. They repair cars, motorcycles and commercial vehicles, but also specialise in All Terrain Vehicles.

Direct Business Supplies

Direct Business Supplies moved from Somerset to Devon in 1986, and onto the Industrial Estate in 1989. It specialises in the supply of commercial stationery to small and medium sized businesses within a 25 mile radius of Bradworthy.

John Sampson

Since 1995 John Sampson has run a vehicle repair shop.

Greenfield Engineering

Initially a specialist in the manufacture of high quality security cabinets, Greenfield Engineering expanded in 1990 into sheet metal fabrication for the electronic, vending and lighting

industries. They moved to Holsworthy in 1997.

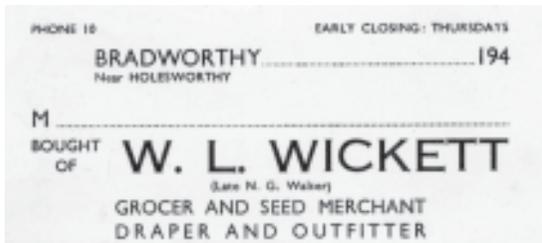
Decorative Glass by S.G.O. & Bradworthy Glass

Decorative Glass, run by Richard and Sarah Brown, moved to Bradworthy from Appledore in 1989. They make and sell stained glass overlays, which is a modern alternative to traditional stained glass - but using a single pane of glass. The Browns quickly recognised a need for a local glass and glazing supplier - and so formed Bradworthy Glass. They currently employ 12 people.

Industrial Estate

Lavis Medical Systems

Lavis Medical Systems was formed in 1974 by Lesmoir and Elizabeth Lavis, who moved from Kent to Bradworthy when the opportunity arose in late 1985. LMS, who currently employ over 50 people, have close ties with Philips and manufacture hearing aids for the National Health Service.



Bradworthy's industrial units

Mill Road

A.J. Balsdon

Mr. Alan Balsdon, builder, has a large modern workshop and has built over 67 houses during the last 20 years.

Walters

Brothers, Roger and John Walters, carried on their trade as blacksmiths first in the store, now used by John Balsdon, and later in the premises now used by Mr. P. Wade. Shoeing horses, wheelwrights, repairing agricultural implements were their main tasks. They closed down at the end of the last war.

Later this store was used by Mr. Fred Balsdon as an animal feed store, later by Crossfields Ltd. They closed it and Mr. Colin Guard took it on as a lorry repair garage, at present it is used as a furniture store.



Beaver Rd Terrace in the 1910's.

W. Millman

For many years Mr. W. Millman contracted out his earthworking equipment, but now his business transports such machinery.

North Road

E. Jennings

Two firms of carpenters were in the North Road, Mr. E. Jennings & Son at Yeos, they closed in the 1930's.

Jennings Bros., now owned by Mr. Stanley Jennings, have been going for more than a century. Started by Mr. John Jennings followed then by his two sons Richard and Ted and since 1946 by Stan, they have also carried on their business as Funeral Directors. The old workshop was for some time used as a leather factory.

A. Perkins

Mr. A. Perkins owned a sweet and grocery store in the 1930's and 40's opposite the playing field (now demolished). He was also a watch repairer.

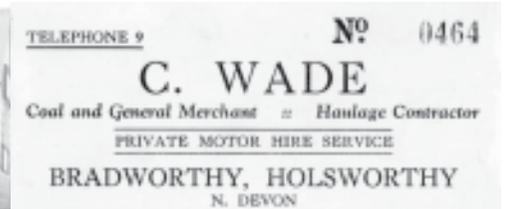
The shop was used as a changing room by the football team, and also for meetings.

Messrs Locke & Preston

The premises now owned by Messrs Locke & Preston was built by Cann's of Bude for Mr. Steve Trewin in 1932. He



Perkins Shop on North Road in the 1930's.



ran a successful haulage business, he later sold this, and Messrs Brown & Petherick, who used it for motor repairs, later taken over for many years by Mr. Fernley Petherick, until he sold it to Messrs Locke & Preston, the vet, on his retirement.

Ford Crescent & Manor Park

Ian Downing

Ian Downing, electrical engineer, started his own business twenty years ago after learning his trade with Woolacotts of Bude. He has many customers in North Devon and North Cornwall.

Nigel Balsdon

Nigel Balsdon, hot and cold water engineer, learnt his trade from his father Mr. Arthur Balsdon who, until his retirement, had been in business in

Bradworthy for forty years.

Geoff Wonnacott

Geoff Wonnacott made his first piece of miniature furniture in 1984, and quickly discovered a market



Geoff Wonnacott's miniature furniture in 1990.

for accurate reproduction dolls house furniture aimed at serious adult collectors. His furniture is sold to collectors in America and Europe, and also to museums.

The smallest piece to date is a 24th scale chess table with pieces which fits into a 35mm film container. The board is just 17mm square and the pawns, which stand only 2mm high, are turned in ebony and boxwood.

Tuckers Park

John Wonnacott

Mr. John Wonnacott runs a dairy supply business covering a large part of North Devon and North Cornwall.

Beaver Road

Roger Andrews

Mr. Roger Andrews the builder operates from Beaver Road.

Coal was sold from the store in Beaver Road by Mr. W. Jennings.



Lower Village

Headstone Cutters

In one of the small stores at Wistaria Mr. C.C. Barfett carried on his occupation as Headstone Cutter.

On the opposite side of the road, where the public toilets

now stand, was another Headstone Cutter, Mr. Robert Westaway.

Bradworthy Newsagents

Bromell's store was for many years a drapers and outfitters before it became a newsagency, when it was



Derrick Bond's staff on his retirement in 1993. Back row: A. Jenkins, E. Bond, D. Bond, D. Jennings. Front row: M. Kinsman, T. Millman, J. Rowe, S. Kinsman, C. Glover

owned by Mr. W. Bromell & Sons. On Mr. Bromell's retirement it was purchased by Mr. G. Scott, who subsequently sold on to Mr. Rynd. The newsagents was owned until 1994 by Mr. Phil Pickering, who sold it to Mr. Edward Brown. The newsagent closed in early 1996.

Post Office and Stores

The Post Office has always been in its present position. First run by Mr. Westaway and then early in the century by his son-in-law Mr. J. Bray, when it was also an ironmongers. In 1947 it was bought by Mr. Sam Bond and later taken over by his son



The Post Office and the view up the road in the 1960's. The road had been dug up to lay the drainage.

Derrick Bond. In 1993 it was sold to Alan Lindsay and Mike Meyler.

Mr. Thomas Turner and his sons ran a Steam Roller business from Lower Terrace between the two wars. These were used over a wide area.

In the early part of the century a boot repairer, Mr. Tom Bennett, lived in a small cottage on the Broad Hill.

Further along, in a house now demolished, Mr. Albert Bond was a tailor.



Mr. Charles Cottle Barfett with his brother the Rev. John Barfett (Rector of St. Dinnis) in the 1920's.

Mr. C. Barfett had a carpenters shop. John Harding, who lived nearby, was a thatcher in earlier years.

Flexbury Garage

Flexbury Garage, now owned by Mr. Nichols, was built about 1928 by Mr. John Bromell, a few years later Mr. Tom Bartlett became a partner, for many years Messrs Bromell & Bartlett were well known as tractor & agricultural agents over a wide area. Mr. Bromell later sold the business to North Cornwall Tractors of

Kilkhampton and it was eventually sold to Mr. Nichols.

Thelma's

Opposite Flexbury garage was a store, now demolished, that belonged to the garage. Most recently this was used as a hairdressers by Thelma Dover, who now operates from a studio at the rear of Eastways. The building was also once a butchers shop and was used by Mr. Cecil Elvin as a tailor, radio repair etc., for which he was well known.



A restored Turner's steamroller at the Hillingdon Show (Middlesex) in 1989.



A 1925 Turner's steamroller with William Gorrell.

Lavender Clockmakers

For many years the present Lavender Clockmakers shop, facing the Broad Hill, was a grocers shop owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ham and later by his son Raymond. This was then sold and traded as a non-dispensing chemist in the late 1980's until it was purchased by Mr. R.W. 'Bob the Clock' Hudson who runs a watch, clock and jewellery repair business.



Lavender Clockmakers now occupies this corner of the 1920's Broad Hill.

Lew House Nursery

Established by the Watsons in the mid 1980's, the nursery grows plants and shrubs for sale at local markets and to the wholesale trade. Since retired.

Colin Guard

Colin Guard has a lorry park at Lake. He sells and repairs many commercial vehicles. For many years he has run a successful haulage business.

Nigel Bond

Nigel Bond runs a successful mobile mechanical business from Lake.

St. Peter's Lane

D.F. Foster

Mr. A. Elliott had a haulage & coach business at Drews which he sold to Mr. Charles Wade, who lived at St. Peter's Cottage in Peterswell Lane and later



bought the Temperance Hotel in the Square. It is now owned by Mr. Dave Foster, a carpenter.

For some time in the 1930's Mr. J. Dark, a carpenter, had a workshop at St. John's Cottage.

Jon Schiller

John Schiller, builder, was for some years operating from Sutcombe. He is now living in Bradworthy and has repaired and built many houses in the area.

Holsworthy Road

Leaving the Square on the Holsworthy Road was a carpenters shop owned by Mr. Lang, a well known sign writer, later this was taken over by Mr. W.A. Jennings, a carpenter, painter and decorator. This



H.S. Ham traded near the Broad Hill in the early 1960's. Pictured are Pam, Ray, Laura and Horace Ham



In the 1920's the Bradworthy Inn was signed 'The Hotel' and was a fully licensed Free House. Notice there is not yet a clock on the church tower.

closed during the last war on his retirement, it is now used by Mr. John Crossley.

Mr. Alfred Hearn carried on a business as a watch and clock repairer for several years.

At Lyles for many years there was a garage (now demolished) owned by Mr. John Jennings which was the first garage in Bradworthy. John Jennings, who retired in the 1950's, was the first man in the parish to own a motor car. He sold Ford Model T cars and he was well also known over a large area as an agricultural engineer, selling and repairing the first Lister engines, Bentall mills, chaff cutters, and cream

separators. He was also an accomplished cyclist winning many races.

Before Mr. Cory's butchers shop was built there was a shop owned by Mr. Arscott Ward, a saddler, he was also a well known bee keeper.

Leyland

Mr. Wright
Wright & Son have a garage and agricultural business at Leyland, since the death of Mr.

Harry Wright this has been carried on by his son Malcolm.



Rethatching the Inn roof after the fire at the turn of the century.

And also...

Ann Jarvis Designs

A small textile design and production company which has designed ties for the Royal Academy, scarves for the Order of St. John, English Heritage and the Tie Rack, and three furnishing ranges for Dovedale Fabrics.

Mills

Several water mills, known as grist mills, were used to grind wheat for flour and other grain for feeding farm stock. *Bradworthy Mill* is mentioned almost as early as the Church, and was the last of the three mills to cease work. Jennings, Bond, and Grills were the names of some of the millers. The last was Fred Harding whose mill stopped working not long after the end of the First World War.

There was also *Waterlands Mill*, worked by members of the Grills family, who also farmed Waterlands Farm.

Ash Mill, on the Torridge in the north-east corner of the parish, was Walter property, and later associated with a family of Johns. The last miller here was John Johns (also known as Ralph). His first wife was killed in the mill.

Alfardisworthy Mill was probably a private mill that served that estate and surrounding residents.

Hotels, Inns, etc

Bradworthy Inn & Hotel

The thatched part of the Inn, formerly known as the New Inn, is probably the oldest dwelling in the village. There are traditions of a 12th century origin and the present house could date from the 15th century if not earlier. It would have been on church lands and was probably the early village alehouse, later to become the Church House where the village folk assembled to celebrate their feast days. The Inn has had the following owners, landlords and tenants over the years:

Mr. W.J. Bond
 Mr. Bryan
 Mr. Grant
 Major Stanton
 Mr. David Lovell
 Mr. W. Winter
 Mr. & Mrs. Shipp
 Mr. Sam Tedman
 Mr. Colin Bassett
 Mr. Ashford
 Mr. Les Belson
 John & Fleur Morris
 Alan & Les Chapman

Lake Villa

This building at Lake has been a guest house, a restaurant and a pub several times over. It was renamed the Pig's Ear for a short period. It is now a private dwelling.

The popularity of Bradworthy as a holiday centre appears to be increasing, there have been a record number of visitors staying in the village and neighbourhood. (August 1964)

Quarries

There are a number of stone quarries in the parish providing metal for repairing roads. Much in use were *Berridon Quarry* and *Tribles Quarry*. There was also *Dinworthy Quarry* on the Atworthy

Road and, further along, *Honeys Quarry*. Early in the century, the hewn block stone was hauled out of the quarries by horse drawn butts and tipped in lay-bys where stone breakers reduced it with their hammers to a size suitable for spreading on the roads.

In the 1950's the largest quarry, Berridon, was used to produce cement blocks. During this period they were operated by ECC and were once the largest employer in Bradworthy. All the quarries had closed by the late 1960's.



Les Belson retired in 1993 after running the Bradworthy Inn for 25 years. Marcus Millman, Marty Jenkins, Les Belson, Mrs. M. Millman

According to the notes of Gwennyth Cheese...

Conveyance. A horse drawn van to Bideford at a charge of 1/- journeying 4 hours with a full load. A donkey in front in chains, and a horse in shafts.

Mrs. E.A. Wickett's house (now known as Wistaria) used to be a butchers shop kept by a man called Martin, who also had a monkey called Jacko.

The hotel at Bradworthy is owned by Mr. C. Wade who also used to be our local coal merchant before Mr. J.M. Bromell bought the business.

List of shops in Bradworthy circa 1950

Owner	Type of shop
Mr. A. Perkins	Greengrocer
Mr. D. Jennings	Carpenter
Mr. W.L. Wickett	Grocer and Draper
Mr. A.F. Balsdon & Sons	Grocer
Mr. H.J. Wickett	Engineer
Mr. C.H. Cory	Butcher
Mr. J.L. Martin	Ironmonger
Mr. J. Jennings	Bicycle Repairer
Mr. W. Slade	Cobbler
Mr. E. Wade	Furnishing Dept.
Mr. Hartill	Wrought Ironworker
Mr. S. Bond	Post Office
Mr. J. Bromell & Sons	Engineer
Mr. W. Bromell	Draper
Mr. S. Jennings	Carpenter & Painter